
FRIDAY, 31 JULY 2020

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

The House met at 10:00.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Hon member, I would just like to reiterate before we start, that you are aware of the rules of the virtual and hybrid sitting, and that all these rules do apply.

So in the interest of time, I now will ask the Secretary to read the First Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 4 – Community Safety – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B4 - 2020].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. I now call on the hon Minister Fritz.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Good morning, hon Deputy Speaker. Before I start with my Budget, I want to this morning ask this House to remember every farmer and every farm worker who has been murdered in South Africa, and that we unreservedly condemn it, and I really want to just make that point.

Hon Speaker and hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, and Cabinet colleagues, hon Leader of the Opposition, hon members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, citizens of the Western Cape, members of the media, a very, very good morning to all of you. It is indeed great to be able to breath this morning and to be awake, and to be alive, and so we also want to thank God for that.

On Monday the Standing Committee of Community Safety tabled the Adjusted Budget for the Department of Community Safety. As with all other departments, my Department has had to execute its mandate under unprecedented constraints due to the lockdown and the Covid pandemic, hon Deputy Speaker.

With it, it has brought great socio-economic distress and hardships on particularly poor communities, which we, as a department, have to respond to innovatively. This distress has often expressed itself in a protest action, both peaceful and violent, occurring across the province over the past few weeks. We have seen the destruction of state property, private property, barricading of roads, the burning, blocking of arterial roads, stone-throwing from

bridges, and petrol-bombing of trucks and cars on our main and our highways. I must add, however, that many of these protests are clearly very well planned and orchestrated by those with an agenda and have resulted in the citizens and communities feeling even more under threat in relation to their safety and well-being.

In response to this distress experienced, not just in recent weeks, hon Deputy Speaker, but throughout the lockdown, the Department has acted and thought innovatively about the challenges we face.

We were appointed as the [Inaudible.] Department in the implementation of the Western Cape Government's targeted Covid hotspot strategy in Khayelitsha, and I want to say it is an absolute, and it is still an absolute privilege to have been appointed to that. That opened our eyes to just absolute humanity.

In doing so we have worked closely with the Khayelitsha Development Forum, the KDF, to implement a range of initiatives and have seen a decline in the number of infections and deaths, and I want to add that we have also worked with all other civil society formations within Khayelitsha. I want to take this opportunity to hail the tremendous leadership role played by the KDF and its leaders in this strategy. It is greatly encouraging to see, and this is a clear indication of massive differences that can be made if everybody pulls together, when we adopt a whole of society approach, hon Deputy Speaker.

During the Covid pandemic we have pioneered numerous programmes, ensuring that we all pull together and really concentrate our efforts in fighting this pandemic. We have deployed 60 Chrysalis graduates in Khayelitsha, to promote awareness of COVID-19, and adherence to the regulations. We facilitated the development of the prevention and managing of the COVID-19 in the SAPS workplace, and the SAPS workplace guidelines, with the Department of Health and with SAPS as an important entity.

We have also tasked an official within the Department of Community Safety, from the Court Watching Brief Unit, to specifically monitor cases of gender-based violence during this Covid period, and in fact I think he is going to continue, because it is so bad.

We have also rolled out a communication strategy, hon Deputy Speaker, involving radio, billboards, local newspapers, posters, and social media platforms to create positive COVID-19-related behavioural change. We want to celebrate those people who recovered. We want to show people that you can recover from it, that this is not a death sentence, and I want to say it is really doing very well.

One area of innovation I wish to single out, hon Deputy Speaker, is the deployment of 50 Neighbourhood Watches and neighbourhood structures at places of gathering in Khayelitsha. The Neighbourhood Watch COVID-19 Relief Programme has been expanded to support an additional 23

Neighbourhood Watch formations in areas like the Eastern hotspot, the Tygerberg hotspot, the Klipfontein hotspot, and the Northern hotspot areas. Another five projects will be launched next week in the Southern area, and we really want to say this has really assisted us amazingly.

The Department is currently consulting with an additional five Neighbourhood Watches in the Western and Tygerberg area, where we can also roll it out into that hotspot. A maximum of 50 accredited, and screened, and vetted Neighbourhood Watches, with 10 to 20 members per structure, will be deployed through the Neighbourhood Watch Covid Relief Programme, and I really want to say this has really been an amazing innovation, because everyone needs to be on board, and we can see the results. We can just see the results.

Clearly, hon Deputy Speaker, the physical safety and wellbeing of our residents has been the top priority of this Department. We reimagined and innovated what safety means under the new normal, and I want to emphasise safety means far more than just the other perception, that this is violence, also safety in terms of Covid. It is very, very important, because we have all lost very, very dear people close to us.

For this, hon Deputy Speaker, I have further held high-level engagements with the Provincial Police Commissioner. We have also held meetings, General Yolisa Matakata; the Minister of Local Government, Minister Bredell; Minister of Human Settlements, Tertius Simmers; Minister

Bonginkosi Madikizela from Public Works and Transport, to unpack solutions and not only allow chaos to unfold around us, particularly as it relates to the recent protest and illegal land invasions, and I want to say there is some amazing stuff coming from that space, and also the commitment of the Provincial Commissioner in assisting us with really getting solutions to this.

I wish to make it abundantly clear that violent protest actions will not be tolerated in this province. It is evidence that a smaller group of inciters, a well-organised group of people, some politically affiliated and some of them sit in our Parliament, by the way, as a matter of interest, are leading these protests and pretending to speak for the masses. They pretend that the masses call them and invite them to come and deal with some of these issues.

In doing so they are preying on the plight of the most vulnerable in our society, who will suffer the infrastructure and service loss due to protest action. You cannot burn down a clinic, hon Deputy Speaker, and have no services there, and then you, as political people go to your private clinics, and the poor masses there are forgotten, because there will not be any service, and that will not be prioritised. That I think is an agreed – we will not prioritise any clinics and schools burnt down.

I call on residents in the province to stand united against those who wish to undermine us, our safety and our well-being.

Hon Deputy Speaker, after careful consideration of this Department's needs,

and that of the Western Cape Government's response to the pandemic, a net amount of R27,967 million has been given back to Treasury to assist in the fight towards COVID-19 pandemic, and it was hard, but we had to go find and reprioritise our own needs and our priorities.

This will allow the Department to sufficiently use its resources to respond to the pandemic of which Neighbourhood Watch structures and our CPF's constitute a very important frontline.

This amount comprises, hon Deputy Speaker:

1. R36,267 million surrendered through the baseline reduction.
2. R8,3 million have been allocated from Provincial Treasury to the Department for COVID-19-related expenditure.

So again, we got some money back from Treasury, and here specifically we will be giving to see how we can assist combating Covid, work through our Neighbourhood Watch structures and our CPF's to fight it.

Of the amount allocated to the Department, R6,8 million will be earmarked for Neighbourhood Watches, and R1,5 million will go towards operational cost, including Personal Protection Equipment, and none of that R1,5 million will be stolen, all R1,5 million will go there. That I promise, because I see the Auditor-General is also doing a specific audit on all PPE's, and we really welcome it for now. That is great; we really, really welcome it.

As I have already mentioned, hon Deputy Speaker, Neighbourhood Watches have been empowered through this Budget to play a leading role in the Department's response to COVID-19, and lockdown the Neighbourhood Watch Safety Improvement Volunteer Project, with COVID-19 relief measures, aiming to provide health advocacy through the promotion of social distancing... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, please – one minute, Minister. Can I just ask that people please put their microphones on mute. Thank you. Particularly in the House, thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: At its core it aims to instil behavioural change by increasing civil compliance with the five golden rules of hygiene, at places of congregation, including shops, health centres, recreational areas, SASSA pay points – a very, very big point are those SASSA pay points – and relief points, transport interchanges, and schools.

Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, I feel it pertinent that hon member Kama notes that the Community Police Forums have played a pivotal role in the execution of the programme, and supported its implementation, because I know he is going to ask this, or say this in his response; hon member Kama has openly critiqued our Budget, stating that the Neighbourhood Watches are being favoured by the Department and the DA over the CPF's. Despite his misconceptions, hon Deputy Speaker, CPF's, as well as SAPS and the City of

Cape Town, attended a launch in Khayelitsha. They were all there. It is only in Parliament where we do not know what is happening on the ground. They were all there, and they were very happy, and they all smiled, and there was no catering – I just want to make that clear. We saved a lot of money in this Budget on catering.

I wish to thank all the CPF's for their support in the implementation of this programme, hon Deputy Speaker, which is spreading awareness of COVID-19, and saving lives, and it is stopping the spreading of Covid, it is spreading awareness.

The bulk of the surrendered funds came from Goods and Services, which is another applause we must actually give to all departments, totalling R15,5 million. That means, hon Deputy Speaker, that no one is travelling to George and staying in hotels, and it showed now that we can actually do things differently after Covid. We will have to look at how can we save that money continuously to do things very differently, and not have 10 officials in George when one is doing a 10-minute presentation. That management must happen within all departments, and we are starting with it, and here is the proof.

In relation to Goods and Services, the bulk of the funds relinquished came from in-house K9 project. The same came to R9 million. The K9 Programme continues to be operational, and I am proud to say that we are making steady progress on implementation in Hermanus, and I tell you, the K9 Unit is

working amazingly in Hermanus.

Furthermore, the programme in the City of Cape Town and Swartland remains operational, despite physical constraints placed on us by the lockdown. My Department will continue to work closely with the municipalities in this regard, and is always working together.

The remaining amount of R6,5 million came from operational costs relating to training, travelling, printing, Government transport cost, and catering, and I want to emphasise “and catering”. Ultimately these are savings incurred as a result of the lockdown, and I welcome the reprioritisation to allow departments to best respond to the pandemic and the stress incurred as a result of the lockdown.

The transfer surrendered comprises R2 million from the Youth Safety and Religious Partnership programmes, and remember we are looking at December, how we can perhaps use more money in December for this programme if we have a normal situation, and we are trying to move towards normality as far as we can; and R2,7 million from the Expanded Partnership Programme project.

Additionally, the Chrysalis Academy, because they could not have programmes, they could not have their normal camps, R8 million was surrendered to assist the Western Cape in the response to the Covid. The funds surrendered amounted to finances that were allocated to the April take-in, which did not happen, because of Covid.

I commend the Academy for having remodelled itself, because of the desperate need in our townships for young people to get some of this kind of skills, and to operate under the new normal, and on the 11th, hon Deputy Speaker, of July 2020, it welcomed its first cohort of students since the lockdown was announced, to the end of March, and a total of 97 [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, Minister Fritz. Can I please check that you have put all your microphones off? There is feedback. Thank you very much, Minister, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Sabotage, hon Deputy Speaker. In total 97 young people started Twenty Alpha and arrived as early as six at the Centre. I wish to acknowledge the trustees and management, trustees and Marlene le Roux of the Academy, for amazing work in doing the new normal, and continuing, and trying to get us back, and also the CEO, Dr Lucille Meyer, to monitor the progress in relation to the Covid pandemic, and we have said always, the agreement is we will always look carefully to what is happening, whenever there is any threat of Covid.

In addition to this, the Chrysalis Academy has innovatively monitored and tracked all its graduates. They have assisted graduates who have expressed a need for counselling at this time of Covid, a need for food parcels, or for those in need of food. They have really assisted all of them, and they have

developed and analysed two surveys among graduates to assess their online teaching needs, which have been used to guide the Academy, should they be able to teach in person. The survey results show a positive response to online teaching.

Hon Deputy Speaker, you will notice I did not say anything about the Safety Plan, because this is an Adjusted Budget – and this is specifically for my dear colleague, the hon member Brinkhuis, just to assist him also - this is the Adjusted Budget, so this is specifically the money that we have taken from reprioritisation of programmes.

As I conclude, I wish to recognise and commend all department officials. Our acting Head of the Department of Community Safety, Adv Yashina Pillay, I want to say she has really taken this Department by its horns, and really run with it. She is amazing, and this shows that women have the absolute power to do anything. There is a notion that women, “Oh, they cannot, the Department will fail if this ...” – she showed the opposite, and I really want to salute her this morning, and all the Chief Directors, and all, every single staff member who throughout this lockdown was at work, hon Deputy Speaker.

The Community Safety Department has always been open, because we do security for everyone, for all the departments, and you know the number of infections we have had? And through all of that they came to work diligently. I want to salute all of them, and say thank you to all of them. To our partners

in the police, and you have seen how many police stations were closed, and we have lots of critique, but some of us must sometimes go and work in some of the police stations, and see how many people are affected and infected by this, and I really want to also to General Matakata say thank you for the relationship that we have, it is really, really helping us, and we need to really get our relationships strengthened with all our stakeholders, all our law enforcement entities, including the City, we must all come and sit. There is a bigger fight against criminals and Covid. The one virus is an evil virus, it kills you without you knowing. The other one is a criminal who kill people who are innocent.

Let us all work together to make a better South Africa, and a better Western Cape, hon Deputy Speaker, for all our people, and I want to say thank you to all our members, and I want to single out hon member Kama in this regard, hon member Reagen Allen, Allen Reagen – *ag*, Reagen Allen, who is an amazing Chairperson, and I want to say to the whole Committee and the whole Standing Committee of Community Safety, I tell you now they are incredibly constructive and really helping us in moving forward, and all of them are really contributing. I want to say under the leadership of hon member Reagen, I really want to say thank you very much for this. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Fritz. I now call on the hon member Kama.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon MEC Fritz, and all your Cabinet colleagues, Leader of the Opposition, or hon member Dugmore, hon members of this august House.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I wish to dedicate this debate speech to a 6-year old from Gugulethu, Azola Phaphu, who is in the picture I have sent on this MS Teams chatroom, which I will also share on social media later. In this iconic picture Azola is seen mimicking public order policing during a protest in Gugulethu. He is raised in an environment that is riddled with many social ills, which characterise the so-called COVID-19 hotspots, like gang terror, or constant harassment and humiliation from lawless law enforcement agencies, which have no oversight body.

Azola refuses to be influenced by this environment, but imagines himself at a young age to be on the side of making sure the rule of law is maintained. That there is public order and that people live in a safe and conducive environment. He buried his mother last week and now lives with his aunt. Through a campaign started by Ayanda Ndamane, the photographer who took this picture, we learned of the poor socio-economic conditions at his home. It is these kinds of situations that have turned many young boys, who had a promising future, into gang hitmen. Many of them are languishing in our Child and Youth Care Centres.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the campaign #Helpazolaphaphu, has already received support of the Gauteng Department of Community Safety, whose contribution

is still discussed between the family and the Department. Today I rise in search of the conscience of our MEC and Premier Winde, to help Azola Phaphu through all Government relief programmes, as he is about to enter school.

Here is an opportunity to shape a young boy's future. Let us not allow history to be a repeat of thousand other boys who were victims of the above circumstances.

This is precisely why the ANC advocates for a safety plan that does not only focus on boots on the ground, but one which radically tackles the causative factors of crime in society. We want a drive by Government to bridge the inequality gap and to transform the apartheid spatial planning. These are factors that contribute to the rising crime levels in working class communities. They are the same factors that have determined the [Inaudible.] of COVID-19 infections.

To beat COVID-19, we must address these factors. This Budget does not come close to addressing them. To call this a budget to defeat COVID-19, is but a figment of MEC Maynier's overheated imagination.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the aim of this Department is to, and I quote:

“Promote provincial policing through effective oversight as legislated, capacitate safety partnerships with communities and

other stakeholders, the whole of society approach, and promote safety in all public building and spaced spaces.”

Allow me, hon Deputy Speaker, to dissect this to see if it is congruent with the aim of this Department by looking at three elements:

1. The first is police oversight. This is partly covered by the Safety Partnership Programme, wherein the Western Cape Ombudsman is situated. In the Main Budget we were told of plans to expand the investigating powers of the Police Ombud through a review of the Western Cape Community Safety Act, to give it oversight powers over law enforcement officers. At a time when we needed to accelerate this, the budget of this programme is cut. The review is necessary because the army of J P Smit, to which we are contributing millions towards its recruitment and training, is wreaking havoc in society, including evicting naked men from their homes, and it is now appropriating itself search and seizure powers even in people’s properties without a warrant.

The law enforcement agency must have an oversight body like the SAPS, that is watched by IPID and Police Ombudsman.

This Budget is weakening the office of the Police Ombud, which has, on many occasions, complained about staff shortages, which impacts negatively on its work.

2. The second element, hon Deputy Speaker, is capacitating safety partnerships. Section 221(2) of the Constitution, and Section 19(1) of the SAPS Act 68 of 1995, established the Community Police Forums to promote accountability of local police to community, and cooperation of the community with the police.

In the Western Cape the DA – and it is true, hon Deputy Speaker – has created a parallel structure, the Neighbourhood Watches. What is evident in this Budget are the plans of this Government to deliberately frustrate and sabotage the work of CPF's.

On top of Budget cuts under these adjustments, the Department has not dispersed a single cent to CPF's from the start of this financial year to date. Whereas some CPF's - and as acknowledged by the MEC - have been working with zero budget assisting in the fight against COVID-19 in their areas, the Neighbourhood Watches have been allocated R6,8 million to educate people and encourage them to maintain social distancing.

The continuous skewed resourcing of community partnerships is a deliberate attempt, as the DA is on course to create its provincial police force as envisaged in their manifesto. This is what this Government calls capacitating safety partnerships.

3. The third element is that of promoting safety in public buildings and spaces. In practice this means public buildings in affluent areas are the most secured places in the province, while gang-infested communities are lacking in basic infrastructure needed to combat crime.

Today, hon Deputy Speaker, I appeal to the MEC Fritz, the former United Democratic Movement activist, who was raised in an activist home and a revolutionary environment, mothered by a revolutionary; this MEC has experienced the heavy hand of apartheid police, and we ask him not to, and I quote:

“Sleep in the revolution.”

He must transform this Department, using lessons from the sake of our lives, guidelines for the creation of people self-defence units, which he was exposed to in the 1990’s.

This Budget is not guided and informed by the aims of the Department.

The ANC is on the side of the people and does not support Vote 4. How are we expected to support a budget vote that does not prioritise a single cent to help in the fight against gender-based violence.

We cannot support a budget that is influenced by apartheid legacy, championed by Helen Zille and the apartheid command colonel found in the DA leadership. How can I forget her minions who yesterday had nothing to say about black people who are killing each other in the taxi violence, but promote the idea of another Orania in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, lastly allow me to thank the many South African law enforcers, the police, who have been throughout the period of this virus been on the ground working to make sure that our communities are safer. We thank Department staff members who continue to work hard and make sure that the situation in the areas that I'm talking about, changes. Let us think about Azola Phaphu. Let us make sure that Azola Phaphu is not part of the statistics of those that are readily available to be used by hitmen and gangsters, because they are able to give them money at the end of the day.

The ANC does not support this Budget Vote. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: That was very powerful.

Ah HON MEMBER: Powerful, powerful indeed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I now call on hon member Allen.

Mr R I ALLEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, the vision of this Government seeks to

ensure that the Western Cape is a place where all people feel secure and live free from fear. Every penny that we can contribute to safety and security must work towards a more peaceful, stable environment for residents.

Hon Deputy Speaker, from the onset allow me to state that I fully support Vote 4 on Community Safety. I wish to thank Minister Albert Fritz, the Premier, as well as all departmental staffing officials, especially also acting HOD, Adv Pillay.

Hon Deputy Speaker, a detailed problem analysis of the current state of policing in our country is freely available, and the Department of Community Safety has had to act innovatively and swiftly on the issues faced. This should be welcomed and commended.

Hon Deputy Speaker, our stagnant economy, corruption, and looting of taxpayers' money, coupled with unprecedented constraints due to the lockdown, have left many South Africans feeling angry, feeling fearful and frustrated. This has been exasperated by the spate of police brutality and heavy handedness, that can never be condoned, which highlights the need for oversight, which falls within the mandate of the Department and of the Provincial Parliament.

Hon Deputy Speaker, to improve safety through effective oversight, the Department has continued their ongoing participation in the [Inaudible.] meetings and briefings, monitoring IPID recommendations, police stations,

and the impact of the closure of stations on service delivery. I am confident that we will continue to perform ground-breaking work despite the let-down with Adjustments as we surrender funds to fighting this pandemic.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the monitoring of SAPS is and remains a pivotal and core competency. That in essence should reap positive results, and it remains to be seen that our National Government will be able to stop turning a blind eye by continuing to under-resource our communities here in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, while the DA delivers a Budget to beat Covid here in the Western Cape, we know in Pretoria they use the funds to line the pockets of cadres and of comrades. For years we have been under siege by gangs, yet the ANC Government just looks the other way, or look to steal taxpayers' money. As we have stated on numerous times, the National Government controls all aspects of SAPS, all station resourcing, all appointments, all police officer allocation, and all specialised units, but they have just washed their hands off the gang and drug violence in this province.

Our National Police Minister sits in Pretoria, miles away from the lived reality of the people who are under daily attack, and they make terrible decisions that have a profound effect on the residents of the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in this House the DA has been asking for years for a fair allocation of police officers to gang and drug ridden communities. A call

we repeat, and the Department continues to monitor the deployment, compliances, arrest, and court appearances. The problem is not surrendering funds to the fight against Covid, but we have a longstanding fight against crime. As mentioned before, we cannot accept a murder rate of 50 lives per day. We have been challenged with declining resources since 1998 under this ANC Government. We can never allow that the innocent, law-abiding citizens of our beautiful country pay the price for bad governance.

Hon Deputy Speaker, more often than not it is the innocent who suffer the most. I am aware of the price that communities like Mitchells Plain, Hanover Park, Elsies River, and others have had to pay because of gangs and drugs. I am aware of the heartache of so many families have already had to endure at the hands of criminals who have taken over their communities and have terrorised their children. I am aware of what the murders, the violence, and the drug addiction do to mothers and fathers, to families, and the broader community. I am aware it is so often the innocent who pay the price.

Just yesterday, hon Deputy Speaker, I spoke to a young man via social messaging who told me that his family have been ripped apart by a senseless murder of his cousin by gang members. His cousin was not a gang member, yet he was brutally murdered.

Hon Deputy Speaker, under the provision of this Budget, the Department continues to build valuable relationships with all implementing partners and key stakeholders in improving security in the Western Cape, which include

the South African Police, the City of Cape Town, different Western Cape Government departments, private security companies, other private stakeholders, and community safety structures, such as Neighbourhood Watches and the CPF's.

The Department is leading the targeted COVID-19 hotspot strategy in Khayelitsha. The intervention aims, as the Minister alluded, to advocate social distancing, encourage the use of protective equipment, and create awareness of community compliance with safety protocols.

Hon Deputy Speaker, although a net amount of R27,927,000 have been surrendered by the Department towards efforts to address COVID-19, an amount of R8,3 million will be received from Provincial Treasury for Covid-related expenditure. This should be welcomed.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this will also be allowed across Programme 2: Civil Oversight; R5,8 million for resourcing of Neighbourhood Watches in response to COVID-19.

Neighbourhood Watches, as the Minister again said, are essential in our aim to make communities safer, as the eyes and ears on the ground, and a key towards improving safety responses in the provinces. As the only province, hon Deputy Speaker, who have accredited Neighbourhood Watch bodies, accountable to the Department of Community Safety, a further Budget allocation of R1 million under Programme 4: Civilian Oversight, for

resourcing of Neighbourhood Watches in response to COVID-19.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Department has had to evolve its programmes to respond to COVID-19 crisis and related disaster management regulations. The Department has further undertaken and supported a number of interventions like the deployment of Chrysalis graduates and Neighbourhood Watch structures, and amongst others schools, SASSA pay points, Home Affairs, shopping malls, hospitals, and other health facilities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these graduates that were deployed at the Chrysalis Academy, which is an innovative initiative of the Western Cape Provincial Government, is regarded as a flagship project in innovation, in youth development. I wish to welcome and wish them all of the best in their deployment in their new role.

Another intervention, hon Deputy Speaker, is the deployment of LEAP officers in targeted hotspot areas, like Khayelitsha, Tygerberg, and Klipfontein, to support the SAPS, SANDF, and law enforcement, Metro Police, and traffic officers. All the officers have undergone the required training, including peace officer training, a traffic warden certificate, and training in the bylaws of the City of the Cape Town. They will continue also to receive further training.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we underestimate the severity of the fact that SAPS is under-trained, under-staffed, under-resourced, and under-equipped, and I hope it at least becomes apparent to the National Minister during [Inaudible.]

of her Special Adjustment Budget, as we have noted a flare-up in the opportunistic criminal activities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, nonetheless, further interventions include:

- The development of a toolkit for SAPS together with the OHS protocols facilitating the isolation and quarantine sites by the Department of Transport and Public Works in support of SAPS members.
- Further intervention, the engagement and support to district municipalities.
- Another intervention is the engagement with the religious fraternity to support community-based solutions.

Furthermore, hon Deputy Speaker:

- The placement of peace officers and Chrysalis graduates at municipalities.
- Briefing volunteers on how to be vigilant, encourage social distancing, and wear masks.
- The deployment of security personnel at health facilities.
- Auditing security interventions at schools with data.
- Also, research on law enforcement deployment, tracking the murder rate, and criminal activity.
- Daily monitoring of compliance by liquor outlets through the Western

Cape Liquor Authority.

- The rollout of a communication strategy to create positive behaviour change in civil compliance.
- Also monitoring the GBV cases through the relevant programme.
- The publishing of the domestic violence booklet, with the details of support organisations and guide to securing protection orders.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Opposition earlier argued that the Budget reduction will affect critical programmes like the office of the Police Ombudsman, but if I read about the Budget correctly, the funds surrendered on the component of the office of the Police Ombudsman amounts to R245,000; an amount surrendered purely as a result of the lockdown, which was initially earmarked for travel expenses.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Opposition further argued that there is a reduction in CPF's, and I am well-aware that the CPF's play a pivotal role. However, the Department can only enter into transfer payment agreements with CPF's that are legally constituted, and the Opposition will be well aware that due to the lockdown, many CPF's were unable to hold AGM's to date, as gatherings are prohibited. This resulted in an underspending towards the allocated funding in the Budget, which the Department was then able to redirect towards the COVID-19 response.

Furthermore, the Department has adequate budgetary allocation for CPFs for the rest of the year.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in closing, this is the Western Cape, and not a province where we allow unethical governance practices. We are able to accommodate Budget cuts despite National Government's inability to put their money where their mouth is. Not for the sake of any political agenda, but for the safety and wellbeing of the residents in this province.

In closing, hon Deputy Speaker, I reiterate that I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As the EFF we do not support the Vote. We want to say to the Minister of Illegal Evictions and who is so much obsessed with farm killings, that as the EFF we are grossly concerned that our people would be evicted without following proper procedures, and then he would concentrate much [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker?

Mr M XEGO: ... on the issue of farm killings.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Xego, if you could [Interjections.]

Mr M XEGO: So [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Xego?

Mr M XEGO: ... while we ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Xego, one minute. I see there is a point of order, one minute. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I am rising on a point of order, and I want you to please rule if it is parliamentary, because according to me there is no Minister of Evictions in Parliament. If the hon member could please withdraw that statement and address the Minister as hon Minister Fritz.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Xego, did you say that he is the Minister of Evictions?

Mr M XEGO: As part of his responsibility.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon – well [Interjections.]

Mr M XEGO: It is on his description, that he is supposed to look at evictions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, but what I am asking [Interjections.]

Mr M XEGO: I do not know what hon Deputy Speaker is trying to achieve.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, but what I am just asking, and I am just cautioning you, if you could just remember that everybody is honourable and must be respected in the House. If you [Interjections.]

Mr M XEGO: I am [Inaudible.] the Minister.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is fine, thank you.

Mr M XEGO: I think that is honourable enough.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Mr M XEGO: I am not going to bow before him to show that I respect him. I respect him, he is the Minister.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Xego [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Hon Deputy Speaker? Hon Deputy Speaker?

Mr M XEGO: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon member Xego. I recognise hon Minister Madikizela.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Minister Fritz is the Minister of Police, not Minister of Evictions, and hon member Xego must withdraw that. He is not the Minister of Evictions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Xego, if we can refrain from saying that please.

Mr M XEGO: So I will refrain from doing so, but he [Interjections.]

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

Mr M XEGO: Ja.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... you may proceed.

Mr M XEGO: [Inaudible.] ja, thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr M XEGO: We, while we recognise the fact that the Western Cape Department of Community Safety plays an oversight role against the police,

this cannot justify the fact that the Provincial Policing Functions Budget should be cut by R11,2 million. What is concerning the most is that all of this takes place at a time while crime continues to be rife in the province, especially in our townships where law enforcement agencies are failing dismally to protect our people, but would rather take joy in illegal evictions that the Department champions mostly. I understand that it might sit otherwise with the DA, but it is a fact.

A combined Budget reduction of R14,8 million in programmes such as safety partnership, safety promotion, and community safety, conveys a negative perception to the public regarding the Department's intention to fight and police crime. What will the ever-endangered members of the Neighbourhood Watch say when they realise that the Provincial Government is cutting the Budget, which was intended to assist them to fight crime. Where were the provincial law enforcement officials which were acquired for purposes for the so-called Safety Plan, when a 3-year old child was killed by a stray bullet during a gang violence shootout on Tuesday? Where were they when a 6-year old died under similar circumstances [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Xego [Interjections.]

Mr M XEGO: ... in Kraaifontein 15 days ago?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Herron, you are up next.

Mr B N HERRON: Thanks, hon Deputy Speaker, we support the Vote.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now call on hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Minister Fritz is so passionate about his [Inaudible.], yet he surrenders R28 million. Your Department is so small with a small budget, Minister, you need more than less.

The Neighbourhood Watches are shrinking because the walking bus is paying their members stipends, and the Neighbourhood Watch members are leaving the Neighbourhood Watches to join the walking bus. Why does the Minister not pay the Neighbourhood Watches a life cover? I have asked this before. People want to work, go out there, and they are screaming for a life cover. Hon Deputy Speaker, why does the Minister also look at different levels of funding when it comes to Neighbourhood Watches? Neighbourhood watches need more [Inaudible.] areas [Inaudible.] and I want to conclude with this, hon Deputy Speaker.

I want to agree with the Minister, when it comes to condemning the killing of

farmers and farmworkers, and we pray that this will stop, because this threatens our food security. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. I now call on hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I support your Budget. I think that your lateral thinking, your line of site management, your hands-on approach, that is to be applauded, but I want to say to you, Minister, it is time that this Province appoints a Commission of Inquiry to look into farm murders. I think our farmers need greater protection than what it receives at the moment. You cannot keep on killing somebody just because he is white, or because he is black. All lives matter, not only black lives, and I feel it for the black life, I feel it for the white person, I feel it for a coloured person. We have got to stop this, we have to stop the killing of white farmers and [Inaudible.] appoint a commission to look into the causes of it, and how we can address this issue.

[Inaudible.] people in the cities with Chrysalis and Neighbourhood Watches, but nobody speaks about the killing and dying of innocent farmers who provide us with the food. Without farmers there will not be food parcels. I can guarantee you we will not be able to give anybody a food parcel if there is not a farmer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member, your time is up.

Mr P J MARAIS: And this racism must stop.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais. I note that hon member Brinkhuis is not in the House. I now revert back to Minister Fritz.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: †Enkosi, [Thank you.] hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much to all the hon members for their comments, and I really want to say to you, I am not sure whether the hon member Kama said that I was in the UDM, or did he say the UDF? Because I was certainly not in a Bantustan organisation, not the UDF, UDM. I was in the UDF. UDF, ja, okay, good.

I really want to also say to hon member Kama that Azola Phaphu is as dear to our hearts within this province, and you know it, hon member Kama. You know our commitment and our dedication to the plight of having, as you can see, and you know the Safety Plan very well, hon member Kama, through you, hon Deputy Speaker. How it, within the Safety Plan, 50% of the Safety Plan deals with violence prevention issues, and violence prevention, and I am talking about proactive programmes now. I am not talking about after the fact, when after some child committed a crime and he lands in the Child and Youth Care Centre. I am talking about how do we stop young children, how do we stop Azola Phaphu, as you say, who displayed very good signs of believing in the rule of law? How do we help him and create an alternative to him to not become one of those stone throwers, one of those land invaders,

one of those criminals, but become an amazing, well-rounded, great civilian person in our community, who plays a positive role in our society?

And that is what our Violence Prevention Programme is all about, and I will tell you now we will drive that. We are having our weekly meetings where we are really driving that very true, and I know specifically also Minister Sharna Fernandez, her commitment and dedication to that.

So I think to make all the comments you made, I think you know the truth, because when we engage privately you say the opposite of what you are saying now.

The other point I think we need to also make is that the reason why we want to amend the Western Cape Community Safety Act is [Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... is in fact, it is precisely ... Is that a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Thank you, thank you [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, sorry, what is your point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The hon MEC has now, when he said that when I speak to him privately, I say the opposite. I feel, hon Deputy Speaker, that is putting improper motives on me, and can he withdraw, please, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, that is not really a point of order, but the Minister can decide how he wants to address his speech.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: I withdraw, I withdraw. He knows the truth, I withdraw.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: So, no problem with that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: And he is an amazing person outside Parliament, in fact, thank you very much. So, I think the point I am just making [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Laughter.] Really? He can join the DA.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: And that is really due to the issue of violence prevention, and I really want to say also to hon member Kama, and I know you know it all; as we speak here, I want to say he knows that, and he, I know his heart in terms, and exactly his whole speech was about violence prevention, and it is part of our programme.

Hon member Kama, I pre-empted you, I even in my speech said that you were going to say something about Neighbourhood Watches and CPF's, and I knew you were going to say [Laughs.], so I think I have actually addressed it already, but I want to say we - and I want to also speak to another member who raised the whole issue of CPF's - are busy expediting the funding to CPF's, but we cannot dump funds, we cannot just dump funds with people. People must be held accountable, they must have a plan, and I think that is the important point that we are making.

We are not other provinces where we just dump funds to people, and I really want to emphasise that point. I am so happy the hon member Kama spoke about properties outside and Government property outside of the City of Cape Town, City of the Centre, the City Centre, because it is almost like he read our minds. We are very concerned about the properties that have been invaded by hooligans, of state property, that belongs to us, that belongs to the Government, that is planned for housing, for property development. And I would *sommer* in the meantime address hon member Xego - where he becomes part of this, as a member of Parliament, he becomes part of this rush to create lawlessness, and against development of proper land.

Our people in this province who has been for years on the waiting list, who do not burn down things. The people who burn down things seems to be getting rewarded. We must stop it, and I am so sure, I am so happy that Minister Simmers is agreeing to stop all the nonsense where we are rewarding the hooligans, like Minister [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, Minister.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... [Inaudible.] who came here the other day.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies. I see that there is a hand up. Is that hon member Xego?

Mr M XEGO: Yes, that is me. I think the Minister is misleading the House when he says I am part of the people that are destroying property. Addressing people who are [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Xego [Interjections.]

Mr M XEGO: ... embarking [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... that is not a point of order.

Mr M XEGO: ... on violence and calming violence is different from agitating violence to take over the land.

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

Mr M XEGO: Then I say for the EFF did not take any land.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, but this is not a point of order.

Mr M XEGO: He must withdraw that, he must withdraw. He cannot make such [Inaudible.] aspersions against me without facts. He must [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Hon Deputy Speaker?

Mr M XEGO: Yes, he must withdraw.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, just one minute. I see hon member Kama's hand is also up before yours. Hon member Kama?

Mr M KAMA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. On the same point. Rule 59, which speaks on reflections upon members of the House, says that:

“No member may impute improper motives on or reflect on the integrity or dignity of, or verbally abuse another member.”

Minister is imputing improper motives on hon member Xego, that he is encouraging lawlessness as a member of Parliament, and that is out of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you, and I also see, I think, Minister, I am not sure if you or hon member Mackenzie’s hand was up first. I am going to open it up to hon Minister Madikizela, and then to hon member Mackenzie.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Hon Deputy Speaker, this is not a point of order, it is a point for debate, but it is true that we have video footage of hon member Xego encouraging land invasion.

So if he wants to bring this for a debate in the House, he must do so.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon member Mackenzie?

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker,

I just want to check if the Minister is available to take a question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. Before you, before he answers, hon Minister, do you want to, could you please refrain from accusing, unless you are going to bring a substantive motion into the House?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: [No audible response.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you can put your microphone on.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: [No audible response.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unmute yourself. Give me a second. We have lost you, hon Minister. Cannot hear you. If we can just check, IT, why the Minister can no longer be heard? There, try again, Minister.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: [No audible response.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you check if your sound is up?

An HON MEMBER: Ja, *ne*?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That just suddenly happened. All right, if we can just give ...

Mr M KAMA: He spoke of a wrong person, no he cannot speak. [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I wonder if you should not take, try something new, or try and get in through the phone. If we can please ask that IT call the Minister through his phone?

An HON MEMBER: Something new. You cannot teach an old dog new things.

An HON MEMBER: †Haibo [Oh no!] hon member.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, what I would like to suggest, in the meantime while we get the Minister on, is that I can do a ruling on this matter at a later stage, and we are just waiting for the Minister to get back on, and then we will deliver on that ruling based on Hansard. Give it a minute, and then I will ask the Minister the question, whether he wants to take a question, hon member Mackenzie, one minute.

Hon member Mackenzie, you can just lower your hand in the meantime. Thank you.

All right, I see the hon Minister is back online. Hon Minister [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hello? Can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... can you hear us? We can hear you.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Okay. Thanks, thanks, hon Deputy Speaker. I completely agree with your ruling, thanks. I will [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, and the [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Ja.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... will you a question, hon Minister, from hon member Mackenzie?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Yes, I will take a question, from whom is the question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: From hon member Mackenzie. Hon Mackenzie, over to you.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: I will take from anyone a question, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Minister, a few weeks, in fact two weeks ago, the EFF Regional Secretary, of which some members are party to, was on Khayelitsha, and his exact words, and I can quote him:

“They will intensify with communities land invasions.”

Does that not speak to what the party stands for, and that obviously contributes to the political motive of the land invasions in this province? If a political party says that?

An HON MEMBER: Is this still part of the Budget debate?

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

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Yes, that is in fact exactly the point, but I would also perhaps call on this Parliament to investigate the involvement of members of this House, to properly investigate it and to see whether people in fact – and as hon member Xego is saying, I cannot make any kind of comments, but perhaps we need a full investigation of this House. When we lay an oath before this House to say that we will respect the Constitution, and if we do other things, it is not in terms of the Constitution. I really would ask that this House actually does an investigation into the role of a number of members in the House. Thank you ... [Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: Order, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: On a point of order – one minute, Minister. Who has raised a point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Member Nkondlo.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, hon member Nkondlo, yes, what is your point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I just wanted to seek guidance from you. Is it not the Rule of the House if there are any matters as it relates to the conduct of members of the House that as we have been taught, and it has been repeated in the previous sittings that such must be brought through a substantive motion, so if so, I am trying to understand what is it that hon member Mackenzie is bringing; what is it that the hon Minister is raising in this House, because I am assuming that if that Rule still stands under your guidance, all those issues have got the right to be brought into the House as substantive motions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Nkondlo, I was just going to say I recognise you, hon member Lekker, but one minute. I was going to say to the Minister that he needs to bring that complaint through the relevant processes and the way that Parliament actually operates. Hon member Lekker, does that satisfy you?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, thank you, Deputy Speaker, it does.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, noted, thank you. Minister, are you finished?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you. Yes, I completely accept your ruling.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Let me just finish off with hon member Kama. He also says that this Budget does not speak to gender-based violence. I just pointed out to him that there was actually assigned a specific person from the Court Watching Briefs to focus exclusively on gender-based violence cases, remember the Court Watching Briefs, and work with Minister Sharna Fernandez very closely to really fight the scourge of gender-based violence.

I want to secondly, hon Reagen Allen, really say thank you for the amazing work that the Standing Committee is doing under his leadership. I really want to say, he emphasised all of Government's work. We need to, and all of community work, all of society work emphasises this. He is passionate about the role that the Standing Committee is playing with hon member Christians about the wellbeing of Neighbourhood Watches and I want to say also, and addressing hon member Christians in the same way, that we really want to look at what is the best model for moving forward without having a complicated and complex relationship. We really want to and the best interest of all and the wellbeing of all Neighbourhood Watches are really, really important to us, so I want to assure members that that is the point. I also want to say... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, Minister, one minute.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lekker, is that your hand, a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hear you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Just one issue, hon Deputy Speaker, the Minister keeps making reference to individual members. Can he make that reference through you, Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you, hon member Lekker. If you can talk to them through me, hon Minister, if you can conclude.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: That is really sabotage, Deputy Speaker, and then I think I will not refer to hon member Xego because I think his points are completely irrelevant. I want to thank hon member Herron, thank him for supporting the Budget. [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, Deputy

Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lekker. One minute, Minister Fritz. Hon member Lekker, your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy Speaker, thank you, I would like to get guidance from you. If I am providing a direction to insinuations that are being made by the MEC, who I think has been in Parliament longer than myself, I want you to make a ruling on what he just said that I am sabotaging him because I do not have any intentions rather than point out the wrongdoings for a senior member of his calibre. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Lekker. Hon Minister, please withdraw that accusation.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Okay, thanks, I withdraw, I withdraw.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: And then lastly, I want to also just say to hon member Christians that we are in fact investing more in Neighbourhood Watches. Everyone has seen, I think it is also hon member Kama who said something that this Budget is not directed at COVID; it is exactly directed at COVID. Now either we misunderstand stuff, or we do not read the Budget properly but, really, that is the point, and then lastly to hon

member Marais. Thank you also for supporting and always for supporting us and I really agree with him, racism must stop. We must treat all lives equal, and of course black lives matter, but other lives matter too. It is everyone's life that does matter; every humanity. How do you pour hot water over a woman of 72 on a farm? That is torture, and that must stop. It must stop now! Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Fritz. That concludes the debate on this Vote. The Secretary will now read the Second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 7 – Social Development – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B4 - 2020].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. We now call on the hon Minister Fernandez.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier and Cabinet Colleagues, hon Leader of the Official Opposition, hon Leaders of Opposition parties, hon members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, members of the media and fellow South Africans. I rise today to table Vote 7 – the Adjusted Budget for the Western Cape Department of Social Development.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I do though wish to first and foremost, want to thank our NPO partners, all our social workers, child and youth care workers, carers, volunteers and all essential service workers for their valiant efforts serving on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. I would also like us to pause and reflect on all those who have succumbed to COVID-19.

The Western Cape Department of Social Development's Budget sees the re-allocation of R33 402 000 made up of a rollover of savings from the 2019/2020 financial year of R25 732 000; an internal re-prioritization of R202 000 and additional funds from Treasury amounting to R7 932 000. The net effect increases Social Development's Budget from a baseline of R2,673 billion to R2,681 billion Rand. Hon Deputy Speaker, these savings have proven to be fortuitous since we have been able to allocate the full R25 732 000 for emergency funding of food relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

R20 million was allocated to distribute 50 000 food parcels across the province. Four NPOs, namely SANZAF, Islamic Relief, Red Cross and the Mustadafin Foundation assisted in this exercise: 8 000 thousand parcels per region for Eden Karoo, West Coast and Winelands, and 7 000 parcels per region for Metro East, North and South areas. 300 parcels per region have been retained for families who are self-isolating or are in quarantine at home and cannot go to the shops. The remainder of the funds have been allocated to feeding schemes to provide hot food.

The remaining R7,9 million has been combined with internally re-prioritized funds to add R2,5 million Rand for operational capacity support to Old Age Homes affected by COVID-19, and that, Deputy Speaker, was more than 300 Old Age Homes, and R12 900 000 has been allocated for Personal Protective Equipment. This was spread across Old Age homes, Disabled Homes and Partial Care Facilities, including Early Childhood Development Centre's.

Hon Speaker, this protracted lockdown has seen a new pandemic emerge, that of hunger, extreme poverty and increased levels of unemployment, as detailed in a recent Oxfam Research piece. We also see an increase in the number of victims in what I call the "shadow pandemic" that of gender-based violence and substance abuse. Citizens are experiencing trauma, depression and hopelessness with many of them requiring psychosocial support. Sadly, Deputy Speaker, our Provincial efforts are minimal in the bigger scheme of things as the country and continent faces a food crisis.

To combat and counter this we have initiated a humanitarian workstream to address the needs. However, we need to now move from food aid to food security.

I do need to inform the House that the humanitarian workstream represents the whole-of-government and the whole-of-society, in that we have Provincial Government departments, the five District Municipalities as well as the City of Cape Town are represented on that forum; Disaster Management, the Solidarity Fund, SASSA, and the EDP Desk, which co-

ordinates the efforts of NPOs, Faith-based Organisations, Community Action Networks and civil society as well as other donors.

In this regard we have attempted to map the distribution of food to ensure that we know where the glaring food gaps are so that we can be responsive to the needs as and when donations come in, that we can assist. The City, I do believe, has also embarked on a campaign of feeding.

However, Deputy Speaker, I must in terms of my Social Development role, indicate that we are experiencing donor fatigue, and this is definitely impacting the feeding effort. Coming back to my colleague's Vote, Minister Fritz, one of the biggest challenges to food distribution is that of gangsterism and unrest and protest action, because when there is unrest and protest action and gangsterism we cannot get food to the people who need it most.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is important for me to draw the House's attention to the mandate and where we find ourselves today. So, in terms of the Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004 and I quote:

“The objectives of the Act are...”

And I really do want us to listen: The points are:

- (a) To provide for the administration of social assistance and social payment grants;
- (b) To make provision for social assistance and to determine the qualifying requirements in respect thereof;
- (c) To ensure the minimum norms and standards as prescribed for

the delivery of social assistance.”

I raise that, hon Deputy Speaker, as I will be coming back onto that point in the second part of my presentation.

So at this point in time our focus in terms of COVID-19 is Old Age Homes and I am pleased to announce that as a result of our partnership, again transversal government in action, we have concluded a protocol with the Department of Health and we have worked together to assist more than 300 homes and we are actually seeing an increase in the recovery rate within that sector and that is indeed pleasing.

Our other area is that of ECDs and sadly we have many unregistered ECDs and we have not received any direction from National regarding how we are to deal with unregistered ECDs, but I do wish to thank our registered and funded ECDs who continued feeding during the COVID-19 campaign.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we also made a financial contribution to a shelter which can accommodate 120 people in Somerset West, and this was established during the Covid 19 campaign as well as some work we conducted at the two sites in terms of substance-use disorder and a trauma-informed approach to gender-based violence. Our commitment as the Department remains to work prudently with taxpayers’ funds to make sure that every single cent is allocated for its correct purpose and that we ensure the safety of our staff, because without the dedicated team within Social Development we would not be able to achieve our objectives.

Sadly, many of our staff have tested positive and have had to be quarantined which has impacted our ability in certain areas of availability on certain days. However, we have developed contingencies and we remain committed to serving the people of this province. I thank you Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I now call on hon member Bakubaku-Vos. Are you there, hon member?

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one minute. Can I just ask that everybody mute their microphones? There we go. My apologies. Hon member Bakubaku-Vos, you may begin.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The mission of this Department is to ensure the provision of a comprehensive network of Social Development services that enables and empowers the poor, the vulnerable and those with special needs. When the MEC tabled the Main Appropriation she stated that service delivery in the Western Cape is set against a backdrop of increasing levels of violence against women and children, specifically the increasing rate of child murders relative to the rest of the country, gang violence, substance abuse, high unemployment, food insecurity and malnutrition. I can confirm that the above factors have worsened under COVID-19.

For instance, a World Bank Analysis on Global Poverty has projected COVID-19 will push 49-million people into extreme poverty in 2020. The report continues to say: “Sub-Saharan Africa will be the region hit hardest in terms of increased extreme poverty.”

[Inaudible – audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon member Bakubaku-Vos, one minute. Was that a point of order? If not, can I please ask that you mute your microphones? You may continue, hon member.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. We further impact on our shores as many people have lost their livelihoods. In response to this, the National Department of Social Development introduced the R350.00 SASSA Social Relief of Distress Grant, which has assisted over five million beneficiaries from 7,8-million applications. Over and above this, the Child Support Grant and various other grants were increased. In addition to this, 1,2-million food parcels were allocated to households and 1,800 social workers [Inaudible.] were employed.

Coming to the Western Cape, the self-righteous and holier-than-thou MEC must tell the truth. You must tell the truth that in this Budget there is additional allocation made. While it may seem like the Adjusted Appropriation is increased by R7,9 million, the reality is that R17,8 million

has been moved away from this Department. The additional R25,7 million is roll-overs from unspent funds from last year. This should expose the agenda of the propagandistic DA which has been driving a narrative of an ANC Government that is failing the poor; when it is in fact the one that is robbing the poor by moving away money from critical programmes.

A careful look at this Budget shows that R33,4 million has been taken away from programmes such as Social Welfare Service and children and families to fund procurement of PPEs. Part of the reduced Budget was R7,9 million for the Sanitary Dignity Project.

The name “Sanitary Dignity” means “the preservation and maintenance of the self-esteem of an indigent woman especially during menstruation.”

This project is meant to promote women’s right to dignity. In line with what President Mandela said that “As long as women are bound by poverty, and as long as they are looked down upon, human rights will lack substance.”

In turn, this Department is taking away our women’s dignity. The excuse of this Department for this insensitive decision is that the sanitary towels are given to schoolgirls and because schools are closed, they have enough in stock. The Government must take the sanitary towels out of the storerooms and give them to the organisations that are dealing with women and children, as well the Women Empowerment Centres.

A further R19,3 million for compensation of employees is taken away from the Social Welfare Service Programme. In the Main Appropriation the MEC told us that the funding allocation for the programme was for provision of extra bed-space at Sivuyile and additional funding for social workers in particular in areas with a high prevalence of gender-based violence, substance abuse and issues affecting children.

These Budget cuts go against what the MEC said in the media on 20 April, that the support for victims of abuse remained a priority of the Department; while she correctly noted in her statement that while the country was in lockdown, for women isolation at home presented additional risk as there was a perpetual increase in the cases of violence metered against women and children.

In this Budget she has moved to cut the Budget which was meant to employ more social workers for GBV and issues that are affecting children. The Budget cut follows a series of murders of young women, and they have in the hands of men in the province.

This includes the brutal murder of Amahle Quku from Browns Farm, Philippi, Altecia Kortje and her daughter, Raynecia, from Belhar, as well as the hacking-to-death of Naledi Phangindawo by her former boyfriend whom she had obtained a protection order against. This is what President Ramaphosa called a “Second Pandemic” which South Africa was suffering from.

Given the above, it is disappointing that there is no additional budget for creating empowerment. This Department is spending R21 million for 20 shelters for victims of crime. Of this, only four have been identified as Stage 1 Shelters to admit an at-risk victim of crime and violence during lockdown.

The women and children are not only failed by this Department, poor homeless people are not spared. How can we forget how the MEC turned the other way when the homeless were subjected to inhumane conditions in Strandfontein concentration camp?

Over and above this, only R18 million in the Budget is spent on funding 27 shelters for homeless people. All other shelters are not supported because they did not apply. The Department must reach out to these shelters and motivate them to apply.

I want to come to my last point, Deputy Speaker, the claims that this Department feeds 100 000 daily, this is counting 50 000 children in the ECDs. Only 5 000 are assisted through Community Nutrition Development and Support Centres. It does not mean like this Budget is catering for poor people who have lost their livelihood to COVID-19. It is really disappointing that this Government did not take money from the Provincial Reserve to expand the Humanitarian Relief Programme.

The ANC does not support this Budget. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr G BOSMAN: Good afternoon, hon Deputy Speaker, and colleagues. I rise today to debate Vote 7 of the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation COVID-19 Bill, dealing with the Department of Social Development.

During this pandemic we have seen the role of the Social Development Department brought front and centre as the people of the Western Cape came to deal with not just the health crisis, but the economic catastrophe brought to us by policy uncertainty and mismanagement of the Social Security safety nets administered by National Government.

Traditionally the Provincial Department's role is to ensure the provision of a comprehensive network of social development services that enables and empowers the most vulnerable members of our Western Cape communities, specifically our children, the elderly and those with special needs.

This Adjustment Budget and the key programmes I am outlining, is a mechanism to ensure that we deliver comprehensive services to the people of the Western Cape, services they currently desperately need, because our National Government has not been able to provide comprehensive and coordinated relief of distress through the agency charged in terms of legislation with the duty to administer social support across provinces. That

is the dysfunctional South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a social development challenge, the magnitude of which none of us could have imagined. The public and private sectors have been stretched to capacity and beyond and in so many instances the turnaround time for support and for response has been unthinkable. Nevertheless, we have witnessed tremendously encouraging signs of support and the outstanding work of NGOs and charitable organisations cannot go without mention.

The collaborate amongst private sector business, NPOs, and Local and Provincial Governments have been nothing short of a Herculean effort to combat COVID-19. We have seen municipalities come out and offer local halls at SASSA venues to assist the agency in paying out grants, which it had been unable to do successfully. We have witnessed the rapid reprioritisation of funds and emergency expenditure in the Western Cape so as to meet the immense needs and difficulties of the day and in the Western Cape the Provincial Department of Social Development has swiftly reacted to the crisis by adding extra capacity to shelters, bolstering its support to victims of gender-based violence, reprioritising funds to day-care centres and extending over R70 million for food relief in this province. We did not need a court order to instruct us to resume feeding schemes for learners. The Western Cape swiftly and responsibly remained the only province to do so under the lockdown due to our commitment to uplifting the most vulnerable. This was further made possible by our prudent financial management which availed emergency funds from the Provincial Treasury.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the current Adjustment has an increase of nearly R8 million to further support the work of this Department. This means that while the DA delivers a budget to beat COVID in the Western Cape, Pretoria uses the crisis to line the pockets of cadres and comrades. We have been inundated with cases of such comrades stealing food parcels and illegally obtaining relief of distress grants.

Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, I want to correct hon member Bakubaku-Vos. Nobody is driving a propagandist agency against the ANC National Government. We do not need propaganda. The ANC is actually stealing and siphoning off funding intended for the poor through the constant looting by their cadres.

Our persons with disability suffer a series of challenges when it comes to applying for and even receiving social grants. The availability of SASSA appointed doctors for assessment is one such concern exemplified in reality that for the residents of George, Knysna, Mossel Bay and Plettenberg Bay, as well as Riversdale, there are just four doctors to conduct these assessments. Even the SASSA and the National Department of Social Development have left our people on their own. Our Provincial Department has continued to support people with disabilities by assisting 39 special homes and extending the provision of PPE.

The Department has continued to fund workshops. It has subsidised the

salaries of Day Care Centres, and it has subsidised the transport cost at 44 centres. This support is done even with a reduction in the budget for persons with disabilities. Along with this, Deputy Speaker, the Department has continued to support Old Age Homes with additional allocations of R2,5 million to increase their capacity and ensure that these homes protect our older persons.

Deputy Speaker, this Department is committed to ensuring the safety and through its work it is spearheading its assigned safety priority. The DSD's Safety Priority focusing on children and youth-at-risk, looks specifically at assisting young people with psychosocial and specialised interventions that combats alienation and challenging behaviour amongst youth.

I welcome the increase in funding for children and families and specifically the support provided to Early Childhood Development Centres. R10,2 million has been reprioritised for the procurement of PPE to prepare ECD sites for the reopening and the prevention and management of the spread of COVID-19. The reopening of ECD facilities is critical as more and more parents have to return to work, and it also ensures that many hungry children are being fed at these ECDs.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is profoundly sad that as we deal with a massive health crisis and an economic crisis sponsored by the ANC in Pretoria, we have to contend with the scourge of gender-based violence, a crisis that has now reached boiling point. As a Department consistently working to

stem the tide of GBV, we will continue to intensify its programmes against GBV through the deployment of approximately 30 social workers specialising in gender-based violence prevention interventions, and expanding the substance abuse services and shelter services for abused women and children in rural areas.

This would enable GBV service delivery coordination at the district municipality level and thus strengthen the whole-of-society approach to combating this social ill.

This Government has sponsored a further 320 shelter beds for gender-based violence. Deputy Speaker, we need to do more to stop the scourge of violence against women and children. I want to recognise the hard work that is being done by the many NGO partners, hundreds of social workers and the great lengths gone to support the staff members of this Department. It is high time that National Cabinet lives up to its declaration of social development as a frontline service and matches the efforts of not just the Western Cape but the absolutely phenomenal work of our partner NPOs and our residents who have demonstrated the real spirit of Ubuntu at a time when the philosophy requires substantial embodiment.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to thank our Provincial Social Development Department for the hard work they are doing under these exceptionally difficult circumstances. This, even though there has been widespread confusion caused by Minister Zulu, confusion that are sought to impede

the voluntary charitable efforts by community feeding schemes, under Minister Lindiwe Zulu we have seen no clarity from National in terms of dealing with homelessness. In fact, the Minister admits she is uncertain as to where this responsibility falls. Even through this confusion, Deputy Speaker, our Provincial Department has distributed more than a 130 000 food parcels, each of which feeds a family of five. It has assisted with the distribution of 200 000 daily cooked meals and it has continued to fund over 1 000 social workers.

Hon Deputy Speaker, again this was done without corruption. We have no suspected MECs, no tenders for comrades in DA-led governments for COVID-19 relief and certainly we do not wait for the courts to tell us to jump to action when the needs around us are so incredibly obvious. Again, Deputy Speaker, while the DA delivers a budget to beat COVID-19 in the Western Cape, Pretoria uses this crisis to line the pockets of cadres and comrades. The time for Minister Zulu to act has already passed. We are now in dire need. Catch up and adequately rapidly roll out the safety nets the President has promised.

More than half of the poorest are unemployed. Millions are without hope and families are without the knowledge of where and when they will be able to feed their children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the Social Development Standing Committee as well as specifically

Minister Sharna Fernandez and her Department for the meaningful and robust engagement we have had this far.

A very big thank you goes to our procedural officer, Ms Nomonde Jamce, for carrying out her work so diligently as well as the support she gives to our Committee. A special thank you goes to the members of the public for their eagerness to contribute to the oversight work of the Committee and for supporting feeding schemes. Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Alliance supports this Vote.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I now call on hon member Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Budget increase of R6,7 million in the Children and Families' Programme is welcomed, but needs more. This is just a drop in the ocean. Our people out there are hungry and have no means to feed their families.

The Economic Freedom Fighters take note that the Restorative Services Budget remains unchanged, even though we are of the opinion that it should have been increased. This is an important programme especially when it comes to addressing issues of substance abuse in our communities. Mostly amongst the youth, stressed and unemployed people and also our homeless people. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, one minute. Okay, you may proceed.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. This is an important programme especially when it comes to addressing issues of substance abuse in our communities, mostly amongst the youth, stressed and unemployed people and also our homeless people. Connected to the programme is also the issue of alcohol abuse in our communities which is a link and often contributes to the commission of the crime such as drinking and driving, which causes accidents on our roads that often result in fatalities; the crime of domestic violence and other forms of contact crime. The Social Relief Budget of R13,9 million is insufficient, taking into account that we are in the middle of a deadly pandemic where most of our people, specifically black communities, remain disadvantaged and vulnerable as they continue to lose their jobs and income streams.

These people and their families would then look upon this Government Department for food relief and other aid. The Department must also facilitate a strong cooperation with the Department of Human Settlements, in order to make housing provisions for victims of abuse as part of its victim empowerment initiative. The Minister made mention of food parcels distributed. I just want to know how many of these food parcels were submitted and to who? We know very well that these food parcels were distributed to DA volunteers and our people have been left hungry.

The Economic Freedom Fighters does not support this Budget because it is not enough to cater for an overwhelming number of unemployed people in this province who go to bed on an empty stomach.

I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I now call on hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The biggest impact of COVID-19 in a scale much larger than the health impact due to lockdown and preventative measures is the humanitarian crisis and within days of the lockdown at the end of March we saw the writing on the wall that we were facing a food security and nutrition crisis that would be and is going to be overwhelming, and this is why we say the funding allocated to humanitarian relief is completely inadequate. In this Social Development Budget we should be seeing our Provincial Government acknowledging this crisis and doing something about it but what we see instead is an overall increase of only R7,9 million, and through a rollover of unspent funds the Department makes a R25 million contribution to food relief, and that is it.

All of the funding for humanitarian relief should have been agglomerated in this Vote in order to have the maximum impact. IT Systems and call centres do not constitute humanitarian relief and it is disingenuous to attempt to inflate the Government's support for the most vulnerable by

including these expenses as humanitarian relief. Thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. When we saw and we heard the numbers of people calling into the call centre and money had to be forked out in order to accommodate all these calls, we knew that the COVID is not only a health problem, but, as my colleague said, a humanitarian problem.

Hon Speaker, if the MEC can just tell us, I know she said it before that the Provincial Department jumped in when SASSA did not do their role, and that is why they rolled out the feeding schemes, but she also spoke about all-of-government approach because this disaster must never happen again where people go hungry, so I just believe the small amounts that have been allocated to assist feeding are not enough, but I know that the Department cannot do it on its own, and we also want to compliment and praise all the NGOs that feed people on a daily basis. I thank you.

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

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. I support the Budget, but, and this is a big but, we must not allow COVID-19 to hide our own shortcomings and lack of administrative excellence – in no way. A

state which does not serve the best interest and protects its elderly does not deserve the loyalty and respect of its citizenry when they are young, because today's elderly was yesterday's economically active people. They planned and built this country to what we are privileged to enjoy today. Therefore, I propose, hon Deputy Speaker, that a separate budget allocation should be made under Vote 7 for poverty relief and poverty eradication projects. We must identify poverty areas in hotspots and we must plan and budget for it and the Province should take this very seriously because each Department I have listened to up till now have hidden their shortcomings in delivery behind COVID-19. COVID-19 has become a bogeyman.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais, your time is up. Thank you. I note that hon Brinkhuis is not here. Now we revert to the hon Minister Fernandez.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Am I audible, can you hear me loud and clear?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I wish to thank the members for participating in this debate and I also think it is necessary to address I think some misconceptions so I indicated very clearly how the appropriation was done, but I think I am going to start with hon member

Bakubaku-Vos who talks about the agenda against the ANC, and Deputy Speaker, I would like to posit a different view and ask hon member Bakubaku-Vos if the agenda is not on the part of the ANC against the citizens of South Africa, because what we have seen in what should have been COVID-19 relief budget allocations, we have seen plundering and looting of the public purse.

We talk about the Sanitary Dignity Project. In Durban three officials were arrested, three males were arrested for corruption regarding the Sanitary Dignity Project. The Sanitary Dignity Project is not a Western Cape run initiative. The Sanitary Dignity Project was initiated by the National Department of Women and not the Provincial Department of Social Development and the purpose of the Sanitary Dignity Project, I need to alert to my honourable colleague, was to measure the impact in the levels of absenteeism of young learners at school so we have identified certain Quintile schools, up to 212 schools, but we cannot deliver sanitary pads to schools that are currently unoccupied where we run the risk of it being stolen.

On the issue of shelters, yes, of our 26 shelters, during lockdown Stage 5 and 4, the only provision that could be made was with a court order to certain shelters facilities whether it was Old Age Homes, Child and Youth Care Centres, but we made provision in this Province and we had four COVID shelters dedicated where survivors of abuse could go into quarantine for the 14 days and after that, if they tested negative, they

would then go into one of the other shelters for three or four months where they could be taken care of.

We talk about PPEs. PPEs are important, hon Deputy Speaker. One of the requirements that came through all the regulations was that no-one could go back to work or their workplace without having the necessary protective equipment, so we had to think quickly and reallocate funds accordingly. There is a project for ECDs which the hon member Bakubaku-Vos is aware of, the Vangasali Project, to try and bring unregistered ECDs into the programme and we supported that and still continue to support that programme. We continue to serve our children, but I must say here again the National Department has provided little guidance on the issue of ECDs and more than 110 000 ECDs, according to *Fokus* two nights ago, had been forced to close and it is the lives and the livelihoods of mostly women that were impacted because they are carers, so we did not only lose lives, we are losing livelihoods due to the irrational directions that have come out from Social Development, and let me not talk to the issue of the banning of hot food. We had to take the National Parliament to court to get sense for them to understand that in the middle of winter you cannot deprive a citizen from a hot plate of porridge or a hot plate of soup.

The Community Nutrition Development Centres (CNDCs) were handed back to the Province on 1 April. Our CNDCs now feed 11 000 beneficiaries per day, but then, hon Deputy Speaker, let me get back to the issue of SASSA, hon member Bakubaku-Vos – SASSA's Social Relief of

Distress has been the saving grace. The administration of SASSA grants leaves a lot to be desired.

Yesterday in the Eastern Cape, the Western Cape, Mpumalanga, the South African Post Offices ran out of money because they failed to plan and let me tell you, hon Deputy Speaker, when the President announced the much lauded R350 Social Relief of Distress Grant, there was hope. People thought at least we got something to carry on with. There are still people in July waiting for SRD payments from May, hon Deputy Speaker, and I do want to take you to the document and again here this is research that was conducted. It is a Research Paper number 456 from the Social Science Research Centre and it talks about the “Expansion of Social Protection.” We know that President Ramaphosa on the 21st told the country that this was going to happen.

Well, guess what? Not much happened, and what I would like to do is to tell or is to highlight what I believe is the agenda against the Western Cape, Deputy Speaker. To talk to the breakdown, I have actually taken the time together with some officials in the Department, to look at the disparities that exist with the Social Relief of Distress Grant.

Firstly, the Western Cape has by far the highest rejection rate of any province and nearly 50% of applications have been rejected. 269 389 applications were rejected; 281 184 were approved out of 629 816 applications received.

Listen to this, hon Deputy Speaker, the next highest rejection rate is nowhere near that, being the Northern Cape, at 32%. All other provinces have rejection rates of around 25% to 30%. As a result the Western Cape, which has the third-highest population in South Africa, has by far the lowest percentage of its population receiving the grant, while smaller provinces such as Limpopo and the Eastern Cape have more than double the number of approved applications compared to the Western Cape.

Now I am not a conspiracy theorist, Deputy Speaker, but numbers do not lie, and these numbers need to be interrogated because somehow I am beginning to think the agenda is driven against the Western Cape and not the other way around.

The President himself, President Ramaphosa, told the press on 31 May that the capacity of the State has a major problem with respect to the Emergency Grant. He states, he inherited, he said, a weakened state. Setting up the new grant had been a huge challenge, but the first grants had been paid and they were only 120 000. What he failed to say to the people is that the politics in the National Government, the Presidency had this grant all sorted out but the Minister and the CEO of SASSA had a different idea, so I would encourage my ANC colleagues and all members to go and look at the CSSR Working Paper number 456 for July 2020 which highlights the incapacity of the State to deliver on its mandate as stated in Chapter 3 of the Social Assistance Act. So, again I quote:

“In short, the emergency social protection measures have entailed disappointingly little, disappointingly late, with a still-small chance that they will become permanent features of South Africa’s welfare state.”

Similarly, hon Deputy Speaker, I need to talk to the food parcels delivered by SASSA. In the CSSR Working Paper number 455 of July 2020, which looked at Feeding by National from March to June 2020, it states that:

“This gives a total of 105 000 food parcels that was delivered by SASSA over the three-month period...”

And that then says:

“The National Government delivered the same amount of food in the three months as it would have done in any other period.”

So we must look to National and say have they come to the party in terms of the much needed humanitarian aid that is required, and I do want to say that National Government has failed to feed to poor.

The R50 billion that SASSA is sitting on – but due to their incompetence they cannot deliver to the people, and one must question why the Western Cape is being punished – needs to be looked at.

Then, hon Deputy Speaker, we have Disability Grant beneficiaries who applied in February and March. I was horrified to hear in a meeting last Monday that their applications have now been extended to August/September, so they have not received their R1 860 plus the R250 top-up. Instead they were recommended by SASSA to apply, not be granted, to apply for the R350 SRD. So our most vulnerable have been let down by the very entity that is supposed to ensure that they are cared for and that their best interests are considered.

What we see here is an epic failure on the part of National Government to deliver on a mandate, but hon Deputy Speaker, anecdotally in some other part of the country we have a Mayor whose wife claimed a disability grant for three children from 2013 to 2019. Now you tell me if stealing from the poor cannot be epitomised in any other way than that. We do not inflate the prices of blankets. We do not inflate the prices of food. We work with civil society to bring the change.

I then want to thank hon member Gillion for his input. He has proven to be a very capable Chairperson and I do value his input and support and that of the Committee.

Then in response to the hon member Makamba-Botya, thank you for your support. I do note your comments. I do want to alert you that in our safety meeting, which is between Minister Fritz and I, we have the Alcohol

Harms Reduction on the table. We are also focusing on Violence Prevention and we are taking a gendered approach, so it has to be an inclusive integrated approach and we are going to be looking at the State of Shelter Reports where the Western Cape has featured quite significantly with one or two areas for revision.

The hon member Herron, you are indeed correct, I would have expected the Presidency to make an announcement that all provinces would receive humanitarian aid funding, but instead we heard and saw silly conversations around... [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Oh, there I am, thank you, my brother.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Fritz?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister Fritz, put your mic on mute.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Sorry, sorry. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: That is new tricks.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: So hon Deputy Speaker, instead of R10 billion to SAA it would have been great if the Presidency or National Treasury had allocated the money to the provinces who are most

in need and I can alert you that we have through the EDP desk been told that and we do not need to be told that it is coming, the crisis is going to deepen and with 1,6-million SASSA beneficiaries we are now seeing nearly 3-million people who are in acute distress. So we do need National to come to the party. The Province simply cannot maintain this humanitarian programme.

Hon member Christians, thank you, it is an all-of-government approach and through our humanitarian workstream we worked well with the district municipalities. You would have heard Minister Bredell state that they had provided R16,2 million, and here again National DSD appointed an NPO in Johannesburg called Kirinox. They were granted R50 million to feed homeless people in shelters across the country.

Well guess what, in less than six weeks the Kirinox contract was done, and again provinces were left on their own, and here I must say thank you to all of Local Government who stepped up and provided the food and nutrition for these people, so again we are at the mercy of National Government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, one minute, please?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have a point of order. Hon member

Makamba-Botya, what is your point of order?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you, it is not really a point of order; it is just a correction on what the Minister has mentioned that we have supported the Budget. We, as the Economic Freedom Fighters, we have not supported the Budget because we have made mention that it is not enough for the Western Cape population. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, your point is noted. Hon Minister Fernandez, although it was not a point of order, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. It was a debating point, but I apologise. I imagine in the hon member's opening line I heard "support", as I have written it down, but I note the point.

Then coming to the hon Marais, indeed poverty, gender-based violence, substance abuse knows no colour, no political ideology, no class, because it does not wear a yellow, green, blue or red t-shirt and I do agree that we must stop politicising issues and I need to set the record straight. When our food parcels were delivered the 50 000 food parcels, I, as the Minister for the Department, made it very clear that our parcels were going to be distributed through the four NPOs which had great experience in humanitarian relief, and our social work offices in the six regions coordinated support either directly with the beneficiaries or through the

municipal manager. We used the same criteria as SASSA uses for their Social Relief of Distress, so I do want to dispel the myth that the food went to DA volunteers. I reject that. It is a blatant untruth.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in closing, I must thank all the members for their contribution today. I must thank hon Bosman and the Standing Committee – sorry, there is a hand, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon Marais, what is your point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, the Minister confuses what I said. I never spoke about race and I never said it only goes to certain people. I said a special vote must be created under Vote 7 to make allowance for poverty relief. I never mentioned that DA councillors are involved so when she refers to me and responds to me, she must not bring up issues I never spoke of, please. I never said what she... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, thank you very much. I know that is not a point of order, it is a point of debate, but I am sure the Minister will take note. Thank you very much. Hon Minister Fernandez, if you can proceed.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon member Marais, my apologies. The issue of the food parcels I think was hon member

Makamba-Botya, but I have responded, and I affirm your statement regarding all lives and that is why I said when we deal with hunger, when we deal with poverty, when we deal with GBV and substance abuse, I am saying in my experience it knows no colour, because a rapist or a perpetrator does not ask a person which political party you belong to or whether you live in Khayelitsha or Clifton. That was the point that I was trying to make, but my apologies if I have offended you.

Hon Deputy Speaker, then allow me to go back to saying thank you. I have thanked the members. I have thanked the Chairperson and the Committee for their robust, yet transparent and dignified engagement. I wish to thank my colleague in the Opposition benches, hon member Bakubaku-Vos. We enjoy a very good relationship and if there is ever a challenge she knows that she can call on me, as do all other members, and then I would like to thank the Premier for his leadership through this crisis. The Premier has led from the front and by example and his example has allowed us as a Cabinet to collaborate better together and a lot of what we bring to COVID-19 is as a result of long hours of collaboration.

And then, finally, in closing, hon Deputy Speaker, I do wish to thank our Head of Department, Dr Robert Macdonald, for his guidance, his leadership, he has years of experience and in my first year of office has proven to be an absolute rock and, together with the entire management team, they have helped to keep Team DSD focused and able to address the challenge and it would be remiss of me to not say thank you to all our

essential workers and frontline workers fighting this pandemic.

I do trust, hon Deputy Speaker, that we will move away from petty politics and mudslinging that in the midst of this pandemic, we will realise that we need to work together to solve the challenges that exist in our problem, because I do agree with hon Minister Maynier, it does seem as if we are on our own. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That concludes the debate on this Vote. I now call on the hon Secretary to read the Third Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: *Debate on Vote 12 – Economic Opportunities and Tourism – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B4 - 2020].*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Secretary. I now call on the hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I am pleased today to table the Adjusted Budget for Vote 12, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The COVID-19 pandemic is costing lives and costing jobs, and we now estimate that we will lose 10,2% in gross value-add and 167 000 jobs this year in the Western Cape. And so, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism has worked around the clock to support business and to back

business, not just to open, but to open safely in the Western Cape.

We do not want business to just survive through the crisis, we also want to identify opportunities to do things better, to pivot and to adapt, and to do business in a more innovative way. This means that we need to continue to create an enabling environment for the private sector and for the markets, to drive economic growth and create jobs in the Western Cape. And so where certain sectors have been able to open safely and open responsibly, we have actively engaged with National Government to allow them to open and have had considerable success in e-commerce, in construction and now, in the tourism sector which, of course, is vital for the economic recovery in the Western Cape. And we will continue to do so.

In fact, it is critical that a more common-sense approach is applied to restrictions that are preventing the liquor, the hospitality and the tourism sectors from opening in the Western Cape. We have repeatedly called for the opening of the economy in a way that is safe and responsible. And so, we welcome the announcement yesterday by the Minister of Tourism that accommodation for leisure is now open for travel within provinces and that the curfew has been relaxed to start at 10PM, to allow restaurants an uninterrupted dinner service.

While these adjustments to the restrictions will help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these sectors, they do not go far enough and unless urgent action is taken by National Government, we will find ourselves not only in a fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, but also a fight against

an even more daunting unemployment pandemic in South Africa.

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, we have taken a number of steps to support businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. We have set up a COVID-19 Content Centre with our partners at Wesgro and the City of Cape Town, to provide support and advice for businesses during the crisis.

We have launched the COVID-19 Support Finder which helps businesses navigate and access many financial relief packages available to them. And, we have launched a smartphone app which is an innovative one-stop-shop for existing and potential business owners to get all the resources they need to start, and to scale up, and to grow their small businesses.

And we have, through our Red Tape Reduction Unit, assisted businesses to understand and to navigate the complex regulations which have resulted as a result of the lockdown.

And hon Deputy Speaker, to date we have had over 139 000 businesses visit our support business website; over 2 639 queries have been dealt with by our COVID Content Centre; 6 888 businesses have used our COVID-19 Support Finder; and over 1 248 queries have been dealt with by our Red Tape Reduction Unit.

Just last week we announced the launch of our Tourism Product Development Fund which commits a total of R5 million to support new or existing tourism products and experiences in the Western Cape. The Tourism Product

Development Fund is just one example of the many ways in which we have been working hard to support the tourism sector, which has been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and is facing significant job losses in the Western Cape.

But that is not all. Hon Deputy Speaker, to ensure that businesses remain open and that more people get back to work it is also important that all employers and employees adhere to critical safety measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. And so, we have made a number of valuable resources available for employers and employees returning to work, which can be found on the Western Cape Government's website.

We have made available health guidelines and information material on preventing and managing COVID-19 infections in the workplace. We have assisted businesses to find Personal Protective Equipment suppliers through our PPE marketplace. We have provided employees with Frequently Asked Questions that advise them on how to stay safe in the workplace and what their employer needs to do to ensure their safety. And we have provided employees and customers with a mechanism to report businesses that are not following the necessary health guidelines to stop the spread of the virus in the workplace.

To date, we have received 1 325 complaints in respect of non-compliance via our online form, of which 960, I am pleased to report, have been resolved. And of course, we have begun the process of rolling out 11 000 COVID-19

Business Safety Kits to small businesses and informal traders across the Western Cape.

Now hon Deputy Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism will continue to play a critical role in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic as we help businesses to stay safe and to open, and to open safely in the Western Cape.

The Main Appropriation of R604,6 million has been adjusted down by R57 million to R547,5 for the 2020/21 financial year. I will not deal in detail with the adjustments, but I would like to highlight some of the initiatives that will help businesses to stay open and stay safe in the fight against COVID-19 in the Western Cape.

We have allocated an additional R14 million, which includes R3 million to provide professional occupational health and safety support to small businesses; R9 million to a SMME COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund to support small businesses; and then, R2 million for the screening of passengers at the George Airport.

Just this week, in fact, we saw the first flight land at George Airport, thanks to a significant effort from our Department of Economic Development and Tourism who worked hard, together with the Airports Company of South Africa, George Airport management, George Municipality and then, most importantly, our own provincial Department of Health, to put in place the

necessary health screening for George Airport to open.

George Airport, of course, is a critical transport link for business travellers working in the Garden Route District and is also a critical enabler of the oil and gas sector which is engaged in exploratory drilling off the coast of Mossel Bay. And so, this R2 million investment not only supports businesses in the Garden Route District, but I think goes a long way to saving jobs and saving the economy in the Western Cape.

To further support small businesses and the formal and informal sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have shifted an additional R17,93 million to support small businesses that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. And we have shifted R2 million to a COVID-19 small business supplier development programme, which will support small businesses manufacturing cloth masks, hand sanitisers and dispensers during this period.

We have in addition, hon Deputy Speaker, shifted an additional R2 million to a Community Economic Recovery Project to stimulate the informal economy by distributing electronic vouchers to about 150 community kitchens so that they can be redeemed from local spaza shops and support the local economy.

Our contribution to the COVID-19 response has been achieved by committing R72,5 million in baseline reductions ... [inaudible - audio distorted].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister Maynier, just one minute. Oh, I think it is when they change the cameras it does a bit of feedback. You may now

proceed.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Our contribution to the COVID-19 response has been achieved by committing R72,5 million in baseline reductions; R4,58 million through cost containment; R2,08 million through the reprioritisation of expenditure; R35,1 million through reprioritisation across our Public Entities; and R30,74 million through a review of compensation for employees.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the efficient and effective performance of our Port of Cape Town is critical to economic recovery and growth for the Western Cape. However, ongoing operational challenges have resulted in poor service levels and those have impacted negatively on our economy in the Western Cape. The COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated the situation to such a degree that three major shipping lines cancelled calls to Cape Town or implemented a Cape Town congestion surcharge.

This required urgent action and intervention, and today, I am pleased to confirm that through ongoing engagements between ourselves and the Transnet Port Terminals management, we have in recent weeks seen some very welcome developments. Mr Velile Dube has been appointed as the new CEO of Transnet Port Terminals. A crew of 20 staff members were brought in from the Port of Durban to temporarily assist the Port of Cape Town and the Port of Cape Town has received four new straddle cranes.

The result is that the average crane moves per day has increased from 533 in the week of 25 May to 1 661 last week and the period of berthing vessels at anchor has been reduced from 20 days to 6 days. The expectation is that two vessels will dock today after a waiting period of just two days. I am sure that we all agree that this is a significant improvement and if this performance is sustained during next week and beyond, it means that the main services to Cape Town could possibly be reinstated by the second week of August.

Of course, there is still much work to be done and I look forward to engaging with the Minister of Public Enterprises, Pravin Gordhan, and the Transnet management team to implement the permanent, if you like, structural changes that are required to ensure that the Port of Cape Town is a globally competitive port.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in closing, while much of our attention in the last few months has been on supporting businesses to open safely, we are now also looking to the future. Work has begun on a provincial recovery plan, which includes economic recovery and will be funded, of course, in the Second Adjustment Budget towards the end of 2020.

In the meantime, we will all continue to pull together and we will continue to work together over the coming days and coming months to save lives and to save livelihoods in South Africa.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the Head of

Department, Solly Fourie and the entire Department of Economic Development and Tourism for their continued dedication, professionalism and tireless commitment to the people and to the economy of the Western Cape. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. As per the agreement of both Chief Whips, we have a small change to the list. I now call on hon Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you for allowing me to go a bit earlier, as I am due in the NCOP right after this speech.

Hon Deputy Speaker, fellow South Africans, I rise today on debate Vote 12 of the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21) dealing with economic development and tourism.

There has been a net decrease of R57 million in the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in the Adjustment Budget. The net decrease comprises a R72,5 million Budget cut due to the National Government not increasing the equitable share of the Province, having to cut some baselines from existing programmes in order to fund its COVID-19 relief response. It is then bolstered with R15,5 million in funding from the Provincial Revenue Fund of the Western Cape.

President Ramaphosa promised provinces R20 billion in funding for COVID-19, but then later it was revealed that in fact, provinces will need to fund their COVID-19 programmes on their own. This means that in the Economic and Tourism vote, the Department had to focus on finding ways to save money across programmes in order to allocate money to the Provincial Health Department and other provincial departments where funds were needed for COVID-19 operations. These savings included R30,7 million on compensation of employees, since the lockdown created a delay in filling of vacancies; cuts across earmarked allocations of R35,1 million; cost containment of R4,5 million and cuts on travel.

The R15,5 million in funding allocated from the Provincial Revenue Fund will be used in this Department for assisting businesses to comply with regulations and trading responsibilities, and to ensure the health and safety of workers and customers, amounting to R1,5 million; providing working capital in the form of a grant between R75 000 up to R100 000 to small businesses that are operating and will open after the easing of the economic lockdown on 1 June 2020, amounting to R9 million. And assisting George Airport, the third largest airport in terms of business travel in the country, with the screening of passengers and thus, allowing it to open up and comply with COVID-19 protocols, amounting to R2 million. The reason the Provincial Government is assisting George Airport, in fact, is because ACSA asked for help because the National Government was absent without leave. This funding will include the provision of two doctors and two nurses. Otherwise, the airport would have remained closed and business directly and indirectly

affected, would have suffered.

I welcome the announcement of the newly launched Tourism Product Development Fund recently by the provincial Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The initiative pledged a total of R5 million to both current and new tourism products in the province. This funding initiative will be utilised for tourism-related activities, since this is one of the industries that have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of this fund is to ensure that adequate support is provided for the establishment and promotion of sustainable tourism within the Western Cape, as we find ourselves in times that require incredible innovation and creativity. This is another example of the Provincial Government filling the gaps left by the National Tourism Department. The introduction of the fund is proof of the Provincial Government's confidence in the long-term outlook of tourism in the Western Cape.

Further, no payments to any freelance tour guide in the Western Cape have yet been made from the National Government tourism relief fund that was promised. The tourism industry and its workers continue to suffer while National fails to properly address the needs of the sector at this time.

At the start of June, Minister Kubayi-Ngubane announced a R1 500 per month relief fund. The fund is for freelance tour guides who are registered with their relevant provincial authorities and would offer much needed relief for three months. The Western Cape Registrar has successfully completed all necessary information and updating of the registered tour guide database for

the Province. It has been submitted to the National Department of Tourism, but no payouts have taken place, despite a deadline set by the Minister herself for the start of July. It is the end of July, hon Deputy Speaker.

Tourism is an incredibly important sector of the Western Cape economy. Over R3 billion has been lost by the industry since the start of lockdown, with at least 20% of tourism businesses set to close by the end of the year. There are over 12 000 registered freelance tour guides in the Western Cape alone. These individuals represent families, single parents and communities. Their livelihoods have been all but decimated due to the economic impact of COVID-19. We cannot afford to see more suffer without the safety net that should have been provided by the National Department. And whilst we do welcome the extension of the curfew to 10 o'clock and the opening of intra-provincial travel, these measures are too little, too late, with many small businesses and entrepreneurs already having to close their doors.

On Twitter you would see today that in Kalk Bay the Olympia Café is unfortunately having to close down in an area that boasts tourism industry. It is irrational that Minister Kubayi-Ngubane remains steadfast on the ban of home-sharing services such as Airbnb when, in fact, such services by their very nature, lend themselves towards social distancing.

Further, the blanket ban on alcohol is yet another short-sighted instrument that stifles tourism in the province. Research indicates that better alternatives could involve a potential temporary minimum price per unit of consumption,

enforcement of limited availability of liquor and bolstered, targeted psychosocial support. While the DA delivers a budget to beat COVID-19 in the Western Cape, Pretoria uses it to line the pockets of cadres and comrades.

The Western Cape has further dealt with 3 833 direct enquiries for assistance from businesses, resolved 915 complaints related to workplace safety and begun the process of rolling out 11 000 COVID-19 kits for business safety.

Hon Deputy Speaker, international tourists are waiting for the day that they can walk down that aisle again in order to come and honeymoon at a world-class tourist destination, to come and visit family and friends, to visit our mountains and our beaches, to experience our vibrant cultures and to embark upon an adventure of a lifetime.

I thus urge every single resident of the Western Cape: help save our tourism industry. Now that travel and accommodation for leisure purposes have finally opened up, pack your bags, put on some sunscreen and embark upon your adventure of a lifetime. And as Dr Seuss would have said:

"You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so . . . get on your way!"

Hon Deputy Speaker, we support this Budget Vote. I thank you.

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

I recognise hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Experts have warned that it is too early to tell if the global economy is entering the recovery phase after the damage inflicted by COVID-19, so we have to be warned about the excursion that is encouraged by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee.

However, a shift is emerging of economies that are starting to move from immediate response to COVID-19, to putting in place the levers for recovery. At this critical time, the Department has its Budget cut by R57 million, which includes skills development and innovation, tourism, arts and entertainment as well as economic planning, which should be leading us in this regard.

As a proponent of opening up the economy, as we have just listened, since Level 5, one would have expected some bold proposals to this Adjustment in support of this call. Where is the economic recovery plan to steer our provincial economy to the realities of our new normal? If this is a budget to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic that has collapsed people's lives and we, by yesterday, have about 3 009 confirmed deaths as evidence to such, and loss of earnings by corporates and households and yet, a government of the day speaks smokes and mirrors, tongue-tied about what it plans. And we just heard now that people must wear their bathing suits and go off to the mountains? Such scary advice.

When will this Provincial Government and this Department in particular, confront the inequality of economic opportunities in this province that has

driven the spike of income inequality that donated the lower clusters of its citizens to COVID-19?

The impact result of the Western Cape untransformed economy has been felt by many and COVID-19 continues to lay such bare for everyone to see. The rife income inequality that was confirmed by statistics in 2019 was a dress-down for who and what COVID-19 shall feast on when it lands on our shores.

Did this Government listen, nor even demonstrate some empathy to the realities of those this pandemic was to devour? It took SOPA to Mitchells Plain, yet no significant announcement for that community was to come. Stakeholders of that community were engaged, including local businesses, and we sit with their well prepared and articulated presentations about their tourism and other SMME development proposals that, when followed up, remain a subject of longwinded bureaucratic processes of this level of sphere of government, the consultation and others into the future.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Level 5 to the current Level 3 saw an upsurge of workspace contamination, with this Department found wanting in playing an active role to facilitate industry and employee relations that must drive coherence and stability to save the little left of what COVID-19 has destroyed of the few industries left to open during the lockdown. As an economic development department, I underscore, it chose to prioritise a role of interpretation services of lockdown regulations for companies and some tax solutions here with an app, SMS, call centre services that are more

conveyor belts than part of solving problems for anxious employees losing work time and their earnings.

Adv Nicholas Smalberg, an entrepreneur and an advocate in the High Court, bemoans the missed opportunity regarding the triple BBBEE, the PPE spent to reboot the local clothing, textile, footwear and linked industry. He decries the laziness of domestic capital and poor policy choices which opt for import products, rather than utilising pre-existing local skills developed, sometimes across generations, non-protection by tariffs to reinvest in the sector and the poor focus of market spend that Wesgro could have led.

Instead, such men and women of the Cape Flats are at home with their communities declared COVID-19 hotspots and supported through food parcels and soup kitchens, whilst they are sitting with skills in the city that are relevant for the demands of this time and most clothing factories closed.

The DA is hell bent on maintaining the untransformed structure of the economy. This is further exposed by its procurement during this period. In response to my parliamentary question on 12 June on whether the Provincial Government has procured any of its PPE from the Proudly South Africa website, the MEC replied no. Let alone the adherence to the National Treasury local content and production regulations, arguing lack of readiness and availability of local markets to respond to supply demands placed by these regulations and their designation.

The question to be asked of this Department and its mandate is: where were they in all this time and where are they now, to help correct this market failure and save capital outflows from the provincial and local economy?

The hon MEC told us just now that R2 million is given to some small SMMEs to manufacture masks, against a R20 billion that has already gone in purchasing PPEs here in this particular province. Is that really serious economic development? R9 million allocation of SMME COVID-19 relief and recovery fund. Is that enough, given the numbers of companies hit by the economic impact?

The lack of a deliberate strategy to drive and bolster local economies aligned to DA municipalities is a serious concern, with informal traders bearing the brunt where they lost income as different municipalities were not ready to issue them trading permits. The hon MEC assured me in Level 4 that the City is distributing SMME kits to informal traders in Strand, in Khayelitsha, which was a blue lie. The City itself was still, during COVID-19, only starting to put a database of these traders and only last week started distributing these kits.

How much of the allocation of hotspot strategy is dedicated to economic recovery in those communities, hon MEC, to support and enable the local business environment during this COVID-19? There is an inverse relationship between the level of COVID-19 infections and the socio-economic status of those it affects. Where there are high levels of inequality, there are similarly

high levels of infection. As the saying goes: every setback is an opportunity for a comeback. We must use COVID-19 as an accelerant for investment to transform the structure of the economy and narrow inequality gaps. As the ANC, guided by our alliance partner, the SACP, we cannot go back to a crisis before the crisis and thus, we do not support this Vote. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. It is shocking to see a department which should be in the forefront of driving the economic recovery plan and empowering business, to be the one cutting its budget. Here we are talking about a provincial department that is expected to work tirelessly in driving economic growth, employment opportunities and accelerating the ease of doing business by dismantling red tape, just to name a few.

However, with these Budget cuts it does not look like the Department is moving in the right direction. In actual fact, it is going nowhere. The skills development and innovation budget is reduced by R3,7 million at a time when skills and innovation techniques are needed in every part of the world in order to overcome the turbulence before us. This is so even when small businesses in townships continue to battle with the economic hardships presented by the Coronavirus pandemic and would make use of every business skills development training, and the innovative techniques in order

to survive.

It is also concerning that the Red Tape budget is reduced by R6,2 million at a time when struggling SMMEs will be looking for opportunities to do business with Government. The Consumer Protection budget is also cut by R1,1 million in the midst of a pandemic where big businesses have been hiking prices of essential items and charging consumers exorbitant amounts. This does not look like a government with an aim and intention of assisting business and consumers. That is thus the reason that the EFF are not supporting this Budget. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Makamba-Botya. I now recognise hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, in this Budget Vote we see an allocation of R25 million to public corporations and private enterprises and non-profit institutions. This is at the same scale of food relief funding that we saw allocated in the Social Development Vote.

The allocation includes R9 million for a Western Cape SMME relief fund, but according to the Small Enterprise Development Agency, the Western Cape had 260 000 SMMEs in 2019. So, given the scale of the sector, a R9 million relief fund looks like tokenism and we have to ask what this Government hopes to achieve with this. And is this the best use of the total R25 million freed up from Budget cuts and additional funding, and would this funding not have been better served supporting humanitarian relief? Thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The ACDP supports the Budget, thank you.

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

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. I am a bit humoured here. You cannot tie a man's hands behind his back and then blame him for not performing his duties. Central Government is tying our hands. They dictate to us around every corner and then they blame us for not delivering. I say let us divorce, let us sign divorce papers, let us call it subsidiarity, call it federalism, call it whatever you like, self-determination. But it is time that we serve divorce papers on Central Government and tell them: you waste your money the way you want to, and we will spend our money the way we want to. Let us divorce and I want the DA to get the courage to support the Freedom Front. Let us sign divorce papers, let us go for federal autonomy and do our own thing.

We will perform much better if we leave them behind. If anybody wants to steal, steal your own tax. Do not steal the taxes of the people of other provinces, steal your own money.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Mr P J MARAIS: I think it is time that we tell the National Government we want a divorce.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time is up. Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the Minister, hon Maynier. [Interjection.] Thank you, hon Maynier. Hon Minister Maynier, over to you.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I would like to begin by thanking all the hon members who have, of course, participated in this debate on Vote 12, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and I would like to thank the members who recognised the hard work put in by the Department to save jobs and save the economy in the Western Cape.

I would then like to turn to responding to some of the issues raised. First, I certainly associate myself with the comments of the hon Deidré Baartman in supporting the tourism sector in the Western Cape. And I would also like to assure her that we will vigorously follow up with National Government on outstanding relief funds which have not been dispersed, and which will ultimately save the tourism sector, go some way to saving the tourism sector in the Western Cape.

Which then brings me to the hon Nomi Nkondlo. The hon Nkondlo says that there are no proposals, but of course and she mentions them, there are proposals in order for the immediate response to the economic crisis. And those proposals include, hon Deputy Speaker, an allocation of an additional R9 million to an SMME relief and recovery fund which will, of course, provide grant funding to support small businesses, both in the formal and in the informal sector which have been negatively affected by COVID-19.

We have also shifted an additional R2 million to a Small Business Supplier Development programme, which will also provide grant funding to support small businesses, again in the formal and in the informal sector, in order to adapt; to provide, for example, products like masks and sanitisers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have also shifted R2 million to a Community Economic Recovery project which will support spaza shops across the Western Cape. And of course, we have a PPE marketplace which has been directed to stimulate local production in PPE, and I think we have had about 216 000 masks from various small businesses across this province, pledged in the PPE marketplace.

Of course, this is the immediate response and as I have mentioned, the Provincial Recovery Plan which includes economic recovery, the work is underway and it will of course be funded in the Second Adjustment Budget towards the end of 2020.

The hon Makamba-Botya of course raises the R6,2 million reduction in the Red Tape Reduction Unit. I can assure you that this was a reduction in respect of COE, but we are confident that this will not compromise the Red Tape Reduction Unit's efficiency and its extraordinary contribution to assisting small businesses navigate the very complex changes in regulations; and of course as such, their contribution to keeping businesses open in the Western Cape.

The hon Brett Herron, of course I associate myself with his concern about humanitarian relief, but at the end of the day we are responsible and we must do what we can to support small businesses which are in distress across the Western Cape.

That brings me then to the comments by the hon Marais. I am not sure about divorce, but he is certainly correct in one respect. At the end of the day, the biggest binding constraint on economic recovery is National Government who is currently pursuing three different economic policies, all moving in different directions, which ultimately will compromise economic recovery, not just in the Western Cape, but across South Africa. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That concludes the debate on this Vote. Hon members, proceedings will now be suspended and will resume at 2 o'clock. Thank you.

[Business of the House was suspended and resumed at 14:00.]

The SECRETARY: Vote 13 – Cultural Affairs and Sport – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B4 - 2020].

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, Premier, Cabinet colleagues and Members of the Provincial Parliament, Mayors from various municipalities, Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Head of Department and Managers of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, our partners in the sport and cultural sectors, members of the media, residents of the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, today I tabled the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports Adjustment Budget for the 2020/21 financial year, not only in a severely constrained fiscal environment but in trying times while faced, firstly with the current global health pandemic that is COVID-19 and the second pandemic of unemployment while experiencing a humanitarian relief crisis all at the same time.

However, as history has shown time and again, through many struggles nations and humanity as a whole have experienced together that art, sport, recreation and cultural affairs have been the shared reprieve restoring hope and inspirational motivation to move towards our common goals to overcome

hardships together.

With the already diminishing public funds available, adding further injury to an open wound, our Main Appropriation of R886,2 million was adjusted to R786,5 million, translated to a total decrease of R99,6 million to respond to the needs of those we serve through cultural affairs, sport and recreation.

Hon Speaker, the reprioritisation of R56,1 million towards our Provincial COVID-19 response was sought from reductions in cost of employment, goods and services, transfers and subsidies and capital assets. The reductions mainly relate to foregone expenditure as a result of lock-down regulations which affected travel and substance, catering venues and facilities and fleet services, to name only a few.

The Budget initially allocated for non-critical vacant funded posts, together with events that could not continue as planned in the first quarter and capital assets linked to vacant funded posts as well as ITC refresh equipment budgeted for the Rural Libraries Connectivity Programme were surrendered.

We also reprioritised R2,9 million towards increased operational costs due to COVID-19, inclusive of the provision of personal protective equipment for staff and to purchase hand sanitisers, hand sanitiser dispensers, cloth masks, face shields and thermometers to be used in the 50 buildings under our management.

The regulations related to the National State of Disaster and the subsequent

lockdown, which has limited movement and gatherings of people, has had a devastating impact on the arts, culture, heritage and sports sector due to cancellations and postponements of events. Motivated by Ernesto Ottone, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, noted, and I quote:

“COVID-19 has brought into stark relief, as crises often do, the necessity of culture for people and communities at a time when millions of people are physically separated from one another, culture brings us together. It provides comfort, inspiration and hope at a time of enormous anxiety and uncertainty.

Yet, even as we rely on culture to get us through this crisis, culture is also suffering. Many artists and creators, especially those that work in the informal or gig economy are now unable to make ends meet, much less produce new works of art. Cultural institutions, both large and small, are losing millions in revenue with each passing day. As the world works to address the immediate danger of COVID-19 we also need to put in place measures to support artists and access to culture, both in the short and long-term”.

Closer to home, the unprecedented actions taken to flatten the curve have resulted in the cancellation or postponement of events, limited opportunities for creatives to make an income, particularly in the gig and live performance economy and as such a loss of income for creatives along the entire value change of the cultural and creative economy.

Further to this, reports have informed that the lockdown has resulted in uncertainty amongst South Africans, particularly when it comes to spending. Even in the recovery phase, when the lockdown is eased, it is expected that the uncertainty will have an impact on households consumption behaviour, particularly willingness to spend on high value goods, events, travel and discretionary spending.

Consumption will focus on essential items because of this experience. In response to this the Western Cape Government has come up with a number of relief options for various sectors of the economy. The reprioritisation of just over R7 million enabled us to develop relief options for the cultural, creative and sport industries we serve in the province, in addition to the National Department of Sports and Cultural options, focusing on a business continuity and recovery phases of the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak. The provincial relief options also foregrounded two of the three pillars of the National response, social relief and economic recovery pillars.

Aware of the very complex and evolving COVID-19 environment, the relief options targeted areas of relief which can be achieved quickly focusing on categories where support is most needed and most helpful. Our provincial relief options were inclusive of the following for which a public call for applications closed on 19 May 2020.

The Department of Cultural Affairs funded events/project cancellations - the

funds in this form of relief can be used towards cancellation fees to artists and committed funds in relation to production elements of the event, inclusive of artists' upfront fees, costume development and these sorts.

Arts venue and production cancellations - this includes (1) arts venues and productions not funded by our Department, and (2) cancelled Western Cape productions scheduled to be presented outside the Western Cape and internationally. The funds in this form of relief can be used towards cancellation fees to artists and compensation to cover upfront fees to artists.

Artists/creatives - this form of relief targets freelance workers and independent contractors for fees for creatives whose events have been cancelled and who have not been paid cancellation fees or have lost income because of the cancellation as a result of the National State of Disaster. This is inclusive of session musicians, buskers, visual artists, stage managers and other creatives along the value chain.

The Community Arts Education and Training Organisations Fund will go towards direct costs related to the development and delivery of course or training content.

The Humanitarian Relief – Legends Grant - data shows that elderly people aged 60 years and above are the most vulnerable to COVID-19. This means that we needed to make a special effort to support artists in this age category given that they are disproportionately and negatively impacted by the virus

and therefore cannot take risks, even after restrictions have been lifted. This also means that they will be the last out of the starting blocks and will be kept out of work significantly longer than younger artists after the mandatory lockdown period.

As the independent adjudication process officially concluded and their findings presented, outcomes of relief funding applications were communicated to all applicants from 20 July 2020, following by the transfer of the allocated relief funds.

The Arts, Culture and Heritage relief fund of R4,7 million was set aside primarily to offer relief to creatives and not to compensate for losses incurred. The fund received 1 058 applications in total with 948 adjudicated after duplications and unrelated applications were removed. The work of the adjudicators was concluded on 3 July 2020 and underwent quality checks before presenting the report to the Department. Thereafter the required administrative processes were followed to approve 691 or 73% successful applicants. The combined revenue losses to applicants came to a total R58,6 million, a clear indication of the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sector.

The COVID-19 pandemic has engulfed the world and has not only had a profound effect on public health, society and the economy, but has also inflicted mayhem on the sport and recreational sector. To curb the spread of the virus, professional and amateur leagues across the world have been

suspended indefinitely on advice from their respective governments to avoid large numbers of persons gathering in one particular venue.

Economically the sector has suffered with many events having been cancelled. Approximately 30 events across the province have been cancelled inclusive of conditional grants and federation funded events. Currently no formal sport and recreational events are taking place across the province.

Provincial major sporting events, which boost our local economies, have been severely impacted as events such as the Knysna Oyster Festival, the Two Oceans Marathon and now also the Cape Town Sevens Tournament, to name a few, have had to be cancelled. Provincial trials for the Winter Games, Indeginous Games, Golden Games and leagues and festival support for club development have also been adversely impacted, as presently no organised sport and recreation activities of any nature, are currently underway in the Western Cape province.

In the same way as the Cultural Affairs Directorate did, the Sport and Recreation Directorate also made provision for a provincial relief fund. To bring the sport and the recreational COVID-19 relief funding strategy into fruition, the criteria for assessing this support, the identification of beneficiaries and the mechanism through which the fund is managed, were done in consultation with the Western Cape Provincial Sport Confederation. The Sport and Recreation and Adjudication Committee completed its work in June 2020 after receiving 108 Federation applications on behalf of their

various coaches, athletes, technical officials and recreation entities across the province.

To ensure transparency and greater range of support, with only R1 million available to fund our provincial sport and recreational relief applications, the National Department of Sport and Culture was requested to provide the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs with a database of our provincial athletes, federations and entities that have applied for the national refund and the outcome of those applications.

Where an application had been successful, the applicant was not eligible for any provincial relief. Payments to successful applicants commenced last week and we are happy to announce that as of yesterday, 30 July 2020, all successful applicants have now received their allocated relief funding.

With the above in mind, we have a responsibility to protect the well-being of sports federations and recreation entities and will not hesitate to take a safety-first approach to our operations over the coming months. We will continue monitoring and we are committed to work with our partners in ensuring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sport federations, recreation entities, affected events and programmes will be minimised to ensure sustainability of the sector.

As we are aware of the second pandemic of unemployment and its dire implications on the economy, our Department innovately continued to be

active during the National State of Disaster with staff working from home to proactively strategise and navigate towards our new normal.

In addition to the relief effort focusing on the cancellations in this sector, we have put the following interventions in place to support business continuity as well as stimulate the sector in a recovery phase.

The annual call for arts funding closed on 6 December 2019. At the time of the lockdown the Department was about to commence the adjudication process. Mindful of the pressures that organisations are under during this time, the Department has continued to work on the adjudication process under the limited lockdown conditions.

Following the adjudication conclusion, 127 applications were received with a total amount of R65,5 million requested by organisation. Unfortunately, the total amount available for transfer payments from our current budgets stands at R14,6 million, clearly indicating the demand outweighs the supply. Quite frankly, our Main Appropriation offered a very limited budget to support the demand for our services and with the further decrease of R99,6 million and added needs in the face the global pandemic, we have had to become innovative within the negative fiscal environment in which we currently find ourselves.

The following presents a few of these innovations: Cultural institutions, both large and small are losing significant amounts in the revenue with each

passing day. Museums in the Western Cape have risen to the challenge and entered the virtual space of publicly accessible, timed, on-line exhibitions which is new territory for many of them.

Examples of these are the 'Ceres'ly Positive online initiative by the Togryers Museum in Ceres as well as an online exhibition on YouTube and a similar offering from the Huguenot Memorial Museum. While these exhibitions ensure that the public still has access to the Museum during lockdown and position museums well for visitors during the recovery phase, it does not take care of the lost opportunities in revenue from people visiting museums as a result of the lockdown.

As the Corona virus steadily spreads around the globe, the first sign of things to come was the postponement of international and national book festivals and with some of these usually in September unsure if they will continue this year. While the South African Publications Network reported an 8,6% decline in sales in week 12 of 2020, some bricks-and-mortar book sellers saw a more significant drop in the first two weeks of March. Bargain Books reported a double-digit decline in sales over this period, with shoppers steering clear from malls. This would have had a huge impact on the writers and the entire literature value chain that rely on these sales for an income.

To further our support to South African literature, we will increase the Department of Cultural Affairs spending on South African content from 60% of the book budget to 65% in the current financial year.

Hon Speaker, evidently in a dismal national fiscal environment, adopting a whole of society approach inculcating collaborative efforts through sustainable partnerships is much needed to achieve our mutual goals to enable safe and cohesive communities.

As the trusted partner of our sport and cultural stakeholders, those affecting dynamic change in behavioural trends at grassroots level are our most valued partners and we remain committed to empowering them and the various structures through innovative assistance and interventions as the need and demand transpire.

Under the visionary leadership of Premier Alan Winde, the Western Cape Government firmly believes that innovation is always on the agenda and I look forward to collaboratively embracing new ideas and always doing the right thing, with competent integrity, always mindful of the people we serve through cultural affairs and sport.

As I conclude, I leave the notion, popularised as Winston Churchill's when asked to cut arts funding to support the war effort, he replied: "Then what are we fighting for?" I thank you.

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

Ms A BANS: Enkosi Somlomo. [Thank you, Speaker.] Hon Speaker, allow me to start by wishing to all [Inaudible.] Muslim brothers and sisters a very happy and peaceful Eid ul adah. May Allah accept our prayers and good deeds and may he forgive our transgressions and ease the suffering and pain of the people during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Hon Speaker, when the national lockdown came into effect, all programmes of this Department came to a complete halt as schools, libraries, museums and theatres were closed. Sporting facilities and conferences and major events and festivals were closed. These decisions were taken solely to save lives.

While many lives have been saved, many athletes especially those in individual sports and artists were left to count the cost. It is for this reason that I believe this Department should have reprioritised its Budget to allocate more funds towards humanitarian relief for athletes and artists.

As I shared in the House before, I have had extensive engagements with artists and athletes who say that they lived for four months without knowing where the next meal would come from as they lost their livelihoods. Many artists could not even afford to apply for the Provincial Relief Fund for cultural, creative and sport sectors because they did not even have airtime to apply. The process was also tedious and complex. I want to reiterate the call I made earlier this year for the Department to reopen the publication process and to cut the red tape as many artists were left out. The Department must

work closely with unions and associations for artists and athletes.

Hon Speaker, as a public representative myself, with constituencies in rural communities, we are no longer taken seriously. We speak to athletes about the kinds of opportunities that they can get from this Department. Artists and athletes look at me at times as if I had lost my mind. They tell me the point that you are [Inaudible – audio distorted.] from the Metro is not assisting us. Can you show just one beneficiary from this community, as I failed to find one.

It is actually a shame that we are rendering zero support to rural communities. I hail from the outskirts of the city, the areas that are always neglected by this province, where Ministers even read out Covid stats to be five in the rural areas, specifically Beaufort West, while arrogantly ignoring our realities.

Can the MEC of Sport set an example and do things differently by leading inclusively? Only R4,7 million of the COVID-19 relief fund for artists and arts organisations has been allocated in this Budget. 92% of it is spent in the Metro. Where is the budget of the relief of athletes? Why are sports athletes not prioritised in the Budget allocation?

This Department must stop treating sport fraternities and athletes as if they are a step-child. I also challenge the MEC to tell us what the impact of the relief fund was to the entire province and how the Province supported athletes and artists in the cultural sectors during this pandemic?

This Department is spending R2,9 million on increased operational costs due to COVID-19. This includes around R1,8 million for PPE procurement which means about R1,1 million is left for increased data costs to enable staff to work from home. How do we justify the expenditure when people go to bed hungry? A total of R113,6 million has been taken away from the Department, which includes a National Conditional Grant for Mass Participation in Sport Development which is R22,7 million and R34,7 million for the Community Library Service Grant.

Hon Speaker, these are two critical programmes that deal with development of sport at a young age as well as to transform urban and rural community library infrastructure, facilities and services mainly in the previously disadvantaged communities. Without a doubt, hon Speaker, the Department should have made plans to get additional funding to cover the lost funds. The MEC must tell us which municipalities are affected by these cuts and how the Department is going to assist them?

Also on the MOD programme, I want to get a commitment on that single staff member who will not lose his or her job as a result of these cuts. The other R56,2 million was slashed from the equitable share. The reduction affected all programmes of the Department. Cultural affairs as well as sport and recreation components received the biggest cuts. Machinery and equipment, as well as transfers to NPOs, have been affected. Sports have been reopened. What support role will the Department play in the prevention of the spread of

the virus in sporting activities and among athletes? Will associations be assisted with PPEs?

In closing, hon Speaker, I wish to call on the Provincial Government to reprioritise protection of pockets of land that are used to practice traditional rites of passage in the province. All pockets of land that were available in the City of Cape Town have been taken in the spate of land invasions. Traditional leaders need all the support they can get from the Department and the Provincial Government. I conclude by saying, hon Speaker, the ANC does support this Budget. I thank you.

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

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The SPEAKER: ... the hon member Allen. Order. Is that a point of order hon member?

Mr R ALLEN: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

†'n AGB LID: Hoor-hoor!

[An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!]

The SPEAKER: Alright, hon Allen, I recognise you.

Mr R ALLEN: Thank you, hon Speaker. I wish to commend the Minister, Minister Anroux Marais as well as the HOD, Mr Brent Walters, all officials and staff. Thank you for tabling the Budget and hon Speaker, during the three-week hard lockdown and the extension thereof, for many the resort was the good old television.

We turned on the television for some distraction and leisure for what is fundamentally arts, cultural affairs and sport. Although we have to accept the downward adjustment of every programme at the Provincial Department, we have to find a silver lining and I am grateful for the support given to this sector which has allowed for entertainment under this hard time where we have had to face the cancellation of many events as the globe came to a standstill.

Hon Speaker, although the cancellations were meant to achieve social distancing which has proven effective to limit the spread of Corona virus, it unfortunately leaves many in the industry dry. As has been said, those in the industry are struggling to make ends meet, especially since social gatherings are still largely prohibited.

In implementing its relief measures, the National Department of Sports, Arts and Culture – at the start of the lockdown – let beneficiaries down with its flawed adjudication process making the pandemic and lockdown a triple-wammy for organisations and individuals in this sector, leaving them out in the cold in terms of both information as well as aid despite an announcement

made by the National Department on the 25 March 2020, announcing a R150 million relief fund. As of last week, only R40 million was spent by the Department. This means an entire R110 million is still with the Department, an entire 18 weeks since the announcement.

One of the 4 512 artists who applied for relief from the National Department but have not yet received anything is a Cape Town film choreographer. According to the artist, hon Speaker, she sent the Department proof of cancelled contracts, email address and contact details of people who could verify her information as well as her monthly expenses. It took six weeks before she got a reply with regard to her application. It was then declined but she was informed that she could appeal.

She said her email then bounced back and after much frustration she took to Twitter to try and get a response from Minister Mthethwa. 60 days after her initial application she finally got the correct email address to send her appeal. Two weeks later, she has still not received a response to her appeal.

This is simply unacceptable. But here in the Western Cape, we have reached the completion of an independent adjudication process which promotes a relief programme by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport in the Western Cape, bringing us closer to providing relief. As we have heard earlier on, those funds have since been distributed and it should be commended. Thank you to the Minister and her Department.

This panel, hon Speaker, included sports federations and seasoned administrators in the Western Cape as well as internationally recognised art and production managers to ensure a fair process. While the process went smoothly, R7,1 million was committed by the Provincial Government for relief programmes, that again, I say is welcomed and it is a hand that has been extended to artists.

Hon Speaker, the SA Cultural Observatory chief economist recently noted that the creative economy contributed R74 billion to the economy or 1,7 of the National GDP and that the arts and culture sector has been growing at 2,4% per year, from 2016 to 2018.

Yet our National Department of Sports and Arts and Culture is unable to distribute funds available to the sports and arts sector. This delay is testimony to the fact that there is something fundamentally wrong with our National Government's understanding of poverty.

However, hon Speaker, here in the Western Cape, I welcome the use of funds, for events that had to be cancelled, towards artists and production elements and I further welcome the extension of relief to freelance workers and artists alike as I note that they have lost over R58 million in income. I further wish to acknowledge the increase of R2,9 million of funds under Programme 2 for the provision of PPE, not only to staff but to facilities under management of the Department and further note the reprioritisation of R56,1 million from the Department to fight COVID-19 in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, the Department has also not been spared from the Provincial Grant allocations from National Government and has to accommodate a cut of R34,7 million from the Community Library Service Grant as well as R22,6 million reduction under the Mass Participation and Sports Development Programme.

In the UK, Speaker, the UK Government has a new insurance plan for the UK film industry allowing for safe resumption of filming to start and to ensure not only the film against COVID-19 but also the crew and cost. Such absence of this begs the question: where is our National Government's commitment to this industry? National Services with its expenditure on debt is crippling generations to come, whereas provincial departments here in the Western Cape are saving taxpayers through cost containment and prioritised spending.

Again, I want to repeat, hon Speaker, while the DA delivers a budget to beat Covid in the Western Cape, Pretoria uses this crisis to line the pockets of cadres and of comrades.

Hon Speaker, the Provincial Department is mainly a custodian of funds but will act above its mandate to ensure it is spent wisely and at the Provincial Legislature we will perform oversight in such a way that it supports the aim of excellence and inclusiveness in sports and culture through the effective, efficient and sustainable use of our resources, especially during this particularly trying time for artists.

We have unfortunately lost artists in the fight against COVID-19 and I wish to extend my sincere condolences to those families. As the Minister mentioned, hon Speaker, we are said to operate under these uncertainties for six to twelve months, we will need a strong recovery plan.

Hon Speaker, sports as well as cultural affairs are not only meant for leisure. There is no doubt it contributes to social and economic development and I hope that when this crisis has subsided and we return to what we know and love, that we will prioritise our spending towards this sector.

The Minister further concluded with a notion attributed to Winston Churchill when asked to cut arts funding to support the war, to which he replied” “Then what are we fighting for?” Hon Speaker, the arts are essential to complete national life. The State owes it to them to do everything in its power to assist, sustain and encourage this sector.

Hon Speaker, as I close, I further take courage, we are still the rugby world champions and the victory of the Springboks last year reminded us that we are stronger together. We saw it through the victory how we can unite as a country and I am confident that we will overcome this obstacle too. Hon Speaker, the Democratic Alliance supports Vote 13. Thank you.

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

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Speaker. As the EFF we take notice that the Department made available a R4,7 million relief fund to artists as a response to try and mitigate the effects of COVID-19. However, our issue is that the Department made this relief available for only a short period of time, and with a closing date attached to it. There was no proper outreach marketing and advertising of this relief fund so as to reach as many artists as possible within the province. During our oversight visits many artists were surprised to find out way later that there was relief of this kind and that there was a closing date attached to it.

We therefore appeal to the Minister, who seems to be the only one prepared to listen to Opposition parties, that with her hearing-aid she must extend this relief aid application process and ensure that we go and detect and assist as many as possible to ensure we make ends meet for the artists in our province.

A proper outreach programme to detect all the creative industry people needs to be effected with immediate effect. As the EFF, we see this as a drop in the ocean if we look at the means of our people and the vulnerable position they find themselves in. So, as the EFF, we do not support this Vote. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Speaker ... [Inaudible – audio audio distorted.]

The SPEAKER: Your line did not do justice to you, hon Herron. I do not want to presume what you were saying.

Mr B N HERRON: I will say it again, hon Speaker. Can you hear me?

The SPEAKER: Yes, we can.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you. We support the Vote.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Hon Speaker, the ACDP supports Vote 13, the Adjustment Budget. Thank you.

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

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, I must reject this Budget for various reasons. Culture does not consist of football and rugby and sport. What about my people, what about the Griqua, what about their culture, what about their music, where is the cultural village, where is it in the Budget? Where is the

implementation of the traditional leaders and Koi San Khoisan Bill?

The Griquas culture of which I am a member is not buried. It might be forgotten but not buried. We have brought out books about our culture – soos *Die Griekwa is nog* – forgotten but not buried. In Griqua culture and superstitions are books. We demand a cultural village like the one, !Khwa ttu, along the West Coast Road, where we can erect a cultural village for the Griqua people. We want a place where we can gather, where we can share cultural cuisines with tourists. Why must we always be left behind? I want to ask the Minister this?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. Unfortunately your minute is over. Thank you very much hon. Hon members, I now recognise hon Brinkhuis. I am told hon Brinkhuis is not in the House. Hon Minister in the Chamber, I recognise you once more.

The MINISTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. I want to thank every member for participating in this debate and then I want to say I am very disappointed with hon Bans because you know I just want to say again, our Budget decreased by R99,6 million and we allocated the bulk of the reallocation; R1 million for sport and recreation; R1,3 million for further support for museums; R2,9 million for PPE and R4,7 million for arts.

And maybe she can help us because a lot of our money was taken back to National and there the money is just mismanaged. So maybe hon Bans, you

can help us to see that that money is not mismanaged. We did make use of our District Sports Councils to get the message to each and every sport council as well as to our arts and culture fraternity in our rural areas.

Then, hon member Xego, we broadcast the relief fund application process ...
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, there is a point of order. Will you please take your seat?

The MINISTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Okay.

The SPEAKER: Will you please take your seat, hon Minister? Thank you. Hon Bans what is your point of order?

Ms A BANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. For one I would like you to tell the Minister I am available for her offer. However, my question was that I would like to know where the Budget ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon member Bans, that is not a point of order. That is a point for debate so you need to take that offline with the Minister.

Ms A BANS: I will do so, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Please take your seat. Hon Minister, you may proceed.

The MINISTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you so much, hon Speaker. I just want to say again, we broadcast a relief funding application process through media statements every week which were published in both mainstream and local media. It was published on all our web pages and through each District Sports Council. But thank you for the member's input and I will take note of that.

And then I want to say, hon Peter Marais, I just want to ask one question, what about Ratelgat. †Wat van Ratelgat? Dit is al wat ek daar wil vra. [What about Ratelgat? That is all I want to ask there.]

Then, a special word of thanks to HOD Walters and all our officials. I am very proud of your dedication and professionalism. This is and was not an easy task, well done. Thank you to the Standing Committee under the leadership of hon Reagen Allen for keeping us accountable. Thank you Stacy and Tanya for taking care of the media and all the nitty-gritty that always goes with this Budget.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, you now have hon Marais who has a point of order. Will you please take your seat hon Minister? Hon Marais, what is your point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS: My point of order is the Minister asked me questions. She should answer, not ask me questions.

Mr R ALLEN: But answer her question.

Mr P J MARAIS: The Minister asked me questions, are you going to give me a chance to respond because she asked me a question? She asked me about Ratelgat?

The SPEAKER: Hon Marais, your question will be answered by the Minister, thank you. Minister, that is the question.

The MINISTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon member Marais, I think we can take this question off-line.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. You may proceed. Please take your seat, hon Marais.

The MINISTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Which one?

The SPEAKER: [Laughs.] Hon Minister Marais, you may proceed.

The MINISTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you and then lastly, I want to leave you with the following: our Department or let me say Cultural Affairs and Sport, we are regarded as non-essential service until

we are not. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members this concludes the debate on this Vote. The Secretary will read the next order.

The SECRETARY: Vote 3 – Provincial Treasury – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B4 - 2020].

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. Now I recognise the hon Minister Maynier, Minister of Finance. Hon members, we seem to be struggling to get hold of the Minister, but I am sure he is somewhere. Normally we would have him here in the House. He is one of the regular customers here but when I look at his seat, he is not here today. Hon Minister, are you ready to proceed?

Mr P J MARAIS: He has absconded!

The SPEAKER: [Laughs.] It is not possible for the Minister to abscond. Hon members, let us give the Minister a second to connect. He is in the meeting, he is in the House. He just needs to unmute his button. Hon Chief Whip, where is the Minister?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): He has joined the meeting.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Hon Minister? I do not want to do the unprecedented because we need ... [Inaudible.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Minister Maynier?

The SPEAKER: He needs to speak first before any other member speaks.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I see he is on the line, Mr Speaker. It might be a mute problem again.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members, let us take a five-minute break. We will be back. Thank you. The House is suspended for five minutes.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon Speaker can you hear me?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, we can hear you Minister.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): We have suspended for five ... [audio cut off.]

[The House suspended and resumed after five minutes.]

The SPEAKER: Fortunately he was back on time. We are now resuming the sitting, are we all in? Thank you. Hon members, let us welcome the hon Minister of Finance, hon Minister Maynier. The platform is now yours, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker. I wish to apologise to you and to other hon members. I was

in fact in full flight with my speech when you called me to order. So let me start with a take two.

Hon Speaker, we tabled the Main Budget 2020, entitled “A Budget for You” on 10 March 2020 in this Parliament. However the ink was hardly dry when we learnt of the first COVID-19 infection and we were hit by a storm that was bigger and more terrifying than anything we could have imagined in the Western Cape. The Provincial Treasury has been working hard to support the whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic and so today I am pleased to table the Adjusted Budget for Vote 3: Provincial Treasury.

Hon Speaker, Provincial Treasury may have what John Maynard Keynes called “a wintry scepticism”, when it comes to spending but under the able leadership of the Head of Department, David Savage, together with “Team Finance”, they immediately sprang into action to support departments who found themselves on the front line of the fight against COVID-19 in the Western Cape.

We triggered and rapidly processed emergency expenditure approvals in terms of Section 25 of the Public Finance Management Act to authorise an unprecedented amount of funding including R1 billion to the Department of Health for the mobilisation of field hospitals, testing and screening and more beds; R400 million to the Department of Transport and Public Works for mobilisation of quarantine and isolation sites; R18 million to the Department of Education for the mobilisation of school feeding schemes across the

Western Cape, all of which of course, were critical to the fight against COVID-19.

Financing for these emergencies expenditures was of course drawn from provincial reserves and the fact that we were able to do this, while still maintaining R376 million in provincial reserves for further unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances in this financial year, I think is testament to the strong Provincial Treasury which has maintained strict fiscal discipline and fiscal prudence in recent years.

We have also established a Central Procurement Advisory Committee to support and advise departments on procurement and supply chain management issues during the pandemic and we have enhanced the surveillance of procurement of personal protective equipment, including mobilising our internal auditors to scrutinise and monitor procurement transactions.

Other measures to limit disruptions in the procurement environment and improve our disaster response include expanding our supply chain team to respond to supplier queries and enable local businesses to participate in our supply chain, and also to develop closer alignment with National Treasury on supply chain and governance matters.

We, of course, have tabled this Special Adjustment Budget, which has mobilised every cent available and allocated R3,05 billion to the immediate

response to COVID-19 and we are already planning the Second Adjustment Budget to be tabled towards the end of 2020. This will be phased in a three-phase budget process which will require us to mobilise a possible additional R2 billion towards the fight against COVID-19 in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, like much of the world, Provincial Treasury has had to innovate quickly and move most of their operations online. In fact, almost all operations remain off-site and online despite the easing of restrictions under Alert Level 3, with little disruption to key Government systems, such as payroll, payments and logistics.

An innovation, of course, which we are proud of, is our Procurement Disclosure Report, which was published yesterday, and which details all PPE procurements and expenditure by the Western Cape Government between 1 April 2020 and the 30 June 2020. On each transaction it includes details about supplier names, descriptions of items, unit prices and of course the total amount spent. We consider the Procurement Disclosure Report a good example of transparency and an innovative step towards maintaining a clean government in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, Provincial Treasury is already a lean operation, and the smallest of all the Provincial Treasuries in our country. However, as Provincial Treasury is itself responsible for overall budgeting and fiscal management in the Western Cape, it continues to lead by example and has done everything possible to reduce expenditure for reprioritisation towards

the fight against COVID-19. The Main Appropriation of R356,9 million has been adjusted down by R11,6 million to R345,2 million for the 2020/21 financial year.

I will not deal in detail with the adjustments, but I do believe it is important to highlight some of the adjustments and how they are linked to our fiscal strategy.

Our contribution to the COVID-19 response has been achieved by committing R12,9 million in baseline reductions; R281 000 from reductions Transfers and Subsidies; R5,64 million from a review of Compensation of Employees and R5,71 million from reductions in Goods and Services.

The reduction in spending on Compensation of Employees follows the decision to fill critical posts only and I am pleased to say that four senior management posts have already been filled and we are excited by the energy that these new staff members will bring to “Team Finance”.

The reduction in Goods and Services has been achieved by leading the way with a number of cost containment measures within the Department including no entertainment allowances and cutting spending on catering; venue hire only for provincial systems training; a 50% reduction in printing and paper costs, significant savings in domestic travel and of course, no international travel.

There was also a slight increase, of course, to accommodate occupational health and safety regulation requirements, and the need to enable staff to work from home during the lockdown period including R215 000 for the procurement of PPE for staff; and a million Rand for data allowances for officials who are working from home.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion I often wish that ordinary members of the public, many of whom are sceptical of Government and the people in Government, could see the hard work and dedication of “Team Finance” at Provincial Treasury.

While they may not be on the frontline, their dedication to helping their colleagues in other departments, especially our front-line departments, respond quickly and efficiently to the COVID-19 pandemic, cannot be underestimated.

I would like to thank the Provincial Treasury’s head official, David Savage, and all the members of “Team Finance” for their continued dedication and professionalism and tireless commitment to people of the Western Cape. “Team Finance” are certainly behind the scenes heroes in the fight against COVID-19 in the Western Cape. I thank you.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, †Somlomo. [Speaker.]. The Department has 13 client departments and 13 municipalities along with all public entities and potential and current suppliers. The focus of this Department has been embedding good governance and integrity service delivery. The key performance areas of focus are listed as keeping supply chain management governance, supply chain capacitation and training, strategic procurement and supply chain management technology.

Moreover, the Department claims that all its efforts are targeted at maximising citizen impact. The question is not only about whether the Budget cuts are justified in the current fiscal climate but if at the right place and revised for the most budget enhancement of the future and recovery.

Adjustment on one or the other hand helps us to achieve desirable effects to keep us afloat at this point whilst also avoiding undesirable ones. This is so as COVID-19 has placed a huge burden on public funds to carry households including corporates as economies slow down in a rapid manner.

Now in avoiding undesirable challenges, what we are raising as a challenge is that the R11,6 million cut which is indicated from the Budget is along mainly the areas of support to local government, which is something we have raised in the Standing Committee. More concerning is the fact that these cuts, amongst others, also affect compensation of employees which may mean that several vacancies will not be filled unless there is hands-on-deck to ensure swift move on activities recognising the arrival of techno solutions.

Moreover, critical programmes that have been mentioned, I think almost three programmes that are supporting local government have had some Budget cuts. Now in raising our concern on this matter, hon Speaker, one has to ask whether we are deliberately challenging our municipal finances or governance in that regard or whether should we consider in the proposal of hon Marais to serve divorce papers to National Government, whether we should not also consider cutting a provincial government and rather consider a two-sphere of government where we have got national and local government and we can direct more money to service delivery, where it is required.

The figures of the recent AG report indicated that the Western Cape sits at number three of the top four contributors of irregular expenditure of about R2,68 billion from a R2 billion increase from 2017/2018. And the biggest culprit there is the City of Cape Town. And also, the City of Cape Town is number three of the five municipalities that are actually responsible for the highest irregular expenditure, for almost consecutive years from 2016/2017.

Western Cape spends about R42 million on consultants for financial reporting services and one wonders at what point are we going to contribute to building requisite financial capacity in municipalities. Our local government is mad with problems with little oversight from the Local Government Department and its MEC that leads these municipalities by forensics, litany of litigations of Mayors or senior officials. Political meddling and party politics have been

mentioned as a source of this instability, which is unhealthy for plausible financial and good governance.

West Coast and City of Cape Town District audit outcomes remain stagnant or there is little progress whilst Overberg has regressed according to the AG's report. City of Cape Town continues to be the biggest beneficiary of funds against its counterpart, irrespective of the reality of the financial management challenges depicted in the AG's report. Under financial health the Province went down by 3% from 83% to 72%. To what extent do we attribute the procurement process of municipalities and various provincial government departments which deliberately ignore transformation policies regarding procurement and spending, not directed at minimising the inequality gap.

The Department claims its focus is on embedding good governance and integrity service delivery. I am concerned about the issues of local government that have been raised above. We welcome the innovation of the procurement disclosure report and shall be following this exercise and putting to good use this report regarding our oversight function. Already the report that is out there shares interesting information on efficiencies that were lost during the purchasing of PPE by various departments under the same stable of the Provincial Government, where a basic principle of price elasticity as it relates to economies of scale, should claw back serious savings in the market, but we observe variances in terms of prices paid for example, for thermometers by the different departments at different prices.

And these are things to be considered as a source of impact of the disclosure report.

Let alone if these are locally produced to realise economic benefit from the manufacturing activities of these products, including driving much needed innovation and competitiveness of our markets. How effective are we as this Government, following international practice of leveraging public procurement to realise much needed efficiencies and correcting market failures, hon Speaker.

Strategic sourcing bolsters innovation and enables new entrants in fighting off monopolies that result in costly production processes which were also confirmed by the Department of Agriculture regarding challenges of food security in the country. Public financing, especially spending is not just a conveyor belt or a price-taker in a market of goods and services, but where a political will can exist in such to set off glaring market failures. This is so true in a country, in the current economic climate where each cent counts.

Negligence of this responsibility in public spending should be viewed as wasteful expenditure. We are then expecting an indication of how these challenges of spending are agglomerated and solutions provided to steer Government fiscal spending policies towards increased efficiencies. This includes the underspending in COE, resulting in delays of filling of vacancies. Let alone on conditional grants. Communities continue to be punished by municipalities that do not put in place the requisite

administration to actually spend the conditional grants and then we are shocked when we see service delivery protests, some which became violent, stemming from some of the challenges that are faced by communities of ailing infrastructure problems because of grants that are not used.

We cannot use public finances to frustrate, redress, and transformation policies such as BBBE and PPPFA, which the DA as a party has openly contested through litigations failed again. We must be seen as this Government directing public funds and importantly improving spending and where such is not happening ensuring consequences as the delay is just too costly to the poor. Whilst its virements roll-overs to an accounting authority and therefore as the ANC we do not support this moot Vote. I thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. Thank you, hon Nkondlo. Hon members, I now come to the Chamber and I wish to recognise hon Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, fellow South Africans, I rise today on Vote 3 of the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation COVID-19 Bill, dealing with Provincial Treasury. The Provincial Treasury Budget has experienced a net decrease of R11,6 million in the Adjustment Budget with nett decreases across every single programme in the Department. This nett decrease comprises of a R12,9 million Budget cut due to the National Government not increasing the Equitable Share of the Province, forcing it to cut from the base lines from existing programmes in

order to fund its COVID-19 relief response. The Budget is then bolstered with a R1,2 million funding from the Provincial Revenue Fund from the Western Cape Budget.

I will reiterate that President Ramaphosa promised all provinces a total of R20 billion in funding for COVID-19, but later revealed that in fact provinces need to fund their own COVID-19 programs. In the Provincial Treasury Vote this means that the Department had to find ways to save money obviously across programmes in order to allocate money to the relevant departments in the Province for its COVID-19 operations. It is true that support to the Local Government sub-programmes have been cut. It is like some of my colleagues have indicated, and we can thank the National Government directly for these particular cuts on the baselines of these sub-programmes. The savings have included R5,6 million on Compensation of Employees since the lockdown has created a delay in filling of vacancies as well as R5,7million in savings on items such as fleet services travel, savings on bursaries which students decided not to take up, and printing and paper.

We cannot complain about vacancies when the colleagues of the Opposition members have colleagues in National Government who implemented lockdown where the rules then directly affect the programmes within the provinces. Please WhatsApp your colleagues. The R1,2 million funding allocated from the Provincial Revenue Fund will be used in the Department for PPE for staff, amounting to R215 000 and R1 million for data allowance in order for staff to work from home.

Further, in terms of operations, the Department has implemented a supply chain management WhatsApp chat group for all SEM heads to enable them to communicate and assist each other as well as the Provincial Treasury configuring a separate reporting template to accommodate the electronic submissions of proposals. I would like to welcome the release of the first edition of the Procurement Disclosure Report by the Provincial Treasury. This report details all Personal Protective Equipment, procurement and expenditure in the Western Cape in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This report is a world class example of transparency, accountability and innovation in clean governance. This report will be published monthly, quarterly and annually and every single person in the Western Cape can have access to every single PPE transaction including the name of the supplier, the description of the item, the unit price per item and total spent and the Western Cape is the only province to release this information. We thus call upon all other provinces including National Treasury to do the same.

In fact, I made the same call in the NCOP earlier today. And in terms of the types of PPE that are procured, I would like to encourage my Opposition colleagues to go and read up on the purposes for different types of PPE and the different types of sectors that they are for, in terms of, for example, you need different types of PPE for health than you do for a person on the street for personal use. However, I think Dr Seuss have put it quite nicely that “...the more that you read the more things you will know, the more that you will learn the more places you will go.”

I would then like to further welcome the proactive support and compliance measures implemented by the Provincial Treasury to mitigate procurement risks. These steps include the establishment of a central procurement advisory committee and enhanced surveillance of disaster related procurement by internal order [Indistinct – audio distorted.] Thank you. In terms of monopolies, our colleagues in Opposition benches must please assist us with the National Competition Commission in this regard where there are increases in prices. Again, given that it is a national entity I am sure that you probably also have them on a WhatsApp group. Further, in light of the COVID-19 relief response through Section 25 of the PFMA, the Provincial Finance Minister authorised the use of the Provincial Revenue Fund money to defray expenditure of an exceptional nature, currently not provided for and which cannot without serious prejudice to the public interest in the province be postponed to future appropriation by the Provincial Parliament, which at the time, obviously was the R1 billion allocated to the Provincial Department of Health to spend on COVID-19 activities related to staff and facilities, and R400 million for the Department of Transport and Public Works required for the hiring of venues and facilities and purchasing of associate services for quarantine and isolation purposes as a key component of the health strategy in order to combat COVID-19.

I welcome the speedy response from Mr Maynier in that regard to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, hon Speaker, while the DA delivers a budget to beat COVID-19 in the Western Cape, Pretoria uses the crisis to line

the pockets of cadres and comrades. I would thus like to urge Minister Maynier to engage the National Minister of Finance, Minister Mboweni in order to implement the following with immediate effect.

Firstly, National Treasury must urgently change the Provincial Equitable Share formula so that every province gets its fair share. We cannot wait two years for the formula to be reviewed, because by then it will be outdated. The funds must follow the people. If someone believes that they will receive better health care and a better education in the Western Cape, and they choose to travel from Gauteng or Eastern Cape in order to see this service delivery, then by all means come and fetch your service delivery but, as a province, we can only do that if the funds follow the people. If we receive more patients in the Western Cape because of the failure of other provinces, then the Equitable Share formulae must reflect that. If we receive more students in the Western Cape because of the failure of other provinces, then the Equitable Share formula must reflect that.

An HON MEMBER: Now you are talking!

Ms D M BAARTMAN: If we have to build more infrastructure in the Western Cape because of the failure of other provinces, then the Equitable Share formula must reflect that. Secondly, National Treasury must please allocate funding for national mandates in the Western Cape which we are currently funding due to lack of funding from the respective national departments such as Safety and for drought.

Third, the International Monetary Loan of R70 billion is by no means an achievement as Minister Mboweni would like us to believe. It is the final lifeline that a country needs as a result of over two decades of financial mismanagement, state capture, bailouts for failing State-owned Enterprises and poor policy. It is a loan to simply keep the country running on steam, and for this reason National Treasury must take control of every single cent of the R70 billion received from the IMF and only release the funding to provincial departments and municipalities who have achieved unqualified audits. If anything below an unqualified audit with findings was achieved, the National Treasury should spend the money on behalf of the respective provincial department or municipality. And those who have received the below unqualified audit should still then be able to decide how they would like to spend their funding, but the actual accounting and administration of the funds should remain with National Treasury and thus provinces such as the Western Cape should be rewarded for good governance. But in all these cases, the spending of the funds should be subject to a further check and balance through a special inspector-general.

Finally, National Treasury must refund the more than R2 billion Western Cape Budget cut. No laybuys. No IOU's. No *pinkie* promises. No fancy English euphemisms for Budget cuts. No more "cost is no issue"-lies. You do not get to come to the province, parade around our hospitals and then leave knowing full well you are not going to give us a cent! Refund our

Budget cuts and give us our fair share. We support the Budget in the Democratic Alliance. Hon Speaker, I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

An HON MEMBER: Beautiful!

The SPEAKER: Hon members, thank you. [Interjections.] Order, hon members.

An HON MEMBER: Show us the money.

The SPEAKER: Order hon members. I now recognise hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Speaker. I think we have said a lot of things pertaining to the issue of budget in the Western Cape, as EFF. We cannot talk about issues of COVID-19 and leave out the issues of land through Human Settlements in which the Budget does not speak to. Here, while listening to a DA which is hiding behind National Government and not distributing budget where it is mostly needed, and also not speaking much on economic recovery and only obsessed with the issues of tobacco and alcohol, DA must utilise the Budget that is at their disposal and prioritise leading communities. So, as EFF, the Economic Freedom Fighters, we do not support this Budget. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you hon Speaker, we support the Vote.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, the ACDP supports Vote 3. Thank you.

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

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front supports this Budget. At the same time, I now must admit, after listening to the ANC's hon member Nkondlo, now I know what the ANC's real intentions are. Absolute power! Absolute control! Do away with provincial government because we fail in 8 provinces, so do away with it and only have a two-tier system. This is a shocking revelation. I hope that the rest of the ANC members do not support this viewpoint, that instead of sharing power and having oversight, they want an autocracy. Complete control, complete power. The petticoat is starting to show!

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Hon members, I now recognise [Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, is that a point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO: No, it is a point of clarity from the senior hon member Marais, when he refers to the “petticoat is starting to show”. Is he referring to me, because I would find it highly [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, that is not allowed in terms of the Rules. That is a point for debate. I thought you had a point of order. We can only entertain a point of order. So, for now let me rule you out of order. Thank you, hon Nkondlo. Now we will proceed in the absence of hon Brinkhuis. We will proceed to the hon Minister. Thank you, hon members. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker. I would like to begin by thanking hon members who have participated in the debate on Vote 3 Provincial Treasury and I would also like to thank the hon members who recognised and acknowledged the hard work of Team Finance at Provincial Treasury.

I would like to assure the hon Nobulumko Nkondlo that the Budget cuts will certainly not compromise our support to the municipalities in the Western

Cape. Much of the cuts were to goods and services, on catering and venue hire and which could not be spent under the circumstances. In fact, hon Speaker, the virtual environment I think enhanced support to our municipalities. A good example would be that our quarterly forums under these circumstances have been shifted to monthly forums focusing on risks in local government and internal audits and in many respects the new virtual environment has made Provincial Treasury, I think, more responsive and more effective when it comes to supporting local government in the Western Cape.

I would also like to assure the member that the Budget cuts will not compromise the performance of Provincial Treasury in the Western Cape. Yes, we absorbed a cut on Compensation of Employees, and we have 63 vacancies, but we are, as I mentioned, delighted to have filled the senior management posts which of course are critical to the performance of Provincial Treasury. And although we may be the smallest provincial treasury we certainly still pack a punch, as Provincial Treasury. I would also then like to thank the hon member for her comments on our new Procurement Disclosure Report and I would ask her to bear in mind that the report traverses a period of three months. And during that period there were of course several changes to national and provincial regulations. There were at least four changes to the benchmark prices and of course there were significant changes in market forces of supply and demand and often significant global supply chain constraints.

All of these factors of course, may affect the, what the hon member referred to as price variances, in relation to PPE as disclosed in our Procurement Disclosure Report. At the end of the day, the purpose of the Procurement Disclosure Report is to collate and provide information on all the transactions in relation to Personal Protective Equipment, precisely so that those transactions can be scrutinised not only by members of our Parliament but also by members of the public. And to the extent that there may be concerns, those concerns can be raised with the relevant departments who will respond with an explanation.

When it comes to the hon Deidre Baartman, I would like to assure her that we are in constant contact and have quarterly engagements with the National Treasury on all the issues which she has raised, not least the division of revenue in provinces like the Western Cape. On the last point raised by the hon Peter Marais, we certainly will fight to protect our Constitution and protect the powers delegated to provinces in that Constitution because of course, it is vital for the functioning of our constitutional democracy in South Africa. With that hon Speaker, thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes the debate on the Fifth Order. Now the Secretary will read the Sixth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 8 – Human Settlements – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B4 - 2020].

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. I now recognise the Minister of Human Settlements, hon Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon Cabinet members, hon members of the Opposition and honoured guests who are observing this entire meeting through virtual mechanisms. Upon reflection of what we are currently experiencing as a country, the words of Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu are still ringing so true. He said: "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

Our people across the country are yearning for this light, as at this stage it seems there is not any to see, except of course, if you are a resident in the Western Cape. And this is so, as the Western Cape Government has firmly placed the lives of its people first, by ensuring budgets are adjusted to combat the Corona virus. The reality is that this pandemic continues to place immense pressure on all areas of society, both public and private.

Hon Speaker, R33 million has been realigned by my Department as part of the provincial response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a provincial government, we work together for the good of our people, as very early we realised if we are not going to take the lead in combatting this virus, we

could be caught on the back foot, particularly since we are not receiving sufficient support from where it is expected from.

It is further regrettable that we have a National Government that is persisting with their failed economic policies. Due to the National Government's inability to grow the economy and eradicate corruption and looting, Programme 3, which is Housing Development, sees a reduction of more than R 246 million. This consists of a reduction of R202,265,000 in our Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG) along with a reduction of R44,435,000 in our Title Deeds Restoration Grant (TDRG). The net impact of the massive HSDG reduction, hon Speaker, will be 6,200 fewer housing opportunities in our province, which equates to nearly one third of the envisaged opportunities that will be lost for this financial year.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape has a Housing Demand Database waiting list of just under 600 000, and this reduction further affects our ability to assist those that has been on the waiting list for a very long time. †Daar is beslis 'n groot behuisingsbehoefte in die Wes-Kaap. [There is definitely a great housing need in the Western Cape.]

We will however not let these challenges stand in our way of delivering to our most qualifying and deserving beneficiaries. We further remain committed to getting the Dunoon, Greater Kosovo and Ithemba Rapid Informal Settlement Support and Upgrade Programme off the ground. The required engagement and statutory processes are currently underway, though

I should emphasise to the House that HDA are still waiting for the power of attorney for the Ithemba site from the National Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Hon Speaker, we have identified innovation as one of our strategic priorities to enable accelerated delivery of services. These innovative measures are inclusive of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as well as Sustainable Building Technology (SBT) to ensure we are still able to deliver to our most deserving beneficiaries.

Earlier this year we launched our APP, which gives our citizens easy access to information on Government housing assistance, while also allowing them to register for the first time or update their details on the database. This also ensures, hon Speaker, that citizens do not have to visit any of the housing offices to register or update their details.

Since its launch in March this year this is new and something that has never been attempted before. So we are pleased that the people of our province are starting to realise the benefits of doing things online. Utilising Sustainable Building Technology has various benefits, as it ensures units are built at a cheaper rate, the cost of electricity will be less, and it holds long term benefits for our environment. Further to this, hon Speaker, and during my engagements with the banking sector, they have indicated their appetite for the implementation of this technology and a willingness to support these types of initiatives by my Department.

We have already engaged a host of municipalities about adopting new technology and they too, are open to doing so, hon Speaker, as they are aware that traditional methods are unsustainable and will not allow us to assist our people in the manner that we need to do.

This new technology will also be used in Dunoos, Greater Kosovo, Ithemba and at our Silvertown development in Khayelitsha. Hon Speaker, as a further step to integrate the utilisation of technology, we have over the last few municipal and project site visits conducted our handovers and meetings live via Facebook, to ensure that we adhere to the COVID-19 regulations, and to ensure that social distancing is also practiced in this manner. This has also as a positive ensured increased transparency, as the public at large had an opportunity and still do have an opportunity to view of how we engage other spheres of government and what exactly our processes are in the human settlements sector.

†Agb Speaker, omdat ons deursigtig is, verseker ons dat inwoners deel van ons reis is, maar omdat ons tegnologie op hierdie wyse gebruik sien mense regoor die land en wêreld hoe ons in die Wes-Kaap te werk gaan.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Speaker, because we are transparent, we ensure that our citizens are part of our journey, but because we use technology in this manner people

right across the country and the world see how we work in the Western Cape.]

I am also pleased to inform the House that this new norm will continue. I am particularly looking forward to hosting a virtual public meeting with the residents of the greater Retreat area to inform them about the progress of their planned project, particularly since they have not had a large development in that area for quite a while.

Hon Speaker, we are deeply concerned, however, about all the illegal land grabs and invasions that are plaguing a number of areas across the province but more so the Cape Metro. What is further disturbing is the criminal element and blatant disregard for the law during this process. In addition to this, we have seen elected political leaders who are not only part of these protests, but actually leading them. You would expect these leaders to be champions of our country's law and discourage residents from protesting in this manner. This clearly tells us hon Speaker, that there is an agenda and attempt to create anarchy.

To those elected political leaders who are at the forefront of these protests, I believe that they should know that the Western Cape Government will stop at nothing to ensure that they are held accountable, as through their action and encouragement they are complicit in breaking the law. It is these political leaders that should be charged, convicted and harshly sentenced for their reckless and irresponsible behaviour.

Along with this, they are also attempting to assist those who are seeking to jump the housing queue, hon Speaker. This means they are delaying and denying law abiding citizens who have been on the housing beneficiary waiting list for many years, the opportunity to move into improved living conditions. And let me state this very clear, hon Speaker - this Provincial Government and my Department will not assist those who seek to jump the queue over law abiding citizens. †Dit is nie hoe dit werk nie. [That is not how it works.]

To our residents I would like to say, do not be misled or manipulated by these individuals or groups, as they do not have your best interests at heart, instead this is all done for their own personal or political gain. Just as we have engaged a host of communities, we will continue to do so. We will also continue to prioritise the elderly, persons with disabilities, those longest on the housing waiting list and this should be 15 years and longer, I should emphasize, as well as our backyard dwellers. Critical to note still hon Speaker, is that we are the first province to formally prioritise and recognise backyard dwellers.

Our upgrade of informal settlements programme will also still continue. The most recent demonstration of these commitments are residents that come from Joe Slovo informal settlement in Langa and Kanana informal settlement in Gugulethu, who we have moved into better living conditions, as part of our re-blocking or de-densification programme. Hon Speaker, we are fully aware

that the provision of housing opportunities remains a persistent and pertinent issue.

We have, therefore, adopted a radical approach in the acceleration of housing opportunities, even during the lockdown period, and this is quite evident in the more than 300 people that since the end of May have moved into Forest Village in Eerste River. These beneficiaries are from the neighbouring areas, while others are from the N2 Gateway. Furthermore, 50 residents have also moved into our project in the Boys Town development, hon Speaker.

Further to this, and as additional examples, we have also ensured and handed houses over to former farmworkers, the elderly, backyard dwellers and beneficiaries who have been on the waiting list for 15 years and longer in Bredasdorp, McGregor, Grabouw, Hawston, Plettenberg Bay and Ceres. Further to that, hon Speaker, residents in Delft, George, Buffelsjagsrivier, Wilderness and Slangrivier, through the handover of title deeds also now formally became fully fledged homeowners for the first time in their lives.

We are improving the lives of our people [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: What about Morning Star?

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: ...we are restoring their dignity. We are working for our people. Our people are our most important priority, hon Speaker.

†Agb Speaker, hierdie is beslis ongekende tye en daar is ongetwyfeld 'n behoefte vir ons almal om as verskillende regeringsfere en politieke partye saam te werk, sou ons hierdie uitdagings wat ons tans in die gesig staar, effektief wil oorkom.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Speaker, these are definitely unprecedented times and there is undoubtedly a need for all of us to co-operate as different spheres of government and political parties, should we want to effectively overcome these challenges facing us.]

As leaders we should be part of the solution and not be part of the problem, as this will demonstrate to the public at large that the political leaders are working for all of them. Let us work as one, as we are stronger and better together. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise hon Lili. Hon Lili, are you in the House? Can the hon Chief Whip of the ANC confirm whether hon Lili is in the House?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: No, he is invading land.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, can I [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order. Order, hon members. I am talking to hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Member Lili has loadshedding in the area. He is now racing to Ward 96 to see if there is some connection in the area. So as soon as he gets it, he will indicate to me.

An HON MEMBER: ANC governance.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Thank you, hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, with that explanation we will now move to the next speaker.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Hon Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Point of order.
Hon Member Madikizela.

The SPEAKER: Hon Madikizela, first and then hon Kama. Hon Madikizela, what is your point of order?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Hon Speaker, it must be recorded that that excuse cannot be accepted.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Madikizela. We note that objection. Hon Kama and then followed by hon Schäfer.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, earlier on when you were calling on hon member Lili to speak, hon member MEC Madikizela responded that he is busy invading land. I believe hon Speaker, that is against the Standing Rule 59 of Sub-section (2), that a member who wishes to bring any improper or unethical conduct on the part of another member to the attention of the House may do so only by way of a substantive motion comprising of a clearly formulated and proper substantiated allegation. That the member has not done so and must withdraw. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Kama, thank you. I need to deal with that point of order in terms of the Rules. I will still go to hon – I do have hon Schäfer and hon Marais and hon Lekker and hon Marais, but let me deal with this particular one. Hon member Madikizela, did you refer to hon Lili in the manner in which hon Kama has said?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Yes, I did, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Will you please withdraw that statement, hon Madikizela.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Member hon Kama is absolutely right. I will bring a motion. I withdraw.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Madikizela. We accept that. Hon members, that withdrawal has been registered. Now, I wish to recognise hon Minister Schäfer. Is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Yes, hon Speaker. Just an amplification of Minister Madikizela, where he said it was not a valid excuse. I mean we have regular reports of loadshedding. There is no loadshedding in the Western Cape at present. So, I think we need to record that in respect of the excuse of hon Lili not being available. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Schäfer. Hon Lekker, the Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Let me say that hon Kama and hon Madikizela have covered me and in regard to what hon Schäfer has just raised, I think this is a matter that entirely depends on the member himself and for her to say it must be recorded because of what she knows, does not simply mean she is where member Lili is. It is her opinion and therefore I wish to ask for guidance from you as to where she comes from, she must refrain because she cannot make assumptions just because she happens to be in a fancy leafy suburb. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon members, there is no point of order that I am going to entertain after this. There was an apology registered by the Chief Whip of the ANC on the whereabouts of hon Lili. Whether hon members accept that as an excuse or not that has been registered here in this House for recording and for noting. So, the House will deal with such matters. If there is a Rule that has been violated it may not be the interpretation of members about where the member is. So on that point I wish to proceed and allow the House to continue with its business and recognise hon Maseko. Let us proceed.

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I stand to deliberate on Budget Vote 8, Human Settlements in the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill. Hon Speaker, we are today dealing with the Budget Adjustment because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In my lifetime this pandemic is the most significant challenge we have faced, but it is certainly

exacerbated by the pandemic that is the mismanagement, policy failures and lack of credible political will from National Government under the ANC. National Government shows no [Inaudible.] when it comes to managing the scourge of Gender Based Violence as a pandemic.

It has refused to deal with the drought pandemic, and it refuses to deal with the incredible levels within the corruption pandemic. While the Western Cape Government under the DA delivers a budget to beat COVID-19, Pretoria uses the crisis to line their pockets of cadres and comrades. Whilst cadres' pockets are filled, the Western Cape received a directive to adjust its Human Settlement Department Budget. What does that mean? It means for the Housing Adjustment Budget, National Government cut the Western Cape's Housing Development Grant with a total of just over R240 million. To add insult to injury, Cabinet in Pretoria has seen fit to effectively seize the Title Deeds Grant programme.

Hon Speaker, this is a programme that has a direct bearing on addressing past injustices by attending to the outstanding transfer of subsidized units constructed since 1994. As a province we have facilitated successful transfers to the value of over R200 million and worked tirelessly towards the reduction of the backlog. But in spite of our best efforts to consult and plead with National Department on this front the program comes to an end. One must therefore realise two pertinent conclusions.

Firstly, the Western Cape again is on its own when it comes to provision of such vital human settlement services which provide restoration and dignity. And the second conclusion is a question: Does the ANC and GOOD Party alliance at a national level, truly care for meaningful redress? Because if they do, then we would certainly see vastly different policy decisions and implementation thereof of from Minister De Lille and Sisulu in particular. On this note, Speaker, let us be clear that it is the National Department of Human Settlements and Public Works led by Minister Lindiwe Sisulu and Patricia de Lille respectively, primarily charged with ensuring that provinces and municipalities receive land for housing via the Housing Development Agency. Minister De Lille is failing us here. Only two of the 31 promised parcels of land from her Department have been handed over to the Western Cape, via the HDA since October of last year.

In response to this issue, Minister De Lille is very quick to point out her Department's handing over of land for District 6 development and Gender Based Violence centres. The reality however is that no such land has been granted to either the City of Cape Town or the Western Cape via the HDA for District 6. It appears the Minister needs to consult a little better with her ANC coalition colleagues as this land is now under custodianship of the National Department of Rural Development and in a legal process.

Further, the Gender Based Violence centres are resourced by Social Development, not Housing. And hon Speaker, in spite of cooperation from National Human Settlements we have double standards from Minister Lindiwe

Sisulu. The Minister sought any opportunity to attack the Western Cape for upholding the rule of law in efforts to curb land invasions, particularly in the Metro area. Her threats went as far as to call for an approach of the calls for what she claims to be evictions during the nationwide lockdown. Yet, when 130 shacks were torn down by the City of Johannesburg on the morning of 18 July 2020, Minister Sisulu was quiet. Many of these structures were not new in the least and the land bordering Eldorado Park and Lenasia had already been occupied long before the COVID-19 lockdown.

ANC Mayor Geoff Makuba proudly announced his administration's fearlessness to enforce the rule law in the area. Yet, Minister Sisulu remains hell-bent on applying a different set of rules to the DA-led Western Cape and its municipalities from those for her ANC colleagues in Gauteng. This is in spite of the fact that the South Gauteng Higher Court ruled against the City for its evictions as far back as April. Where was Minister Sisulu's outcry over evictions in Johannesburg and Ethekweni in March and April? Why did she not take to Twitter then and threaten legal action as she did to the City of Cape Town? The evictions in Kokotela, Marion Hill, Cato Manor and other areas, even around Durban and Johannesburg were illegal in light of the regulations gazetted by Sisulu's own Government.

Once again, we have an ANC Cabinet member who must be compelled by the courts to act in line with the law and lockdown regulations. Never mind the fact that it is regulations to which she would have been consulted when regulation 11(c)(a) was amended in terms of Section 27(2) of the Disaster

Management Act. Hon Speaker, it goes without saying that such behaviour from a national leader is intolerable at best and destructive at worst. But let us turn to what we can and what we have and what we will achieve in the Western Cape.

Speaker, from 1 June 2019 until the start of lockdown, 6 293 homes were delivered, and 1381 title deeds handed over in this province. The transitional residential units will also stand to benefit several thousand new homes for those who need it the most and already between May and June this year, more than 1 371 new housing beneficiaries were provided with homes. Beyond the Metro over R87,5 million is spent on housing opportunities for beneficiaries in and around Bredasdorp. Of the 158 housing opportunities for qualifying beneficiaries, 60% are backyard dwellers. The McGregor project is on course to deliver almost 500 homes and over 200 houses will be provided in Ceres.

The use of alternative building technology is underway where in Mossel Bay we currently have the Yakindlo PHB project, where only ABT's are being used. Units are built at a cheaper rate. The cost of electricity will be less, and it holds long term benefits for the environment. We have further seen innovation in the launch of a mobile application, which simultaneously provides a digital platform on which our residents can register for a housing application or update their details on the database whilst maintaining social distancing too.

Furthermore, hon Speaker, I welcome the directive to all municipalities that backyard dwellers must be a priority. This means, when beneficiaries are identified from the Housing waiting list for all Greenfield Projects, backyarders are prioritised as the Department works on a 50/50 split within the other criteria.

Hon Speaker, there is so much more to be said, but I do believe with sincere conviction that even with the Budget reductions from Pretoria we are still working on the back of outstanding achievements in the acceleration of catalytic and priority projects. The implementation of verification and registration weekends, alternative building technology discussions and developments for a more sustainable human settlements environment and an overall integrated approach to human settlements that drives employment and empowerment. It is up to each and every one of us to play our part too. The public sector and private sector must both contribute to meaningful support for a shared future, where we can look forward to in very uncertain present times.

Ubuntu is needed now more than ever. A return to essential human virtues of being united and compassionate as we strive to achieve a goal. I want to thank Minister Simmers and his Department for their sterling work under these difficult times.

I want to also thank the Premier and the Cabinet and leave them with this quote from Joseph Wirthlin and it says, "As with the butterfly, adversity is

necessary to build character in people.” Western Cape communities will always see your beauty, see that you, they are, and we are. Hon Speaker, the Democratic Alliance supports Vote 8 in this Adjustment Budget. I thank you.

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

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Speaker. As the EFF we do not support the Vote. We find it hard – there is an echo, hon Speaker. I am not sure where it is coming from. I can even hear myself. There is a very bad echo that is disturbing me. I am not sure.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Let us do it this way. Please start again. Let us see.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Speaker. As the EFF we do not support this Vote.

The SPEAKER: Fine now? Is it fine now?

Mr M XEGO: Ja, it is fine now.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Proceed.

Mr M XEGO: Okay. We find it hard to believe and accept that the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements cut the Budget meant for Housing

Development by R225,8 million. This comes at a backlog of the Department promising to initiate a process of backlogging, reblocking, which it introduced earlier this year. As a means of relocating people from high risk congested informal settlements in order to mitigate against the risk of COVID-19. Similarly, the informal settlement upgrade in Partnership Component Budget also remains unchanged and there is a huge chance that in the end it will not be used for its primary intended purpose but shifted to another Department. We find it very strange that we will talk about issues of mitigating against COVID-19 but equally so, we do not talk about issues of spatial planning, which talks directly... [Interjection.]

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Hon Speaker [Interjection.]

Mr M XEGO: ...to this important Department.

The SPEAKER: Order. Hon Xego, will you please take your seat. There is a point of order from the Chamber. What is your point of order, hon Baartman?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Hon Speaker, I would like to know if hon Xego would take a question?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Baartman. Hon Xego, will you please take a question from hon Baartman?

Mr M XEGO: Not at all, my leader, my time is very much limited.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Xego. That has not been granted hon Baartman. Now let us proceed. Your time was muted. Now you may proceed. You have a minute left.

Mr M XEGO: Okay. Thank you very much. As to the issue of COVID-19, it should always be coupled with the issue of spatial planning, which resonates, and it rests with the Minister of Human Settlement. When we talk of social distancing, it touched directly on how congested areas are supposed to be dealt with in terms of resolving such kind of challenges, but the issue of taking those who side with the people on the ground to court, or to take them up is not a problem for the EFF. We have defeated the DA in Mpolweni. We have defeated them in Mfuleni. We will defeat them in any other platform where they try to harass and bully our people. We are here to ensure that no illegal eviction is taking place as much [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: You mean by breaking the law?

Mr M XEGO: ... invasion that will take place. So we are not scared of anyone who come and intimidate and think they will be able to [Inaudible – audio distorted.] The Minister of [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Xego. Your time is up.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Do not break the law.

The SPEAKER: Hon members [Interjection.]

Mr M XEGO: You are breaking the law yourself when you evict people without court order.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order. I would like to remind you of the decision this House took based on my ruling on 23 April 2020 that no heckling will be allowed and there is no exception to that Rule. And this also goes hand in hand with the Rule 40 of our Standing Rules where running commentary is not allowed. So I am requesting the hon members to exercise some restraint in order to ensure that there is order in the House. That is my request and I wish to request hon members to abide by that. Hon Dugmore, what is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker. My point of order was that, and I believe that you have attempted to address it, but the reality is that the leader of Government Business, MEC Madikizela is a serial offender and if one simply restates your earlier ruling, but take no action, then I am afraid there is no order in this House.

So I would appeal to you on a point of order that if MEC Madikizela transgresses again, that you actually take action and you sanction his behaviour because those of us are trying to respect your ruling and not interject, but he appears not only to interject but to cast aspersions on other hon members. So I am appealing to you to please act and not just continue to warn. I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Say you who shouted at the hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Dugmore. Hon members, if any member wishes to raise a point of order we do so by the raising of your hand and that has not been done. Therefore, I do not expect any member to speak without having done so. I request that we respect the Rules and you respect the rulings by the Presiding Officers. Next time it will be you that is seated here, so it should not matter who is sitting here and I would like to request that we please as I said, I repeat again, exercise some restraint and desist from encouraging disorderly behaviour in the House.

So I am going to act hon Dugmore, and I can guarantee you that there will be consequences for members who continue to disrupt order. Hon Madikizela withdrew the earlier action in the House, and I wish to say to the Leader of Government Business, please help the Presiding Officer, sir. And I hope that it will be the last time we do the same thing. And to all of you, hon members, I request that you help me and the Chief Whips, please help the

Presiding Officers. This is the last point of order from hon Fernandez. Hon Minister, what is your point of order?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Speaker, my point of order is exactly that. The Leader of the Official Opposition, I concur completely with him except that yesterday the hon Marran interjected the Deputy Speaker throughout the session and not a word was said. So, what is good for one side of the House must be good for the other side. Let us be consistent in the way we enforce the Rules. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon Minister. I would like to stick to what I said, and I am not going to belabour that point, but for us to function as the House you must please respect and make sure that you cooperate with all Presiding Officers that are seated here. It will not be myself tomorrow or either the Deputy Speaker, but we also do have the temporary Chairpersons. So we need to really respect the Presiding Officers at all times. And I hope that members will respect that and that will be the end on this point, and we shall then proceed. Hon Lili is back in the House. I would like to request hon Lili to proceed.

Mr A LILI: Thank you, hon Speaker. As the African National Congress we do not support this Budget. Hon Speaker, for years the Democratic Alliance has always prided itself as the best performing province, when it comes to the implementation of the Title Deeds Restoration Programme, the aim of the

programme is to eradicate the backlog of title deeds and to secure home ownership and security of tenure.

It is sad, hon Speaker, that R44,4 million earmarked for this programme has been reduced, but this reduction also exposes the Democratic Alliance's hypocrisy. All the victories of this programme are claimed as the DA's victory while bartered cards are blamed on National Government. If the DA really prioritise this programme, why are there no provisions in this Budget to cover the shortfall? Hon Speaker, a further R202,3 million for the Human Settlements Development Grant has been cut due to the reduced fiscal framework. This is a Schedule 5 Grant for the creation of sustainable and integrated human settlements that enable improved quality of household life and access to basic services.

The outputs of this grant include the number of households in informal settlements provided with access to basic services and the number of households in the backyards, provided with access to services. Upgrade services. Surely this will impact negatively on the lives of the poor people. Before we jump to blaming the National Government, it is important to note that the purpose of HSDG is to implement Provincial Equitable Share allocations. Taking a look at the Budget one will see that after the reduction of the R202,3 million there is a remainder of R1,7 billion. The challenge Mr Speaker with provinces is that once they received the HSDG then the provincial contribution declined, with some provinces relying almost entirely on the HSDG for the provision of integrated human settlement services.

In the Main Appropriation, the Housing Development Program of this Vote was allocated R2,2 billion. The breakdown of this was R1,2 billion. R1,9 billion for HSDG and R2,5 million for National Conditional Grant, Expanded Public Works Programme, Integrated Grant for Provinces and R67,9 million for National Conditional Grant Title Deeds Restoration. This shows the Western Cape Government has a zero contribution on the allocation of housing development in the province. The next time you on the campaign trail claiming the Western Cape build so many houses, do not forget to add a line that says, [Inaudible – audio distorted.] the Budget, Mr Speaker, for the Programme 2 of this Vote is cast by 59 000. In terms of policy development, the Department earmarked [Inaudible – audio distorted.] LCF. A framework which [Inaudible - audio distorted.] holistic space with Housing and Land, Social and Economic Services, Network Infrastructure and Communities and Social Fabric. Such a framework would also be able to assist in the current programmes that we are faced with. The Budget challenges at the current moment are the spate of land grabs while there are criminal elements associated with the land grabs, let us not turn a blind eye on social economic crisis facing our people.

COVID-19 has deepened the crisis. Millions are unemployed and trapped in extreme poverty. The anger of our people in Khayelitsha, Dunoon, Kraaifontein, Vleigron, Hangberg, and many others is justified. Especially when you consider factors such as the countless times with which the Urban Settlement Development Grant has been returned back to the Treasury

without doing the work. A number of suitable pockets of land near places of opportunities have been disposed of to private property developers, when they could have been made available for affordable housing.

Hon Speaker, in closing, as part of the response strategy to curb the spread of COVID-19, this Department was assigned a responsibility to de-densify informal settlements and other densely populated settlements. Our peak was projected to start between last week of July to August. Today is the last week of July and not a single community has benefited from this densification. The MEC must tell us, what progress has been made with regard to this and what caused all the delays? COVID-19 is forcing us to do all the things we ignored over the years. It has exposed disparities between rich and the poor. It is now forcing us to redress the two tales of the sitting. This Province must address the legacy of spatial planning. The most pressing challenge at the moment is preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the newly established informal settlements. This Department together with the City of Cape Town must put measures in place to contain the spread of this. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Lili. Hon members, I now recognise hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Speaker. We support the Vote.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. The ACDP supports the Department of Human Settlements Vote 8. I thank you.

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

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Speaker. I would so much like to support this Minister, but unfortunately I cannot, because he appears to be indecisive and he is evasive also in his replies. I have had a lot of time. I wanted to know, what are you doing about the 166 houses that are now empty for almost the third year? 166 houses built but you cannot even allocate it because your policy and the City of Cape Town's housing allocation policy is not the same and the courts have ruled you must arbitrate and settle this with the NGO-MDUI and you cannot even negotiate a settlement in almost three years. This is ridiculous!

Why do you not refer this to the Housing Tribunal? I want the Minister to answer me. He or Minister Bredell. You have the oversight function over the Mayor Plato. Why do you not refer the Morning Star issue where 166 families are living in backyards, have been given the keys, the keys taken away again from them?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: I want answers!

The SPEAKER: That ends your time. Thank you. That concludes your speaking opportunity. In the absence of hon Brinkhuis, hon members, I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Speaker, firstly thank you to each member for their inputs on this item and I would now like to respond. I will start with the last speaker, hon Marais from the Freedom Front Plus who, if you listen closely to the member's inputs continuously in the House and even during his responses to previous Budget speeches; he is central in emphasising federalism, yet clearly he does not respect to understand federalism clearly enough, because he is well aware the Morning Star matter is before the courts and we need to respect the rule of law, because that process needs to be finalised.

But this hon Speaker, is yet another example, when the community, and this is a really internal community matter, when certain aspects of a community do not want to see other people from other areas move into these houses, hence the community took this matter to court and the courts will now need to arbitrate and find a solution on this matter. I do believe however, hon Marais, that the City of Cape Town's legal team is in discussion with the Morning Star legal team to find an amicable solution, because after three

years I do believe and you would agree with me, that one would have expected that in the interest of the broader communities that are supposed to have benefited so far, that we would have seen a conclusion by now, because in the Western Cape we advance inclusionary human settlements development. Which means, we do not just build settlements for one specific community. We do this to address the housing backlog in an entire municipal area, in this case in the City of Cape Town. But once again, thank you for your inputs, member Marais.

Now, I come to hon member Lili, but firstly hon Speaker, I am stunned that the hon member managed to reach the next ward where apparently he has now got good reception and access to electricity in such a good pace. That is a clear sign of the quality of the service delivery in this province, where at least we know our roads are functioning properly and he was able to get there in a very quick pace. Hon Member Lili, I am actually stunned by listening to your speech, because the HSDG grant is a national grant. Yet, you seek to blame our Department for cuts which come from the National Department. That is number one.

So, I am trying to get my way around why you are blaming my Department. Secondly, hon member, if you actually do attend all your Standing Committee meetings, you would have been well informed and well aware that at my last engagement with the Standing Committee, I emphasised to them that the impacts of these cuts will need to be discussed with our broader stakeholders,

the municipalities and unlike yourself, hon member Lili, I have actually visited our municipalities.

I have engaged our councillors. I have engaged key stakeholders in our communities, alerting them to the cut that was due to come and that member Lili, is the difference between a leader and an individual who seeks to lead, because as the Minister in my Department, we empower our stakeholders with the facts, not parts of the facts, and that is hon member Lili, why so many communities at the moment, when I engage them, they say “Thank you Minister, for giving us clarity because certain councillors and certain members of other spheres of government do not give us this clarity.” Because hon member Lili if you are elected to lead you must empower yourself, so that when you engage your communities that you do not marginalise your communities by giving them incorrect or half-truths, hon member. And that is what I need to depart with you, because these Budget cuts have a dire implication on our targets, but sadly you missed the first part of my Budget because you were looking for an area where you could get reception and I will forward you a copy of my speech, hon member Lili, because these cuts have massive implications but yet... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, hon Minister please address the hon Speaker.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Sorry, hon Speaker, through you to hon member Lili. However, even with these dire cuts and I would through you hon Speaker, like to remind hon member Lili that in January we

also received a cut, which means the total Budget cut for our Department is close to R400 million, yet we are looking at innovative ways, hon Speaker to hon member Lili, to how we can breach this by finding alternative solutions so we can accelerate the delivery of housing opportunities to all our people and that is why we have been engaging municipalities actively.

Councillors across all party formations, and even this morning I engaged Theewaterskloof Municipality, as a good example, through you hon Speaker to hon member Lili, and some of the solutions that Opposition councillors came up with during our session, are similar to where we are heading. So hon member Lili, it is time that we move forward together. I do not play a blame game, but one needs to understand, the HSDG Grant, through you hon Speaker, to hon member Lili, is a National Grant and these cuts come from National. Who else must we blame because these cuts are because our National Government, through you hon member Lili, because you are a member of this party, they did not foresee, and they did not provide properly for COVID-19. Now our poor communities, our poor beneficiaries, through you hon Speaker, to hon member Lili, will need to carry the brunt of poor national leadership. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Simmers. Hon members, that concludes the debate on the individual Votes contained in the Schedule of the Western Cape Adjustment Appropriation for COVID-19 2020/2021 financial year. So, that is the end of the debates on this deal. Now, may I request then

hon members, at this point that the Secretary reads the next order, and that is the Seventh Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Votes and Schedules – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B4 - 2020].

The SPEAKER: Thank you Mr Secretary. Hon members, I have to announce that there are currently in the House a total of 35 members and the breakdown, hon members, for your information there are 23 members from the Democratic Alliance. And there are 7 members from the ANC. There are two members from the EFF. There is one member from GOOD Party. One member from African Christian Democratic Party. One member from FF PLUS and the Al Jama-ah has not been present today. They are absent. And that is the total. Now for the purposes, hon members, of dealing with this particular order I have to announce this so that the hon members understand that we do curate for the purposes of proceeding with the Vote. Are there any objections hon members to the individual Votes and the Schedule of the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B4 - 2020]?

An HON MEMBER: No, no objections.

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: Yes. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order. Thank you [Interjections.] Thank you, hon members. [Interjections.] Your objection has been noted. Thank you. Now that there is an objection, hon members [Interjections.] Order. In order for the members to have their respective votes on the abovementioned individual Votes and the Schedule of the Bill recorded correctly, I will enquire from the Chief Whips to indicate their respective parties' position on the Vote and Schedule of the Bill. Now will the Chief Whip of the DA please indicate whether the DA is in support of the Votes and Schedule of the Bill?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Democratic Alliance is in support of the Votes and the Schedule of the Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Chief Whip of the DA. Are there any individual members of the DA who wish to have a different vote from that of the party?

An HON MEMBER: No, hon Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members of the DA. Will the Chief Whip of the ANC indicate the ANC's vote on the schedule in the Bill, on the Votes and the Schedule of the Bill?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The ANC is not in support of the Bill and neither to the Schedule itself.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Chief Whip of the ANC. Hon members of the ANC, are there any individual member of the ANC or members of the ANC who wish to record a different vote from that of the party as prescribed by the Chief Whip? Thank you, hon members. There is no-one it appears. Hon members, now we move to the parliamentary leader of the EFF to indicate the vote of the EFF in this regard.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Speaker. We do not support the Vote as well as the Schedule. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Xego. Hon members, I wish to request the indication from the EFF whether any member of the EFF has a different view from that of the party.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: No, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Makamba-Botya. Hon members, now I move to the GOOD party to obtain the indication of their vote.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Speaker. We support the Bill and the Schedule.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Herron. Hon members, I now move to the ACDP to obtain their indication on the Vote and the Schedule.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Hon Speaker, the ACDP supports the Bill and the Schedule.

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Christians. Hon members, I wish to request the vote of the FF Plus and the indication of how they wish to vote on the Vote and the Schedule of the Bill. Hon Marais? Hon Marais? One. Going, two. Three. In his absence I will move to the Al Jama-ah and they are absent. Hon Marais, we have given you the last chance and now we are moving Al Jama-ah and they are absent and now I have to announce on the outcome of the results of the vote. Give me an opportunity to finalise the count hon members, which I will announce shortly.

[Votes tallied.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order. I am now back with the results of the count. I wish to bring to the attention of the hon members that the hon members that were present at the time of the voting, it was in fact 34 and that is the absence of hon Marais from the F F Plus, who was counted as part of the 35, and he has since been absent during the time of the counting.

Now I wish to announce the results of the count. That we have 25 hon members who have voted in support of the Votes and the Schedule of the Bill

and nine hon members that have voted to oppose the Votes and the Schedule of the Bill. Hon members, the Votes and the Schedule of the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B4 - 2020] is therefore approved and as such is carried.

Hon members, the names of individual members present and their support or otherwise for the questions before the House will be recorded in the Minutes of the proceedings to ensure a full record of the voting of the Bill. Hon members, that concludes this particular order and now I request the Secretary to read the Eighth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Finalisation of the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B4 - 2020] including the clauses and short title.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, at this point I recognise the hon Minister of Finance and there is no speaker's list for this part.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker. I move that the Bill be finalised.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister of Finance. Hon members, are there any objections to the Bill, clauses and short title being finalised?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): No objections.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, again, are there any objections? No objections. Agreed to.

The SPEAKER: Hon members I have to announce that because there are no objections the House has reached the end of these proceedings. I am going to request that the members pat themselves on the back. It has been a great sitting and it has been a phenomenal experience to go through this process. I am sure you have noted the way of voting. It has been exciting since Wednesday and of course today.

I wish to thank the hon members and thank the IT support and all staff members of the House and of course to say to the House that the Bill will be sent to the Premier for assent. The Secretary will now read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year).

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon members. The Bill will be sent to the Premier for assent and at this point I want to again, as I said earlier, say that we have reached the end and the sitting is now adjourned and thank you very much. Have a great evening. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 16:30.