
TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2023

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 10:00.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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

Hon members experiencing challenges in connecting to the Sitting are requested to contact the WCPP ICT colleagues who will assist to resolve their connectivity challenges.

Hon members, the quorum requirements for Sittings of the House are provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules. Unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and on the hybrid system, who are entitled to cast their votes as per the ATC issued on 11 August 2020. Members present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order.

Hon members, the Sergeant-at-Arms will record the members' attendance.

In instances where Directives do not cover a particular eventuality, hon members, the Standing Rules must apply, and in instances where these Rules cannot be applied, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

Members, all microphones have been muted. However, for those hon members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams, you are requested to use the raise-hand functionality of the system when you desire to raise a point of order and I will recognise you. When a hon member in the Chamber wishes to raise a point of order, such an hon member may address the Presiding Officer, as expected, but must mute their microphones when

they have completed speaking.

Hon members, the media have also been granted access to this Microsoft Teams meeting as guests of the WCPP. However, I wish to remind members of the press that they may not use the chat room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress. If an individual member, who is not a member of the House, activates the microphone and video camera, such an individual member will be exited from the Sitting immediately.

I also wish to request that all those members in the gallery who are not members of the House, to please observe the decorum of the House.

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

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

Hon members, welcome to the Sitting today. It is indeed a great honour and a privilege for me to welcome the delegation in the gallery, from Ethiopia. Welcome and enjoy the Sitting. You are welcome!

Hon members, with that being said, the Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The SECRETARY: Consideration of principle of the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B7–2023]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Secretary. I recognise the hon Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, Minister Wenger.

HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear! [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker, hon Premier, Cabinet colleagues, members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, special guests, people of the Western Cape. Let me start by recognising the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, our support for victims of gender-based violence, our efforts to end the cycle of violence through support to victims, as well as support to perpetrators to end the cycle of violence and to prevent violence against women and girls.

Speaker, it was renowned French writer, Antoine De Saint Exupéry who said that "a goal without a plan is just a wish", and right now South Africans do not need more wishes or false promises of a better tomorrow, because we are living with the stark reality and consequences of failed service delivery and infrastructure collapse today, thanks to years of ANC mismanagement,

corruption and neglect.

The economic outlook for South Africa is quite simply bleak. Rolling Stage 6 blackouts are back and severely hampering economic growth. Our national infrastructure, and therefore economy, is buckling. Our ports are barely functioning and costing the economy billions of rands and hundreds of thousands of jobs. Our road networks are clogged, making it that much harder for our retail manufacturing and agricultural life lines to reach export markets, and inflexible labour laws, restrictive national procurements and cumbersome supply regulations all combine to choke growth while opportunities slip past and ships sail past. These constraints are hampering the outlook for the Western Cape and the province is expected to expand by 0,9% in 2023 and 1,5% in 2024.

The country's slow economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is not helped by weekly revelations and allegations of ANC Government-led corruption and mismanagement by the very people elected to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of millions of South Africans in one of the most unequal societies with the world's highest unemployment rate and with the skyrocketing cost of living, and this weekend's announcement of a support package for Transnet and a guarantee from National Treasury in the context of national budget planning collapse, will sow the seeds for future problems if we do not see immediate results and is emblematic of how deep our problems run.

We can only make serious and sustainable inroads into a growing economy in which businesses are welcomed and supported to responsibly establish and create jobs with a commitment to good clean governance and driven towards a clear and planned outcome in a professional environment where sound plans are developed and implemented, and poorly performing entities are not bailed out year after year, while the poor continue to suffer and bear the brunt of politically expedient but fiscally impossible decisions. Speaker, in this province our goal of a trillion rand jobs rich inclusive, sustainable, diverse and thriving provincial economy that is growing at between 4% and 6% per year in real terms by 2035, is more than just a wish or a hope. We are focused on achieving this goal because it has the potential to create over 600 000 jobs through meticulous planning and expert execution because we know that with those jobs comes dignity, comes hope and the promise of a better future for every single person in this province, most especially for the poor and the vulnerable, and we are taking determined steps towards the thriving economy every day in a planned and certain way. As I shared last Thursday we are seeing the signs of progress and indications that this work is going in the right direction.

According to the most recent Quarterly Labour Force Survey in the Western Cape, we created more than 300 000 new jobs between Quarter 3 of 2022 and Quarter 3 of this year... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...which is more than any other province. We also have the lowest unemployment rate, the lowest expanded unemployment rate, the highest absorption rate and the highest labour force participation rate in South Africa. Speaker, our people are working, our Province is working and as a Government we are working.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: We are planning and we are preparing to do much more especially for those who matter most and especially our children, the sick, the elderly and the poorest of the poor. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: This could be [Inaudible.] property. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: We can only do this through stable and predictable allocations of revenue that the Constitution requires... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: But, as we now know, this is not what happened in-year. Right now as a Province we are all facing truly devastating budget cuts because of the unfunded National Wage Deal that will crowd out provincial funding and significantly limit the ability of this Government to deliver vital basic services to a growing population. Nothing more plainly demonstrates the consequences of kicking a can down the road with nothing but a wish for a solution than the Public Sector Wage Deal. I announced last week that the Western Cape Government, led by the Premier, myself and all of our colleagues in the Cabinet, are tackling this fight head-on.

We have declared a formal intergovernmental dispute with the National Government to make sure, not just by wishing or hoping that the people of this province get every single cent that they deserve.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Provincial governments are the people-intensive sphere of government. We rely on our nurses, teachers, social workers to deliver basic services to millions of citizens every day and with the growing population to respond to overwhelming pressure on our services. Similarly any shift of funding away from infrastructure will have a devastating effect on basic service delivery, the construction industry and economic growth and job creation and through this action now we are trying to avoid dramatic reductions in that money and

consequently, service delivery spending in order to cater for the wage liability; reductions that will have a devastating impact on the ability of Province to deliver vital well-being and safety services and create many more jobs that South Africa needs for hope and prosperity for all.

The National Government concluded the Wage Deal after our budgets for the year were planned for, set and passed. The outcome of the Wage Deal and increases were unilaterally and centrally implemented on the payroll system, so all provinces automatically started incurring this expenditure with no certainty on how this would be funded. It is worth reiterating that this expenditure was additional to the past Provincial Budget... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...which means that there is an unbudgeted liability imposed on us and it is growing every month. We were forced to proceed on trust that funding support will be received from the National Fiscus and now, in the middle of the financial year, far past even the eleventh hour, National Government has only committed to funding 78% of the Health and Education wage liability only... [Interjections.]

Ms A BANS: So this is the National Government, Speaker.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... and

we have been left to carry the can with a significant R1,1 billion shortfall. It is our view and it has always been our position that the wage liability should be fully funded through allocations to provinces by those who negotiated and concluded the Wage Deal, the National Government. [Interjection.]

Ms A BANS: Can you get back to the Province?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Wage negotiations by their very nature will always mainly affect provinces, as the majority of civil servants are employed by provinces. This is because of our constitutional mandates of Health and Education. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order members! Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP: Yes, Speaker. Speaker, I rise on Rule 39. I believe this is a political debate, but we are governed by Rules in this House. No loud conversion is allowed. Can you please rule, Speaker? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, I am listening very carefully. Hon members on the floor, hon members, I am going to ask your indulgence. It is a political debate, so I am going to allow a bit of latitude, but please do not drown out the speaker and allow the person that is on the floor to have an opportunity to make his or her contribution. Thank you very much, hon Chief. Hon Minister, my apologies, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you. This is because of our constitutional mandates of Health and Education and Social Development, which are all human-resource intensive. This is where, as a government, we connect with the people of our province through our doctors, our nurses, our teachers and our social workers. The Western Cape Government is committed to effective and sustainable management of the overall Public Service Wage Bill, but I formally raised concerns about the funding of the 2023 Wage Agreement, particularly in the short term as far back as April of this year. Both the Premier and myself have raised these issues repeatedly with the National Government and the Presidency over months, reiterating our objections to foisting the consequences of the Wage Deal onto provinces with nothing but a wish that this problem will take care of itself. Speaker, this is just not how problem solving and responsible fiscal planning works. In the Western Cape we will continue with our established practice of exercising absolute prudence around compensation of employees so that we can limit the impact on our residents both financially and for better service delivery. Our Compensation of Employees as a percentage of our budget amounts to approximately 52% of our expenditure. This is the lowest across all provinces and has resulted in the lowest average unit cost in both the national and provincial spheres of government.

It is the result of our sustained enforcement of compensation ceilings and an emphasis on headcount management but should there be no resolution to the issue, we will face an immediate impact on frontline service delivery and a

risk to our constitutional responsibilities as the Western Cape has little to no room to cover any funding shortfalls thrown to provinces to cover in-year, without adequate funding from the National Government. The prioritisation of service delivery for the people who matter is a non-negotiable for this Government. We do not just wish for a better future for our people, we go out there with a plan to secure that future for our people, for safer, better lives with more jobs for the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable in our society.

It is also worth mentioning that our service delivery partners that we rely on to help deliver those vital services are also at breaking point and there is no scope to significantly reduce transfer payments to them. We cannot divert funding away from maternal child and infant healthcare, antenatal care, tuberculosis treatment and basic medical care. We also cannot significantly reduce transfers to non-profit institutions for community-based care that provide mental health services, chronic care and tuberculosis and HIV, AIDS adherence support, and within the Social Development sector our NPOs, our non-profit organisations cannot absorb any more cuts as they bolster the provision of essential services to the province's most vulnerable residents.

It also means that critical and targeted infrastructure investments like the Rapid School Build for more schools and classrooms for our children to learn, are severely compromised, and so through a Herculean effort to avoid these unconscionable impacts on service delivery, we have engaged extensively with the National Government to avoid this situation with no real

relief and for this reason we have taken the difficult but necessary step of declaring an intergovernmental dispute, Speaker. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Our message is clear – fund the wage liability in-year. Give us the R1,1 billion shortfall that is owed to the people of our province or we will take this to the courts.

Speaker, the impact of the floods in May and June and September of this year on infrastructure across the province has been plain to see. It has also been plain to see the difference that decisive leadership in a clear, achievable plan makes with key roads connecting communities to jobs and our economy being opened in record time, like the vital N2 and I commend Ministers Simmers and Bredell in their determination to deliver real results through real action, not just a wish.

Initial costing from the Department of Infrastructure and Agriculture brings the cost of all the damage across the province to R845 million and R500 million respectively. The Western Cape Government has not and will not receive funding this year from the National Disaster Management Centre as their funds set aside specifically to respond to disasters are depleted and so the Adjustment Budget draws down R193 million from the unforeseen and unavoidable reserve for flood damage, which includes R150 million in

2024/25 for roads infrastructure and another R43 million for repairs to agriculture infrastructure damaged by the floods, while we manage longer term repairs and the allocation of funding from the resources that are meant to be available from the National Disaster Management Centre for such eventualities, and when we build, Speaker, we build better and after this year's flooding disasters, we are building back even better so that we can weather the impacts of climate change with more resilience to better serve and connect our communities and economy for sustainable growth and more jobs.

The importance of certain and sustainable allocations cannot be overemphasised and the value of stable and predictable budgeting and especially the impact of this year's unstable, unreliable and short term pay as you go budgeting is felt and seen most acutely in the Department of Infrastructure and the myriad infrastructure projects being pursued across the government, especially in Health and Education. As a province, we are prioritising sustainable and achievable maintenance of our infrastructure and assets so that we can do more with less for longer.

We are also ensuring that we can commit to the projects we plan for so that the businesses and people that rely on Government infrastructure for their jobs and livelihoods can do so with the certainty that what the Western Cape promises, the Western Cape delivers.

HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: But as I made clear at the outset, this cannot be done in our fiscal context and the impact of the Wage Deal will and is crowding out funding for critical service delivery, especially in infrastructure.

The total 2023/24 Adjustment to Infrastructure Investment is therefore a reduction of R822,8 million of the Main Appropriation of R11,7 billion. The largest adjustment occurred in the Department of Infrastructure, where the appropriation was decreased by R372 million from the Main Appropriation to the Adjusted Appropriation, followed by Education and Health and Wellness, with a reduction of R248 million and R136,4 million respectively. A huge chunk of the decreases for infrastructure are due to cuts to National Conditional Grants in the amount of R323,8 million, which is made-up of R51,7 million reduction in the Provincial Road Maintenance Grant. A R214,3 million reduction in the Human Settlements Development Grant, a R57,2 million reduction in the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnerships Grant and a R650 000 reduction in the Expanded Public Works' Programme Integrated Grant for Provinces.

Offsetting the decrease in the budget are reprioritisation's made in maintenance and repairs by R568,4 million and upgrades and additions by R49,12 million. Spending on Agriculture Infrastructure has been reduced through a R19,5 million reduction comprising of R1 million reduction on the earmarked allocation towards the Ecological Infrastructure Project and a

R18,5 million reduction on the earmarked allocation towards the River Protection Works along the Keurbooms River, Jan Du Toit's River and Upper Hex River. The earmarked allocations remaining for River Protection Works at R18,5 million will be used for their intended purpose in the 2024/25 financial year.

Our Catalytic Infrastructure Priorities have also been reduced and a total of R36 million has been cut from our ability to further grow jobs but the priority of an energy resilient and thriving economy that grows towards a future that is free from the chokehold of loadshedding remains a key focus, but the reality is that we are now forced to do so more progressively within the deeply constrained fiscal environment as a consequence of the unfunded Wage Deal.

Speaker, before my colleagues share the impact of the devastating and unprecedented in-year cuts on their well laid plans for this province's wellbeing, safety and jobs, allow me to share more gentle wisdom on the difference between mere wishes and successful plans. It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan.

Eleanor Roosevelt knew the importance of taking intentional action towards an outcome and not just proclaiming a passive desire for an outcome, and today this Government knows what those planned outcomes can and should be, a growing province with a jobs rich, thriving, resilient and diverse economy and a safe and healthy future for every family in this province.

We cannot do it alone and we can only do it with budget certainty, a laser focus plan and a sound basis of good clean governance that you can rely on.

In the Western Cape, we are fighting for that certainty and what the people of this province are lawfully entitled to so that we can grow the economy, we can grow jobs and grow hope for every single resident. Thank you, Speaker.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hear, hear!

HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

†Ms N D NKONDLO: Mandizibulisele kuwe, Somlomo. Ndibulise kumntu wonke okhoyo kule ndlu yoWiso Mthetho yaseNtshona Koloni. Ndibulise kuzo zonke eh...abantu abasihambeleyo namhlanje kule ndlu yoWiso Mthetho. Ndifune ukutsho Somlomo, ukuthi,..

Ms N D NKINDLO: Let me greet you, Speaker. Let me greet everyone who is here in Western Cape Parliament. Let me also greet everyone who is a guest here at the Western Cape Parliament. I would like to say, Speaker,..

During this 16 Days of Activism, let me also join to recognise those men and women in our country who fight side by side against gender-based violence

and femicide. Actually the biggest predicament that this generation of politicians, that we are sitting with, is actually whether they would in any way contribute to the elimination of gender-based violence and femicide in our lifetime and I am saying this also recognising, Somlomo, that at NY 28 in Gugulethu over the past few days, a young woman was shot dead with her son and I am asking once again the Premier and this Provincial Government and Department that those lives are too many of women and children in this province, especially in the Cape Flats, because this has become a reality from their apartheid days up until 30 years into democracy, even with almost 15 years of the DA-rule that this particular problem does not seem to be removed, and we ask where is the Safety Plan? It is a Safety Plan for whom when our young women continue to be dealing with such a problem.

The ANC rejects this Adjustment Appropriations Budget Bill. Somlomo.

Now nearly two months ago, Oxfam International, ahead of the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, released a research of their own, which, amongst others, stated:

"More than half, 57% of the world's poorest countries, home to over 2,4 billion people are having to cut public spending by a combined \$229 billion US dollars over the next five years."

The research goes on to state that and I again quote:

"On current terms, low and lower middle income countries will be forced to pay nearly half a billion dollars every day in interest and debt repayments between now and 2029. Entire countries are facing bankruptcy, with the poorest countries now spending four times more repaying debts to reach creditors than on healthcare."

For their part, the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, based at Columbia University in the United States, released a working paper titled "End Austerity: and Global Report on Budget Cuts and Harmful Social Reforms in 2020."

It says, again, among others, the working paper highlighted the dangers of a post pandemic austerity shock, which is far more premature and severe than the one that followed the global financial crisis, because this is not the first time that we are here as a country, but also as the people of the globe. The working paper code goes on to state that:

"Instead of harmful austerity measures or fiscal consolidation, as we say, governments must urgently identify alternative financing options to support their populations that are coping with multiple and compounding crises, from health, energy, finance and climate shocks to unaffordable living costs."

The report goes on to present, firstly, the instances of 189 countries identified by the IMF where up until 2025 budget cuts will take place.

Secondly, the working paper reviews the latest 267 IMF Country Reports to identify the main austerity measures being considered by treasuries and the IMF in each country, and finally, the report presents alternative financing options, ultimately calling on countries to end austerity by creating a fiscal space to finance people's recovery and progress towards human rights and the sustainable development goals.

We mention all of this, Speaker, because these articles will make good reading for the members in this House, particularly on the other side. While the ANC acknowledges that austerity measures are viewed as useful to curb hyperinflation and the balancing act towards dealing with debt, such must never be presented as a silver bullet, especially to South Africa as a developing economy with its structural problems of a racialised market economy and underdevelopment of a huge majority. We have been here before, and indeed, as we listen to the reports we read the report of the IMF, Premier, one still is asking where exactly is, as we conclude this administration, where is the fiscal futures, because part of the expectation of the fiscal futures indeed, was to try and augment some of the public financing models so that you start considering the data and the evidence that you always speak about, data that we received in the past in the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook, in the Provincial Economic Review and Outlook that speak about the persistent structural problems because even if you were to lament and politic about the issues of corruption, the issues that we see to date amongst public service in terms of how we are mismanaging

some of the decisions that we make as policymakers, the truth and the evidence is here, and speaking for itself. It speaks for itself as we talk about unemployment. I want to follow suit to date and actually learn from hon Meyer who always shares these books here. On page 19 of this book, if you all see it, it is called Medium Term Budget Policy Statement of this Provincial Government, youth unemployment rate per population group in the Western Cape in the Third Quarter 2018 to the Third Quarter of 2023. I must say the total youth unemployment is 27,5%, Minister, as you said in the report and 37,3% is African, then Coloureds at 23,1% and this is the question we kept on asking you, MEC Wenger, together with your team as to how is the Growth for Jobs responding to this particular peculiarity, particularly because this peculiarity also in this book, it explains that those that are struggling to get employment are those with less than a matric qualification, and indeed we see from the Education Department that this Western Cape, amongst others, is no longer performing in as far as Matric performance, particularly from these communities, Africans in particular and Coloureds, you know, if you consider the results in the education system. Further than that, we raised, amongst others, the issue of crime.

Once again, MEC Allen, we asked the question around extortion protection fees that are actually a challenge and a nightmare for township enterprises and we must say here in this House and this is an answer that there is no response from the Safety Plan around township entrepreneurs, so they must fend for themselves. They are struggling daily to deal with the realities of extortion so if you talk about budget for future, whose future are you

planning for, MEC Wenger? [Interjections.]

Again, as we talk about the informal employment, actually we ask many a time where is this G4J Strategy responding to informal employment and I must say, I hasten again to raise another book as you see the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook of the Cape Metro, it indicates on page 24 that from spaza shop owners in the Cape Metro to the hairdresser operating from Beaufort West in the Central Karoo, the informal sector is pivotal in generating employment opportunities in the province. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

Ms N D NKONDLO: It was you sitting on the other side even last year, indicating to us that indeed you are recognising that informal employment, the informal sector has actually recorded positive growth last year, but you keep on being deaf in responding to this informal sector. When we asked what is the strategy of ensuring that and a lot of informal traders that are harassed by your friends, JP Smith amongst others, to whom you donated, Premier, R1 billion for him to buy his toys so that he can harass most of our Black informal traders who are trading and all they are trying to do is to make a living for themselves so that they do not depend on your Government, but all what you do to them, you only – your response is to harass them and we say this because again this Government, you are very quick to speak through your City of Cape Town to speak to Google, to remove Nyanga because one tourist from Europe was mugged in Nyanga and you were quick

to respond to tourism safety and put money in the adjustment when there was some problems in Table Mountain, you were quick to do the same in rural safety when there were problems of farmers, but once again, every time, every year, every day as we speak, there are many Black entrepreneurs who are actually extorted in our townships and we keep on raising that... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms N D NKONDLO: ...not even one single day that you have taken any money aside in your budget adjustment and actually increased any intervention in the townships and this is you, the writing is on the wall and we say part of what you say about your fiscal consolidation, you speak about flexible labour regulation. What this means is a free pass to yourselves and your friends, corporates, who you want to have the right to hire and fire, and we must tell you, as we did, we must tell you that the rights of workers and the rights of workers of the world are not going to be dismissed by you and your corporates that actually bully and are abusive to workers, that it is the right of workers as they contribute to these corporates and they put their sweat... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms N D NKONDLO: Their meagre salaries and protective conditions that you would want to see, with many of those that once again you were mugged and

silent when most of them here in the Western Cape were found to have actually withdrawn the UIF, the Unemployment Insurance Funds during COVID from the fund, but did not pay the workers. Some of them did not even register workers. They keep on exploiting and when we asked you... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms N D NKONDLO: ...we will keep on saying you engaged with the private sector here, you said that is not your responsibility. So you know the only responsibilities that are in proximity to your political agenda and we are here to ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo...

Ms N D NKONDLO: ...and we shall... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, my apologies, please take your seat. Hon Dugmore, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, Chair. My point of order is, Speaker, my point of order is similar to that raised by the hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party, that I want to ask because what member Nomi Nkondlo is saying is hitting the DA so hard that they feel embarrassed that they are making a noise... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Because the truth hurts so I want to really appeal to just listen to the speech. Can they just listen?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Can they listen to the truth.

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, please take your seat. Hon Dugmore, that is not a point of order. Hon members, I am appealing to you again. Hon Windvogel, are you done?

†Die LEIER VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: Die waarheid maak seer.

[The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The truth hurts.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there was a point of order; that is not a point of order. Hon Nkondlo, my apologies for interrupting you. You may continue.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Nkosi Somlomo. Let me continue, hon Speaker, I have the right to speak here and I am not asking any favour from anybody. Further to this... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members!

Ms N D NKONDLO: This is the same Provincial Government who continues to actually promote corporate abuse in this particular province of ours. We see this with the displacement of nationals by illegal immigrants, migrants.

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, your time has expired. Please conclude.

Ms N D NKONDLO:: And hospitality, to name a few. Let me say...

The SPEAKER: Order members! [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: This week my colleagues would go into the details of the reallocation... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

Ms N D NKONDLO: ...of critical funds to programmes that should not be prioritised. The ANC cannot support this budget because it is anti workers and exposes the hypocrisy of the DA. We decline to support this budget.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, I recognise... [Interjections.] Order members! Before I recognise the next member, can I have some order? Thank you very much, hon Murray.

The PREMIER: Hear, hear!

Ms C MURRAY: Hon speaker, as we engage in the Second Reading Debate, our focus turned sharply to the pressing challenges of job creation and addressing unemployment in our province. In a climate marked by economic difficulty and questionable decisions at the national level, these challenges and finding solutions remain top of mind. Our debate today must go beyond rhetoric and address the very fabric of our province's future. I begin by recognising the stellar efforts of the DA-led Western Cape Government, as demonstrated by the Provincial Minister of Finance, Mireille Wenger, and her speech on the MERO.

The speech highlighted the promise of a thriving economy, our municipal building blocks for growth. We have seen encouraging signs in our economic growth and resilience with our municipalities serving as vital building blocks for our economy. Four out of the Western Cape's six regions have unemployment rates under 20%, with Cape Winelands and the Overberg region having rates below 15%. Speaker, this is compared to 32,6% nationally.

The Western Cape is pushing far above its weight. However, we must recognise that we cannot achieve sustainable growth in isolation. We are unfortunately confronted by the spectre of budget cuts, a shadow cast upon us by an ANC-led National Government. These reductions in budget allocations to provinces have far-reaching implications, and they demand our urgent attention. In an era when we should be fostering growth and job creation, the ANC-led National Government has chosen a different path.

As a result of agreeing to a public wage increase, the country cannot afford, they have chosen to reduce budgets in real terms, limiting our capacity to drive economic development effectively. They have passed the buck to provinces by not fully funding the centrally agreed increase, forcing them to take difficult decisions regarding frontline services. The financial mishandling of the ANC itself paints a dismal picture of their fiscal responsibility. Despite receiving R1,9 billion in donations and fundraising, the ANC is facing a severe cash-crunch, having lost about R244 million between 2018 and last year. This financial mismanagement is exemplified. It is exemplified, Speaker, by the million rand debt to Ezulwini Investments for unpaid election material. The situation not only questions their ability to manage their own affairs, but that of the entire National Government. Speaker, this is the same party... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms C MURRAY: ... that had the nerve not to support our Provincial Budget, and it is the same party that has the nerve to pretend that it advocates for the rights and interests of the worker. The DA-led Western Cape Government has proactively decided to shield Health, Education and Social Development from the bulk of budget cuts.

Ms A BANS: You present the DA... [Inaudible.]

Ms C MURRAY: This is especially concerning and it should be especially concerning to all of us, because we are currently in 16 Days of Activism and if we have to shield Health, Education and Social Development, Speaker, those are the Departments protecting our women and they are also protecting our children. It is a direct result of the ANC's fiscal irresponsibility and begs the question: are they truly committed to the well-being of our people?

Ms A BANS: What are you really ... [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms C MURRAY: The people of the Western Cape deserve better.

The SPEAKER: Hon Murray, please take your seat. Hon Sayed, is that a point of order? What is your point of order? Please rise.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The point of

order, hon Speaker...

The SPEAKER: Order, members! There is a member on the floor, order members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...is that the hon Murray is reading the speech. Can she lift the words off the page please? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, that is a point of order. Hon members, there has also been convention in this House and let us not be frivolous with these points of orders. I am not disputing that that is in the Rules, but please, do not interject for the sake of interjecting. Hon Murray, you may continue. Hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Speaker. I would like to just address you on your ruling. As much as it may have become a convention, it is still a Rule of this House that you may not read your speech. Now in delivering her speech, member Murray is not even looking up. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Oh come-on!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So surely the convention is that you should at least look up once or twice and not only read the speech.

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have made a ruling. Hon Murray, you may continue. Hon members, we have a long day ahead of us. Hon Murray, please. You may continue. Hon Murray, you may continue.

Ms C MURRAY: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, the people of the Western Cape deserve better than frivolous points of order too. They deserve a government that invests in their future, a government that prioritises jobs, economic development, tourism and agriculture – the very sectors that are the lifeblood of our province. The ANC-led National Government's cuts threaten our ability to support businesses and entrepreneurs. The Department of Economic Development has therefore seen its budget reduced by almost R30 million. The cuts are a result of the necessity of consolidating funds to make sure that our residents have healthcare and our children have access to quality education. This is a time when we should be supporting and encouraging innovation, providing incentives for job creation and supporting economic growth. Yet we find our hands tied, unable to realise the potential of our Economic Development Programmes. Our province's tourism sector is a jewel in our economic prime. It drives growth, creates businesses and showcases the beauty of the Western Cape to the entire world but the budget cuts, coupled with the challenges posed by the global pandemic put the sector at risk. It is disheartening to see that we should be investing in this recovery and expansion and yet not be able to. Our agricultural sector is also renowned for its quality and contribution to our economy. It is a sector that holds vast

potential for job creation, not to mention its role in ensuring food security. Yet budget cuts undermine our ability to invest in modernising agriculture, improving resilience and promoting sustainable practices. The Department of Agriculture has seen its budget cut by almost R7 million, much of that due to cuts to conditional grant funding from the National Government. Grants that are supposed to be used to support industry, farm workers and emerging farmers have all seen substantial cuts. This includes cuts to the comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme, the Land Care Development and the Extended Public Works Programme. National Government has also seen fit to allocate no disaster funding for the intense flooding and saw agricultural infrastructure in the province decimated, despite a provincial disaster being declared. This is especially concerning in the face of intensifying effects of climate change, which will see more regular occurrences of natural disaster, but, Speaker, let us not forget about the informal economy, a sector that plays a vital role in providing livelihoods for many. It is a sector that requires support, recognition and investment, not further financial constraints. This Government has done an outstanding job in supporting the sector through programmes like the Red Tape Reduction Unit and their work with municipalities on business friendly bylaws, making it easier for entrepreneurs to sell their goods and contribute to the economy. I would urge our members of Parliament from the Opposition to kindly look at the G4J which spells this out quite clearly.

These are the programmes that make positive differences in the lives of our family and our people. The reality is that these things cost money. Budget

cuts will limit our ability to deliver and expand services effectively.

The PREMIER: The President's Red Tape... [Inaudible.]

Ms C MURRAY: Speaker, concerning these challenges in our province, we must redouble our efforts and make the most of the resources that we have. We must innovate and find efficiencies while prioritising projects that have high return on investments. [Interjections.]

I support this Provincial Budget, not because it is perfect, but because it is the best that can be done under the impossible circumstances created by the ANC, who have further exacerbated load shedding, exacerbated the ports' crisis, increased inequality in South Africa and increased unemployment.

I support this budget, Speaker, because the Western Cape is a government that can make tough decisions even when they are... [Interjection.]

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

Ms C MURRAY: Speaker, to conclude, I support this budget and, come May 2024, I know that the people of this province and country will do so too by voting you out.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much, hon Murray. Thank you, hon Murray. Hon Klaas, are you on the virtual platform?

Mr T KLAAS: Yes, Speaker, I am on the virtual platform?

The SPEAKER: Alright, I recognise you, hon Klaas. You may continue.

Mr T KLAAS: Okay, Speaker, I am busy now opening the file for me to address you.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I am struggling to hear the member.

Mr T KLAAS: Do you hear me now?

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, your time is starting.

Mr T KLAAS: Okay, Speaker, the speech provided by the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunity when tabling the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement and the Adjustment Budget of 2023/24 financial year has all the hallmarks of a failed government.

Speaker, when it comes to safety, it makes no sense how this Provincial Government decided to cut the Law Enforcement Budget by R22 million whereas crime in the province continues to grow. We do not have to look far. The recent second Quarterly Crime Statistic for 2023 paints a very gloomed and consistent picture about the ability of Western Cape to fight crime. As things stand and the province fighting a losing battle against crime and

criminal syndicates operating with impunity, Cape Town Central Police Station remains the number 1 Police Station in the whole country when it comes to serious reported crimes. Nyanga is also part when it comes to contact crimes. The highest number rate in the whole of South Africa happens here in Delft. This is what was revealed by the recently tabled National Crime Statistics. What is also shocking is that when the Premier of this Province began his term in the Sixth Parliament, they introduced the Plan which will be effected by LEAP officers, but today we are told about the budget that has been cut. The Safety Plan has not produced results.

In Education, the Western Cape School Placement System remains a disaster as many Black and Coloured learners are often rejected in Quintiles 4 and 5 schools, as Whites are preferred. It is the high time we move away from the system and have a transparent school placement system.

In jobs, on the issue of jobs, the Minister claims its Government creating enabling environment for jobs. In this recent past they have made it clear that by this they largely referred to direct foreign investment in the province for the purpose of job creation. While we have no issue with the foreign direct investment, per se, the people of the Western Cape need sustainable jobs that will assist them in affording the necessities of life and providing for their families, is not enough to speak about Foreign Direct Investment and job creation.

While you predominantly refer to a temporary Call Centre, jobs and part-time

jobs is what is needed for our people to empower in order to give them jobs created themselves. Thus the Provincial Government must start to empower people in townships who are running their own businesses. Small business is integral part of the economy and means that many families have food on the table. The Government must empower and assist the communities who are involved in food gardening for both financial reasons and substance.

Speaker, on the Health issue, when it comes to the health our people in townships are still struggling to get to functional clinics. [Audio breaks up.] The majority of our people are still subjected to long queues and most of them even running without receiving assistance. As we speak the Nyanga Central District has a dysfunctional Health Desk. Seven to eight to nine they still remain unattended and the same clinic will rush to close earlier.

Infrastructure, Speaker, the housing backlog is in the province. [Inaudible, 00:55:26, audio breaks up] ... actually is doing about it.

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, your time has expired.

Mr T KLAAS: Recently shacks burnt in Nyanga near Home Affairs, and there is no-one assisting them, those people. We have a hopeless government. Thank you. I reject the Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Klaas. I recognise the hon Pretorius.

Mr G PRETORIUS: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, when the great author Ernest Hemingway was asked for his definition of courage, he responded simply, and I quote: "Grace under pressure."

That quote has been on my mind in recent weeks as our country grapples with the stark reality of our predicament. Today it is both my honour and my duty to rise in support of this Adjustment Budget but I do so cognisant of the fact that this Government has been forced to make the best of a very, very bad situation.

Decades upon decades of incessant looting, blatant corruption, and constant malfeasance on the part of the ANC have left our country in a state of profound financial distress. Saddled by an ill-conceived public wage agreement all the provinces...

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G PRETORIUS: ...including the Western Cape, now face significant shortfalls. To put it in blunt terms, there is simply no more money left. As my colleagues have noted, we are short of more than a billion rand in our province. It is only through these near superhuman efforts of this Government, in particular, Minister Wenger and their very able men and women at Provincial Treasury, that we have kept our frontline services afloat. The Department of Health and Wellness, whose Standing Committee I

chair, has received a modest increase, allowing for some of the Western Cape's most important health services to remain funded. District Health Services, Emergency Medical Services and Central Hospital Services have all received slight increases.

This comes at the cost of large scale cuts to the Health Facilities Management Budget, as well as cuts elsewhere in Government. Even so, this vital Department, responsible for the wellbeing of our people, still finds itself 20% short of what it needs to pay salaries at the rate the National Government agreed to.

Speaker, and this is merely the tip of the iceberg. At the start of this year, the ANC Government gutted the Health Sector Conditional Grants. With this Budget, they have continued to do so. Among other cuts, more than R57 million has been cut from the Health Facility Revitalisation Grant. R674 000 has been lost from this Social Sector Expanded Public Works Programme Incentive Grant and a staggering R66,5 million has been cut from the HIV AIDS component of the District Health Programme's Grant.

Speaker, this means that National Government's cash-strapped situation will now cut into the funds that save lives. In recent weeks, the ANC has attempted to spin this budget. They have suggested that my party takes pride in these spending cuts and that this Budget's provisions are somehow the fault of this Government and the party that it leads.

This is a notion that would be laughable were it not so utterly tragic. In these statements we see a once great titan of the South African political landscape grasping at straws as our people realise the truth [Interjections.], that years of ANC looting and incompetence have brought the gravy train to a screeching halt. [Interjections.] The money has run out. The party is over. There is nothing left to steal and yet still the ANC would come here and criticise this Government for its efforts to weather the storm.

This Budget represents [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Pretorius, please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Speaker. In terms of Rule 39 can the hon member Klaas please be muted? I am not sure whether he is in the mall, but it is causing a disturbance.

An HON MEMBER: No, he is not in a mall, he is here.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. [Interjections.] Hon members, I am still in the Chair. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.]

Can I please ask that the Table staff please mute hon member Klaas.
[Interjections.] Hon member Pretorius, my apologies, you may continue.
[Interjections.]

Mr G PRETORIUS: Thank you, hon Speaker. This Budget represents the best option we have. The path forward through an impossible ANC created situation.

For that reason, hon Speaker, I support this Budget, but I also stand firmly in support of this Government's decision to launch an inter-governmental dispute to get the money we are owed. [Interjections.] We cannot and we will not allow the debts of our failing national rulers to be inherited by the same citizens of our country that have had their public funds stolen from them.

This DA-led Government will do what it has always done. It will courageously face the challenge, it will fight ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr G PRETORIUS: ... and get on with the task. [Interjections.] It will fight for the money rightly owed ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr G PRETORIUS: ... to the people of the Western Cape and it will put itself ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: For the rich. For the rich.

Mr G PRETORIUS: ... on the line to make sure ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Not for the poor.

Mr G PRETORIUS: ... that each and every one of our residents, including the elderly, the sick, the poor ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G PRETORIUS: ... and the destitute and my members opposite, are insulated from the catastrophe ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Not for the Blacks. You will never fight for the Blacks.

Mr G PRETORIUS: ... that the party opposite has become ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G PRETORIUS: ... to our country. Hon Speaker, that is courage. That, hon Speaker, is grace under pressure, but if this constant creeping erosion of

the State by its own rulers continues, courage alone will take us only so far.

[Interjections.]

While I support this Budget as well as the efforts of our Government to recover the money we need from National Treasury, I also stand in support of the only measure which will get us out of the situation permanently. A change in National Government at the next elections.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr G PRETORIUS: We cannot continue to keep a party in power that has spent a third of a century decimating everything they touch. [Interjections.]

Next year for the first time in three decades there will be a real possibility of removing the ANC from power. I urge the people of our nation, so often the exemplars [Interjections.] of grace under pressure, to harness their courage and make the change. Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Pretorius. Order, hon members.

Hon members, the next hon member is on the virtual platform, I recognise the hon member De Villiers. [Interjections.]

Mr P DE VILLIERS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Success is what you can see

on a scoreboard. Significance goes much deeper than that. That is what is unseen. [Interjections.]

The more I listen to the Budgets, the Readjusted Budgets, being tabled in this House and despite me being a member of this House, the more I tend to agree with a growing cause to do away with this level of government. By doing that we would free up these billions of rands we are being asked to vote on, to address the urgent and genuine needs of the people, such as the Basic Income Grant, free education, homebase caregivers and the development of rural areas.

All I have experienced this tier of government to be is an unnecessary drain of the fiscus and a bottleneck to service delivery and development. We should be realising both human and material resources caught up in this glorified administration that costs taxpayers billions to strengthen Local Government and service to the people, rather than it being swallowed up by the bureaucracy I see all around me in these proceedings.

The existence of this Parliament has not added value to service delivery and the hope that this tier of this Government would ensure the value of a People's Assembly has not materialised. It is currently being manipulated from with suggestions of increased membership, devolution and cessation in order to suit specific agendas. All it has done and continues to do is entrench tribalism and regionalism. The budgets before us all seek to entrench the status quo.

So the GOOD Party cannot support this. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hear-hear! [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member De Villiers. I now recognise the Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, Minister Allen.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Be serious, hey? Be serious. No jokes.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon Leader of the Official Opposition, hon members, honoured guests.

Hon Speaker, please allow me to also welcome the delegation from Ethiopia. It is located in the Horn of Africa [Applause.] and in being located in the

Horn of Africa, it is very clear today that the Western Cape Government, and as the saying goes, takes the bull by the horns, [Laughs.] which ultimately means that we need to take tough and decisive action and that is what we are doing here ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon – order, hon members! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... today, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, [Interjections.] hon Minister, can I – order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: So yes ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can I please remind you to please speak to me and ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The SPEAKER: ... not engage the members in the gallery.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Speaker, thank you so much. [Interjections.]

So yes, as the Western Cape Government we do take the bull by the horns and I want to remind this particular House that it was in June 2019 when the ANC made a claim that the Democratic Alliance was fabricating [Interjections.] information with regards to SAPS's under resourcing. The record will reflect and that will be allocated to the Leader of the Opposition.

However, it has been established that the National Government will never, hon Speaker, provide the South African Police Service with the relevant, necessary and required resources to combat crime in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] Quite frankly for the ANC it is the protection and safekeeping of themselves first, before the citizens of this province and our country. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, crime, particularly murder, continues to plague our communities. [Interjections.] It is the responsibility of the South African Police Service as mandated in the Constitution to serve and protect all, but they are expected to do so without the relevant and required resources.

As a reminder, we currently have just less than 90 000 officers that should be on the ground. [Interjections.] Ideally at station level nationally it should be 193 476, but we are actually only at 105 000.

So when in 2019 the ANC made the claim that we are fabricating under resourcing in the South African Police Service, at that particular time the

police to population ratio for the South African Police Service at a national level was one officer for every 315 residents. In the Western Cape it was one officer for every 509 residents. [Interjections.] It was not a fabrication. As I am standing here today the situation is even more dire as the average in the Western Cape is now one officer for every 550 residents.

So, hon Speaker, as the Western Cape Government we continue to see what the National Government is doing and this is part of the reason why the Premier in 2019 initiated the Western Cape Safety Plan [Interjections.] and may I remind, and to quote hon member Nkondlo when it is asked where is the Safety Plan? [Interjections.] Hon Speaker, quite frankly it is only the ANC in the Western Cape that is asking where is the Safety Plan because KZN ANC has the Safety Plan, National Government has the Safety Plan [Interjections.] and in 2020 the Western Cape Safety Plan was actually lifted ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order! Hon Minister, please take your seat.

Hon members, I have allowed some latitude because it is a political debate. I do not want to stifle your expressions, but please respect the speaker on the floor. Please do not drown out the speaker.

Hon Minister, can I please also remind you to speak to me.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you. My eyes has been fixated on you. Thank you so much for leading this particular House, hon Speaker. [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

So yes, during a benchmark visit to the Western Cape by the governing party in KZN, they have the Safety Plan.

So when the ANC in the Western Cape asks where is the Safety Plan, hon Premier Alan Winde will also make it available to them. That is why we have seen the shortfalls. [Interjections.] This caring Provincial Government, we have stepped in, we have stepped up, knowing full well that we should not be doing SAPS's job, but because of our people that are suffering under the yoke of crime, we could not allow the ANC's failure to continue. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, let me also remind this particular House, just 12 days ago [Interjections.] correspondence was sent by General Mawela, the PC for Gauteng, where he indicated in writing to the Premier of Gauteng that crime wardens in that particular province are not peace officers. [Interjections.] I have also sent our, I have also sent the *Gazette* to Gauteng colleagues of the ANC and that *Gazette* is number 2849, because as a government here and since my appointment, it was June last year, for the very first time we have sent Chrysalis graduates, which are peace officers, [Interjections.] and as I am standing here we now have 417 peace officers, Chrysalis graduates, [Interjections.] in the South African Police Service, helping and assisting in

the CSC. [Interjections.]

That particular correspondence sent by the PC from Gauteng stated that under no circumstances crime wardens must work in a CSC. We have followed the law. We have ultimately used regulation to ensure that we can step in. [Interjections.]

So yes, hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... as we are taking the bull by the horns under difficult circumstances, we are losing more than R30 million, which has a direct impact on the efforts to combat crime in our province. [Interjections.]

Of the R745 million appropriated to the 2023/2024 financial year, this has now decreased by 4,1% to R714 million.

When we discuss LEAP and whether LEAP is working. In our province, the Eastern Cape, KZN and Gauteng over the last four years, also increases in murder. This province have seen decreases. [Interjections.] The only province out of those four murder hot provinces, only this province. [Interjections.]

So our Law Enforcement Advancement Plan Officer Programme has directly been impacted by this reduction. This budget now has R22,3 million less. This is a body blow, but we are a resilient Government whose primary concern is the safety of our residents.

We are fully aware that the recent crime stats places Delft as the murder station in our country. We have been proactive in assisting SAPS in areas where the murder rate is the highest and our LEAP officers are only in those murder hotspots. They are in our 13 murder hotspots. They are not somewhere on the beach. They are working in crime ridden areas and that is why when hon member Nkondlo in this House, less than 27 minutes ago when hon member Nkondlo said, when hon member Nkondlo said, less than 27 minutes ago, [Interjections.] the truth and the evidence are here and speaks for itself. She is quite correct.

An HON MEMBER: Where?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
The truth and the evidence are here in the province that LEAP is working.
[Interjections.]

We have been proactive in assisting the South African Police Service and since LEAP's inception there have been over 3 200 arrests and 57 firearm confiscations in the area of Delft alone.

The Western Cape Liquor Authority, hon Speaker, which is an important entity in the regulation of liquor prices throughout the province, also sees a reduction of R1 million. [Interjections.] This important role that they play in the liquor sector, particularly to reduce the harms associated with the abuse of liquor, cannot be highlighted enough.

When we talk about Chrysalis, and this is deeply personal and I am very biased towards the Chrysalis Academy, I must state that this programme has also seen ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Has also seen a reduction.

So as I conclude, 2024 is approaching.

An HON MEMBER: No jokes.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
We are taking the bull [Interjections.] – the joke is on the ANC.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
That narrative is long gone. It is long gone. [Interjections.] You are failing
as a [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister, your time is up.
[Interjections.] Thank you very much, hon Minister, please take your seat.
[Interjections.]

I recognise the hon member Christians. [Interjections.] Order!

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] The ACDP
is saddened that the Western Cape Government must cut from essential
services R1,1 billion rand to fund the shortfall of the Wage Bill. The ACDP
is sad because the people of the Western Cape will suffer, but I will deal with
this when it comes to the respective Votes. [Interjections.]

Let me deal with the ANC Western Cape hosting the terrorist organisation,
the Hamas. [Interjections.] The ANC will sell their soul because of the
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: ... dire need of money. They are ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: ... bankrupt financially and bankrupt morally.

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: The ANC colluding with well-recognised

...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Christians, please take your seat. Hon member Sayed, is that a point of order?

An HON MEMBER: It is just such a joke of ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, the pastor is misleading the House. [Interjections.] Hamas is not a terrorist organisation according to South African [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, please take your seat. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): He supports a terrorist State of Israel.

[Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): He supports a murderous, terrorist ...[Interjections.]

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

An HON MEMBER: They call the ANC terrorists. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, that is not a point of order. [Interjections.] This is a political debate. I will not allow freedom of speech to be stifled in this House. [Interjections.]

Hon member Christians, you may continue. [Interjections.] Hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Speak for yourself! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You are speaking for yourself.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Speak for yourself...

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: The ANC Western Cape is colluding with a recognised terrorist organisation [Interjections.] because they are trying ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Christians, please take your seat.
[Interjections.]

Hon members on my left [Interjections.] – hon members!

An HON MEMBER: He is speaking for himself. [Interjections.] [Inaudible.]
government, because the apartheid government never...

The SPEAKER: Hon members on my left. Hon members, there is a member
on the floor. [Interjections.] The hon member is absolutely within his right
to make a contribution. If you do not like the contribution you cannot drown
out the speaker.

The same way I have allowed anyone else to be protected while they are on
the floor, I will do the same for hon member Christians. [Interjections.]

Hon members, you will not drown out the speaker on the floor.
[Interjections.] Hon member Christians, you may continue. [Interjections.]

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] Let me
repeat. The ANC is colluding with a well-recognised terrorist organisation,
the Hamas, because they are trying to get money to pay for the 2019 election.
Because the sheriff is at the door. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, nobody in their right minds ...[Interjections.]

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

[Interjections.]

Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon member Bakubaku-Vos! Hon member Bakubaku-Vos, [Interjections.] I am on the floor and you just continue.

[Interjections.] The same rights that you have, I have too. I have also been elected as a member of this House. [Interjections.]

Order, hon members! Hon members, we are halfway through the debate.

[Interjections.] Hon members Christians, you may continue.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: ... nobody in their right minds ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: ... will receive a terrorist organisation ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon – take your seat please. Hon member Dugmore, is that a point of order? What is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, I would just like to
[Interjections.] – hon Speaker, I would just like to deal with
...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Inaudible.] racist.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed and hon member Nkondlo, there is a
member on the floor.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I would just like to deal with your
ruling in regard to the issue of freedom of speech and the hon member's
description of Hamas as a terrorist organisation, and when we get to the
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members on my left, there is on the [Interjections.] –
hon member Dugmore, please take your seat. [Interjections.]

Hon members on my left, there is a member, your Leader of the Opposition is
standing ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Go to Palestine and tell Hamas that they are terrorist.
Go there. Go there. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Can I please ask, hon member Sayed, can you please – there

is a member of your political party on the floor. Can I please ask that you control the [Interjections.] – hon member Dugmore, please continue.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: No, thank you.

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] will get you outside. Hamas.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Because when it comes to the issue of freedom of speech we normally have certain conventions.

Everyone knows that the United Nations recognises both Fatah as the legitimate government in the West Bank, and Hamas that were elected. The United Nations does not regard Hamas as a terrorist organisation, yet a member comes to this House – so I want to ask you to rule on this matter.

If the United Nations has a particular definition of that organisation and a member stands up in this House and goes against a United Nations declaration of the state of a certain authority, [Interjections.] is that freedom of speech?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Dugmore. That is not a point of order. I am not going to rule on the content of contributions. [Interjections.] That is not, it is not for me to rule. [Interjections.]

Hon member Christians, you may continue. Hon members, this is the last

time that I am warning you. Hon member Christians, you may continue.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Hon Speaker, nobody in their right minds will receive a terrorist organisation like the Hamas in Cape Town, who has committed heinous crimes – rape, torture, burn babies, cutting the heads of children. [Interjections.]

The ANC must tell us, because I think, hon Speaker, they brought money to bail out the ANC. [Interjections.] They brought money to bail out the ANC for the 2024 election and that is what they are doing. [Interjections.] The ANC is just lip service when it comes to human rights, [Interjections.] when it comes to gender-based violence, and the ANC is on life support. [Interjections.] The voter must pull the plug so that the ANC can die in 2024. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. [Interjections.] Please take your seat. Hon member Windvogel, hon member Bans, there is a member on the floor. Hon member Kama? [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: No, thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I want to raise a point of order on the relevance really of what the pastor is ...[Interjections.]

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: You see, now he is saying I am a young man...

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, can you please address me and not engage. [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: Yes, no, no, no, I want to, I really want to ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: The old man is a disgrace to...

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! There is a member on the floor. [Interjections.] Hon member Sayed, can I please ask that you assist me. [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: On the relevance ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Okay, if you do not want to assist me ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: On the relevance surely he was elected to be in this House to represent the people of the province and here we are dealing with the Appropriations and I do not know what he is talking about. Can you please bring him into the order of the House? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Kama. Hon member Kama, this is a wide political debate. It has always been a wide political debate and for that reason the hon members are absolutely within their right

to make their contribution.

Hon member Mvimbi, what is your point of order? [Interjections.]

Mr L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. On a point of order.

That in this House we are always referring to each other as hon members, even if you disagree with the person who is speaking. The hon member Christians has referred to hon member Kama as a young man. Can he please just withdraw that statement? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Mvimbi. Hon members, can I please remind all the hon members in this House that we are all hon members.

Hon Christians, you may continue. You have 44 seconds. [Interjections.]

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: The hon young man Kama, is that fine?
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Christians, please take your seat.
[Interjections.] Hon Bakubaku-Vos, is that a point of order?

Ms N BAKUBAKU-VOS: Yes, hon Speaker. I think hon ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: What is your point of order?

Ms N BAKUBAKU-VOS: ... Pastor – ha, not Christians, hon Pastor is worried about election already. He can come and join the ANC. [Interjections.] We are not worried about anything and that is the point of – †Thula bhuti. [Keep quiet, sir.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Hon member, for the record, that is not a point of order.

Hon members, I am not going to allow any further points of orders upon points of orders.

Hon member Christians, you may continue. Just a reminder, you have 44 seconds left of your time. [Interjections.]

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Hon Speaker, the ACDP supports this Vote and the ACDP will continue to support the Vote because we must, like I said in closing, [Interjections.] the ANC is on life support. The voter in 2024 must pull the plug that they can die. [Interjections.] I thank you. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Christians. Order, hon members! Can I get some order before I recognise the next hon member.

An HON MEMBER: We cannot listen to them. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Order, hon member Bans.

I now recognise the hon member Fry. [Interjections.]

Mr C FRY: Hon Speaker, the lack of reliable electricity supply has dogged this nation for over 15 years and the problem has increased in the severity of the stage – punt intended – where we had 180 days of loadshedding in the first half of 2023. That is only one day in six months of uninterrupted power supply.

As per the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement recently tabled by Minister Wenger, this province is estimated to have lost between R48,6 billion and R61,2 billion in real GDP since loadshedding was first introduced, and in 2023 at Stage 4 this province loses R43 million per day. As we all know, hon Speaker, there have been times this year when Stage 4 would have been a welcome respite from 10 hours of no power per day. This is a crisis and one which has been both a cause and effect of the current fiscal instability which the ANC has brought upon this country.

So what has been done? What solutions have been offered to an energy crisis that has decimated our economy and left thousands, if not millions, jobless? Let us contrast the National Government's response versus the Western Cape's response.

Hon Speaker, the President at his reactionary best appointed a Minister of Electricity, implicitly admitting that both the Ministers of Public Enterprises, as well as the Mineral Resources and Energy, have no answer to this crisis.

Now in the year of our Lord 2023, over nine months ago to when he was into his tenure, Minister Ramokgopa still does not have a job description. Even worse than that, he does not have a plan.

At the recent engagement with the Ad Hoc Committee on the energy crisis, when asked when loadshedding will end, he could not commit to a date. The implication of this is simple. The ANC has painted itself into a corner. [Interjections.] Year after year they commit to fixing the problem, year after year they fail to do so. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, contrast this with the Western Cape's response. To begin, let us start with the City of Cape Town. During the week, because of being good managers of the Steenbras Hydroelectric Plant, the City of Cape Town supplied areas to have enough electricity that residents experience up to two stages less of loadshedding than the rest of the country. This buffer means that the economy or the City is not affected as the rest of the country, allowing economic activity to endure and jobs to be created. Is it any wonder then that Cape Town's economy has consistently driven job creation in our country? [Interjections.]

Now let us turn to the rest of the municipalities in the province. In the various deliberations with the Ad Hoc Committee on the energy crisis this year, the municipalities of the province outlined their efforts in mitigating loadshedding. [Interjections.] These included the provision of generators, both built-in and mobile, so that water supply and wastewater treatment works would not be affected during loadshedding.

This shows that the R88 million that this Government has made available has been put to good use by the municipalities in ensuring that services are still delivered to the citizens.

Hon Speaker, again, as outlined in the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement tabled last week, this Government is piloting different energy projects to move towards achieving energy resilience as soon as possible and transitioning to a net carbon zero by 2050. These include, among others, and I quote:

- Alternative energy support that is providing funding for alternative energy systems;
- The Western Cape Integrated Resource Plan;
- An evidence-based guide on Western Cape strategic priorities;
- An energy infrastructure development;
- The municipal wheeling enablement;
- Putting LED lighting in schools; and
- Adjust Energy Transition Plan.

Hon Speaker, in addition to the above, this Government continues to deliver on the pledge of mitigating the effects of loadshedding as far as it possibly can and for the residents of Riversdale that pledge will become a reality.

As announced on Thursday by the Premier, a solar photovoltaic project producing 15 million kilowatt hours annually, will take the town completely off the grid and relieve it of its reliance on Eskom.

In effect, Madam Chair, this Government is building the first loadshedding free town in South Africa, but this is more than just production of power and taking over the constitutional duty of Eskom to provide electricity, as noted in the latest judgments against the National Minister of Electricity in relation to the provision of electricity to schools, hospitals and police stations, this is about bringing hope.

This is about bringing hope to the people of Riversdale for a brighter future, of better opportunities and economic freedom and in time this model will be rolled out to other towns so that the hope that a constant supply of electricity brings, will spread to all corners of the province.

Finally, hon Speaker, given all the efforts outlined above, two things are clear. Number one, there must be a complete overhaul of the power sector since we cannot follow the current status quo. Eskom must be unbundled and there must be more diverse sources of power and decentralisation if the

sector is to adequately meet the demand of more electricity going forward and, two, the reticulation of power must be devolved to capable provincial and local governments.

This Government has already demonstrated on more than one occasion that it is competent enough to do so. Hence the need for devolution of powers as prescribed in the Western Cape Powers Bill. That cannot come quickly enough. [Interjections.]

This House must support this Government's fight for what we are owed from National Government. [Interjections.] Every example I have given today demonstrates why the Western Cape works. National is determined to undermine this through lack of funding and, hon Speaker, we cannot let them. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Fry. Order, hon members.

I recognise the hon member Marais. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: †Thula. Ndivile. [Keep quiet. I have heard.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] There is a member on the floor. Order! Hon member Marais, you may continue. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, I rise in support of this Adjustment Appropriation Bill, [Interjections.] but also rise to protest against the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P J MARAIS: ... extreme budget cut by National Parliament. To vote against this Budget would be akin to blaming a seriously abused woman with many children, whose lazy, irresponsible husband wasted his salary on trivialities and on liquor, and then expect her to feed and clothe her children regardless.

This Adjustment Budget does not and cannot meet our total requirements, nor provide for all matters incidental thereto. This is plain for everyone to see. The Western Cape is continuously being punished by the National Treasury in spite of outshining all other provinces under ANC control. Whereas pouring money into other eight provinces is like pouring water into a bucket full of holes ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: How much time is left?

Mr P J MARAIS: ... the Western Cape still manage to flourish and achieve most of our objectives regardless. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hey, two minutes...

Mr P J MARAIS: Since 1994, South Africa has been invaded by rapists, murderers, corruptors, corruptees, the implosion of State Enterprises [Interjections.] and a devalued rand, low economic growth and high inflation. This Budget screams for federal autonomy for the Western Cape. It screams for the Western Cape to unshackle ourselves from this disastrous concept of majority rule over everyone else, even though they are incompetent and corrupt.

The Freedom Front Plus has investigated and compiled a 500-page report of complaints by hundreds of patients at 93 State hospitals throughout South Africa, regarding horrific treatment and inhuman experiences suffered by patients between July 2022 and July 2023. [Interjections.] We have referred it to the Human Rights Commission for investigation. [Interjections.]

These complaints speak of rude and hostile nurses, incompetent, undertrained. [Interjections.] In South Africa we have too much freedom and too little responsibilities. I support this Budget under protest and wish to...

The SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, your time has expired, please conclude. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: I want to encourage the Premier to continue the fight for more powers, more self-rule for the province in terms of Article 365

[Interjections.] We owe it ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: ... to this Western Cape Province.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: And I thank the ANC for their silence.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais. [Interjections.] Thank you, hon member Marais. I now recognise the hon member Minister of Education, Minister Maynier. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. Before I begin, I think I should note that it is rich to get a lecture from the Leader of the Opposition on proper planning from a party that brought us Stage 6 loadshedding. [Interjections.]

It is also rich to get a lecture from the hon member Nomi Nkondlo on the living wage, when just last year headlines screamed:

"ANC has not paid salaries."

[Interjections.] And I think it is also rich to get a lecture from the Leader of

the Opposition ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ... on reading speeches. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ... on reading ...

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. I am trying to make sure that you get that same opportunity like everyone else did.

Hon members, can I please ask for your indulgence. We are nearing the end of the speakers' list? Hon Kama, is that a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Hon Speaker, can you also caution the Minister because as he is dancing he is moving out of his seat. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: That is not – order, hon members!

Mr M KAMA: And I am worried that he will end up addressing us from another seat of another member and that is not allowed.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Kama. [Interjections.] Hon members, that is not a point of order. The hon Minister is in fact in his bench.

Hon Minister, you may continue. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. As I was saying, it is rich of the hon Leader of the Opposition to give this House a lecture on reading a speech, when unlike, when unlike the Leader of the Opposition, the hon member Cayla Murray can actually write a speech and deliver a speech eloquently.

Think, hon Speaker, of our guests, who in a few moments will have to endure a full 12 minute speech and indeed stay awake through a 12 minute speech by the Leader of the Opposition. Think of them, hon Speaker.

Now, hon Speaker, you will know that this country now is in a full fiscal emergency and how did that happen? [Interjections.] How did that happen? Well, we know exactly how it happened. The National Government has mismanaged the national economy. [Interjections.] The National Government has mismanaged State-owned Enterprises. The National Government has mismanaged the Public Wage negotiations, [Interjections.] signing a wage

deal that it simply could not afford and that of course should not come as a surprise because the ANC has a fiscal emergency of their own, and in fact knows a lot about debt, [Interjections.] with the sheriff of the court arriving outside the party headquarters, demanding an outstanding balance of R102 million, [Interjections.] but, hon Speaker, to illustrate just how serious this problem is.

Our country is now spending about R35 billion more on debt service costs this year than it will spend on basic education. [Interjections.] Think about that. We are spending R35 billion more this year on debt service costs than we are spending on basic education, and of course as a consequence of this our country has been put in a terrible position, sacrificing service delivery to balance the books, leaving provinces scrambling to pick up the pieces. The collapse of the National Budget process has created an environment of extreme uncertainty with the immediate impact on our plans for infrastructure, as we could not enter into contractor agreements without having certainty that they would have the funds to pay.

We now understand the full scale of the fiscal emergency. The National Treasury has not funded or fully funded the wage deal. Instead we only received 64% of the funding due to us, which means that we have been shortchanged by R537 million this year alone, which is exactly why the Western Cape Government has declared an inter-governmental dispute on the shortfall for funding the increased Wage Bill with National Government and has an absolutely clear message: Give us R1,1 billion or we will see you in

court.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: At the same time the Department of Basic Education also cut our conditional grants by a massive R179,4 million. Most importantly cutting the Education Infrastructure Grant by R156,9 billion. I do not think the Opposition properly understands the gravity of the situation.

So let me be perfectly clear. The National Government has dealt a massive R716,4 million blow to our ability to build and maintain schools, and indeed to pay teachers, and as a result we face a R248 million cut to our Infrastructure Budget within this financial year.

Other provinces are also speaking up about the consequence of this devastating blow to our Provincial Education Budgets across the country. Even the National Minister of Finance has recognised the consequences of the budget cuts, when in his own Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement he stated this could lead to larger class sizes and higher learner to teacher ratios, possibly resulting in weaker educational outcomes.

So the question I must ask is how on earth National Government can credibly stand up and say that they are putting the needs of learners and teachers in poor communities first? The truth is that Basic Education is not a priority of National Government because when it comes to a choice between more money

for education or more money for South African Airways, they choose more money to bail out South African Airways. When it comes to a choice between more money for education or more money to bail out Transnet, they choose to bail out Transnet, and when it comes to a choice, between more money for education or more money to bail out Denel, they choose more money to bail out Denel.

The fact is, and our guests will be shocked to hear this, over five years the National Government have wasted over R233 billion in bailouts to zombie State-owned enterprises, which is the equivalent of about 2 330 schools.

So I think if the Official Opposition were honest, were honest, and like the National Minister take responsibility and own up, then we would expect the Leader of the Opposition to say, "Yes, the ANC has mismanaged the economy. Yes, the ANC has mismanaged State-owned Enterprises. Yes, the ANC has mismanaged the ..." ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please conclude, your time has expired.
[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: "Yes, the ANC has imposed massive budget cuts on this province, and yes, the ANC is responsible ..." ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ... "... for overcrowded classes..."

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister, your time ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ... own up and take responsibility.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister, please take your seat.
[Applause.] Thank you very much. I now recognise the Leader of the
Official Opposition, hon Dugmore.

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.
I would like to join you and say amalungu aseEthiopia siyavuya kakhulu
ukuba nibekhona namhlanje. [...and say we are happy that the members from
Ethiopia are with us today.] †Ons is baie bly dat julle hier is en [and we are
very happy that you are here]

Hon Speaker, I think it is clear that any discussion about a budget must be
framed in terms of the Constitution of the Republic and I think we are all
aware that the Constitution of the Republic makes it very clear that in all that
we do we have to take redress measures to make sure that those South
Africans who were unfairly discriminated against by apartheid, that measures
are taken in terms of a budget, in terms of other things that we do, to
specifically benefit historically disadvantaged South Africans who suffered
unfair discrimination.

Now the first thing we need to say, that this Government of the ANC at the national level is not penalising any province. There is a Finance and Fiscal Commission, which has a formula looking at rural, urban and that formula determines how much a province gets. [Interjections.]

So any attempt by the Democratic Alliance to imply that there is penalisation of the Western Cape is not true. The reality is the population of Gauteng and the population of our province, because people from Limpopo seek work in Gauteng, people from the Eastern Cape seek work in Gauteng and the Western Cape; so our populations have gone up and as we progress the Fiscal and Finance Commission will recognise that and continue.

So we should make that very clear. The reality is, however, hon Speaker, that this Provincial Government of the Western Cape is a Democratic Alliance Government and the reality is that in every single aspect they do not use the resources that they have to deal with inequality. We have a situation, as hon member Nkondlo mentioned, that in regard to youth unemployment, and I want to emphasise this, that unemployment in the Western Cape when the ANC was governing was lower than it is now. [Interjections.]

I also want to say when the ANC was governing ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... this province ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... the rate of crime ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... was lower than it is now and that is what we need to accept. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: So this Provincial Government is quick to condemn the National Government, but it fails to acknowledge the resilience of our national economy led by the ANC Government. We must understand this country went through COVID, an adverse and devastating impact on our national economy. Yet the ANC-led Government made sure that the R350 Social Relief Grant helped our people. What did the DA do in this province? They simply complained. Our President, we all know that when 2 million jobs were lost, and you must remember that every time a job gets lost fewer people pay VAT ...[Interjections.]

The PREMIER: All [Inaudible.] is put money in his account.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... fewer people pay in income tax.

The President announced an unprecedented ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... stimulus package. That is to spend money, to borrow money and spend to stimulate, and that was 2 million jobs and the President then created youth employment stimulus, which created over a million jobs. [Interjections.] What did the DA do while the President was creating 1 million jobs for our young people? They simply complained.

When over another 1 million young people got access to opportunities for learning and earning through others, going to our schools and assisting, 1 million, that the President intervened because of the economic, the slow growth post-COVID. The DA did nothing else but simply complain.

When the ANC insisted that too little attention was being paid to the agricultural sector by the Premier, what did the DA do? They ignored our advice and now the sector in this province has contracted, but our Minister Thoko Didiza, the National Minister of Agriculture, has intervened to make sure that there are new markets for South African farmers in China and in Saudi Arabia, specifically for avocados and beef, and that has actually led at a national level that ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... the agricultural economy
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... [Inaudible.] R60,2 billion worth of exports. That is 13% higher. So slowly but surely our economy is beginning to pick up after, no doubt we are in a difficult situation because if your economy has been affected by COVID, you collect less revenue and you have constraints, but the National Government has not penalised in any way and you have an [Interjections.] MEC walking into this room at the moment
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... and I just want to say to our Ethiopian colleagues, that this particular MEC is the MEC for Agriculture, and in our province, the Western Cape, only 3% of agricultural land is owned by African people and Coloured people. 97% of agricultural land is owned by Whites [Interjections.] and when we asked that particular MEC
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... he said ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, [Interjections.] can I please remind you to speak to me and not to engage the members in the gallery. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

Hon member Dugmore, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon member Dugmore, please take your seat.

An HON MEMBER: I am covered by [Inaudible.] thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, please continue.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: And I also want to say, hon Speaker, we meet at the outset of 16 Days of Activism, and I also want to inform our Ethiopian friends and to remind the DA, that when it comes to gender-based violence, their own leader, someone called John Steenhuisen, who divorced his wife, he said, "Oh, well, it is just roadkill." He described the impact of a broken relationship, he said, "Oh, it is roadkill." [Interjections.] That just shows how little – and then there is an official, a Chief Director of this

Provincial Government who is in court for attempted rape of another public servant. That official has not even been suspended by this Provincial Government. [Interjections.] He continues to work as ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, please take your seat. Hon member Marais, what is your point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, did you rule that we cannot engage the people on the gallery when we speak? [Interjections.] The hon member of the Opposition speaks to the gallery ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr P J MARAIS: ... he addresses the gallery, sir. [Interjections.] I want you to rule on that. Can we address the gallery? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Marais. Hon members, I have already ruled on that.

An HON MEMBER: You are jealous!

An HON MEMBER: Yes, you are jealous! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mvimbi!

Mr L MVIMBI: Sorry, apologies.

The SPEAKER: I have already ruled on that hon members. You cannot engage or communicate to the members of the gallery.

Hon Dugmore, can I please ask that you please speak through me and address me. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Ja. Thank you. I think it is also important to note that when we look at this Budget, the Opposition DA has talked about them being forced into a Public Wage Agreement.

Now the reality is you cannot pay a public servant in Limpopo less or more than a public [Interjections.] – we have a National Public Service. So what the DA – and I think it is important and I am looking straight to you – that our Ethiopian friends also realise, that when our National Government came up with a minimum wage of between R4 000 and R5 000, the Democratic Alliance said, "No, that is too much for a minimum wage." They said, in their own policy document, R1 800.

So now if we have a situation and the Provincial Powers Bill has already been declared by your own lawyers as unconstitutional. So the reality is that this DA ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, please take your seat. Hon Minister

Meyer, is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Yes.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: It is a point of order. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order? Hon members, I am still the Speaker. I do not need your assistance. [Interjections.] Hon members! Order! [Interjections.]

Hon Minister, what is your point of order?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Chair, [Interjections.] Rule 66 ...[Incomplete.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: What is your – order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: I rise on Rule 66. Rule 66 ...[Interjections.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please speak to me. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: [No audible response.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, you are on the – hon members! Hon Minister, you are on the floor.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: I am on the floor on a point of order.

The SPEAKER: On a point of order.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: On a point of order.

The SPEAKER: You only address the point of order to the Presiding Officer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Yes.

The SPEAKER: So can you please direct it to me. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: To the Presiding Officer, Rule 66 [Interjections.] speaks to parliamentary practice and I think the hon Leader of the Official Opposition just broke parliamentary practice by saying that the lawyers of my party have declared the Western Cape Powers Bill unconstitutional. [Interjections.] That is not correct. It is incorrect. [Interjections.] That information is misleading and I would therefore ask him to withdraw that statement because you may not lie in this House like they lie ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... in the National Assembly. This House is... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! There is a member on the floor.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: I respectfully request that the hon member just withdraw and then he can proceed and there will be peace in the House. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Meyer. Hon Minister, from the Chair, I do not adjudicate on the content or the statement being made. That was not a transgression of the Rule. There are other mechanisms if you want to bring the attention to the House to a misleading or an untrue statement and for that reason, hon member Dugmore, you may continue. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you. Hon Speaker, could I just ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, please take your seat. Hon Minister Meyer?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Chair, because we are disciplined on

this side of the House, I respect your ruling [Interjections.] and I will sit down.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, hon Minister. Thank you very much.

Hon member Dugmore, please continue.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker. It would be useful if the Table could just indicate how many of my 12 minutes are left. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: You have 4 minutes and 32 seconds left. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Okay. So the issue that I want to raise, we have one public service, so you cannot say that you want to pay your public servants [Interjections.] less or a teacher less than a teacher in the Eastern Cape.

The PREMIER: That is not the point!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: So the point that I am actually making, this DA [Interjections.] wants a minimum wage of R1 800, whereas nationally it is R4 500. So actually what we have, if they want to get their Provincial Powers Bill through, that means that they are going to pay

starvation wages to whoever they want and we are not going to allow you.

[Interjections.]

The Western Cape is part of South Africa ...[Interjections.]

The PREMIER: That is not true!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... and it will always remain part of South Africa in a united country, and I also want to say to hon member Christians. He was going on about Hamas. Many of the comrades sitting here, we were also called terrorists [Interjections.] because we fought in the African National Congress, [Interjections.] we fought to liberate this country and they called us terrorists. Margaret Thatcher, George Bush called us terrorists.

Whether you like it or not, Hamas, Fatah, all have to be part of the solution. Hamas was elected in Gaza, Fatah was elected in the West, the minute you call people terrorists, you deny that they are in a liberation struggle and United Nations and international law says oppressed people who are occupied are allowed to fight a liberation struggle. [Interjections.] That is what is happening, and I want to say that when I talked about agricultural land.

You see this Government has choices when it comes to budgets and – no, please, you are becoming irritating now. You are becoming very irritating.

[Interjections.]

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

Hon member Minister, is that a point of order? [Interjections.] Hon members on my left, there is a member on the floor on a point of order. Allow the member to rise on that point.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Chair, is the Leader of the Official Opposition, who now spoke about land reform, is he willing to take [Interjections.] ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Hon Minister, you may continue. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Chairperson ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Hon Minister, please take your seat.

Hon members, this will be the last warning on both sides of the House. [Interjections.] Hon members, I have pleaded with you throughout the session and the next – I will now move over to naming members.

Hon Minister, you may continue with your point of order. I will recognise

you as soon as the Minister has completed his point of order.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: I would like to know if the hon member would like to take a very serious question? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon member Dugmore, are you prepared to take a question? Not prepared to? [Interjections.] The hon member is not prepared to take a question. Hon member Kama, is that a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I would like to address you.

You know, we would appreciate if you were to use the strong language that we are using against us, against the Minister. [Interjections.] Earlier you spoke to us and told us that we must stop raising these frivolous points of order and the Minister is doing exactly that and when he raises the point of order, he goes on to talk about other things when you as the Speaker in the House we know that if you want to ask a member if he is willing to take a question, you just stand up and ask that, and we are not allowed to even talk as to what type of question it is going to be, and you are not calling him into order. It is him who is causing this chaos in this House, [Interjections.] as we are now left to fight for ourselves. He must stop with his frivolous points of order.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. Hon member Dugmore, you may continue. Hon members, just for the record, that is not a point of order. I take note of your comment.

Hon member Dugmore, please continue.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you, and when I am speaking about the DA wanting to pay workers less in this province. This Legislature is a prime example. Workers in this Provincial Legislature of the Western Cape get paid less than legislature staff in all other provinces.

So the reality is they want to pay exploitative starvation wages of a minimum wage of R1 800, and if you look at that in comparison to the ANC, if you look at the issue of worker-ownership. [Interjections.] Since 2019, 154 000 workers obtained ownership of shares at companies where they worked.

And that brings the total of share ownership by workers in our country to 550 000 workers actually, and now you have the same DA who says broad-based black economic empowerment must be scrapped. The same DA who says the public service must be halved and we have 555 000 workers who not only get a salary, but they get a share of ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, please take your seat. Hon Minister Fernandez, is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Speaker, yes. I rise to ask if it is appropriate for the Leader to read his speech from his telephone.

Hon MEMBERS: Yay!

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

An HON MEMBER: Ja! [Laughs.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Fernandez, hon Minister Fernandez. I have earlier ruled on that. I am not going to rule on it again. Hon Dugmore, you may continue.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So, I am saying that resources and budgets must be about redress. Now, in this province, I have mentioned that only 3% of Black people, African and Coloured, own agricultural land: 3%!

When it comes to urban land, let me tell the DA the truth here. Of urban land in this province, 70% is owned by White South Africans, 70% out of a population of 15%. When it comes to Coloured South Africans, Coloured South Africans only own 10,7% of urban land, whereas they are 48% of this population. But hon member Marais does not say anything about that. When it comes to urban land ownership, African people ...[Interjections.] who hon member Marais calls “refugees” who constitute 32% of the Western Cape,

only own 3,5% of the land in this province. [Interjections.] Those urban land statistics are worse than in all other provinces, except the Northern Cape when it comes to urban land ownership.

So, when you have a budget and the Constitution says redress, why do you not use that budget? I want to talk about, lastly, an example about Eskom power and DA City power. When you go and buy for R100, when you go and buy electricity for R100 from Eskom ...[Interjections.]

The PREMIER: You get nothing! [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, no, no. Yes, we are the first to admit ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: We are the first to admit that loadshedding is negative, we need to deal with it, ...[Interjections.] but right now ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, no. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Right now, the lights are on. [Interjections.] Can we all see ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...the lights are on? Alright. [Interjections.] So now, when ...[Interjections.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Sorry, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Please take your seat. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. You are drowning out the speaker. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Hon Dugmore, please continue.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So, I want to make the point, hon Speaker, that when you go to Eskom and you buy electricity for R100, you get 42 units. When you go and buy power from the DA City of Cape Town, you pay R100 ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, your time has expired. Please conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I will conclude by saying that you get ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: You get 23 ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Twenty-three!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...units for R100. So, the reality is here in this province, if you are poor and you have to buy from the City ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...you cannot buy electricity anyway.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, please take your seat.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The DA does not care for the poor and ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Interjections.] [Applause.] Hon

Dugmore, I have asked you to take your seat. Hon Dugmore! [Applause.] Hon Dugmore? [Interjections.] Hon Dugmore, I have asked you on more than one occasion to take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon members, please settle down. I recognise the hon Baartman. [Interjections.] [Applause]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I first would like to start by welcoming Amenthi of the Ripples of Hope Organisation ...[Interjection.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...of mine, Sinovuyo Mankayi, as well as the delegation of Ethiopia. Hon Speaker, the hon Minister Wenger, she tabled an Adjustment Budget to build in our province amongst the context of National Government budget cuts. The ANC National Government centrally agreed to above inflation Public Wage Agreement for all provinces, not just the Western Cape. The impact on our province specifically was approximately R2,9-billion. Not only has National Treasury turned around and indicated that they will not fully fund all provinces for the full cost of the Public Wage Deal which they agreed to, but these costs have already been implemented in provinces mid-year this year. It is centrally applied on PERSAL, which means provinces, all provinces, not only the Western Cape, are already impacted by the cost.

In KwaZulu-Natal, they are going to overspend by R10-million, sorry, and

they said that they are going to run out of money. [Interjections.] There is no money. It is not a funded budget. [Interjections.] The Western Cape is receiving just over R1,7-billion from National Treasury and if you subtract that from the 2,9 you will notice that the National Government still owes the Western Cape just over R1,1-billion. It is simple mathematics. The R1,7-billion only covers 78% of the public wage liability required by the Health and Education Departments together in this province.

To imagine what R1,1-billion looks like, it is the equivalent of 2 750 staff. This is, for example, 1 120 teachers in Education, 755 nurses in Health and 875 other staff, including social workers. So, we are not just fighting for the Western Cape for public wages, we are fighting for all provinces for public wages. [Interjections.]

It is further worthy to note that all provinces are not only experiencing these budget cuts due to the impact of the Public Wage Agreement, but on top of this we are experiencing severe budget cuts across Conditional Grants. And the hon member Dugmore, hon Speaker, mentioned that he is going to reference the Constitution and that we must allocate money accordingly. But in the Constitution when we deal with the Division of Revenue across Government, it says in Section 214:

“An Act of Parliament must provide for the equitable division of revenue raised nationally amongst the national, provincial and local spheres of government.”

It goes further to say that this Act, the Division of Revenue that we table every single year, must take into account subsection (d):

“The need to ensure that provinces and municipalities are able to provide basic services and perform the functions allocated to them.”

Further, the severe Conditional Grants indicated by National Government on the Western Cape is over R642-million in budget cuts. For example, in the Education budget, the Education Infrastructure Grant for building schools, a grant that we get from National Government, is being cut by R156-million. The Early Childhood Development Grant by National Government is being cut by R14-million. The HIV and Aids Life Skills Education Grant from National is being cut by R3-million. The Maths, Science and Technology Grant, hon Speaker, is being cut by R4-million.

I find it quite ironic, hon Speaker actually that hon member Dugmore is indicating, you know, he speaks about land and how we are going to fight for people’s land, but the ANC is the first to want to take your title deed away with the Expropriation Bill. [Interjections.] They want to speak about shares of workers, but they are the first with the Expropriation Bill to want to take peoples’ title deeds away. [Interjections.] They want to come and say that ‘Where are we going to get money for this electricity’ ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): But in the Division of Revenue Adjustment...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...of 2023, National Treasury took back R14-billion meant for electricity that they could have given to Local Government and municipalities. [Interjections.] They are cutting the Western Cape's Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme Grants by R9-million. [Interjections.] They are cutting our Ilima/Letsema Agriculture Projects around by R1-million. [Interjections.] They are cutting our Agriculture Landcare Programme Grant by R380 000, and you can see this in the Division of Revenue. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, leaders are leaders and if we subtract the R642-million budget cut from Conditional Grants from the R1,7-billion in the Provincial Equitable Share that we are receiving, it is a net increase of only R1-billion received in the Adjustment Budget. On top of this, we are getting nothing for the recent impact of the floods from National Government. We must fund the impact ourselves. [Interjections.]

You know, hon Speaker, the hon member Dugmore indicated that we must allocate more provincial money, but the ANC is not able to comprehend how we put budgets together. In the provincial reserves, at the moment, we have

had to reduce our provincial reserves from R3,7-billion in the 2023 MTEF to R1,7-billion over the MTEF to counter ...[Interjections.] the fiscal consolidation reduction from National Government. That is R2-billion of our provincial own money ...[Interjections.] that we had to go and take ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Really!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...to supplement the programmes in the current budget year. I am reading from Slide 32 of 28 November presentation ...[Interjections.] in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament Budget Committee.

Further, the 2023 stabilisation reserve of over R400-million has been depleted in response to the fiscal consolidation and the prolonged fiscal crisis. This means in 2024/2025 financial year, ...[Interjections.] we have R668-million left in the Provincial Reserves. In 2025/2026, ...[Interjections.] we only have R699-million left in the Provincial Reserves and in 2026/2027, we have R342-million left in the Provincial Reserves. [Interjections.]

To put this into context, hon Speaker, the Western Cape Education Department received R943-million from the Equitable Share Allocation for Public Wages. They are having R537-million shortfall on public wages. This means and let us do basic mathematics. [Interjections.] If we subtract the

R537-million that we need to actually give to the Western Cape Education Department for the centrally agreed public wage deal, from the R668-million left in the 2024 provincial reserve pot ...[Interjections.] you will be left with R131-million in the reserve.

To visualise what R131-million looks like, imagine cutting half of the whole Western Cape Provincial Parliament. These cuts are unprecedented because they apply in-year. National Treasury officials upon questioning them in the Budget Committee, confirmed, 'Please, finish building what you are currently building, but please do not build anything new in the current financial year.' [Interjections.]

This means with the Provincial Reserves, there can be no fires, there can be no floods, no drought, no locusts, no COVID-2.0, no energy blackouts. This is the reality and the reason we ended up here, hon Speaker, the ANC does not comprehend the magnitude of the actions of National Government because they have ...[Interjections.] champagne tastes on a beer budget. [Interjections.] And when you live your best champagne life, ...[Interjections.] you will end up with the sheriff on your doorstep ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...exactly in the manner that the ANC is experiencing now. [Interjections.] Hon Speaker, and the hon member

Dugmore indicated that the Western Cape did nothing during COVID-19 apparently, for people, but clearly, he did not read the budget during COVID-19 ...[Interjections.] when we had different Adjustment Budgets. [Interjections.] He did not read about the SMME Booster Fund ...[Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...where we supported 249 businesses to keep their doors open. [Interjections.] They did not read the budget where we supported the Tourism Development Fund to support the tourism industry amongst ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...the COVID-19 period. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): He did not think about reading the budget when we supported businesses with COVID-19 Business Facts. [Interjections.] The DA in the Western Cape ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...on the other hand, will continue fighting for the people in this province. That is why the DA Government, the Western Cape Government, declared the Inter-governmental dispute with the National Government in line with the relevant Acts, taking the budget fight directly to National Treasury to secure funding from National Treasury for the Public Wage increase that they centrally agreed to and are enforcing on provinces. [Interjections.]

Further, this is why the Western Cape Budget Committee, and ...[Interjections.] I quote from the Minutes of the Western Cape Budget Committee:

“Unanimously – unanimously.”

And the ANC was present, hon Speaker:

“Unanimously requested legal opinion from the Speaker on whether the National Council of Provinces Select Committee on Appropriations meaningfully considered the Western Cape Provincial Parliament Budget Committee’s negotiating mandate, including recommendations for amendments to the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill [B 33-2023] Section 76 DORA Bill during the negotiating mandate process in line with relevant legislation, including the Mandate and Procedures of Provinces Act 52/2008.”

Hon Speaker, I am still quoting: [Interjections.]

“If meaningful consideration did not take place, the Speaker is requested to consider instituting legal proceedings in this regard to ensure that the NCOP meaningfully considers the WCPP Budget Committee’s negotiating mandate, including recommendations ...[Interjections.] for amendments to the DORA Bill. This request stems from unreasonably short timelines for consideration of the Bill, not allowing provinces sufficient time to process and consider the Bill, lack of sufficient time for public participation and inadequate consideration and integration of provided inputs by the NCOP Select Committee on appropriations on the Western Cape Provincial Parliament Budget Committee’s negotiating mandate during the negotiating mandate’s process. The Committee thus requests the Speaker to explore whether any legal step could be pursued in response to this, to ensure that the WCPP Budget Committee’s negotiating mandate with the recommendations for amendments to the DORA Bill be considered meaningfully by the NCOP.”

I thus want to follow this up by saying not only was this unanimously supported by the ANC’s permanent member, hon member Mvimbi, but on 1 December 2023 when we adopted the Minutes of 28 November 2023, hon member Mvimbi seconded the adoption of the Minutes. [Interjections.] Therefore, officially and formally verifying the accuracy of the Minutes. [Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): No [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): It is a document you can use in court.
[Interjections.] Further, hon Speaker, the ANC claims ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...to support public servants
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, the ANC claims to support
public servants that National Treasury announced that it has issued Transnet
with a R47-billion guarantee facility effective immediately. [Interjections.]
This is more than 39 times ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Baartman, please conclude.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...what the Western Cape is owed
...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Your time has expired. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): The DA in the Western Cape will protect frontline services; infrastructure maintenance and we will do what we must ...[Interjections.] to continue building in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Baartman. [Interjections.] Order. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Hon members on both my right and left-hand side, have you finished before I recognise the hon Minister? Hon Minister, my apologies. I will recognise you once the House has settled down. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and thank you very much to all those hon members that participated in the debate. I would like to respond to some criticisms that were levelled at the Adjustment Budget, but let me just start with, you know, it is customary that an Official Opposition, if they do not agree with the budget that has been tabled, will present an alternative, an alternative budget.

And in all the years that I have, and in this Legislature, I have never once seen ...[Interjections.] the ANC provide an alternative budget, probably because it is much easier just to criticise from the sidelines than it is to actually think about tabling a credible budget and an alternative, based on their policy platform. [Interjections.] But given their track record at the

National and their policies that got us into this trouble in the first place, that is probably why we never see an alternative budget coming from the Official Opposition in the Western Cape.

There was mention made of the youth unemployment rate and we agree that this is a problem which is why we specifically chose to highlight it in the MERO and specifically why we chose to highlight it ...[Interjections.] in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, because we believe that by recognising where problems exist, is that it is how we can tackle these problems. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: G4J does respond directly to this. It is a very; the largest Chapter, a Chapter 12 deals with exactly the issues that hon Nkondlo was raising and there are several ways in which we are responding.

For example, we are preparing our learners for the workplace. OECD research shows that countries with the least youth disadvantage have education systems that are more integrated with the labour market. So, that is what we are doing in the Western Cape. We are also partnering with the private sector to address barriers to employability. [Interjections.] We are doing this, for example, in the textile industry ...[Interjections.] and in the BPO industry.

This year alone, 10 000 young people with only a Matric and who are unemployed, received training and are currently getting on-the-job training. By the time the year is done, 8 000 of them will be in permanent employment.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear! [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: These are the types of things we are doing to address youth unemployment in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

Let me also respond to the criticism for the R1-million that is being provided for Tourism Safety. This is in comparison to the over R1-billion ...[Interjections.] that has been provided over the Medium-Term for safety in the crime hotspots of this province, where there are targeted boots on the ground to address some of the most violent areas in the province.

So, by comparison, R1-billion for the Safety Plan, 0,1% of this is what we are putting towards Tourism Safety. And might I add that many of the attacks on Table Mountain National Park ...[Interjections.] have been locals. They are not foreign visitors, they are locals. So, this funding also goes to keep locals and/or visitors, whether they are local, domestic, or foreign, as safe as possible. [Interjections.] We are expecting 25% more tourists this summer season than last year and for the first time ever, we will breach one

...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...1-million inbound seats into Cape Town over our summer season, which means our tourism sector is growing. But we cannot grow if we do not address some of the systemic barriers to travel. One of these which South African Tourism ...[Interjection.]

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...in a study ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...and research ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon members on both my left and right-hand side, the hon Minister is responding to inputs made during the debate. That is generally what happens, so now the hon Minister has an opportunity to respond to those comments made. And it is only fair that you allow the hon Minister to respond to the hon members

that participated in this debate. Hon Minister, my apologies, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Research by South African Tourism shows that one of the major deciding factors for people to not visit South Africa is because of perceptions of safety. So, this directly affects the tourism economy and why we have to make sure that all visitors can enjoy their stay here, talk about what a wonderful stay they had and return. [Interjections.]

Furthermore, for every 100 international visitors that come to the Western Cape, two new jobs are created and R2,1-billion is added to the economy. So, if you care about jobs, if you care about SMMEs and you care about women in employment, you will support Tourism and the contribution it makes in our province.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Because of tourism in the Western Cape, 215 000 people are employed. [Interjections.] Let us support it. [Interjections.] Let us help it to grow. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: That is speaking on behalf of people who [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Where are the Fiscal Futures? Fiscal Futures ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...[Interjections.] phases and will be used for the 2025 budget process, and will help us to develop robust fiscal planning and evidence-based scenarios to ensure fiscal predictability, sustainability and prudent practices. [Interjections.]

I am glad hon Dugmore raised the issue of the ...[Interjections.] Provincial Equitable Share and what he called realities. The reality is, hon Speaker, that the Western Cape has the third largest population in South Africa. ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: The third largest population, but we only get the fifth largest budget. ...[Interjection.]

Die MINISTER VAN MOBILITEIT: Skande!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Disgrace!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: And the reality is that we face that pressure now, we do not face that pressure at some undetermined time in the future. [Interjections.]

To show how skewed it is, hon Speaker, and maybe the hon members can take the point here how skewed it is: Limpopo Province has 1 million less people than the Western Cape. ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And how many more rural people?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Limpopo 1 million less people, but Limpopo gets R6,5-billion more than the Western Cape does. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Joh! Their budget ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: R6,5-billion more for 1 million less people! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: I am also ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjections.] hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...glad that you raised the point about finding new markets ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members, you are completely drowning out the hon Minister. [Interjections.] Ja, this is on both sides of the House. Hon Minister, my apologies for the disrespect.

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

The SPEAKER: You may continue.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: I am also glad that the hon Leader of the Opposition made the point about finding new markets for South Africa's agricultural products, but there is no point in doing this if we cannot get them to market because the rail and the ports have collapsed. So, what is the answer there? [Interjections.] What is the ANC doing, the Government doing ...[Interjections.] to rectify the logistics crisis in South Africa?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: You are saying things not [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: To the hon de Villiers whose main input was that we should do away with the provincial sphere. [Interjections.] I found that rather curious considering that his party contested for government in all nine provinces. So, we stand to see whether they will stand again if they do not agree with the provincial sphere at all.

On the informal economy, we have a programme called the SMME Booster Fund which has assisted to upgrade and develop trading sites for informal traders in the Langeberg, Mossel Bay and Oudtshoorn Municipalities. In the current iteration, support will be provided to key stakeholders that provide support to budding entrepreneurs in the Cape Flats and in townships, namely RLabs, the Bicycling Empowerment Network and the Silulo Foundation. It also assists municipalities which provide support to informal enterprises.

So finally, hon Speaker, I would just like to thank the colleagues in this House from across the political divide who did support this difficult budget ...[Interjections.] and our efforts to provide stability, protection, and hope. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Thank you very much, hon members. That concludes the debate on the Consideration of the Principle of the Bill.

Are there any objections to the Approval of the Principle of the Bill?

Hon MEMBERS: No!

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The SPEAKER: Is there an objection?

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and I therefore, put the question to the House that those in favour of the Bill being adopted, the Principle of the Bill being adopted please say 'Yes'.

Hon MEMBERS: Yes!

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the Principle of the Bill being adopted, please say 'No'.

Hon MEMBERS: No!

The SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it and the question before the House is therefore approved.

I now recognise the Secretary to read the Second Order of the Day. My apologies, the Secretary will first read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, the House will now deal with the Vote separately. Hon Secretary, the Second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the Report of the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness on the National Health Insurance Bill [B 11B–2021].

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, the House received the Report of the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness on the National Health Insurance Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP, to not support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish. I recognise the ANC. [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Somlomo. ...[Interjections.] I rise on behalf of the ANC to reiterate our ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Windvogel, my apologies. Can I just ask that you switch on your microphone for the record. Thank you.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC to reiterate our unwavering support for the National Health Insurance Bill. The passing of this Bill will be a significant step towards achieving equitable access to quality healthcare for all citizens, especially the over 50 million South Africans that use the public health sector. The NHI will address the existing disparities in our healthcare system, as well as barriers to access, thereby ensuring that no-one is left behind when it comes to receiving quality medical care.

Hon Speaker, individuals like Auntie Sarah in the rural outskirts of this province in the Overberg, Central Karoo, West Coast and other rural communities will, for the first time, be guaranteed equitable and quality healthcare right at their doorsteps. The days of patients sleeping on hospital floors will be a thing of the past. The ANC Government is committed to prioritising the health and wellbeing of all citizens, regardless of one's socio-economic background.

Hon Speaker, we are satisfied that the Bill has undergone all the necessary steps, and there was widespread consultation and enough public hearings to capture the views of the people across the nation. Having attended all the public hearings in our province, I can confidently say that the resounding majority of the people in this province are in full support of the passing of the NHI Bill.

Hon Speaker, the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Health and

Wellness for the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP not to support the NHI is not a true reflection of the public's views. It is simply the DA abusing its majority in Legislature to push through the mandate of their handlers. The people of the Western Cape want the NHI Bill to be passed, and the ANC supports the passing of this Bill.

The DA has employed every trick in the book to prevent the NHI Bill from passing, first by forcing an extension of public hearings in the province and more recently by threatening a fight in the Constitutional Court to halt the NHI from progressing beyond Parliament.

The NHI Bill will be passed into law, and the DA must accept the will of the people, including the will of the people in the Western Cape. The ANC supports this Bill. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Windvogel. I recognise the ACDP. [Interjections.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. On behalf of the ACDP, the National Health Insurance is disastrous in its current form. Let me just say what Professor Alex van den Heever said, of Wits University. He says:

“The National Health Insurance, if implemented as outlined in the NHI Bill, will be dysfunctional and take 1 000 years to implement due to

the Government being incompetent.” [Interjections.]

Let me also say what business leaders are saying, organised businesses are saying: ...[Interjections.]

“Groups have said that they will challenge the Bill in court if passed in this current form, ...[Interjections.] as it is fundamentally unworkable ...[Interjections.] and pushed through without proper deliberation.” [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): The ACDP believes that this is just another entity to loot and steal, so we cannot support it. I thank you. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. I recognise ...[Interjections.] Hon members! Hon Windvogel, you had an opportunity, and everyone listened while you had your opportunity. While the hon Christians was making his declaration, you were constantly engaging him and trying to drown him out. [Interjections.] I now recognise the EFF. [Interjections.]

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the National Health Insurance Bill is a disaster by nature. [Interjections.] It makes no

sense how it will be implemented in an already collapsed public healthcare sector. This Bill falls short of adequately addressing how it will deal with the issues of inequality in the health sector and how it will actually implement this universal healthcare coverage. For these reasons, the EFF rejects this Bill. Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Cassiem. [Interjections.] I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus rejects the adoption of the National Health Insurance Bill. The ANC has over the years, systematically completely destroyed and bankrupted all SOEs ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...including Eskom, SAA, Denel, ...[Interjections.] through their incompetent Ministers and officials. We cannot afford to trust them ...[Interjections.] also with our health services. We cannot let our health services fall into the hands of corrupt, less than educated officials and Ministers, without damaging this country further. We reject this Bill. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I recognise GOOD. [Interjections.]

Mr P DE VILLIERS (GOOD): We do not support this Bill, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon de Villiers. I recognise Al Jama-ah. [Interjections.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. There is an hon member of the virtual platform.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Hon Speaker, South Africa supports this NHI Bill. The Western Cape supports this NHI Bill. The Al Jama-ah Party ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): ...supports this NHI Bill and this Bill will pass. We support the Bill in full. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

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

Mr G PRETORIUS (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the NHI

Bill would allow the State to take control over virtually all healthcare in South Africa. Under the NHI, private healthcare would be all but outlawed and medical procedures would be funded by a massive, central, tax-funded pool of money. While the goal of universal healthcare is a noble one, this particular Bill will have dire economic consequences for the Western Cape and South Africa.

With the mounting debt crisis, a stagnant economy and an energy crisis that makes real the threat of total economic collapse, South Africa cannot meet the financial obligations and requirements of this Bill. The passage of the NHI would not only catastrophically exacerbate this but would also bring millions of patients in an already overstretched public healthcare system which in other provinces of this country currently cannot accommodate the existing load of service delivery requirements, while simultaneously demanding hundreds of billions of rand more from an overstretched and shrinking tax base.

National Treasury, hon Speaker, has thus far not disclosed how this system of state funded healthcare will be funded, with any degree of viability. These concerns were echoed by hundreds of residents who made written and oral submissions on the Bill. It included informed and well-motivated submissions by members of the public, NGOs, and corporate South Africa. Deep concerns were expressed about the sweeping powers over Health which would be granted to the National Minister by the Bill. The massive potential for corruption engendered by the NHI system, as well as the eradication of

the private medical sector and patients' choice over where to receive treatment.

Hon Speaker, to pass this Bill, would lead to the total collapse of both the healthcare sector and the greater economy of South Africa. The Western Cape's Standing Committee on Health and Wellness's ratification of the rejection of this Bill, is fully supported. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Pretorius. [Interjections.] Hon members, I have to announce that there are currently 32 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate.

The question put before the House that the Report of the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness on the National Health Insurance Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP not to support this Bill, be ratified and adopted. Are there any objections?

Hon MEMBERS: Yes!

An HON MEMBER: No!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and therefore, I put the question that those in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say 'aye'.

Hon MEMBERS: Aye!

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say 'No'.

Hon MEMBERS: No!

The SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it and therefore the question is approved. The Report of the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness on the National Insurance Bill has therefore been adopted. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the Report of the Standing Committee on Mobility on the National Land Transport Amendment Bill [B 7–2016] (NCOP).

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, the House received the Report of the Standing Committee on Mobility on the National Land Transport Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP not to support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish, and I recognise the ANC.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Hon Speaker, the ANC supports the Amendment to the National Land Transport Amendment Bill. Hon Speaker, I stand before you today to address a matter of great significance: the National Land

Transport Amendment Bill. This crucial piece of legislation, designed to amend the National Land Transport Act of 2009, has been returned to the National Assembly for consideration, bearing the weight of the President's reservations regarding its constitutionality.

The primary objectives of this Bill are multifaceted, aiming to enhance and modernise the National Land Transport Act of 2009. Its proposed amendments include the insertion and modification of certain definitions, addressing the imperative need for non-motorised and accessible transport, and aligning the Act with the latest developments in the transport sector.

The Bill expands the powers of the Minister to make regulations and introduce safety measures. In a world that is ever evolving, the ability to adapt and regulate is paramount to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our citizens, as well as the efficiency of our transportation systems.

The prescription of criteria and requirements for municipalities to enter into contracts for public transport services is another commendable aspect of this Bill. This ensures that municipalities adhere to standardised guidelines, promoting transparency and accountability in providing public transport services.

The National Land Transport Amendment Bill seeks to harmonise and synchronise various transport related legislation, resolving issues that have emerged since the implementation of the Act. It is a testament to our

commitment to progress, efficiency, and the overall wellbeing of our citizens.

In conclusion, let us approach this deliberation with a sense of duty to the people we represent and the nation we serve. The National Land Transport Amendment Bill, with its noble objectives, provides us with an opportunity to enhance our transportation systems, promote safety, and foster regional empowerment. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, this Bill remains hollow and inadequate. It fails to regulate the e-hailing transport services in the country, thereby creating room for chaos between Uber, Bolt drivers and the minibus taxi industry.

Hon Speaker, it fails to put in place tighter measures to control the proliferation of heavy trucks on the roads as a result of the collapse of the railway system in the country. It fails to create an enabling environment for the progressive inclusion of taxis in all aspects of transportation and it creates a perception rather, of a competition between the taxis and the Bus Rapid Transit. For these reasons, the EFF rejects this Bill. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. I recognise GOOD.

Mr P DE VILLIERS (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. We do not support the Bill.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): No declaration, hon Speaker.

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

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): No declaration, hon Speaker.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Al Jama-ah: we support this Bill.

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

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the National Land Transport Act was enacted in 2009 and largely, it was in line with the transport strategy of the ANC at the time and also to create a system to accommodate the BRT bus systems, as well as certain mechanisms that need to be put in place for the 2010 FIFA World Cup tournament in the country.

Now, hon Speaker, that subsequent concerns rose as a result of the particular Act and these amendments are purely technical in nature. One of the things that we have of concern, hon Speaker, is there is absolutely little clarity in terms of the separation of powers between the three spheres of government and these were expressed during the portfolio stages in the National Assembly, as well as through the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, as well as the City of Cape Town.

So, we are of the view that where municipalities and the cross-borders are not able to contract with transport operators, that the competent province, like the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the Executive, should be able to intervene and assist municipalities in negotiating these contracts. This particular Act to confer those powers to the National Minister, is what we do not agree with.

So, we submit that the number of recommendations and proposals as to how we could remedy the situation and how we could strengthen the legislation, all of these recommendations were rejected by the NCOP. I then subsequently wrote to the Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the NCOP, expressing my disgust and my unhappiness after expending a lot of time with public participation and also making the effort of coming up with meaningful suggestions as to how we could strengthen the legislation.

The NCOP simply just did not even respond to that in terms of the recommendations. My letter was then subsequently tabled at the NCOP

meeting where the mandate of the ERT was discussed and the only response I received: We acknowledge the concerns raised in your letter. Nothing, no explanation as to why our recommendations were not even considered ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon America, please conclude.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): And in the context of that, hon Speaker, we do not support the National Land Transport Amendment Bill. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon America. Hon members, I have to announce that there are currently 33 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate.

The question put before the House is that the Report of the Standing Committee on Mobility on the National Land Transport Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP not to support this Bill, be ratified and adopted. Are there any objections?

Hon MEMBERS: None! No.

Hon MEMBERS: Ja.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and therefore, I put the question that all those in favour of the Report being ratified and adopted, please say 'Aye'.

Hon MEMBERS: Aye!

The SPEAKER: That those not in favour of the Report being ratified and adopted, please say 'No'.

Hon MEMBERS: No.

The SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it and the question is therefore approved. The Report of the Standing Committee on Mobility on the National Land Transport Amendment Bill has therefore been adopted. The Secretary will now read the Fourth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the Report of the Standing Committee on Mobility on the National Road Traffic Amendment Bill [B 7D-2020] (NCOP).

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, the House received the Report of the Standing Committee on Mobility on the National Road Traffic Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish, and I recognise the ANC.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Today, I stand before you to address the critical implications and transformative potential

embedded within the National Road Traffic Amendment Bill. Hon Speaker, the ANC states clearly that it supports the amendment to this Bill.

This legislative proposal is a pivotal step towards the comprehensive realisation of the strategic interventions articulated in the Road Safety Strategy. It is our duty, as responsible lawmakers and representatives, to ensure its proper implementation for the betterment of our nation's road infrastructure and safety protocols.

The Bill endeavours to address the practical challenges ingrained in the Road Traffic Management system. This system, designed to uphold norms and standards, plays a pivotal role in enabling the effective performance of sub-national spheres of government and their executive authorities.

The Bill is aimed at enhancing the overall efficiency and accountability within our land transport framework. One of its primary functions is to provide a robust mechanism for the registration and licensing of motor vehicles by empowering an MEC, or Provincial Minister in our case, to oversee these processes.

It further aims to regulate driving school instructor registration and grading, promoting discipline and professionalism in the industry by prohibiting unregistered and ungraded schools and instructors.

The Bill endeavours to make misconduct and criminal processes more

efficient, effective, and properly enforced. By empowering an MEC, or a Minister in our case, to declare as void all documents purporting to be driving licenses, the legislation takes a bold stance against fraudulent activities within the licensing system. The Minister's authority to appoint an inspectorate of driving license testing centres serves as a crucial step towards enhancing the integrity of the licensing process.

In conclusion, the National Road Traffic Amendment Bill is a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering a secure and efficient transportation network for all citizens. Let us collectively rally behind this legislation, recognising its potential to reshape our nation's roads for the betterment of all. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters supports the National Road Traffic Amendment Bill. This Bill addresses some of the technical and administrative issues which should have been addressed a long time ago. Some of these technical and administrative issues include management of national road traffic personnel, enforcement processes and regulation of entities that are tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that the processes or the process of assessing vehicle roadworthiness is in line with efficient standards.

Hon Speaker, as the EFF, we believe that the amendments introduced by this

Bill will improve efficiency in the National Road Traffic management. We also hold a view that alcohol for both drivers and pedestrians is a huge problem on our roads.

Lastly, we need a fully functioning railway line system. Heavy goods should also be transported through the railway line, and not on our roads. Heavy duty trucks on our roads are responsible for the many tragic accidents we see on our national roads on a daily basis, and we cannot continue like this.

Having said that, the EFF supports this Bill, hon Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. I recognise GOOD. Hon de Villiers?

Mr P DE VILLIERS (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. No declaration.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): No declaration, hon Speaker.

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

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): No declaration.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Al Jama-ah: we support the Bill. Thank you.

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

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the current legislation was in need of an update in order to improve the working conditions of our licence examiners, grading of our training facilities, registering a group involved with the microdot technology and those who manufacture number plates. And also, to outlaw negligent issuance of learner licences and drivers licences, and also to register and grade driving school instructors and driving schools, and potentially, lower the legal blood/alcohol limit for drivers.

So, hon Speaker, this legislation wished to align in a better way, the practical aspects of administering and enforcing traffic laws on the road, and similar other proposed amendments and definitions that are necessary to expand the existing laws that deal with driver behaviour on our roads and roadworthiness of licences.

But something that was omitted due to our agitation in the National Assembly is the removal of the issuance of temporary drivers licences that the ANC wanted to have contained in the legislation. And that these proposed changes, hon Speaker, are in a good way. It will promote driver safety and

safer vehicles on our roads, and the DA and we propose that we support this amendment legislation, and thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon America. I have to announce that there are currently 35 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate.

The question put before the House is that the Report of the Standing Committee on Mobility on the National Road Traffic Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill, be ratified and adopted. Are there any objections?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. The Report of the Standing Committee on Mobility on the National Road Traffic Amendment Bill has therefore been adopted. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill [B 33–2023] (NCOP).

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, the House received the Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP not to support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will now afford

parties an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish, and I recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The ANC supports the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill.

Given that the International Monetary Fund forecasts global growth to slow down from 3,5% in 2022 to 3% this year, and dropping below 3% in 2024, low commodity prices, the risk of US interest rates remaining higher for longer as well as a weaker growth outlook for China – which are South Africa’s largest trading partners – the growth prospects for our national and provincial economies look dim.

As a result, our national public finances remain extremely tight.

As Minister Godongwana indicated in his Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, the Main Budget deficit has increased by R54,7-billion compared with the 2023 Budget estimates.

Lower corporate tax income has led to lower revenue performance, even though personal income tax collection has been higher than expected. Coupled with this is the higher projected debt-service costs and as a consequence the Main Budget deficit in this fiscal year has envisaged a deficit of 4,9% of GDP compared to previous estimates of 4%.

As a result, given this bleak economic outlook and weakening fiscal situation, the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill seeks to make do with what we have and act within the confines of these fiscal and economic constraints.

In the face of these economic and fiscal challenges, Government's role remains ever important especially for the weakest of our society who remain the most affected by these hard times and who are most dependent on the state to survive. This Division of Revenue once again allows for the equitable allocation of funds to provinces and municipalities.

As indicated, National Government has proposed that over the next three years it will be allocating 48% of available non-interest spending to national departments, just over 42% to provinces and just under 10% to Local Government.

While the ANC continues to recognise that provincial and local governments are under pressure to meet infrastructure demands, we also remain cognisant that financially stable municipalities remain the bedrock for economic and social development.

We are aware that Conditional Grants have been adversely affected. Yet the ANC also believes that the amendments introduced to some of these grants will bring about the necessary effectiveness and efficiency needed during these times of fiscal constraint.

It is for these reasons that the ANC supported the Bill. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you. The EFF rejects this Bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise GOOD.

Mr P DE VILLIERS (GOOD): No declaration, hon Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. The ACDP does not support the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill because of the corruption and because of the incompetence of the ANC. We cannot support this Bill. Thank you.

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

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): The Freedom Front Plus cannot support this Bill because it would be an insult to the people of the Western Cape if anybody

accepts this Bill in its present form, looking at the cuts made in the Budget and then blaming the Western Cape Government for not delivering service delivery when they cut budgets. This is a protest vote. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I recognise Al Jama-ah. [Interjections.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Al Jama-ah supports this Bill and through this Bill, the ANC will win the election next year in the Western Cape and will rule the Western Cape ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much. [Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, it is quite interesting when the permanent delegate of the ANC on the Budget Committee does not actually move the declaration on the Budget Adjustment Bill, ...[Interjections.] but the Division of Revenue Amendment B 33–2023 allocates R1,7-billion to the Western Cape Province for public wages, but they owe us more than R1,1-billion, National Government, in terms of the

shortfall for the public wages.

And hon Speaker, I want to make this very clear. If someone owes you R10 and they only give you R5, you must accept your R5, and you must still fight for the other R5 because what the ANC does not want to tell people is it is not their money. It is not National Government and National Treasury and the ANC's money: it is the peoples' money that must be given back to the people.

Further, in this Bill this Bill ...[Interjections.] cuts R642-million collectively from Conditional Grants in the province. In Education, the Infrastructure Grant R156-million is being cut. Early Childhood Development Grant: R14-million is being cut. [Interjections.] District Health Programmes Grant: R66-million is being cut. [Interjections.] Health Facility Revitalisation Grant: R54-million is being cut. Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant: R51-million is being cut. Human Settlements Development: R214-million is being cut. [Interjections.] Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant: R57-million is being cut, and I can go on, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, this amounts to a net increase of R1-billion and is in effect a budget cut on the Province. In substance, the Committee moved to object the Bill, with only the ANC supporting the Bill.

In procedure, the Committee unanimously agreed to request the legal opinion

from the Speaker whether the NCOP meaningfully considered the Committee's negotiating mandate, including a recommendation for an Amendment to the Division of Revenue, the NCOP simply ignored our respective recommendations and we thank the permanent member, the delegate member, hon Mvimbi from the ANC, for supporting this recommendation and for moving to support the Minutes on this matter. [Interjections.]

Further, I welcome National Treasury's written commitment to devolution of powers for provinces, in their reply to the Western Cape and welcome National Treasury to the Western Cape ...[Interjections.] WhatsApp group in this regard. We further welcome the inputs by the Western Cape Children's Commissioner's Office as part of the public participation, as we always encourage public participation. The DA in the Western Cape supports the ratification of this report to object to the Division of Revenue Adjustment Bill. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Baartman. [Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Hon Speaker? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Baartman, thank you very much. Hon Mvimbi, is that a point of order?

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Hon Speaker, just to correct the disingenuity that

has been expressed ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): I supported, I supported ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, this ...[Interjection.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): I support, I did not support their ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. [Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): ...what you are saying. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi ...[Interjection.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): People must not come here and distort
...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, please take your seat. [Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): She must not come here and distort
...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, please take your seat for the third time. Hon

members, that is not a point of order. Hon members, I have to announce that there are currently 34 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate.

The question put before the House that the Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP not to support the Bill, be ratified and adopted. Are there any objections?

Hon MEMBERS: None.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Ja.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and therefore, the question put that those in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say 'Aye'.

Hon MEMBERS: Aye!

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say 'No'.

Hon MEMBERS: No!

The SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it and therefore, the question is approved. The Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue

Amendment Bill has therefore been adopted.

Hon members, that concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all hon members will be exited from the Sitting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 13:00.