
THURSDAY, 1 AUGUST 2024

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

The House met at 09:30.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our esteemed guests to this Sitting, that are seated in the gallery to my left and also in front, but also welcome to the media. Before we proceed I would like to remind members about some of the logistical arrangements.

The quorum requirements for Sittings of this House are provided 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 that are entitled to cast their votes as per the Standing Rules. Members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order.

The Serjeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance. Today's Sitting shall be governed by the Standing Rules and in an instance where the Rules cannot be applied the ruling of the Presiding Officer will be final.

Members should note that all microphones are muted. When an hon member wishes to raise a point of order, such an hon member may address the Presiding Officer, as expected, but must mute their mics when they have completed speaking. Hon members are requested to please ensure that their mics are unmuted when the Presiding Officer recognises them, and when they are done speaking, please mute your microphones again.

I request those that are here today that are not members of this House to please observe the decorum of this House. As it is customary for all Sittings of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament the proceedings of this House will be broadcast live on our website. For this Sitting Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber, as usual.

Hon members, I will now note the Secretary, who will read the Order of the Day.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The SECRETARY: *Debate on the Premier's Opening Address.*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I think it is also fitting for me to say

at this particular time that I have noted the Speakers' List and I have observed that 50% of all members that are listed on the Speakers' List are delivering maiden speeches. I would also look to the Official Chief Whip of the Opposition that it is also confirmed that this will be my maiden opening of the Sitting as the Presiding Officer. However, we know that in this particular House we remain committed to upholding the decorum of this particular House. At this particular time I will now note the first Speaker that is listed on the Order Paper, and I see the Leader of the Official Opposition, hon member Sayed. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Premier Alan Winde, hon Deputy Speaker, Reagen Allen, hon members, our distinguished guests and fellow residents of the Western Cape. I would like to thank our hon Premier for his warm words of welcome in his Address yesterday. As I stand before you today, as the Leader of the Opposition I am representing not only the African National Congress, but the Opposition benches as a whole. As the Opposition, we will agree on a unified approach to hold the Premier and his Administration accountable.

We will ensure that, Premier, you keep your commitment to convene regular sessions between your Cabinet and the Opposition as a whole outside the Sittings of this House to engage on matters of service delivery and policy, amongst other things.

Hon Premier, we acknowledge and support your statement that the new Government of National Unity is a reminder to all of us of the founding principles of our first Democratic Government of 1994, led by President Nelson Mandela. However, Premier, we are not here to be nostalgic. Our people are faced with the harsh realities of daily life in this province. We cannot ignore their plight. On this note the lack of a clear and detailed Western Cape programme of action for the Seventh Administration was glaringly absent in the Premier's Opening Address delivered yesterday. The Administration needs a programme of action, not a wish-list and promissory note, which means little to ordinary citizens. The hon Premier spoke extensively about the brutal weather that has devastated the lives of thousands of people in our province. However, 12 days after this declaration, we have yet to see concrete action to help people in need, many of whom have lost everything.

The unfolding humanitarian crisis in Citrusdal in the Cederberg Municipality is one such example. This rural town has basically been cut off from the rest of the Western Cape. In my capacity as the Leader of the Opposition, I wrote to the National Minister of Social Development and to the Gift of the Givers Foundation requesting support to prioritise Citrusdal. We will go to Citrusdal tomorrow with the Gift of the Givers.

The Premier said, and I quote: "Our steady investment in our Disaster Management System is paying off."

If the system was working we should not have seen the disasters that we did. In addition to the current measures and to increase our readiness for any possible future disasters, we urge the Premier to prioritise the appointment of a Commissioner for the Environment, as set out in the Constitution of the Western Cape. The upbeat tone and pretty picture of our province painted by the Premier is not one that millions are able to recognise. Three-quarters of our residents are underprivileged; three in four of our people, Deputy Speaker. The elite and the well-off continue to benefit from the policies of this Provincial Government.

It is concerning that the Premier believes the priorities of the Sixth Administration will remain in the Seventh. The hon Premier started his address mentioning that during the campaign residents told him: "What is the point in voting? Why should I bother? Things will not change."

So, Premier, tell us what you will do so differently to change the feelings of those who voted and did not vote for the DA because they do not see anything meaningful. They do not see any meaningful impact of this Government. How will things be different? This Government must do more to build a more equal society.

The Premier did not mention the racial tensions threatening a truly united South Africa. As a first step, we call on Premier Winde to convene a multi-party and multi-stakeholder dialogue on addressing racism and

solutions to make the Western Cape a truly united, non-racial province.

[Applause.]

From the ANC's 2024 Elections' Manifesto, we have a programme of action based on the three strategic priorities of the Government of National Unity as outlined by President Ramaphosa.

The ANC is not interested in empty words, Premier. We are here to drive outcomes for inclusive growth and job creation. Premier, we are here to fight for:

- The Economy: reform of the financial and non-financial support system to provide seamless one-stop services for Small and Medium Enterprises; the establishment of industry and community partnerships to harness the job opportunities in the Oceans Economy; immediate enforcement of the National Minimum Wage;
- In Education: addressing the learner enrolment crisis experienced at the beginning of each school year; just provision of learner transport, particularly in our rural areas; supporting continuous upskilling of our teachers; introduce work readiness modules and training to all Grade 12 learners in every school; increasing access to recognition of prior learning courses for older people with work experience with no qualifications.

- In terms of Healthcare, accelerating the plans for G F Jooste Hospital, getting it built before the end of the Seventh Administration. The hon Rachel Windvogel will certainly shed more light on our interventions regarding healthcare.
- On Housing and Infrastructure Development, we demand that this Provincial Department responsible for Human Settlements ends the creeping gentrification of places like Bo-Kaap and Salt River, back to the national policy of developing inclusive human settlements with mixed housing for all.

We need an urgent assessment of the 668 hectares of land released to the Western Cape for opportunities for housing, healthcare and economic development. We must reduce drastically the number of informal settlements by the end of this Administration. We must accelerate the uptake of renewable energy and reduce the tariffs that are too high for too many, especially the poor and working class, including in the City of Cape Town.

Action! This is what the voters and the people of the province are calling for.

Hon Premier, we all share the common goal of a united Western Cape, devoid of discrimination, intolerance, gender imbalance, religious intolerance, class or disability intolerance that battles inequalities and injustices.

Luvuyo Zondani, a disability activist, reminded me in his email that none of us have prioritised, let alone mentioned, providing human social economic and political rights of persons with disabilities. The Department of Social Development provides some services, but the unit in the Office of the Premier responsible for coordinating disability mainstreaming in all Government departments has not been effective in its role. Mr Zondani catalogues a list of serious issues, and I urge the Premier to meet with him. Mr Zondani is one of many who have shared their concerns with me about the state of the province, concerns which we are not able to mention because of time constraints.

The issue of protection fees that residents have shared their concerns with me about the state of this province, the issues of protection fees that residents have to pay to criminals and gangsters to keep themselves safe are intolerable. [Interjections.] The hon Benson Ngqentsu will speak to issues of crime affecting our communities. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Obviously!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The residents of Salt River request a halt to evictions and instead sell the houses to the residents at reasonable prices on the part of the City of Cape Town. This call is also supported by the EFF, by Al Jama-ah, by the National Cape Coloured Congress and the GOOD parties.

The Young Romans' Sports Club and community in Gugulethu who have secured private funding for a multi-purpose sports complex with Ajax Amsterdam are just asking the Western Cape Education Department, which owns the land, to give permission to build the complex. Sadly this Government, Premier, is standing in the way of this public-private partnership for the benefit of the poor. I hope the Premier and his colleagues have at least got a glimpse of the real issues affecting ordinary people across the province. I invite the Premier to join us on the ground amongst our people to see and hear how they experience the Western Cape.

The African National Congress remains committed to realising the freedom of Palestine in this lifetime. We condemn Israel's participation in the Olympic Games and the blatant disregard for the advisory opinion of the ICJ and its Advisory Committee while Palestinians lay dead on the world stage. I also express my condolences to the Palestinian people and the resistance on the brutal murder of the Hamas Leader, Ismail Haniyeh.

The people of the Western Cape expect us to guide the province towards a better life by working together. Together we must ensure that the politics of consultation finds expression at Local Government level. We need to collectively bring much needed stability to the hung municipalities in our province so as to drive clean governance and quality services in the best interests of all residents. I know it is something that the hon Bredell often speaks about.

There should be no monopoly on the best and most impactful ideas in our current political reality to drive our province and its people forward. The ANC as the Official Opposition have a duty and responsibility entrusted to us by voters of this province to hold the DA-led Government to account. The ANC is here to drive service delivery and solutions that improve the living and economic conditions of all residents, workers, business, investors and visitors in our province.

Therefore, hon Premier, the ANC as the Official Opposition in this province and represented in this House assures you that our presence and representation here will reflect the mandate of our voters and all other voters, even those who did not vote for us, who during this term expects and experiences this Government to be governing, performing, delivering better than it does.

The ANC in this House and Province will bring forward, Deputy Speaker, policy proposals and recommendations in the interests of building and moving this province forward, not burning, nor breaking. We have and will continue to listen to our people, civil society and economic stakeholders. Thus, we are committed to bringing forward implementable legislation that drives meaningful and transformative growth and ensures that the people of our province benefit economically from its advancement and the gains thereof, because this includes addressing the continued and persistently high levels of prevailing poverty, unemployment, homelessness and inequality in our province.

We must do this, not merely to hold you to account before this House, hon Premier, and to the people of our province, but to ensure that you, Premier, and the Democratic Alliance as the governing party in this province, has no choice but to work with us and not against us, for the benefit of our people and our province. The ANC expects and accepts nothing less.

Our people are facing the harshest realities on the ground, in communities, places of work, institutions in our province, and we have not done enough to bring about real change to their lives, and I say "we", I speak about the body politics. We must do more, and indeed there is hope, and there is opportunity to do so. Working in this manner we have the unique prospect of doing so during our tenure, Deputy Speaker, but we must do so working together – not against.

We have a collective responsibility to develop and consistently implement only the best policy ideas to overcome the myriad of challenges we face and unlock the boundless opportunities and untapped potential of our province nationally, within the African continent and on the global stage.

Premier, this is not optional. It is imperative and what our province and its people deserves. As the ANC and the Opposition as a whole we will do it, but, I invite you and your Government to work with us in achieving it together. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member. We started off on a positive note that we keep time so I will now see the second speaker, who is delivering her maiden speech in this particular House. Members, as per the convention we are fully aware that during the delivery of a maiden speech convention normally dictates that we will limit heckling as well as interjections. However, there is a limitation in terms of that particular speech and the content actually being non-controversial. I will now note the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, yesterday in this august House we heard the Premier of the Western Cape, the hon Alan Winde, give his Opening Address for the Seventh Parliament. In it he laid out many of the successes the Western Cape Government has achieved over the last term, but, perhaps more importantly, he outlined the plans and hopes for this upcoming term that are designed to see the people of the Western Cape not only survive under uncertain circumstances but to thrive in this province; this province that has the lowest unemployment rate in South Africa; this province which has the fastest growing population in South Africa and this province which has the highest voter turnout in South Africa.

What this illustrates, Deputy Speaker, is that people in the Western Cape have something to vote for. They have hope for the future, something which in recent years has been all too rare in our nation. Speaker, I believe that this hope is down to the fact that in the Western Cape the only province governed by the DA in an outright majority, our Government is prepared not

only for the issues of today but the issues of tomorrow, next year and the next decade. In a quote that is as true now as it was when first delivered in 1790 famed polymath, Benjamin Franklin told us that “If you fail to plan you plan to fail and nowhere is that more true than in South Africa.

Many of the problems we face as a nation can be put down to a consistent inability of previous National Governments to plan properly, economically spatially and geo-strategically. The results are obvious – ongoing sustainability problems, economic crisis and environmental degradation for so many citizens living in our country. But where has this not been the case? Where have we seen success, growth and rising prosperity? Here in this single province, the Western Cape, and why? Because the Government of the Western Cape plans for the future!

We see this forward focus as our Government responds to the extreme levels of rainfall and flooding that have beset our province. The weather in recent weeks has placed our province in an exceptionally difficult position. Yes, our dams are full, but our people are suffering. Our ground is waterlogged, our rivers are in spate and our infrastructure is under serious challenge in the ongoing rain, but at the same time we have seen our Disaster Risk Management First Responders spring into action – properly capacitated, resourced and trained. They have provided absolutely vital support to our communities and kept the province running in the face of substantial adversity.

Contrast this response with provinces like KwaZulu Natal whose previous Government had not only failed to ameliorate the disasters of flooding and mud slides of recent years, but failed to take the necessary steps to plan for future natural disasters. When this happens it is sadly the people on the ground who suffer – not the political figures that failed them. The fact that failing to plan is increasingly no longer an option, the harsh reality of climate change is here and here to stay and when the chips are down, when the rivers are flooding, when infrastructure is falling apart, I am grateful that we have a government which plans ahead, but this is not just in the area of Disaster Risk Management that we have seen this forward-thinking approach. Our Province is leading the way in confronting the energy crisis caused by previous National Governments and as we heard yesterday, the Western Cape Government is using technology to make a real difference in the lives of people.

Robotic surgeries, tech enabled policing, new applications to reduce administrative burdens on our social workers, in these initiatives we can see a government that is not only thinking about the present moment but also the years to come.

As the Fourth Industrial Revolution continues forward at an ever greater pace, the onus is on us as policymakers and public representatives to ensure that our citizens do not get left behind and I am glad to see this Government taking steps not only to leverage technology for the provision of its own services, but to bridge the gap in bringing digital access to all of our

residents.

Above all else I am glad to see that Premier Winde's relentless focus on job creation through economic growth has not wavered. The fact that our province boasts South Africa's lowest unemployment rate is testament to the immensely hard work of this Government in recent years... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): ...but we must remind ourselves that there is still much work to do. The same could be said for the issues of crime, where the pressing need remains for proper resources and decentralised policing, which will make a real difference on the streets of our most violent communities. I am glad to hear the Premier continuing his commitment to these most important of issues, but, Speaker, while yesterday's speech left me optimistic for the work that will be done over the Seventh Term, it is important to note that we do not have smooth sailing ahead of us. The simple reality is that in this province we are short-changed.

The years-long problem of underpayment of the rightful Equity Share is approaching breaking point and all of this Government's careful planning and smart solutions stand to be for nought if we cannot fund them. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I am pleased that we are stepping into a new political landscape at the National level, but my hope for this province is that we will be able to work with this unprecedented Government of National Unity to finally get what is rightfully ours.

Yesterday the Premier told us that he has given our Provincial Minister of Finance special instructions to work with National Treasury to ensure the situation is resolved. Speaker, I believe that all of us in this House, no matter party political affiliations, should pledge our utmost support for this process. After all, each of us sits in this Chamber only because the people of our province voted for us. How are we to repay them if we do not secure the funds necessary to deliver services? Each of us has the duty to serve those who put us here and I believe that that duty starts with making sure this Government finally receives the financial resources it is entitled to. So, as we begin this debate today and set the wheels for the Seventh Western Cape Provincial Parliament into motion, it is worth taking a moment to remember why we are here.

Earlier I mentioned Benjamin Franklin who told us of the importance of planning, but he also gave us another truth that is worth remembering: "Lost time is never found again." There is no time to lose. The people of the Western Cape have spoken and delivered a renewed mandate to this House and to this Government and this party. The task ahead now is clear: to deliver to our people, to plan for the future and to leave this province better than when we found it. Those watching this debate, those who have sent us here

expect results, I fully believe that this House and Government will not let them down. The Seventh Parliament has begun. Let us get to work!

I thank you. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. The following speaker will also be delivering his maiden speech. I now note the hon Van Wyk.

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Hon, Speaker, hon Premier, hon members and esteemed guests in the gallery. In his Opening of Parliament Address the Premier outlined the achievements, objectives and challenges we face in this new term of office. These challenges are not just hurdles but opportunities, opportunities to enhance the lives, experiences and prospects of all our citizens. A key area where we must continue making progress is education. We all recognise the vital role education plays in preparing individuals for the workforce and in providing dignity through employment.

To address the pressing issues within this term we should focus on three critical areas: infrastructure, improving the learning experience and supporting vulnerable learners. Our Province allocates a significant portion of its budget to Education.

However, recent fiscal constraints have had a profoundly negative impact on

the sector. This reduction directly affects our learners and educational institutions. Despite these financial constraints we must adapt and make do with fewer resources. This inevitably means that we need to cut costs for the current financial year.

The Premier has referred to the principle of "fair budget allocation among provinces." We anticipate engaging in discussions with our Government of National Unity partners to address these budgetary concerns. However, it may well take three to five years to resolve these financial issues fully.

As a result of in-year budget reductions and the impact of austerity measures on the 2024/25 Budget, the Education Budget has been set at R30,85 billion. This represents an increase of only R466 million or 1,54% from the revised estimate of R30,38 billion for the 2023/24 fiscal year. This minimal increase falls short of an additional R1,053 billion that a 5% inflationary increase would have provided. To balance the budget the operational budget was increased by 3% while infrastructure spending was reduced by R382 million to R2,3 billion. This reduction means that the operational needs of Education are under-funded by over R500 million with infrastructure facing similar shortfalls.

One of the greatest challenges in Education is infrastructure provision. Our province is the fastest growing in South Africa, not only due to internal growth but also due to in-migration from the other provinces. We must address overcrowding by building more schools. Currently 405 000 learners,

34% of our total, are in overcrowded classrooms and there are 45 schools with more than 1 500 learners each. From 2019 to 2023, 2 255 classrooms were built, but another 1 440 additional classrooms are still needed. This highlights the severe impact of reduced infrastructure spending. Over the coming months innovative and practical solutions will be necessary.

The Western Cape Education Department has begun exploring private public partnerships to encourage private sector investment in school infrastructure. This approach aims to alleviate the pressure on capital funding and redirect resources towards operational needs. Despite these fiscal constraints the DA Government remains committed to supporting all learners especially the vulnerable ones. We are aware that 55% of our learners are from no-fee schools and approximately half receive nutritional support during school days. Socio-economic and psychosocial challenges such as poverty, high unemployment, gangsterism, violence, drug abuse and inadequate infrastructure directly impact on our learners. Our Provincial Government is tackling these challenges head-on.

To address learning issues from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the WCED has launched the BackOnTrack Programme allocating budget and resources for additional tutoring and holiday and weekend classes. The programme has shown positive results, improving language and mathematics scores at the National Senior Certificate level.

The Foundation Phase, heavily impacted by the pandemic, has received

additional time and interventions in early grade literacy and numeracy. These efforts have led to significant gains in Grade 3 scores in both languages and mathematics compared to the previous year.

The Education Department is also focused on creating safer, more secure schools. They are providing support through behaviour programs and counselling to address rising issues such as anti-social behaviour, bullying assault and substance abuse. They are also working to improve Early Childhood Development. In the Western Cape we are committed to learning from each other and collaborating to make our resources stretch further. Our Rapid School Build Programme capable of constructing entire schools in less than 70 days has proven effective. This programme has built hundreds of new classrooms in some of the province's poorest communities, bridging the gap of economic hardship and providing quality education.

New projects like the Lwandle and Blue Ridge Educational Precincts are underway, promising even more benefits for our learners. Earlier this year the Rapid School Build Programme received a significant endorsement from National Treasury with an additional R2,549 billion allocation. In this term of office our goals are to enhance basic mathematics and literacy scores and equip learners with skills for growing the Western Cape economy. We continue to seek ways to improve learner experiences and address the vulnerabilities faced by many.

During the considerable challenges of managing critical infrastructure

funding and operational budgets we remain optimistic about finding practical solutions to improve the lives of our citizens.

Within the Government of National Unity we must continuously listen and understand each other. This Government represents a unique opportunity to incorporate diverse perspectives, strengthen our democracy and enhance our policy-making processes. Let us embrace evidence-based programmes, new ideas, greater accountability and unwavering dedication to our educational landscape. Our children are our future and together we can make that future brighter than ever before. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I now note member Petrus, also delivering his maiden speech.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Speaker, Premier, members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and all citizens of the Western Cape. We as the PA take this opportunity to provide insight into the speech of the Premier. For years the voice of the Coloured population and the destitute of this province have been silent, but the PA is here to place their needs and voices at the centre of decision-making. With that said, the PA commits itself to make a meaningful and constructive contribution in this Parliament.

Is it that yesterday's success story of the Premier is 9 becoming same-old, same-old?

† Ons verstaan die oorblyfsels van die bittereinders is nog steeds besig om die transformasieproses te kniehalter en te kelder en dat hulle nie hierdie proses wil laat slaag nie. Ons staan egter as die PA sement-vas.

Oor die kwessie van misdaad en geweld, dit is een van ons grootste uitdagings en raak ons totale samelewing. Ons inwoners is gevangenes in hul eie woonbuurtes en soos die situasie nou lyk, lyk dit of daar groot fout is met ons benadering en ons metodes. Kom ons gee ons kinders weer 'n kans. Kom laat ons weer genootskappe sluit met ons gemeenskappe, en belê meer in maatskaplike opheffing, maatskaplike werkers, NGOs, sport, opvoeding en vaardighede. Kom ons bemagtig ons buurtwagte en ons polisieforums.

Die PA steun u met die skep van verbeterde infrastruktuur. Ons verstaan die belangrikheid van 'n inkomste vir elke gesin en ondersteun 'n intensiewe openbare werke-program wat meer volhoubaar sal wees. Ons sal saam met u werk om die nodige fondse te bekom.

Die PA verwelkom grootskaalse projekte maar ons deurbraak is in die bou van die tweede ekonomie. Die ondersteuning van kleinsake-besighede is van kardinale belang. Kom ons verwyder die *red tape* en laat ons mense se drome realiseer.

Die PA glo dat die benadering tot die hantering van rampe hersien moet word. Die grootste slagoffers is hulle wat nie in 'n posisie is om hulself te kan help nie.

Agbare Premier, dit bring ons by een van die olifante in die Huis, die geboueramp in George. Agbare Premier, u wil seersekerlik nie u nalatenskap laat onthou word deur die huidige geheime ondersoek na die tragedie nie. Die Munisipale Bestuurder van George Munisipaliteit sowel as die Direkteur van Beplanning het reeds stil-stil hul tasse gepak en geloop. Een van hulle, agbare Premier, is vandag 'n lid van die Huis. [Tussenwerpsels.]

‘n AGBARE LID: Jo!

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Agbare Premier, ons vra dat u onmiddellik 'n geregtelike kommissie van ondersoek instel na die ramp. Het u die magte daarvoor of het u nie? Indien wel, vra ons dat u onmiddellik sodanige geregtelike kommissie aanstel. As u hierdie albatros om u nek wil hê of wil hou, gaan dit u probleem wees, maar ons glo u sal die regte ding doen en so 'n kommissie aanstel. Die skuldiges kan in hierdie geval nie wegkom nie.

Ons mense staan nog steeds vir lang ure by klinieke en hospitale. Daar is nog steeds 'n tekort aan ambulanse en wie ly daaronder? Die behoeftiges en die armes! Hulle wat woon in die voorheen benadeelde gebiede. Kom ons gee aandag aan hierdie situasie en verbeter ons gesondheidsdienste en spandeer meer om dit op 'n beter vlak te bring. Dankie. [Applous.]

[We understand that the remainder of the bitterenders are still busy to hinder and scupper the transformation process and that they don't want this process

to succeed. However, we stand concrete fast as the PA.

About the issue of crime and violence, it is one of the biggest challenges and affects our whole society. Our citizens are prisoners in their own neighbourhoods and as the situation looks now, it seems as if there is a big fault with our approach and our methods. Let us give our children another chance. Let us again form associations with our communities, and invest more in social upliftment, social workers, NGOs, sport, education and skills. Let us empower our Neighbourhood Watches and policing forums.

The PA supports you with the creation of improved infrastructure. We understand the importance of an income for each family and support an intensive public works programme that will be more sustainable. We will cooperate with you to gain the necessary funds.

The PA welcomes large scale projects but our breakthrough is in building the second economy. The support of small business is of the utmost importance. Let us remove the red tape and let us realize people's dreams.

The PA believes that the approach to handling disasters should be revised. The biggest victims are those who are not in a position to help themselves.

Hon Premier, that brings us to one of the elephants in the House, the building disaster in George. Hon Premier, you surely don't want to your heritage to be remembered by the present secret inquiry into the tragedy. The Municipal

Manager of George Municipality as well as the Director of Planning have already packed their bags and disappeared quietly. One of them, hon Premier, is today a member of the House. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Jo!

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Premier, we ask that you immediately appoint a of inquiry into the disaster. Do you have the power for that or don't you? If so, we ask that you immediately appoint such a judicial commission. If you want this albatross around your neck or keep it, it will be your problem, but we believe that you would do the right thing and appoint such a commission. The culprits cannot escape in this instance.

Our people are still standing for long hours at clinics and hospitals. There is still a shortage of ambulances and who suffers because of that? The destitute and the poor! They who live in the previous disadvantaged areas. Let us pay attention to this situation and improve our health services and spend more to bring it to a better level. Thank you.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I now note the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, as the Western Cape patiently waited for the Premier's plan of action, yesterday's Address by the Premier delivered absolutely none of that as it delivered not

even a bit of hope for the poor and the marginalised in this province.

We were really hoping that the Premier would firstly give us an update on all the projects and promises that he introduced in his first term, but he stood here yesterday bragging over a whole lot of nothing and instead came with new promises, knowing very well that he still has incomplete projects of the previous term.

The Premier spoke about storms, Deputy Speaker, he spoke about disasters, but he forgot to mention one of the most important things that I think a lot of us would have appreciated, which is that of the disaster on the Cape Flats and in other parts of the province, which are drugs, gangsterism and crime, in particular.

Deputy Speaker, he failed to address this in the previous term so it was clear that yesterday there was no plan of action or idea as to how he actually plans to eradicate crime in the province. This is why you would have noticed that he only mentioned a few sentences related to crime which was something about technology and nothing about how he actually plans to address the root causes of crime. But this then brings us to the question of what have the Premier and his Government really done to address crime in this province, because seriously, Deputy Speaker, why is this province still experiencing an increase of crime especially in poorer communities under his watch as the Premier? Why are gangs still holding our communities hostage under your watch, Premier? Why are young children dropping out of school and joining

gangs daily under your watch, Premier? Why has these issues not been eradicated under your watch, Premier?

Deputy Speaker, the Premier never spoke anything about townships or poorer communities who suffer under dire conditions also under the Premier's watch, with no little services, because even the simplest things that the Premier could have done for the poor and the marginalised in this province have not been prioritised in the previous term and it will not be prioritised in this term.

To add, how can we trust what the Premier is promising us in this new term, when we know very well that he failed in the previous term? So, Premier, I would like to ask if you can give us an update. What happened to the 24/7 Grabouw Community Day Centre because even here the DA failed to follow on such a simple pilot project to keep the facility open 24/7.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic the Premier promised that his Government will procure its own COVID-19 vaccines and create more jobs specifically for those in the health sector, but both never took place. During that time many healthcare workers were used during the pandemic and promised better salaries as well. When it ended, Deputy Speaker, the Premier and his Government turned against these workers serving many of these employees with termination letters.

In 2021 the Premier indicated that the Blue Dot Minibus Taxi Project was a

great approach. However, what followed from that was a total failure as well as not only did the Premier fail to expand this project but his Government pulled the plug on it, leaving the taxi industry out in the cold.

In 2022 the Premier promised to turn the old Robbie Nurock Day Hospital into a shelter for homeless people, promising over 120 beds for the homeless people, but his Government made a u-turn on this project as well and came with silly excuses. It was later turned into a museum clearly for tourist purposes, so how exactly can we trust the Premier with such a history?

In conclusion, the EFF will table a motion in National Parliament that requires Ministers to have a post-matric qualification. We are going to extend this motion to legislatures to include that Premiers, Speakers and MECs must have a post-qualification and from recognised tertiary institutions, because clearly part of the problem here is that we have Premiers and MECs who lack the requisite variety and understanding to run the province and take care of the actual needs of its people. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Order members! 25% of speeches have been delivered and we are all within time. Thank you so much. I now note the hon Jacobs, who is also delivering his maiden speech.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you. Thank you. Greetings to all. I greet you all in the name of the most high.

An HON MEMBER: Uh-huh! Amase!

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Mr Premier, I stand before this Chamber as a humble son of the Cape Flats where I still reside to this day. Premier, your address to this House was well-framed, yet it was lacking in both truth and context.

I have been deployed to this august House, Mr Premier, to tell the Coloured truth. It is my intention to tell the truth and nothing else. Mr Premier, I did not come here to fight. I came here for the overdue accountability owed to the now deceased Coloureds and those who are yet to be born in this oppression. It is my intention to ask some questions, state simple facts and expect transparency truth and response.

This is how this Administration deals with my people, is it not?

Why, hon Premier, was no apology offered to the Coloured community for your Government's blameful handling of the gang wars raging on the Coloured community? Why, hon Premier, was no apology offered to the Coloured child for the abuse of its education monies in excess of R1 billion of it? Mr Premier, why was no apology offered to the elderly Coloureds, those who were evicted from their ancestral land, whose heritage is still being sold by the Democratic Alliance as if apartheid never ended? And the truth is apartheid has never ended in this province. In fact, under your Administration, Brown is the new Black.

Premier, we concur that the budget cuts implemented due to your coalition partners, the ANC's, woeful managing of this country's fiscus will not make improving anything any easier, but take us into your confidence and explain to us why this Government won't spend monies available in the Coloured communities even when spending it is easier than retaining it.

As a simple example the Manenberg School of Skills was supposed to be built in 2017 but this DA Administration of yours refused to award the tender to a Coloured woman, choosing to unlawfully award it to Haw and Inglis, a company which is not only white-owned but is also known to empower gang bosses with our tax money. Your Government has wasted millions in legal fees to the aggrieved Coloured contractor, yet Manenberg has no School of Skills.

In 2023 Judge Slingers of the Cape High Court ordered this Government to right its supply-chain management wrongs regarding the Manenberg School of Skills. To this day this Government is in contempt of court, all this to further disenfranchised Coloured excellence.

Mr Premier, in light of all the social ills in the Coloured community, please explain to us why you deny our children the opportunity to upskill, live better and perhaps live longer?

In light of the evidence presented here will you, Mr Premier, take a public

stand against the officials who break our laws and pass the legal bill to the taxpayer? Premier, will you account for the G F Jooste Hospital closed by the Democratic Alliance? Can we quantify the hours of pain and frustration suffered by the poor, the elderly and the disabled as years of empty promises of a replacement hospital has become nothing but an illusion, and, Mr Premier, I think this House can concur that the answer is no.

I want to know, has any other community been targeted for the pain, suffering and gutter education like mine has? Uh-uh. Premier, listen carefully! Tonight 10 of our sons will die on the Cape Flats alone.

In light of the fact that the current Safety Plan is ineffective, what is the plan to ensure the safety of my people? Is the release of our ancestral lands on the agenda? Will you address the forceful removals and the Group Areas Act or will you continue to sell our rights to the wealthy?

Now it is very sad to see after 30 years of democracy in this Western Cape Provincial Parliament you do not have one small little item that resembles the Khoi, the San and the Bushmen whose genocide was committed right here in this province.

†Skaam julle! [Shame on you!]

Premier, if we unlock the land, if we unlock the stolen land from our parents, most social ills will dissipate, but this oppressive Government knows this.

Mr Premier, with all due respect, this is not 2019. Our Coloured people will not be open to an abuse for another term. The NCC will make sure this will not happen again. Amase! I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, member Jacobs. I now note Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Premier, hon Ministers hon members of the House, Speaker, it is an honour for me to take part in this debate on the Premier's Opening Address at the official opening of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. I am excited about the next five years of governing in the Western Cape.

†Speaker, die Wes-Kaap bly die bes-bestuurde provinsie in Suid-Afrika. Ons munisipaliteite troon uit ten opsigte van die res van Suid-Afrika en dit is die afgelope jaar weereens deur die Ouditeur-Generaal bevestig met 27 uit 30 skoon oudits. Ja, ons weet ons kan nie skoon oudits eet nie. Ons kan ook nie korrupsie eet nie. Goeie regering begin by *accountable financial management* en dit is wat ons aanbied vir ons gemeenskappe.

Die Wes-Kaap staan ook weereens uit met 15 Bloudruppel-toekennings deur die Departement van Water en Sanitasie. Dit getuig van goeie waterbestuur in hierdie provinsie en gee regte hoop aan die burgers van hierdie provinsie dat die Regering gee om.

Volgens Good Governance Africa se 2024-verslag is die Wes-Kaap die beste Metro in die land. Agb Adjunkspeaker, Swartland Munisipaliteit is die beste klein munisipaliteit in die land. Drakenstein Munisipaliteit is die beste sekondêre munisipaliteit in die land; Saldanha is die beste grootdorp munisipaliteit in die land. 15 van ons top 20 munisipaliteite in Suid-Afrika is in die Wes-Kaap. Dit is iets om op trots te wees, agb *Deputy Speaker*, maar ons weet daar gaan baie uitdagings wees in die pad vorentoe.

Ons provinsie word beïnvloed deur verskeie eksterne tendense wat buite ons beheer is en ons kan slegs die impak daarvan bestuur, agbare *Deputy Speaker*.

Ek verwys na onder andere die klimaatsverandering. Die Wes-Kaap gaan warmer en droër word en storms en droogtes gaan meer intens word in die Wes-Kaap. Populasiegroei en migrasie na die Wes-Kaap, die verstedeliking plaas toenemend druk op ons begroting om basiese dienste aan almal te lewer. Meer mense beteken meer risiko wanneer ons vloede en veldbrande het. Ongelykheid in Suid-Afrika oorheers steeds die besluite van begrotings-toedelings wat ons maak. Ongelykheid hang soos 'n verskriklike rookwolk oor alles in hierdie land. Slegs volgehoue ekonomiese groei kan ons laat deurbreek na helder blou lug.

[Speaker, the Western Cape remains the best managed province in South Africa. Our municipalities rise above the rest of South Africa and during the past year it has again been confirmed by the Auditor General with 27 out of 30 clean audits. Yes, we know we cannot eat clean audits. We also cannot

eat corruption. Good governance starts with accountable financial management and that is what we offer our communities.

The Western Cape also again stand out with 15 Blue Drop awards by the Department of Water and Sanitation. This testifies to good water management in this province and provides genuine hope to the citizens of this province that the Government cares.

According to Good Governance Africa's 2024 report, the Western Cape is the best metro in the country. Hon Deputy Speaker Swartland Municipality is the best small municipality in the country. Drakenstein Municipality is the best secondary municipality in the country; Saldanha is the best large town municipality in the country. 15 of our top 20 municipalities in South Africa are in the Western Cape. It is something to be proud of Hon Deputy Speaker, but we know that there are going to be challenges in the road ahead.

Our province is affected by various external tendencies beyond our control and we can only manage the impact thereof, hon Deputy Speaker.

I refer amongst others to climate change. The Western Cape is going to become warmer and drier and storms and droughts are going to become more intense in the Western Cape. Population growth and migration to the Western Cape, the urbanization, increasingly puts pressure on our budget to deliver basic services to all. More people mean more risk when we have floods and veld fires. Inequality in South Africa still dominates the

decisions of the budget allocations we make. Inequality hangs like a terrible smoke cloud over everything in this country. Only sustained economic growth can allow us to break through to clear blue sky.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the predicted increase in intensity of weather events due to climate change has hit us hard in recent times. R3,5 billion worth of infrastructure was destroyed in just two flooding events, June and September 2023. We suffered extensive damage along our coastline due to storm surges in 2023. The Garden Route District Municipality calculated this to be more than R46 million.

We had an extreme busy fire season which has stretched our fire-fighting resources to the limits several times already. Our fire-fighting services has since December 2023 responded to 9 500 fires which burned 135 000 hectares.

A provincial disaster was declared for the severe weather events in June 2023 and July 2024 while the national classification was published in the *Government Gazette* for the September 2023 severe weather event. Recovering from these disaster events has put a financial strain on municipalities and the sector departments. This has been further worsened by the frequency and severity of the events as well as a tight fiscal environment.

Hon Deputy Speaker, with the Department of Local Government's assistance the Province has been allocated approximately R402 million across 14

municipalities. Assessments for the recent flooding in July 2024 is not completed yet but will, once again, be huge. CapeNature, our conservation entity, calculated R389 million of damages on the roads and infrastructure across its facilities within the province.

In a challenging fiscal climate it is crucial to form partnerships with NGOs and private sector to drive our initiatives in our municipalities. This requires a shift in how we strategically reduce, mitigate and prepare for disasters. Deputy Speaker, a growing population can be either positive or negative depending on how you manage and plan around it. We need people to work and to grow the economy and to enrich our communities and cultures. People represent new ideas, improved ways of doing things, and only people can create excitement about the shared future for our children and the generations to come. Deputy Speaker, but people have basic needs such as water, electricity, housing, schools and hospitals. A growing population represents growing needs for these services. I am particularly worried about water security if we combine the anticipated impact of climate change on our weather together with our projected population growth. According to Census data the province saw population growth of 27% over the past decade, now standing at R7,2 million people. This number is expected to grow to R8 million people by 2030 and I think we can actually expect it is going to reach R8 million people by 2028/29. This means we add another 800 000 people to this province, meaning if we look at water we need then 161 million litres of extra water per day – per day, hon Deputy Speaker. Are we ready for that?

According to the PERO, the Provincial Economic Review and Outlook, we can expect a population of 10 million people by 2040.

Speaker, during the recent severe weather the hardest hit communities were informal settlements around Cape Town. Estimates indicate that more than 150 000 people were affected. Many people lost their shelter and spent several days in cold and wet conditions, thanks to our NGOs, Gift of the Givers, Lions Clubs, the Red Cross, the public who came to the forefront and helped all of us to support these communities, but a lot of the suffering could have been avoided if people did not live in unsuitable low-lying areas.

Hon Speaker, I once again want to warn about the Driftsands community that is situated downstream of a retention pond. This area is dangerous and an accident waiting to happen and I call on all political parties to help us to find a solution to move these people.

†Speaker, ons 15-jaar Waterplan is een voorbeeld van hoe ons beplan vir die toekoms. Die program gee vir ons data oor elke dorp se populasiegroei, ekonomiese groeiverwagtinge en koppel dit aan toekomstige waterbehoefte. Elke dorp in die Wes-Kaap se bestaande waterbronne en waterinfrastruktuur is ook bepaal en nou kan ingeligte beplanning vir die toekoms gemaak word.

Speaker, ek doen weer 'n beroep op die Nasionale Departement van Water en Sanitasie om asseblief die Clanwilliam-dam klaar te bou en of om die geld oor te dra na die Provinsie sodat ons dit kan doen. Ons doen ook 'n beroep

om die Voëlvlei se kapasiteit te verbeter deur middel van omkapasiteit na die Bergrivier. Speaker, meer mense beteken meer druk op 'n noue interaksie met die natuur. Dit beteken dat rampe soos veldbrande en vloede al hoe meer risiko inhou vir ons groeiende bevolking soos ons nader en nader aan mekaar en aan die natuurlike omgewing beweeg.

[Speaker, our 15 year Waterplan is one example of how we plan for the future. The programme provides us with data on every town's population growth, economic growth expectations and couples it to future water requirements. Every town in the Western Cape's existing water resources and water infrastructure are also determined and now informed planning can be made for the future.

Speaker, I again ask the National Department of Water and Sanitation to please complete their Clanwilliam Dam or to transfer the money to the Province so that we can do it. We are also ask for the improvement of the Voëlvlei Dam's capacity through capacity around the Berg River. Speaker, more people mean more pressure on the narrow interaction with nature. It means that disasters such as veld fires and floods hold more risk for our growing population as we move closer and closer to each other and to the natural environment.]

Speaker, on 6 May this year a building site in George collapsed. Rescue Services coordinated by the Department of Local Government Disaster Risk Management Centre managed to pull 62 people out of the rubble. 33 were dead or died later in hospital. This tragedy and huge loss of life is one of the

largest construction disasters ever experienced in South Africa. According to international experience such building collapses or disasters have only a 10% survival rate. In George a 53% survival rate was achieved.

Deputy Speaker, we must recognise the excellent work our Department of Local Government through the Disaster Management Centre played in this regard. The speedy and professional response immediately after the building collapse played a crucial role in finding many of the survivors within the first 48 hours of this incident. The absolute commitment and dedication of our rescue workers led to the near-miracle rescue of Gabriel Guambe, unbelievably after 118 hours, in this building collapsed.

†Speaker, ons huidige rampbestuurvermoë is stukkie vir stukkie opgebou sedert 2010. Daar was nooit groot bedrae geld beskikbaar nie maar ons het elke jaar iets gedoen met wat beskikbaar was. Brandweerwaens is aan munisipaliteite geskenk. Reddingswerkers is opgelei. Toerusting is onderhou en vervang. Speaker, ons moet ons rampbestuurinstansies koester met die oog op die toekoms. Opleiding, internasionale blootstelling, moderne toerusting moet voortdurend in belê word sodat ons die mense van die Wes-Kaap veilig kan hou ten tye van nood.

[Speaker, our current disaster management capability has been built up piece by piece since 2010. There have never been large amounts of money available but every year we did something with a what was available. Fire brigade trucks were donated to the municipalities. Rescue workers were

trained. Equipment was maintained and replaced. Speaker, we have to cherish disaster management instances with a view to the future. Training, international exposure, modern equipment should continuously be invested in so that the people of the Western Cape can be kept safe in times of need.]

Speaker, with a new Government of National Unity, come new opportunities. I have already spoken to the National CoGTA Minister Hlabisa, on the MOU between the coastal provinces regarding Disaster Risk Management. We must learn from each other and must build a team so that we can support one another in times of need. In that case we look at the Eastern Cape and KZN to sign a MOU with us so that we can support and safeguard our communities.

Speaker, I once again call on the National Government to strengthen the National Working on Fire Programme. Our country has distinct and different fire seasons and we need a well-functioning and well-funded national entity that can move resources across borders as they are needed.

I am concerned about the National Defence Force's inability to provide aerial support during the recent floods and fires. A Provincial Government cannot afford a fleet of helicopters or large fixed-wing water-bombers. Our National Government can.

†Agbare Speaker, klimaatsverandering dwing ons om met nuwe oë na ons natuurlike omgewing te kyk. Verskeie studies stem saam dat die verwydering van indringerplantegroei uit ons wateropvangsgebiede en langs ons riviere 'n

uitstekende belegging is. Indringerplante absorbeer meer water as inheemse plante. Dit beteken dat daar waar indringerplantegroei oorneem word ons ontnem van kosbare water wat uiteindelik in elkeen van ons se huis beskikbaar behoort te wees. Indringerplante groei ons riviere toe en wanneer daar vloede is oorstrom riviere en veroorsaak miljoene rande se skade aan privaateiendom, paaie en brûe. Ons het dit nou weer in Citrusdal beleef en as ons nie ons lesse leer nie, gaan dit weer gebeur.

Speaker, daar is 'n gesegde wat sê dat 'n donkie nie sy kop twee keer teen dieselfde klip stamp nie. Kom ons wees beter as 'n donkie in Citrusdal.

Agbare Speaker, na hierdie nat reënseisoen kan ons onself reeds regmaak vir 'n baie besige brandseisoen. Dit is 'n feit dat indringerplantegroei warmer en meer intens brand as 'n inheemse fynbos wat natuurlik van tyd tot tyd moet brand. Indringerveldbrande is 'n baie groter gevaar vir ons brandbestryders se lewens en die publiek se eiendom.

Speaker, hier is ook 'n area waar ek groter samewerking met veral die versekeringsbedryf wil sien. Indien huiseienaars versekering teen brande het kan dit nie wees dat net die Provinsiale Regering geld spandeer om eiendom te beskerm teen veldbrande, in veral hoë-risiko areas nie.

[Hon Speaker, climate change forces us to look at our natural environment differently than before. Various studies agree that the removal of alien vegetation from our water retention areas and along our rivers is an excellent investment. Alien vegetation absorbs more water than indigenous vegetation.

It means that where alien vegetation takes over we are denied precious water which ultimately should be available in all our houses. Alien plants constrict our rivers, and when there are floods rivers flood their banks and cause millions of rands of damage to private property, roads and bridges. We have now again experienced it in Citrusdal and if we do not learn our lessons it is going to happen again.

Speaker, there is a saying that a donkey does not bump its head against the same stone twice. Let us be better than a donkey in Citrusdal.

Hon Speaker, after this wet rain season we can prepare ourselves already foreigners very busy fire season. It is a fact that alien vegetation burns warmer and more intensely than an indigenous fynbos which has to burn naturally from time to time. Alien vegetation fires are a much greater danger to our firefighters' lives and the public's property.

Speaker, here is also an area where I would like to see more cooperation with especially the insurance sector. If house owners have insurance against fires it cannot be that only the Provincial Government spends money to protect property against fires in especially high risk areas.]

Hon Speaker, I conclude. A Government is a lot like a complicated machine you can compare to a motor car. You can have the best and most powerful car, but with no steering wheel or if you do not have a tyre it cannot move. We are living in times of severe austerity measures due to the weak economic

environment. Government budgets are under enormous pressure. Cuts must be made across the board.

I know that the Western Cape Administration under the leadership of Premier Winde has the moral backbone and the required experience to make the tough choices. We will deliver more with less. We will not remove the steering wheel just to make the car cheaper. We are committed and we will work for a better future for the people of this province. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Also delivering his maiden speech, I now note the hon Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, Premier, Ministers, Members of Parliament, our guests in the gallery. Today we are debating the State of the Province Address under rather different circumstances, with our beloved country now governed by the Government of National Unity. The resilience of South Africans has once again shown that when the going gets tough we come together like coming for a braai on a rugby match day.

Despite many efforts by South Africans to stand united to make the country work post the 2024 General Elections, there are still a few outliers who prefer to dance to their own offbeat tune. Some political folks amongst us chose to loot Gogo's money from VBS, clearly inspired by a Nkandla drama of Swimming Pool Series. I am glad there is no VBS-Nkandla Western Cape connection. [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): There is some, there is some!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): The one-year-old babies in the National Assembly seem determined to resurrect the ghost of the famous nine wasted years that plunged us into darkness, and then there are those who try to divide us along racial lines as if we are contested on a misguided reality show. [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): You will get a chance, do not worry!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): We know you and we see you.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): You will get a chance.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I am delighted to report that South Africans have collectively said... [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Your party is wrong.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): "No thanks, we have seen enough Gucci's and Russian Vodka parties." The drunkenness of those, out of those Vodkas makes them even forget their previous night statements. This past weekend some were very busy celebrating 11 wasted years of flip-flopping, an anniversary that today no-one can really remember. [Interjections.] I am particularly pleased that the voters of the Western Cape have rejected these

tantrum throwing-divas. When they tried to divide us, we stood united in purpose and committed to the good of our province. Hon Premier, enough of the GNU.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of the Western Cape. A recent study by Wesgro conducted in November 2022 revealed that agriculture in the Western Cape has contributed 4,37% to the province's Gross Value Add (GVA) over the past five years. [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Sandvlei!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Moreover, this study highlighted that a remarkable 19% of South Africa's total agriculture GVA comes from this province, the Western Cape.

An HON MEMBER: The Western Cape is in South Africa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): The growth of this sector is crucial for our province's prosperity through SMMEs and tourism.

An HON MEMBER: The Western Cape is in South Africa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): You must listen! However, recent images of the devastation caused by floods in areas like Citrusdal are deeply concerning. Thank you, Premier, for acting swiftly, and yes, more still needs to be done

and I know we can, and yes, we can! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes, we can. [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): We will surprise you.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I welcome the urgent interventions of the Declaration of Provincial State of Disaster to expedite the release of funds necessary for rebuilding our roads and other critical infrastructure to ensure service delivery and that businesses start to thrive again.

I will be condemned not to debate the Clanwilliam Dam debacle. The initial feasibility studies – for raising this dam by 30 metres – which was completed in October 2007, estimated the cost at R1,8 billion with a tender bid of R2 billion.

It was anticipated that this vital project will commence in September 2013 – you must listen – taking 55 months to complete with a projected completion date of May 2018. However, the construction faced numerous delays. Consequently a new bid was issued in August 2016 to increase the storage at a cost of R2,2 billion. The dam is now expected to be completed by 2026, April, at a cost of R3,9 billion, double the price that it was initially costed.

Hon Premier, the farmers and businesses and community of Clanwilliam cannot wait to realise a reliable supply of water for existing agriculture and

farming. Additional water resources will resource poor farmers in the area with 75% of additional yield dedicated to them. [Interjections.]

You must listen! Hon Premier, water is the bedrock of small businesses in our rural towns. We welcome your commitment, hon Premier, to engage our GNU Ministers. Please bring this dam project to their attention as well. The completed dam will assist in driving economic growth and inclusion in this agricultural sector.

I wholeheartedly support the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our Provincial Minister of Agriculture towards small towns. He is not here; he is in the small town fixing some of their challenges. Together let us build a stronger, more resilient rural Western Cape. [Interjections.]

Hon Premier, the subject of wine is very dear to me. As a proud graduate of the business of wine, I am acutely aware of the myriad challenges faced daily by our farmers, farmworkers and all role players in the value chain. [Interjections.]

National Treasury, instead of easing the pressure, now proposes excise duties based on alcohol content rather than per bottle. This goes against the global norm where all countries charge per bottle. Please add this item when engaging the GNU partners to rethink this approach. The wine industry and biological assets are indeed the backbone of agriculture in our province.

Speaking of wine let us look at some sobering statistics from Wines of South Africa (WOSA): in 2023 we exported 16,9% less wine following a 5% drop in 2022, Premier. These numbers highlight the need for a concerted effort to support our farmers and workers in placing more wine on the tables worldwide. The African market in particular is crucial, Premier. Unfortunately we also saw a decline from 90 million litres of bottles of wine consumed to 60 million litres consumed in Africa.

Hon Premier, your efforts to preserve AGOA are commendable. According to Wesgro... Sorry Premier, apologies. [Interjections, speaking simultaneously]

My maiden speech, relax! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Your efforts, Premier, to preserve AGOA is commendable. According to Wesgro's AGOA fact sheet nearly 30 000 jobs were sustained through export related activities under the AGOA Treaty in 2021.

An HON MEMBER: Haibo!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Premier, Foreign Direct Investment is vital. I argue that we do everything to retain these preferential benefits. It is only through working together with global communities with shared values that we

can secure a prosperous future for our beloved agricultural sector in the Western Cape.

Hon Premier, foot-and-mouth disease is now at our doorstep. The last outbreak in 2023 has created a problem in the Free State. Hon Premier, we urge that you also engage on this matter with our national province and our national GNU partners in order to ensure that this foot-and-mouth disease does not spread in the Western Cape. This is to ensure that animals transported between provinces are thoroughly disinfected. We definitely, Premier, recommend that a permanent spray booth at the border in the Western Cape be installed.

Notably, Premier, we also want to also recommend or commend your work with regards to our entrepreneurs, which has again, once again, shown that you have produced remarkable achievements for the people of the Western Cape. The Western Cape Booster Fund has supported over 950 SMMEs across the Western Cape, sustaining 4 977 jobs.

Booster Funds dedicated R85,5 million since 2019. Additionally between May 2019 and March 2023, the Western Cape Government's Red Tape Reduction Unit has saved the province's economy R2,4 billion through its interventions.

Hon Premier, SMMEs in townships are experiencing extortion problems. We welcome your call for the devolution of police powers to increase protection

and visibility of police in our townships to ensure that our entrepreneurs and children in the townships are safe. I thank you, Premier. [Applause]

An HON MEMBER: We are waiting for... [Inaudible, Sitting of the House 1 – 01:18:26]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member Masipa. Also delivering his maiden speech I now note the hon Benson Ngqentsu.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: You must not speak if you do not have the... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now commence with the time.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, our Chief Whip and all hon members. Given the posture of the speech presented by the Premier here today, it is important that one attempts to locate the source of the problem by drawing some important observation from a “well decorated leader and revolutionary, Fidel Castro.” I quote and close quote:

"The truth is that after several decades of new liberalism the rich are becoming increasingly richer while the poor are both more numerous and

increasingly poor."

I stand before you in this Legislature, the second sphere of our Unitary State representing the voices of the working class who continue to live in squalor and exploited across sectors of the economy in this province.

Deputy Speaker, I dedicate this speech to John Beaver Marks who died on this day on August 1, 1972 in the Soviet Union. J B Marks, a trade unionist, a communist, dedicated his life to the struggle against national oppression and the struggle against class exploitation. As we remember J B Marks, workers in the Western Cape are being killed in workplaces, thus I pledge solidarity with the workers who died in the George disaster, and even the 11 fishermen who perished following the sinking of a fishing vessel mid-May this year here in Cape Town. This House cannot remain silent when workers are killed in their workplaces.

To the people of this province, especially the majority working class, I use this maiden speech to commit to ensuring that your voices will find expression on every matter I raise, discussed in this House. We will work together with you to ensure that your voices are heard within the walls of this Legislature. We want you to actively participate in and guide our policy and law-making decisions. We ask you to use the power you have to hold us accountable and ensure we practice good governance and implement policies and programmes that address the interests and aspirations of our people; use peaceful mass actions such as protests and picketing also as a platform to

remind us of our electoral mandate.

Deputy Speaker, despite the bourgeois-class character of this institution, I commit to use it as a platform to challenge and roll back the status quo, the DA's vicious barbaric and violent system of neoliberalism. For all to know neoliberalism is responsible for the persisting crises of poverty, unemployment, inequality, rising cost of living underdevelopment in working class communities, gangsterism, extortion, overcrowding schools, long queues outside the clinics, and the fragmentation of the workers.

It is also responsible for the skewed distribution of resources to affluent communities and the abandonment of productive sectors of our economy in favour of a liberal speculative or casino economies. We must abolish this system and usher in a socialist orientated national democratic society where there will be no crisis of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Deputy Speaker, the Premier in his speech demanded an additional share of the budget from the National Government. Given the Premier's failure to provide a clear and measurable programme of action that will see more resources directed into programmes in working-class communities, such an additional budget will equally be deployed to serve the interests of the rich, instead of addressing the pressing challenges of the crisis of housing, eradication of squatter camps, potholes, road infrastructure, upgrading of taxi ranks, the fight against criminality and the building of an affordable, reliable, safe and integrated public transport system. Deputy Speaker, the

Premier paid tribute to all forces involved in the rescue mission in George during the disaster. We join you, Premier, in this tribute.

Importantly the Premier considered in his speech that the disaster was man made, however his refusal to condemn those responsible for the murder of innocent documented and undocumented foreign nationals who were employed as cheap labour, implies a tacit complicity in those deaths. [Applause.]

We therefore request the Premier to call for a proper investigation into the use of documented and undocumented foreign nationals across sectors of our economy, particularly the construction, hospitality and agricultural sector.

I also want to invite the MEC of Agriculture, the MEC for Police, and you Premier, to tour Ceres and the Cederberg belt and Grabouw to see for yourself the extent of exploitation that foreign nationals are subjected to by their greedy farm bosses. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Exactly!

Ms M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Speaker, and hon members, the Premier could not hide his excitement about the GNU to a point of suggesting that the ANC is in a grand coalition with the DA. However as he continued with his address he revealed what I described as a double-edged sword of participating in and taking direction from the GNU on matters that suit the narrow neoliberal

interest his party represent, while ignoring those that will serve the majority of the people of this province. The Premier must be reminded that GNU is not the ANC's political programme but a consequence of an electoral outcome following the participation of international capital and bourgeois' media for purposes of dislodging our ANC-headed Alliance.

The minimum programme of the ANC remains our shared National Democratic Revolution whose strategic objective is the total liberation of black people in general and Africans in particular from the bondages of centuries and decades of colonialism of a special type and apathy.

Furthermore as a demonstration that the GNU is not a grand collusion arrangement with the new liberal DA, the GNU is built upon the policy position and the manifesto of the ANC-headed alliance. [Interjections.]

Deputy Speaker, some want us to believe that their respective political parties are political centres in the GNU. I argue in this debate that President Ramaphosa is the political centre in the GNU, not Madam Helen Zille who postures as a *ndodakazi* of the GNU.

Deputy Speaker, I visited various police stations where I interacted with authorities and workers. It emerged from this visit that the crucial augers of people's powers CPFs lack resources, a lack of resources, support from... [unclear / inaudible, speaking simultaneously – 09-25-58 at 01:25:56]

An HON MEMBER: Hon member Ngqentsu...

Ms M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Given the Premier's obsession... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, are you able to take your seat?
[Interjection.] Are you able to take your seat?

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Can the speaker just speak softer man, he is shouting at us.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon member Ngqentsu... [Interjections, simultaneous shouting.]

Ms M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, may I proceed?

An HON MEMBER: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, due to the fact that the member was on his feet I then in terms of the Rules had to acknowledge him. It is not a point of order. We will proceed, if that is in order. There is currently 40 seconds remaining on this particular speech and it was promptly stopped before you were requested to sit. [Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Given the Premier's obsession with the devolution of powers, it is also evident that he is prepared to do everything

possible to undermine the police by refusing to provide resources. Therefore the formation of the partnership between the Law Enforcement Agencies and levels of government must not be a mere slogan. We request the Premier who also welcomes the Minister Mchunu's intervention and approach to start implementing the Safer Cities Model and other National Government initiatives such as the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy. Generally the Premier's address was shallow in dealing with measures to respond to community safe issues; instead as he usually does, he apportioned blame to SAPS. I argue in this debate that any analysis... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, your time is up. Please complete your sentence.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...suggesting the flare-up of the gangsterism and all sorts of crime are due to policies flawed. The flare-up is because of lack... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please complete the sentence, thank you.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Must I complete the sentence?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up member.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The flare up of the gangsterism...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up, member!

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Oh! [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I note the Chief Whip of the Official Opposition.

An HON MEMBER: Double standards!

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, I think the last time when I checked in this House when a member is on the floor speaking, you cannot undermine the speaker by showing him, “sit down”, and doing all funny things or closing your ears. When it comes from this side, it is going to get ugly, so I want you to rule on that. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I have not personally noted that, however I will refer to the Table staff and revert back if necessary. [Interjections.] Also delivering his maiden speech in this particular House, I now see the hon Constable.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Deputy Speaker, Premier, members of this Legislature, allow me to greet you in the Almighty name of Jesus Christ, the God Almighty, *Jehovah Jireh, El Shaddai, Elohim, El Elyon.*

†Deputy Speaker, gister het die Premier gepraat oor die GNU en hy was baie entoesiasies. Al wat ek vra, Premier, dat ons die GNU, wanneer ons dit met

soveel entoesiasme bring na hierdie *Legislature*, dat dit wel uitgevoer sal word soos wat dit uitgevoer moet word.

Wat ek agtergekom het is dat hierdie Provinsie, wanneer dit kom by programme van *National Government* het hulle *either* 'n ander naam vir dit of hulle doen ander goeters, byvoorbeeld, terwyl die Nasionale Regering die DDM het, praat ons van die JDMA, dieselfde ding, maar ons wil dit net nie gee dat dit 'n nasionale program is nie, so dit is vir my dieselfde ding. Ek vra dat ons dit op dieselfde manier moet doen en ook die programme so moet doen.

Ek vra ook, Premier, dat dit nie net stop in die *City of Cape Town* of teen die Hugenote-tonnel nie, maar dat alles uitgevoer sal word tot by die plek so ver soos Murraysburg sodat die Sentraal-Karoo ook uitvoering kan gee en 'n gevoel kan kry van wat aangaan in die Wes-Kaap, want op hierdie stadium blyk dit asof dit wat gedoen word in die Wes-Kaapse Regering slegs stop binne die *City of Cape Town* of teen die Hugenote-tonnel.

Premier, u het gister gepraat oor die finansiële stabiliteit en *financial sustainability*, en hoe u gaan die *fair share* van die Provinsiale Regering vra en u het die MEC van Finansies gemandateer om te verseker dat die Provinsie sy *fair share* het. My pleidooi aan u, Premier, is om te verseker dat wanneer ons daai *fair share* het, want die Patriotic Alliance gaan u *support* om te verseker dat die *fair share* kom, dat daai *fair share* ook sal uitbrei na al die streke binne in hierdie provinsie, en nie net sal stop by die streke aan die kus

nie. Sentraal-Karoo, Premier, dit sal u gereeld hoor, Sentraal-Karoo, ons het nie 'n see nie maar ons het 'n magdom van land waar u *development* / ontwikkeling kan uitvoer. Ons het genoeg grond, ons het genoeg land, ons het genoeg *appetite* om te verseker dat beleggers na die Sentraal-Karoo toe kan kom. Ek hoop, Premier, dat hierdie Sewende Termyn van u, dat dit seker sal wees dat dit uitgevoer sal word. So *financial sustainability, yes, financial share, yes*, kom ons maak seker dat dit so uitgevoer sal word.

Die energie, die Premier het gepraat oor, u het genoem dat ons deel met *loadshedding*, dankbaar aan die Nasionale Regering wat dit moontlik gemaak het.

U *approach*, Premier, vir my is eensydig, u *approach* is slegs as 'n Provinsiale Regering gemik op DA-regerende munisipaliteite. Beaufort-Wes Munisipaliteit en ek hoop omdat u nou in regering is dat dit vinniger sal klaarkom ...(tussenbeide)

[Deputy Speaker, yesterday the Premier spoke about the GNU and he was very enthusiastic. All that I ask, Premier, that the GNU, when we bring it to this Legislature with so much enthusiasm, that it will be executed has it should be executed.

What I have discovered is that this Province, when it comes to programmes of National Government, they have either another name for it or they do different things, for example, while the National Government has the DDM, we speak of the JDMA, the same thing, but we don't want to accede that it is a national program, so to me it is the same thing. I ask that we do it in the

same manner and also do the programmes in the same way.

I also ask, Premier, that it does not just stop in die City of Cape Town or against the Huguenot Tunnel, but that everything will be executed to a place as far as Murraysburg so that the Central Karoo can also execute and get the feeling of what is going on in the Western Cape, because at this stage it seems as if what is being done in the Western Cape Government only stops within the City of Cape Town or against the Huguenot Tunnel.

Premier, yesterday you spoke about the financial stability and financial sustainability, and how you we're going to ask for the fair share of the Provincial Government and you have mandated the MEC of Finance to ensure that the Province receives its fair share. My plea to you, Premier, is to ensure that when we have that fair share, because the Patriotic Alliance is going to support you to ensure that the fair share comes, that the fair share will also be extended to all the regions within this province, and to not only stop at the regions along the coast. Central Karoo, Premier, that you will hear regularly, we do not have an ocean but we have a lot of land where you can execute development. We have enough land, we have enough appetite to ensure that investors will come to the Central Karoo. I hope, Premier, that this Seventh Term of yours, that it will be sure to be executed. So financial sustainability, yes, financial share, yes, let us make sure that it will be executed thus.

The energy, the Premier spoke about, you mentioned that we deal with loadshedding, thanks to the National Government that made it possible.

Your approach, Premier, to me is one sided, your approach is only as a provincial government aimed at DA governing municipalities. Beaufort West Municipality, and I hope that because you are now in government that it will be completed sooner...(Intervention.)]

The Speaker took the chair.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Constable, can I remind you your time has expired. I am going to allow you an opportunity to just finish your sentence.

†Mnr N CONSTABLE (PA): U *approach* weereens, Premier, wil ek vra dat plekke soos Beaufort-Wes waar alreeds groot momentum is dat u dit asseblief ook daar sal deurgee. Baie dankie.

[Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Your approach again, Premier, I want to ask that places like Beaufort West where there is already great momentum, that you will also convey it there. Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Constable, please take your seat.

†Mnr N CONSTABLE (PA): Dankie, Speaker.

[Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...before I get accused of allowing you to continue with Beaufort-West, and I do not want to be accused of being biased.

†Inderdaad. [Indeed.]

Thank you very much, hon Constable. I now recognise the hon Marais. Members, this is the hon Marais' maiden address to the House, so please allow the hon member to do so without any interjections. Hon Marais, you may continue.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Premier on his second term of office and wish his reconstituted Cabinet all the best for this new term of office. The Premier referred yesterday to the Government of National Unity bringing us hope. He said: "a feeling of hope and a better or different future." This speaks of change.

It reminded me of a quote by the Greek philosopher, and he said:

"The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

The formation of the Government of National Unity certainly brings about new possibilities, and I was pleasantly surprised that the Leader of the Opposition took the initiative to meet with the Premier to discuss matters. This act symbolises a break-away from the old, the old way of doing things as we enter the era of consensus politics.

Premier, you also mentioned that there were regular floods and disasters especially the past few years. Let me be so bold as to say, Premier, that we

need to establish a Risk Management Task Team, tasked with the responsibility to be in a state of readiness to address any future disasters. Provisions should be made in the budgets for such eventualities. A state of disaster must never be seen to have caught us unaware and unprepared again. Such as in the case of Citrusdal, a second time a disaster strikes, and then a third time.

Even local communities, hon Premier, must be trained and be in a position and state of readiness and fully equipped to assist during state of disasters.

Hon Premier, the Government of National Unity has also given birth to new possibilities when we speak about the devolution of power. Devolution by National Ministers to their provincial counterparts. Such devolution should be one of the main priorities in this Government. All parties must band together and fight for South Africa's future.

In the past political expediency has robbed South Africans of consensus seeking in finding solutions and we can win the war against crime if we can win the war against cadre deployment and corruption.

Member parties who form part of the Government of National Unity should change their narrative and speak with one voice, have one story and advocate that we stand with the principles of the Memorandum of Intent at national level.

Our province and our nation is waiting to be liberated from the Goliath of poverty and be freed from criminality, be freed from gangsterism. Crime has caused all law-abiding citizens of this province and South Africa, to have sleepless nights. Crime has caused children to have sleepless nights and it must stop.

Hon Premier, the people of the Western Cape elected you to lead the battle against crime. Like a David facing a Goliath on their behalf, the responsibility lays on your shoulders, and in this way, like David only had five stones in his shepherd's pouch, in this House there are six political parties that form part of the Government of National Unity at national.

Liberalism unfortunately has lost the fight against crime. It is time for a firmer hand ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, your time has expired.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): ...and a conservative approach to issues ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: I am going to allow you to finish your sentence.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Hon Premier, in concluding, Dr Groenewald, our National Minister of Correctional Services, has already started taking pace in sorting out our correctional facilities.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Marais. Please ...[Interjections.]

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): I would like to ask you ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, your time has expired. I have allowed you the latitude to finish your sentence.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you very much. All the best.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon member Bryant and that this is also hon member Bryant's maiden speech. [Applause.]

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and, hon Speaker, it is great to be here delivering my maiden speech. Certainly a different environment to the National Assembly. I think first and foremost having a Chamber that we are able to debate in is a breath of fresh air.

Hon Speaker, in his speech yesterday Premier Winde mentioned the impact that climate change is having on our province. Along with committing to

work with Premiers of other coastal provinces, he spoke about building a more †"veerkragtige" [resilient] province, as he put it, one that can withstand the unpredictable impacts of climate change.

This will mean both adapting to the changing environment and doing our bit for mitigation by assisting in the Just Energy Transition away from fossil fuels such as coal, towards renewable energy.

Hon Speaker, reducing our emissions is not just about saving the planet, it is the golden key to economic growth, prosperity and resilience. Transitioning away from fossil fuels is not just a good idea, it is a winning strategy and leaders who seize this moment and guide their constituents through the energy transition, will not only bask in the glow of political rewards, but also help to mould the future of their communities.

While it was coal that powered the industrial revolution and coal that has been the backbone of our own energy infrastructure for many years, the world, along with South Africa, has committed to moving on through the signing of the Paris Agreement. Our future prosperity now lies in the embrace of alternative energy sources and the enormous opportunities that come with it.

So it is extremely encouraging to note that the DA-led Western Cape generated over 1 000 megawatts of clean energy last year and is on track to far exceed this in 2024.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): It is also laudable to note that this Government will be dramatically increasing the amount of renewable energy in the grid through ground breaking joint initiatives with our DA-led local governments such as the state of the art solar PV project being planned for Riversdale ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): ...which will generate an estimated 15 million kilowatt hours every year.

This, along with the new solar farms and the Touwsrivier area and the embedded solar project in Atlantis, comprising of over 20 000 ground mounted solar panels, shows this Government's commitment to the transition, but, hon Speaker, we need to do much, much more if we are to build resilience, grow our economy and keep pace with where we need to be.

Major economies and big businesses across the globe are waking up to the fact that moving towards net zero is not just for the tree huggers, it is in our economic self-interest and with the knowledge, expertise and political will at our disposal, the Western Cape is brilliantly positioned to lead the pack when it comes to adapting to climate change and the rollout of new renewable

energy projects.

A key component of this will be ensuring that we align our own strategies and legislation, where applicable, with the ambitious goals of the new Climate Change Act and take inspiration from the Just Energy Transition partnership, or JETP, and the Just Energy Transition Investment Plan, or JETIP.

These plans are largely dependent on the provision and use of significant funding made available by our friends from the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, France, Denmark and the Netherlands, but, hon Speaker, the real cornerstone of the JETP's potential success lies in unleashing the mighty power of the private sector.

We must see the climate crisis as a massive opportunity for economic growth and development, and in order to truly take advantage of this opportunity the Western Cape Government must continue to slash through the tangled web of red tape and give our entrepreneurs and businesses the liberty they need to forge ahead, develop new industries and creates those oh so precious jobs which Premier Winde is so passionate about.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): The era of centralised control over the energy market is now well and truly behind us. We must now endeavour to find

fresh, innovative ways to generate electricity and expand our grid capacity, especially in regions brimming with potential, like the Western Cape.

Let us also take the opportunity to tip our hats to one of our own Local Governments, the City of Cape Town, which was recognised by the Carbon Disclosure Project as one of just two African cities demonstrating real climate leadership. Cape Town really has shown the way forward and how? Well, by acknowledging the immense value of the private sector and investing wisely in energy infrastructure and by working to create prosumers, regular citizens and small business owners who are able to sell their excess energy generated by renewable sources back into the grid.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government's unwavering commitment to a just transition in its climate work, is not just some lofty ideal. It is also a recognition of climate change as a pressing human rights issue with the potential to deepen existing inequalities and roll back our hard won progress.

We all know that the impacts of climate change do not fall evenly. They hit different groups in different ways, leaving some more vulnerable than others. This crucial understanding forms the bedrock of the Western Cape Climate Change Response Strategy, which guides how our province intends to tackle climate change both in mitigation and in adaptation.

This strategy is guided by the Just Transition Framework for South Africa, which was endorsed by the President back in July of 2022. This framework is our guiding star, directing the Western Cape to focus on sectors and value chains most at risk from the transition.

In the future climate change has the potential to cause untold damage to agriculture and tourism, which are the lifeblood of our region. These sectors are not just economic cornerstones, they are vital to the very fabric of our society.

So it is not simply enough to help build more renewable energy infrastructure, we also need to be ready to adapt to the changing climate. Although we are currently in the grips of a very wet winter, recent studies paint a rather concerning picture for years to come. Whether we like it or not, future climate change is set to bring lower precipitation, meaning less water for agriculture in the Western Cape.

Now this is not just a minor inconvenience, it will be a major blow to the Western Cape's farm economy. With less water our farmers will face a tough time leading to a drop in both producer and consumer welfare. As if that were not enough, we are also looking at a decline in total employment within the farm sector. As producers adapt to these harsh new realities by shifting to more extensive production patterns, jobs will inevitably be lost.

If we do not plan for these scenarios it will be the poor and vulnerable that are already struggling to make ends meet, who will be hit the hardest.

This is not just about economics. It is, as mentioned, about the very fabric of our society. The repercussions of climate change are far reaching, affecting not just the livelihoods of our farmers, but the well-being of our entire community.

It is a stark reminder that we must act decisively to mitigate these impacts and support those who will be most affected, but, hon Speaker, there are those who will have us believe that there is no climate crisis and that we can continue with business as usual. Even worse there are those who still shun the involvement of the private sector in the transition and yearn for an era of complete government control over the production and procurement of energy, which was the exact reason why we have suffered with debilitating loadshedding for the past 16 years, but we must see behind the thin veil of conspiracy theories and supposedly altruistic intentions and make sure that we forge ahead with creating a new future, one where we grow our local economy and protect all our people from the impacts of climate change.

The next five years will be critical and we can achieve an enormous amount by working together, inspired by the spirit of the new Government of National Unity. We must all strive to be builders of a new South Africa, starting here in the Western Cape. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Bryant. I now recognise Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker, hon Premier and Cabinet colleagues, hon colleagues in the Legislature on both sides of the House, hon guests, physical and online, members of the media.

Infrastructure is not merely about concrete and steel, it is a human story. It is the backbone that supports our communities, the veins through which economic vitality flows and the foundation upon which we build our province's future.

In recent weeks we have heard how the President and the National Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure have expressed their intentions of making South Africa a construction site. As the custodian and the provincial executive authority of Infrastructure, I could not be any happier to hear those expressions.

This is not only because it shows an alignment between the new GNU and the spirit of intentional service, it is because there is a multitude of key sustainable projects underway across our beautiful province.

Hon Speaker, as we sit here today the Western Cape is not just a construction site, but an active construction site continuously underway. Therefore we are not just becoming, but also we remain the benchmark for the rest of the

country to be measured against, but when we talk about infrastructure we must remember that behind every project, every building and every road, there are human lives that are impacted.

Infrastructure shapes the everyday experiences of all of our people. It determines the quality of our schools, the reliability of our public transport, the safety of our homes, and the accessibility of our healthcare service. Our investment in infrastructure therefore is an investment in the dignity, safety and well-being of all our citizens in this province. At the best of times infrastructure is a story of human endeavour, human aspiration, but above all human triumph.

It is therefore that my ministerial priorities are very clear and focused in support of what the Premier announced yesterday, hon Speaker. We must accelerate the delivery of essential infrastructure while embracing innovation to ensure efficiency and sustainability.

We do realise the traditional methods of construction and planning are no longer sufficient to meet the growing demands and challenges of our time in our province. We need alternative models that leverage cutting edge technologies and innovative practises.

Therefore we need to accelerate the delivery of essential infrastructure. This means increasing both the speed and the scale of our projects to meet the growing demands of all in our province by ensuring we streamline processes

and remove bottlenecks as we can deliver infrastructure that meets the need of our communities promptly.

The floods and inclement weather events since 2022 have had a devastating impact on our infrastructure, particularly human settlements and transport infrastructure. This has had a major influence on the design, construction, upkeep and operation of our transport infrastructure.

Our Department's resilience and ability to adapt to climate change on a tactical and strategic level and to produce results on time, have been demonstrated by our efficient response, for example, during and as a result of the flood damages, our Department, in the absence of national disaster funding, has had to reallocate its resources to ensure that we can at least maintain and open up to 70% of our roads network. While sadly we have had to also ensure we close down certain aspects of our networks due to safety concerns.

Recently some of you might have been stuck on the N1 between the N1 and Sable Road, which was caused by flooding, but yet again we also saw the economic impact of climate change on our infrastructure, but once again our teams, with limited resources, swiftly responded, ensuring that we open that crucial intersection to ensure that we can continue with business as usual in terms of ensuring our economy thrives.

We did this while we saw also the impact of climate change breach the walls

of what was designed to actually be safe and ensure safety on our network. In Citrusdal we are on site as we speak. We have opened alternative routes which still gives that community access to and from, and I am proud to say, hon Premier, that in terms of the main road, the MR310, †ons gaan nie net 'n spoeg en plak operasie daar doen nie [we are not merely going to do a spit and paste operation there.] Our engineers are focusing, we have a clear plan and we will announce that to this House in due course once we are ready and it is properly budgeted for.

Hon Premier, yesterday you spoke of wanting to see more Conradie Park and similar initiatives. †Ek stem saam met u. [I agree with you.] Well, today I am here to tell the House that in this 7th Administration and with this as one of our goals, we will ensure that we provide housing at an optimal speed, but we will focus on doing it on scale. †Die dae van klein dink is verby in die Wes-Kaap. [The days of thinking small in the Western Cape are over.]

We will focus on alternative affordable housing delivery models, but here we will leverage our departmental-owned land and buildings to ensure that once we implement we are ready for impactful implementation, but we also need to embrace new materials and methods, it is vital for the Western Cape of the future, and we are committed to exploring alternative delivery models, innovative building technologies, but above all introducing AI solutions as part of our processes moving forward.

These advancements promises faster, more cost effective and environmentally

friendly infrastructure development, ensuring higher quality and resilience in all of our projects.

In the context of road maintenance, which has been quite mentioned a few times this morning, two examples of how we are doing this already. In terms of the rehabilitation of our roads, we are using concrete crushing to create material that is then reused to actually rehabilitate the same road.

We are also stretching our limited budget by purchasing inline crushers to create gravel material to reduce the need to transport such material from other areas, which normally comes at a very massive cost to our Department, but partnerships are key for the future of our infrastructure in the Western Cape and therefore it is a cornerstone of our strategy in fostering robust public private partnerships.

The private sector's involvement is crucial in pooling resources, sharing risks and harnessing innovation. By collaborating with private entities we can unlock the full potential of our infrastructure projects, ensuring timely completion and high standards of maintenance. We intend to provide alternative housing and affordable housing options at speed, utilising provincially and state-owned land.

In this regard the Artscape Founders Garden Development in the centre of Cape Town and the Vredenburg Urban Revitalisation Project are further examples of private sector involvements that will allow the Department to

provide social interventions at good quality and scale. These projects are now ready for implementation, hon Premier, but we also need to ensure that to fund the objective of our province we must unlock and secure new funding sources, including corporate social investment. Diversifying our funding base therefore will allow us to undertake ambitious projects and ensure the sustainability of our infrastructure investments into the future. Innovative financing models and tapping into CSI funds will provide the necessary resources to drive our infrastructure agenda moving forward.

In order to mitigate the road maintenance backlog in our transport infrastructure, which currently has a shortfall of R3,5 billion per year over the next 10 year period, we have engaged with the National Treasury through its budget facility for Infrastructure and the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure via ISA, and we have submitted two projects which I must say is garnering substantial interest from both these bodies.

We will seek to extend the R300 North Phase 1 at a cost of well over R1 billion. We have also submitted the Wingfield Southern Upgrade Scheme, which links the N1 and the N7. This is an ambitious R11 billion project, hon Premier.

Implementing these projects will align the Cape Town Freeway Integrator, focusing on economic growth, development opportunities, land unlocking and job creation across the Cape Town Metropole Municipality.

In addition to these efforts, South African businesses have invested R10,9 billion in corporate social investment in 2022. Our Department is therefore developing a community participation policy which outlines strategies to better utilise CSI funding to enhance infrastructure provision for all of our citizens in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, our province has been left reeling from some of the worst inclement weather occurrences and disasters, and this needs a response, a very rapid response, which is why I call on all the parties present and in this Legislature, to support my call for the devolution and the decentralisation of the Emergency Housing Fund. †Ons moet vinniger kan besluite maak, ons moet nie wag vir die Nasionale Departement om eendag te reageer nie, [We have to take decisions faster, we must not wait for the National Department to respond one day,] because our people's lives need to be improved effectively and efficiently in record time, in line with what our disaster management teams are doing.

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: But as we prepare the Western Cape for the future we also need to prepare building the skills for that future in our sector, which is why we are committed to creating a trusted infrastructure pipeline by investing in the skills and capabilities of our workforce.

This involves upskilling our existing workers, attracting new talent and fostering a culture of excellence and innovation within our sector.

Through partnerships with the trading service provider and the National Skills Fund, we hope to maintain this excellence by embarking in this calendar year on a third year apprenticeship programme that will enable 93 young people to pass their trade exams in the artisan trade of their choice by July 2025.

An HON MEMBER: Only 93.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: As I mentioned earlier
...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Only 93.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...this province is an active construction site. I wish to share some of the projects to be delivered in the remainder of this financial year.

In terms of the Malmesbury Bypass, a R650 million infrastructure investment. Construction here commenced on 8 May 2023 and it is envisaged that we are well on track to complete it by 9 October 2025. It is forecast that we will provide 420 work opportunities and provide 55 work packages to local SMMEs and emerging contractors. To date 147 workers have been

employed and 25 work packages have already been awarded to local enterprises. So we are bringing to life what you call on empowering all of our people in the economy, hon Premier. [Interjections.]

In terms of security of tenure. Yesterday, hon Premier, you spoke of the GNU's Vulindlela. As one of its priorities we will deliver 3,5 title deeds in this financial year, which is why tomorrow morning I will be actually going to the Whip to kickstart our objective towards handing over title deeds and securing security of tenure.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: In terms of the Van Schoor's Drift interchange, or the greater N7 investment, it is R788 million project. This new link will form part of a high order road between the West Coast and Durbanville. We are targeting to create 280 jobs and empower 34 SMMEs through this project, and for the remainder of this financial year we will deliver 4 745 affordable and mixed housing opportunities for all qualifying beneficiaries, but success for my Department stretches across so many branches, hon Speaker.

I would like to reflect on the triumphant moments which we experience. The human story of my portfolio. Masina Fredericks [1:59:54.0] who lives in Slangrivier in Hessequa, is 109 years old. For the first time in her life she will be receiving not only ownership of her house, but title deeds, which we

have made possible through the Individual Housing Subsidy. This DA-led Government is changing her life at 109 years old.

We also see the empowerment of women in the construction sector. One such example is Ms Pilelwa Mkwakwalwa [2:00:20.0] and Ms Georgina Deyosi [2:00:22.5]. Again the one has a construction engineering company based in Gugulethu, the other in Somerset West. Both of these have gone through our empowerment programmes and they are now eligible for the Advanced Mentoring Training Interventions which we empower these women with, but earlier this morning, and I am proud to say this because my Department is one year old, hon Premier, the Auditor-General has formally informed us that for a new department we have received a clean audit within the first year of being formally becoming our department. [Applause.] †Ons kry dinge gedoen, [We get things done,] but these achievements and clean government, which are reflected in our clean audit, reflect our unwavering commitment as a department and as a Ministry to improving the lives of our people.

In conclusion, hon Speaker, my vision and our vision for Infrastructure is one that places people [Interjections.] at its heart. It is a vision that prioritises innovation, collaboration and responsiveness, accelerating delivery and embracing new models, forging new, stronger partnerships and decentralising funding. We are paving the way for a future where our infrastructure meets the needs of all of our citizens, †want ons bou 'n veerkragtige Wes-Kaap onder die leiding en die visie van agb Premier Alan Winde, waarvoor 55,41% van alle kiesers 'n volle mandaat vir 'n DA manifes gegee het, en hierdie is

die kaptein wat die skip gaan lei. Baie dankie. [Applous.] [because we build a resilient Western Cape under the guidance and the vision of the hon Premier Alan Winde, to whom 55,41% of all voters gave a full mandate for a DA manifesto, and this is the captain who is going to steer the ship. Thank you.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, the next speaker is hon member Lithakong, and this is also the member's maiden speech.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Hon Speaker, despite the hon Premier's low-key and uninspiring speech in his first State of the Province Address for the 7th Administration, one could not ignore but notice a change of tone which was missing in the past five years of his reign, more particularly when he mentioned his Government's willingness to participate in cooperative governance.

In his previous term his attitudes regarding governance, he gave the impression of the Western Cape as a country on its own which did not need the National Government and it must instead be granted similar powers to those enjoyed by the National Government.

The instrument they use to try and achieve this pipedream was in a form of some badly drafted piece of a Bill called the Western Cape Provincial Powers Bill, which sought to circumvent the National Constitution in achieving its

mischievous ends similarly to those witnessed during the height of apartheid.

Hon Speaker, the hon Premier deliberately refused to address the deep-rooted and burning issue of rife racism in this province, which has now manifested itself in our public schools.

Recently, hon Speaker, a group of learners in Pinelands High School placed two Black, I mean Black learners in a cage with gestures and remarks that those Black learners were sold or auctioned with different prices, which kept on increasing.

Instances of racism in school and social spaces also dominated in your previous term, hon Premier, and you kept an audible silence regarding such instances and this really tested [Inaudible] which are nowhere to be found.

Racism in this province is even institutionalised as it has found its way to the schools placement system, where the majority of those students are Black and Coloured.

On the infrastructure, there is a remarkable lack of proper planning and development in the Western Cape when it comes to the issues of infrastructure and for that we need to be proactive.

The recent storms which continue to affect the province on an annual basis, have eroded our public infrastructure as the service delivery response from

the DA Government does not equate to the loss suffered while the storms affect the province and our concern is in the Overberg, your Grabouw area, your Kgotsong, your Siyanyanzela area, your Site View, Macassar, Cape Winelands, Mbuli, Mbekweni, in Worcester, Zweletemba, Garden Route, George, Thembalethu, Gwanaktula, Gwanuxaba, which are neglected when it comes to infrastructure development.

The recent storms have resulted in a road closure leading to the Helderstroom Prison facility and the Sunnyside Farms, where I reside, resulting in an emergency operation led by the members of SAPS as the Western Cape officials folded their arms and watched. This Government needs to take all people of Western Cape seriously and not only focus on a select few who happened to be White.

I would love to personally invite the hon Premier to come to the Overberg, Theewaterskloof, Ward 5, where there is a road that, there is a river ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): ...that closes the road ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: So I am going to allow you to conclude your sentence.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much hon member Lithakong. Hon member Brinkhuis.

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

Hon Premier, in the Western Cape in the poor and working class sector most citizens have fought and died, not to only achieve political freedom from apartheid, but for a socio-economic and religious freedom and justice.

The province's citizens yearn for these and they were looking forward to hearing about fundamental plans to tackle pertinent issues such as unemployment, decent jobs, secure neighbourhoods, healthy environments, safe schools and special care for the elderly, those with disabilities, as well as the abused women and children.

The hon Premier in fact delivered self-patting on the back for achievements without any filtering down to the lower income and marginalised communities. Let it be mentioned that they are still waiting for the Premier's promises that were made during his first term.

The 74% households in the province which the hon Premier boldly says have at least one income. Now this, to say the least, is laughable as there are struggling households that cannot survive with only on R1 500 per month.

From 2011 to 2021 the unemployment rate jumped from 18,3% to 29%. Since the province's poverty remains intolerably high and as a result the gaps of inequality widened not only in Greater Cape Town, but in other areas of the province as well.

The City's manifestations of objectable inequality are not only insufferable, but unbearable. Considering these negative developments fresh policies should be devised to counter these.

1. The province's spatial planning still reflects the remnants of apartheid.
2. The housing backlog has increased with more than 400 000 waiting in the queue.
3. The high unemployment continues to be psychologically, socially and economically burdensome.
4. The expansion of the province shebeen outlets and drug dens in the sprawling townships across the province should be closed forthwith.
5. The decrease in safe environments and suitable recreational facilities continue to be a concern.

Let us make a point that recently we witnessed unlawful evictions in the City suburbs such as Salt River and Ruyterwacht, as well as in the Drakenstein

Municipality, found in the latter. We have seen several illegal farm evictions without those responsible found guilty of these insensitive and inhumane acts. It seems that the Premier is only satisfying the needs of the elite groups instead of addressing the requirements of the majority of marginalised.

Now to tackle and overcome these challenges there is a need for strategies that include short and long-term projects that would not merely remove inequalities, but eradicate them. The Premier should ensure that every child has the right quality education, every abled person has a decent job, every citizen has the necessary healthcare and the province has an improved social welfare system that addresses everyone, including the refugees and asylum seekers' needs.

In conclusion, the point is that the province should redirect itself to create both short and long-term employment and make sure that menial labour jobs are available for our unemployed. Since the hon Premier spoke about cutting red tape in the private sector for work opportunities, he should ensure that it becomes a reality. So he should not ignore the informal traders' plea to do away with all the red tape when they apply to trade.

Though the report states that the province is in a race to keep up with a rapidly changing world, it has fallen short in serious tackling the various historical inequalities in various sectors, from the economic segment to the housing sector. I thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Mr C F CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, let me respond to the Premier's SOPA yesterday.

The first problem, hon Speaker, that we are facing is that people are dying every day. People are dying every day and I want to know what the Premier is saying. In the previous Administration the Premier said they will cut the murder rate by half by 2029. Is that on track? How are we doing as a province?

Hon Speaker, when I debated the Premier before the elections, I informed him about being in Khayelitsha with 30 ACDP members where we were robbed and mugged [Interjections.] and I was almost, I was almost killed if the gun did not jam. By the grace of God I am still alive, but communities are living like this on a daily basis. If you go to Manenberg, you go to Bonteheuwel, on a daily basis.

So I want to know, I wanted more flesh when it came to community policing and of course the ACDP agrees with the devolution of powers to the police and rail, because we need powers in order to have operational powers when it comes to the police, but let me get to education, hon Speaker.

Nelson Mandela said:

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Now, hon Speaker, it is said if we see headlines in the *Cape Argus*:

"South African Human Rights Commission to investigate racism at our schools."

This is unacceptable and as the ACP we condemn that, but, hon Speaker, we want to know from the Premier what is being done. Is there investigation happening? The media is mentioning all the reports, but what is actually done and what are the circumstances around that? It just not happens on one day, there must be a build-up. Surely the school had to take note of that, but, hon Premier, if you can just explain because I thought we must condemn this and as a government you must condemn this, but, hon Minister Maynier, there are good stories also at our schools.

Speaking to the learners at Phoenix High School in Manenberg, they have two hours per day extra classes, the matriculants, and they also go to school on Saturdays. So I want to tell you to tell the Department and the school districts, well done to empower learners to do better in Matric. The same is happening in Heideveld High School. Speaking to learners, they are excited to go to school.

So it is hard work and I want to see the Western Cape again number one with the Matric pass rate, that is what we are working towards and, hon Minister, well done to you and the Department.

Speaking to a girl, Jordan, not Geordin Hill-Lewis, Jordan Hill, she is very keen and wants to excel, and they attend these classes in order to come out of this poverty, you know, this mindset. So well done.

Just another thing. We are still concerned as the ACDP with Crestway High School in Retreat. They had the lowest pass rate of 35,9%. It is concerning, it is alarming and, you know, hon Minister, the problem was, and is, that teachers were absent. Hon Premier, can you believe that they get paid and they are absent? It is a problem. It must be addressed. Teachers must be there for our learners, and of course when they are not there they lose out on the work, but not that only, the classes are already overcrowded and by teachers being absent, that was a big problem at Crestway High, and then I visited Elswood High School in Elsies River.

Vandalism is something else. As I was walking there they were replacing ceilings, they were replacing a stolen cord from stoves, and that is why I engaged the school, I spoke to the community because also the community must take ownership.

So [Inaudible] encourage us, we must go to those communities and say how can we assist, and I even said do you not have weekend programmes?

Because it happens over the weekend and I do not want to talk about holidays, but weekends the schools are usually burgled, but I want to challenge all of us. How do we get involved with communities to see how can we assist – it is not just Government's responsibility, it is that of all of us.

So in my closing remarks I just want to say the following, that I believe that the Department is striving to have quality education in every classroom, in every child, but still, hon Minister and hon Premier, that is not happening. That is not – there is not quality ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Christians, your time has ...[Interjections.]

Mr C F CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...education ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ...has ...[Interjections.]

Mr C F CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...in all our schools.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Christians, your time has expired.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thanks you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Please conclude. Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, in July 2019 when the hon Premier first addressed this Parliament as Premier, he set out a clear vision for our province premised on four priorities: jobs, dignity based on education, making your life easier, and living free from fear, but yesterday the Premier delivered an Opening of Parliament Address as if he had no record or history to account for, and no future to care about. Instead we heard about the Administration's award for the use of technology and we heard about the award for being a preferred employer.

What was clear is that we have a fully functional Administration that is tech savvy and basically happy to work here. The unbearable part was that the Premier's failure to recognise that if it is true that our Administration is stable and modern and satisfied, then his Government has the administrative capacity to support a vision to do bold, courageous and big things, but when you brag about the capacity of your Administration and fail to present a plan to end the unnecessary and abnormal suffering in our province, then having a well-run government with a few trophies in the display cabinet, means nothing to the people who struggle for survival every single day.

The Premier was obligated to first account for what was achieved and what has failed against the promises of his first term of office. Then he had to address how he would fix those failures and what new priorities had arisen in

the meantime, and he did not really do that.

In 2019 the Premier promised a job in every home and a provincial economic growth rate of 2,5% per annum, but the province achieved an anaemic 1,1% annual growth rate over the past five years, and instead of putting a job in every home, we lost 3 000 jobs in 2019, 180 000 jobs in 2020, 75 000 jobs in 2021. We have started to recover in 2022 and 2023, but 2024 got off to a rocky start with a loss of 17 000 jobs in the first quarter, being the worst performing province in the country, and this deserves an explanation.

Firstly because the first quarter is the high season for our tourism sector. It is our big retail season and it is our services sector's high season, but also because the Premier's Growth for Jobs plan is premised on growth in the critical sectors of infrastructure and services, and those were the two sectors that lost the most jobs.

We agree that the province needs an infrastructure-led economic growth plan, but the province has failed to implement a successful one and there were no details yesterday of how this would be achieved in the next five years.

When it comes to 2019's dignity commitment, the Premier failed to account for our declining Matric results. Once the top performing province for Matric results, the Western Cape has steadily slipped down the totem pole.

Perhaps this is something to do with another failed experiment. The Western

Cape Safety Plan. The Premier defunded Education and Health by over R1 billion in order to dabble in law enforcement. Yesterday the Premier claimed that the Safety Plan was succeeding. Well, tell that to the people whose children and loved ones are dying in the killing fields of the Cape Flats every day and every night.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Exactly.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): The objective of the Safety Plan, we must remember ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Where is the Safety Plan?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): ...and its measurement of success [Interjections.] was the murder rate, the reduction of the murder rate in the 10 most violent police precincts. Claiming 34 000 arrests as an indicator of success is a deflection from the murder rate that has gone up since the Safety Plan was implemented.

In the areas where LEAP officers were deployed murder has gone up every year from 1 584 murders in total in 2019/2020, to 1 778 murders in 2022/2023.

The investment of nearly R2 billion in learner law enforcement officers has been a failure and it would have been better to listen to your own research

and invest in the root causes of crime.

One of those is the apartheid spatial plan and the discrepancy in infrastructure and services between communities. This Government has done nothing to address well-located, affordable housing and thus spatial integration.

In 2019 the Premier pointed to the Conradie Better Living Model as an example of spatial integration, and he did so again yesterday, but Conradie was a plan and project implemented by the former Premier, Helen Zille. In fact it is so old I actually served on that working group called the Better Living Game Changer Working Group. This Premier cannot still be relying on Conradie, a project his Government inherited from the hard work of others.

After five years in Government the Premier has failed to identify, plan and implement a new integrated housing project and he is still relying on the work done by Helen Zille.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): So in closing, hon Speaker, we welcome the Premier's acknowledgement that climate change is real. We call on the Premier to commit to appointing an Environmental Commissioner

...[Interjections.]

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): ...and tasking that Commissioner
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ...hon member Herron ...[Interjections.]

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): ...to future proof our province.

The SPEAKER: ...please take your seat.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you.

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

An HON MEMBER: Welcome back [Inaudible.] welcome back! Welcome
back.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order. [Interjections.] Hon members [Interjections.]
– order, hon members. I am just giving a moment for the podium to be set up
for hon member Windvogel. [Interjections.]

Order, hon members. Hon member Windvogel, I recognise you.

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Baie dankie, agb Speaker, agb Premier, Alan Winde, die Leier van die Opposisie, Khalid Muhammad Sayed, *hon members*, en ons spesiale gaste, sowel as die mense van die Wes-Kaap.

[Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker, hon Premier, Alan Winde, the Leader of the Opposition, Khalid Muhammad Sayed, hon members, and our special guests, as well as the people of the Western Cape.]

Hon Speaker, as we debate the Premier's opening address for the 7th Administration it is crucial to remember that the DA has been the governing party in the Western Cape for 15 years.

Contrary to the assertions of effective governance made by hon members earlier today, the past 15 years has been marked by significant failures and decline in several critical areas. [Interjections.]

Firstly, education quality. The rapid decline in the education quality is evident. The Matric results for 2023 show the Western Cape falling to fifth place nationally, with the lowest number of bachelors passes in no fee schools. This drop reflects the worsening educational standards under the DA leadership.

Secondly, lack of transformation. There has been a troubling decrease in the number of Black professionals, African, Coloureds and Indians occupying senior and top management positions within the Provincial Government. The

DA's disregard for transformative policies, the employment equity and affirmative action, highlight the lack of commitment to meaningful transformation.

Thirdly, infrastructure neglect. The closure of G F Jooste Hospital nearly a decade ago, the DA refuses to really listen to the poor people. It remains unbuilt and is projected to stay that way until 2033. Who is suffering? The poor people.

Fourthly, hon Speaker, environmental oversight. Our Premier's resistance to appoint an Environmental Commissioner undermines the effort to effectively address our environmental challenges. This resistance reflects a concerning lack of commitment to environmental and public health.

Lastly, hon Speaker, arbitrary dismissal. The DA Government has arbitrarily dismissed over 100 LEAP officers and previously terminated the contract of 1 000 safety ambassadors without cause. It is the same DA that fired principal Wesley Neumann on unfair grounds, while it keeps protecting the likes of Farrell Payne.

So the claim of effective and good governance are contradicted by these persistent failures in people's lived reality, life reality on the ground.

Even the Government's response to the recent Cape storm has not prioritised the people from informal settlements and other working class communities,

who were displaced and lost all their belongings. I urge hon members to remain true as we engage on this debate.

Hon Speaker, the Premier's address was an opportunity to reflect on the state of our province and outline priorities for the upcoming year and term. Unfortunately it fell short and instead of specific strategies to tackle pressing issues like poverty, unemployment, violent crime and inequality, we receive a general narrative that failed to engage with the immediate concern facing our people. [Interjections.]

The glaring omission of specific plans to address these critical issues is deeply troubling. Poverty, unemployment and violent crime are real urgent crises affecting many in our province.

The hon Premier's discussions about low voter turnout, 41% of eligible voters, reveal a significant issue. The answer is clear, hon Premier. People are disillusioned with a government that has consistently failed to address their needs.

Under the DA tenure these issues have worsened. It seems the DA may be deliberately neglecting poor working class communities, leading them to become disillusioned and disengage from the electoral process. [Interjections.]

To reverse this trend we must confront the truth. It is the DA Government

that is failing our people. Instead of withdrawing from the electoral process, our people should be mobilised to vote ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: That is your job.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...out a government indifferent to their suffering. [Interjections.] This will hopefully bring the change ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...our province desperately needs. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, immediately after the conclusion of the DA intergovernmental dispute with National Government, Premier Winde and his Administration are gearing up for another confrontation with National Government over a Public Procurement Act recently enacted in law by President.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): The DA grievance with this Act is provisions

for preferential procurement set aside for historical disadvantaged groups, military sub-contracting and local procurement. [Interjections.] The DA perceives this Act as a threat because it will block their practise of awarding all school maintenance projects in the Western Cape to only five big contractors, sidelining many small and emerging contractors. Some of our guests are victims of this behaviour of this DA Government. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): The DA perceives this Act as a threat because it will block their practise of awarding all schools maintenance projects to their big funders. [Interjections.]

While some in this House want us to believe the Rapid School Build is a great initiative, emerging contractors are crying foul on the ground. Of this additional resources from the National Treasury mentioned earlier, how much will be going to the emerging contractors?

According to the Western Cape Construction Development Association, the DA Government's decision to sideline and marginalise over 100 emerging contractors, has forced them to lay off staff and leaving over 10 000 workers and their families facing severe economic hardship. This exclusion is unjust and unconstitutional and must be challenged.

An HON MEMBER: Are you sure?

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): The DA talks about job creation on the one hand, while it is deliberately killing small and emerging business on the other, leading to high unemployment of Black people, Africans, Coloureds and Indians.

We support the President's decision to enact the Public Procurement Act and commend the ANC Government standing firm on transformation, despite DA opposition. We also urge the President to expedite the signing of the BELA Bill into law, resisting calls from figures like the DA Minister of Education, to amend it.

We also call on the National Minister to persist in the fight for full implementation of the NHI Act, despite the ongoing challenges from the likes of Solidarity and health insurance schemes.

An HON MEMBER: And the DA.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): And the DA. The people of this province are actually aware of the need for the NHI to address severe healthcare inequalities. In the Western Cape patients face long waits for ambulances and terminally ill patients from rural outskirts of the province are sometimes forced to travel two days to reach the hospital. Some health facilities have resorted to using security guards, as makeshift healthcare workers, turning patients away if deemed necessary. A stark testament to the DA's disregard

for the poor.

The quality of medical care remains unjustly dependent on colour of skin under this DA Administration. The failure to address these disparities is a moral and an ethical outrage.

Issues like those at McGregor Clinic and Robertson Hospital, which I raised earlier this year, remain unaddressed, leading to continued patients' death due to staff and bed shortages.

Hon Speaker, racism is honest, racism is alive even here in the House.

An HON MEMBER: Exactly.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): For instance, MEC Mbombo was one of the candidates awarded in Governing Women Category in the *Mail & Guardian* Annual Power of Women Award Ceremony, for her contribution and leadership in the public sector of Health. MEC was removed for no reason, replaced by a white MEC.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

An HON MEMBER: Masipa will learn that soon.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon member Masipa will learn soon how things work in the DA. [Interjections.] Singing for your supper[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...does not work here. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): While the likes of [Interjections.] – while the likes of ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...Mbombo are removed, the like of deadwood like the MEC of Title Deeds, who is failing dismally in the Department of Infrastructure, remain in office. [Interjections.] This is unacceptable.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, we have credible information that J P Smith – oh, J P Smith. [Interjections.] Everyone is scared of J P Smith. He is the Premier in the province.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

An HON MEMBER: Ja. [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): One of the most [Interjections.] [Inaudible.] MECs in the City of Cape Town, he is intensifying his assault [Interjections.] on the minibus taxi industry. His effort to enforce traffic bylaws, which have already been used to impound taxis over minor infractions, is alarming.

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Yes, it is a point of order.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Can the speaker be assisted with somebody reading, because I see she is struggling, you know. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Please take your seat. I have ...[intervenes]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): On a point of order. On a point of order, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! I am still on the floor.

[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, *man*, you cannot...

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, I will recognise you now. Hon member, that is not a point of order. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, what is your point of order? [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, with the utmost of respect, we cannot continue with this new member that is always out of order, just standing up. Did he not read the Rules of the House? He must familiarise himself with the Rules, then come back and call orders.

An HON MEMBER: That is always not a point of order.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip of the Opposition. That is also not a point of order. So, hon member Windvogel, my apologies, you may continue.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The minibus taxi industry is being unfairly targeted and victimised under the guise of law enforcement.

This strategy not only undermines and cripples the industry, but also leverages it as a revenue generating tool for the City of Cape Town. The

punitive measures disproportionately affect an industry crucial for providing affordable transportation to thousands of working class citizens.

As the ANC we vehemently oppose this unjust targeting. We call on the Provincial Government to support this vital sector by allocating additional resources and providing full subsidisation to ensure its sustainability.

There is also an urgent need for infrastructure development to support the minibus taxi industry, including expanding taxi ranks in high demand areas like the City Centre and Bellville.

Hon Speaker, the Premier's claim about their success of land reform are misleading. Despite asserting an 83% success rate, the reality is that the African, Coloureds and Indian population, which make up 86% of the Western Cape population, own less than 3%. †Wat 'n skande. [What a disgrace.] Of the agricultural land. Meanwhile the White people own approximately 70% of the urban land. The DA rejection of the Expropriation Bill further undermines efforts to rectify these imbalances, perpetuating historical injustice and obstructing progress towards equitable land distribution.

DA members want us to celebrate the gains made in the agriculture economy, but they have no important factors like the need for transformation in the agricultural economy.

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): President Mandela was correct ...[Interjections.]

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...about this party ...[Interjections.]

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): While, hon Speaker, we know the positive impact of tourism boom on job creation, we remain concerned about the lack of township tourism and the lack of support for small rural towns and working class communities ...[Interjections.]

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...the benefit [Inaudible.] are not ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ...your time has expired.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That was longer than a sentence, I was waiting for the comma. [Applause.] Thank you very much, I now recognise the hon member Kaizer-Philander. [Interjections.]

Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Hon member Nkondlo, if you want to address the Chair can I please ask that you get up and then address the Chair and I will gladly engage. Hon member Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, today also marks the start of Women's Month and let me cite a quote from the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, when she said:

"We will get through this together, but only if we stick together, be strong and be kind."

Through you, hon Speaker. It is so like the shrinking nationally and provincially rejected ANC Opposition to play the blame-game during a period of national disaster. A period that, irrespective of what your political affiliation, colour or creed, a call for help is one that requires collective responsibility and support.

†Deur u, agb Speaker, ons agb kollega van die NCC sal gou genoeg sy

oogklappe afhaal in terme van sosiale uitdagings. Deur u, agb Speaker, agb Jacobs, dit wat ons mense mee sukkel en die Premier van die Wes-Kaap het op menige platforms melding gemaak dat baie was gedoen, maar daar moet egter nog meer gedoen word, en diens en diensbaarheid vra nie vir die kleur van jou vel nie. Die ANC het hier [Tussenwerpsels.]... land uitgemergel en met die RNE skep ons hoop, want Suid-Afrikaners het gepraat.

[Through you, hon Speaker, our hon colleague of the NCC will quickly take off his blinkers in terms of social challenges. Through you, hon Speaker, hon Jacobs, that is what our people are struggling with and the Premier of the Western Cape has mentioned on several platforms that a lot has been done but more still has to be done, and service and serviceability do not ask for the colour of your skin. The ANC has emaciated the land [Interjections.] and with the GNU we create hope, because South Africans have spoken.]

Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon Members and esteemed guests in the gallery, I want to recognise the dedication and the commitment of the residents of South Africa, especially those in the Western Cape, who firmly believed in working towards the betterment of our country and this province. Your resilience, your hope and your unwavering belief in a brighter future have been the guiding light for us all.

It is important to recognise and appreciate those individuals who sought to unite us rather than divide us during the election season. Instead of succumbing to the tactics of hate and discrimination, there were those who stood firm in their belief that a government should deliver on their promises

to the people and stood in recognition of a tangible Western Cape Government's successes.

Hon Speaker, regardless of our differences in appearance, sexual orientation or religion, residents chose to remain steadfast and place their trust in those who have a proven track record of serving with excellence. This trust should never be taken for granted as it is a powerful force that can move our nation even more forward, as proven on 29 May 2024.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government's commitment to social development is unwavering and this is evident in their continuous efforts to address the challenges that our communities face daily. Today they are at a crucial juncture in their journey towards social development, a journey that prioritises dignity, empathy and a real change.

One such initiative, and again the Western Cape stands out from the rest, on 25 July the Premier, Alan Winde, and Provincial Minister, Jaco Londt, launched the SWIMS (Social Work Integrated Management System) app, a collaborative effort between the Premier's Department for E-Innovation and Social Development, recognising the crucial role of social workers in maintaining the dignity and well-being of our communities. The Department identified the need for a system to streamline alternative care management processes for children.

This innovative app addresses several key challenges that are faced by social

workers, including intensive paper-based systems, complex administrative tasks, high levels of stress leading to resignations, inefficient national processes, lack of proof or evidence, and repetitive tasks.

The SWIMS app aims to alleviate these issues, significantly enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of social work in the Western Cape. With this app social workers can spend more time on what truly matters, providing care and support to those in need. By reducing the administrative burden this app empowers our social workers to be more present and effective in their roles, ensuring that every child receives the attention and care they deserve.

Hon Speaker, most impressively, the SWIMS app now allows for a social worker to process an application in as little as 7 minutes, but let us not forget the human element. Our social workers are more than professionals, they are our community's lifeline, often stepping into the most difficult situations to bring hope and support. Sadly and regrettably so, hon Speaker, social professionals are often targets for crime, attacked and even hijacked when entering certain areas, and this is completely unacceptable.

These brave individuals are offering assistance to those who need it most, helping them get back on their feet. We must ensure their safety and provide them with the support they need to continue their vital work. This Government should continue exploring partnerships with local law enforcement and community organisations to enhance the safety measures for our social workers. Their protection is not just a priority, but a necessity,

and they are the backbone of our social development initiatives.

Hon Speaker, let me highlight the profound impact our social workers have on the lives of individuals facing desperate situations. Many people are losing their jobs and homes, find themselves living on the street and enduring the harsh realities of homelessness. Our dedicated social workers respond to such cases with urgency and compassion. They quickly assess each situation and process applications for support.

Social workers arrange for individuals to enter local shelters where they receive immediate care and support, and at this stage we must applaud the City of Cape Town for their recent interventions with regards to providing those safe spaces for our community.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Ms W KAIZER-PHILANDER: At these shelters people are provided with basic necessities, counselling and access to healthcare. With the support of social workers and the resources available at the shelters, many individuals are able to regain their confidence and rebuild their lives. Hon Speaker, within a few months these individuals often secure new jobs and are able to thrive once again. This demonstrates the invaluable role social workers played in transforming lives and fostering resilience in our communities.

Hon Speaker, poverty alleviation and skills development are at the core of

this Government Social Development Strategy. By equipping individuals with skills that they need we can break the cycle of poverty and empower our communities.

Accessibility and quality of services are also crucial components of our social development efforts. The DA is committed to ensuring that all residents have access to services that they need, from healthcare to education to social support. Our goal is to create a seamless and efficient service delivery system that meets the needs of our communities, and this includes investing in infrastructure, improving service delivery processes, and enhancing the quality of care provided.

Hon Speaker, social development is also a powerful tool for crime prevention. By addressing the root causes of crime, such as poverty, lack of education and unemployment, we can create safer communities. Our social development initiatives are designed to provide support and opportunities to those at risk, helping them build a better future and reducing the likelihood of criminal activity.

While addressing the issues of poverty and social development, we must also acknowledge the complex challenges surrounding homelessness. It is crucial that we work collaboratively with various stakeholders, including NGOs and community organisations, to develop comprehensive strategies that addresses homelessness effectively. By supporting and funding these organisations we are providing individuals with the necessary resources and support to rebuild

their lives, reunite with their families and to reintegrate into society.

Hon Speaker, I truly believe that this DA-run Western Cape Government is a caring government committed to working for you. The efforts in poverty alleviation, skills development, improving the accessibility and quality of services and applying social development as a tool for crime prevention, are testament to this.

The DA believes in the power of unity, trust and education ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kaizer-Philander, your time has expired. Please conclude.

Ms W KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): ...to move our province forward. Let us continue to work together to build a province where everyone can live with dignity and hope for a brighter future, and we will not rest until every individual in the Western Cape can thrive.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Kaizer-Philander, please take your seat.

Ms W KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): I thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Mackenzie. [Interjections.]

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

Hon Speaker, there is a distinct sense of hope in the House and in South Africa. Progress, momentum, moving forward. In the Government of National Unity we are pushing to build constructively while holding our partners to account.

Our DA Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure is tackling stalled projects and enhancing development through construction.

Our DA Minister of Home Affairs has reduced the work permit backlog by 30%. Out of more than 306 000 pending permit application more than 100 000 applications have been cleared by our DA Minister of Home Affairs.

Yesterday our Premier outlined his commitment to continue building a growing, inclusive infrastructure-led economy that creates jobs, building energy and water security, and creating safer communities, devolving law enforcement resources and improving the education in this province, and healthcare systems.

Hon Speaker, just under a week ago I led our Western Cape delegation at the 46th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, as we heard how South Africa's nominations for two World Heritage sites were successful.

This significant achievement is an example of our excellence. The results of years of hard work and collaboration between different spheres of Government, academic institutions and many others, and I want to thank you, my predecessor, Minister Marais, hon Premier, Alan Winde, and when he was the MEC of Economic Development, he already saw the vision of what was coming. So thank you, colleagues, [Inaudible] laid a great foundation of what we have achieved.

We can lead the way amongst the best in the world, we can achieve global [Inaudible]. Hon Speaker we are building the future moving forward.

Our priority in the Government of National Unity is to build and move South Africa forward. We believe we can influence and lead the Government of National Unity to deliver excellence for the people we serve.

The ANC Chief Whip interrupted the Premier's address yesterday, claiming that he was not speaking to the needs of the people of the Western Cape when he shared the news of our newly inscribed World Heritage Site. This comment was very revealing. It shows the fundamental lack of understanding by our ANC over how to enable opportunities for economic growth and jobs.

This UNESCO inscription is exactly what the people of our province needs. World Heritage status for Diepkloof Rock Shelter on the West Coast and Pinnacle Point in Mossel Bay. It is not just a nice-to-have accolade, it is about promoting our rich cultural heritage.

Culture is the new gold for the world. It is about boosting local economy ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...creating work opportunities and bringing development to the areas.

Shortly after the inscription, as the news started to spread around the world, I got a WhatsApp from the Diepkloof Museum and I quote exactly:

"All of a sudden the phones will not stop ringing. Everybody wants to visit Diepkloof. We have so many bookings. I must just sort out the guides."

This is why we celebrate this global recognition because it is a vehicle to enabling communities to thrive.

These two sites, along with Sibudu Cave in Kwazulu-Natal, are called the Cradle of Human Culture. The evidence uncovered at these caves helps us understand the origins of modern human behaviour when early humans started to behave more like we do now, using tools, creative art, thinking creatively and living together in communities with more complex communication. This is a story about our ancestors' remarkable resilience, creativity and the

capacity for innovation.

It is an incredible achievement for all people inside and outside of this Government who have worked on this province. Congratulations everyone, we will continue to celebrate these achievements as a government that cares for its people through action and delivery.

Hon Speaker, I would like to take some moments to respond to some of the points raised during this debate.

Hon Khalid Sayed rightly talked about the united, unified approach and supported the Premier's statement on the new GNU and the need to work together. Sadly, hon members, the ANC has no sense of self-reflection. Hon member Khalid Sayed, via you, hon Speaker, and I quote:

"People are faced with the hard realities of daily lives."

And I close quote. It is like something they discovered for the first time yesterday. We have known this for the last 15 years.

An HON MEMBER: What are you doing about it?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: That is why we participated in an elections ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: What are you doing about it? What are you doing about it?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...because we know these realities. What has caused some of the realities? Some of these realities, hon members, were the disbanded Gang Unit, they destroyed Eskom, they destroyed SAA, and they destroyed budget surplus, now that we are sitting as the begging child of the world with the highest youth unemployment.

These are the harsh realities [Interjections.] caused by the ANC Government. That is why they dropped below 40%. [Interjections.]

So interesting, Deputy President Paul Mashatile said yesterday that the Government is not in the business ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...of owning airlines. We have been saying that for the last 20 years. [Interjections.] The last 20 years we have been saying it and he said the Government should consider selling SAA. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: The member is asking am I still in the 6th Administration, I am trying to point out to the member a critical fact. The harsh realities of the people of the Western Cape, of South Africa, it did not start today. [Interjections.] It was not caused by members of this side of the bench whose only focus has been to resolve these challenges caused by that side of the bench. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: The hon member, thank you. [Interjections.] He wrote a letter to the Minister of Local Government and Gift of the Givers. Can I add to his letters? Because he seems to now become a letter writer. Let me add the following letters.

A letter to the Minister of Transport, a letter to the Minister of Police and a letter to the President to start devolving the functions we have been asking them for years. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: So, hon member Sayed ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...let me start by quote – and I have done the favour, hon ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...I've done ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ...please take your seat. Hon members [Interjections.] – order, hon members! I am on the floor. [Interjections.] Hon member Nkondlo, I am on the floor.

Hon members, interjections are allowed and heckling is allowed, but you are continuously having a running commentary. Can I please ask that you allow the Minister, like you had an opportunity throughout this debate to make your inputs and were protected from the Chair.

Hon member Windvogel, I am still on the floor. Can I please ask that you allow the Minister an opportunity to make his submission. If you do not agree with the comments or the input by the Minister, lunch is directly after this and you can engage the Minister outside of the House, but, Minister, you may continue. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you. What I have actually started doing, I started drafting a letter while I was sitting here.

So here is the letter the hon member Sayed can write:

"Dear President Ramaphosa, the ANC has failed in managing gangs and police in the Western Cape. Please, as a sense of urgency, give this portfolio to the Democratic Alliance." [Interjections.]

"Dear President Ramaphosa, the ANC has failed in managing trains in the Western Cape. Please give the transport portfolio to the DA. Thank you, hon member Sayed." [Interjections.]

"Dear President Ramaphosa..." ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT:

"...the ANC has failed in managing Transnet. Please give the portfolio to the DA in the Western Cape. Thank you, hon member Sayed." [Interjections.]

So I have started to write some letters. I will give it to him during lunchtime.

Hon Speaker, the policy proposals hon member Sayed was talking about he wants to give to us, the voters did not want. They did not last in the election,

they got 40%. So we do not want their policy proposals because the voters did not want them. We will implement our policy proposals because that is what the voters wanted. [Interjections.] They believe in us and they gave us 55% to govern the Western Cape [Applause.] and we will govern them the way we want to with the voters. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon member Van Minnen, [Interjections.] for the work that you have given. We are indeed getting to work. While we are starting to work in the Western Cape, the other provinces were still negotiating how to loot.

†Hon member of the PA [Interjections.], ek stem heeltemal saam met u. Kom ons vat hande ...[Tussenverwerpsels.] [I totally agree with you. Let us take hands...] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†Die MINISTER VAN KULTUURSAKE EN SPORT: ...en ons doen dit saam en ons werk saam met mekaar, maar net soos Minister Sayed het u ook 'n Minister in die Kabinet. So u kan ook 'n brief aan hom skryf en ek het ook 'n brief geteken wat u aan hom kan skryf.

"Geliefde President, my naam is Minister Mackenzie van Kultuur en

Sport in u Kabinet. Kan u asseblief die polisiëring aan die Wes-Kaap afwentel, want hulle kan beter bestuur as u. Dankie, uwe, Gayton McKenzie." [Tussenverwerpsels.]

Ek sal ook vir u daai brief gee deur middagete vandag, en dan oor fondsinsameling.

Baie dankie vir die raad, maar nee dankie. Die laaste keer toe u-hulle fondse ingesamel het in Beaufort-Wes, het die geld verdwyn. So ons sal nie u raad vat nie.

[The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ... and we do it together and we cooperate, but just like Minister Sayed you also have a Minister in the Cabinet. So you can also write a letter to him and I have also signed a letter that you can write to him.]

"Dear President, my name is Minister Mackenzie of Culture and Sport in your Cabinet. Can you please devolve the policing to the Western Cape because they can manage better than you. Thank you, your sincerely, Gayton McKenzie." [Interjections.]

I will also give you that letter over lunch, and then about fundraising.

Thank you for the advice but no thank you. The last time that you raised funds in Beaufort West, the money had disappeared. So we will not take your advice.]

The hon member of the EFF is not here. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: The hon member of the EFF is not here. [Interjections.] She keeps talking about how we brag, we brag. Of course we brag, we have things to brag about. [Interjections.] That is why we can brag and we will continue to brag because we have got something to brag about. [Interjections.] The members of that side of the House have absolutely nothing to brag about and the hon member listens in via the coffee session. The Grabouw Centre ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...is ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ...hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members on both sides of the House, you are now affecting the decorum of the House ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): This committee is...

The SPEAKER: ...and can I please ask – hon member Nkondlo, I am on the

floor.

Hon members, we are at the end of a very heated debate. I am asking that you allow the Minister to please conclude or make his input. The Minister has in actual fact got seven minutes left, so, Minister, you are not concluding. [Interjections.]

So, hon members, you had an opportunity... [Interjections.] okay, well, in that case I will wait until you are done with your conversations across the floor before I continue with the Sitting.

An HON MEMBER: They are done, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, are you done? Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, and the hon member from the EEF raised the issue of the Grabouw Community Centre. I would strongly suggest as a member of the Legislature she conducts an oversight visit, because the centre is operating 24 hours a day as promised. [Interjections.] So she should take the opportunity and go and conduct an oversight visit. [Interjections.]

Hon members Jacobs, thank you for raising the issues on the gang wars. Very important, but interestingly when we marched to Mitchells Plain Police

Station you did not join us. In fact the hon members came to swear at us. [Interjections.] When we raised the issues of the 12 guns that were stolen in Mitchells Plain, the hon members came and called us names. [Interjections.] They did not join us in the police station to hand over the memorandum to raise the issue of gang violence.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon member Petrus, is that a point of order?

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Dankie, agb Speaker. Ek wil net vra vir die agb lid om nie ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I just want to ask the hon member not to ...][Interjections.]

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

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Om nie die PA deel te maak van die DA en die ANC se probleem nie. Ons is nie deel van dit nie.

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): Not to make the PA part of the DA's and the ANC's problem. We are not part of that.]

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

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. That was not a point of order. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you. No, I was addressing hon member Jacobs.

So, yes, hon member Jacobs, the issue of gangsterism, as you know, is a big issue to us, but we marched to Mitchells Plain Police Station. We marched to Philippi Station. We demanded accountability from Mitchells Plain and Philippi Station. When we marched to the ANC's offices in the Foreshore, when their President met with the gangsters in Genadendal, the President of the ANC ...[Interjections.]

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Yes, yes, hon Speaker. Can you please ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, what is your point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Can you please caution the MEC in his excitement not to address members directly, he must address them through you.

An HON MEMBER: Through the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Nkondlo. That in fact is a point of order. I am going to, hon Minister, remind you that you must speak to the Chair if you want to address a member of the House. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Chair. It is clearly a touching point, but I want to raise it again.

When the President of the ANC and the President of the country met with gangsters at Genadendal, the seat of Government ...[intervenes]

An HON MEMBER: So you know the ...

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...they did not, the NCC did not march with us to the Foreshore to go raise those matters. We have been taking these matters seriously for years.

So we are asking them to use their seat in National Parliament to call for the devolution of powers to the Western Cape to call for the devolution of Crime Intelligence to the Western Cape, to call for the devolution of assistance with State Security. These things matter to us. That is why we raise these things.

So I urge the hon member of the NCC to join us in the fight for devolution. They now have a seat at the table in the National Assembly and they must use it effectively to fight for what we have been fighting for, for years. That will

be their contribution to humanity.

Hon member Ngqentsu talks about new liberal policies. It is the new liberal policies that enable job creation. [Interjections.] It is because of the communist policies that we are sitting with the highest unemployment in the world. [Interjections.] It is the communist policies that destroyed SAA, Transnet, Crime Intelligence, South African Police Service, the Post Office. It is the communist policies that have done so. [Interjections.]

So the new liberal policies are the ones that are saving South Africa. [Interjections.] The new liberal policy is the one that keeps AGOA at the seat in Washington. It is the new liberal policies that have the Western Cape as the lowest unemployment in the country. [Interjections.] It is the new liberal policies that have a functional Government, clean audits, accountability. That is what is happening. [Applause.]

So the legacy of J B Marks ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF CULTURE AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...the legacy of J B Marks, he will be embarrassed to know that a Cabinet Minister, Blade Nzimande, the fund under him spent R123 million in buying vehicles, 200 Rabbits. They were supposed to buy 10 000, †nee, die manne steel gevaarlik. 200, waar is die 10 000? [no, the guys are stealing dangerously.]

200, where are the 10 000?] That is Blade Nzimande, your communist colleague. [Interjections.]

If you are so serious about fighting the anti-corruption or fighting this and that, then Minister Nzimande, you should call for his resignation. In fact to quote from [Inaudible.] that was quoted in the *Sunday Times*, you are talking about workers' rights. They said:

"It is known for his exorbitant expenditure for law firms to terrorise workers."

What kind of a communist terrorises workers? That is the communist that are too scared to run an election campaign, [Interjections.] that is why they did not even participate in the elections, but now they want to attack the ANC for having a Government of National Unity.

On undocumented foreigners. Interesting, undocumented foreigners did not teleport into South Africa, they came through the borders. How? There is the border, the washing line fence. Hon member Herron and his party, [Interjections.] they are responsible for the washing line fence. They are the – and your government, they build a washing line as a fence.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: And that is the

reason those undocumented individuals ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...are here with us.

Hon members ...[Incomplete.]

An HON MEMBER: You are loud up there. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon members, hon member Herron was a member of the National Assembly. A member of the National Assembly, the highest body, legislative body in the country. He did not once lead a debate on Crime Intelligence. He did not once lead a debate on rail for devolution, despite the fact he served eight years as a member of the Maco member of Transport. He did not once lead the debate there on issues affecting people on Mitchells Plain, because I follow him on social media, I know what he leads. [Interjections.]

So the issue – and it shows in his results, they lost the seat, they lost the voters, because voters see they did not represent them there. So this is their last swan song. In 2029 they will all be "goodbye".

So certainly we would not take advice from him on how to fix solutions because he did not use that opportunity he had in National Government to raise issues that are fighting for the people of the Western Cape.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): You were not paying attention.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: I did pay attention.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: You just did not deliver all these issues.

†Agb Constable, baie dankie vir u insette, ons waardeer dit. Ek stem saam, alle klein dorpieë moet 'n gedeelte van die koek kry, maar wat het in Beaufort gebeur? Daar was 'n geleentheid, 'n groot geleentheid om vir Beaufort Dubai te maak, maar nou is Beaufort "koebaai", daar gaan niks aan nie. So ons gaan ongelukkig nie raad van u ook vat nie, want daar het niks aangegaan daar by Beaufort nie. [Tussenverwerpsels.]

[Hon Constable, thank you for your input, we appreciate that. I agree, all small towns should get a piece of the cake, but what happened in Beaufort? There was an opportunity, a big opportunity to make Beaufort Dubai, but now Beaufort is "goodbye", there is nothing going on. So we are unfortunately also not going to take advice from you, because nothing happened there in

Beaufort.] [Interjections.]

Hon member Brinkhuis ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...thank you very much, via you, hon Speaker, for some of the comments that you raised, but you are very privileged now. You are very privileged, hon member Brinkhuis. You have the Deputy Minister of Social Development in Cabinet. He is your leader.

So if I were you I would WhatsApp him your speech to say, "This is what you said, please fix it," because he can implement it. He is the Deputy Minister of Social Development and all the issues you raised are social issues. [Interjections.] So you have a very good advantage – ja, call him, pick it up ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...send him a WhatsApp. You are very privileged in that situation.

Hon member Lithakong from the EFF is not here. I do agree with her definitely ...[intervenes]

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): I am here!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Oh, she is here, she is back. Okay, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Hon member Lithakong, when you want to speak or address, please be in your bench, stand up and switch on your microphone and then I will recognise you ...[intervenes]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): And also he must stop addressing ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ...but you cannot do what you just did across the floor.

Hon Minister, can I please remind you again to speak to me and not directly to the members.

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

Hon member Lithakong, I definitely – I mean it is common cause there is a change of tone. There is a change of tone and it is a nice tone. It is an exciting tone where the country is going with the Government of National Unity, but I know how you feel, it is cold outside a warm room. It is cold

how your leaders are now sitting on the outside while we are all in the warm room trying to build the country forward.

So I do not blame you for your feelings. I do not blame you for how you feel, †maar dis lekker in die binnekant, [but it is nice on the inside,] [Interjections.] because we are going to build South Africa and take South Africa forward.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: The last point on Education. [Interjections.] You know, there are two things we can understand. If somebody asks my colleague here, Minister David Maynier, what are you famous for, the young child, they will say, "This man builds schools."

An HON MEMBER: Schools for who?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: A faster school, a faster ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...school build in the country. 67 days, world record ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...it has never been done before.

The SPEAKER: ...please take your seat. Hon esteemed guests in the gallery, you are very welcome in the Chamber, but can I please remind you that you may not partake in the debate on the floor, so you cannot make any comments and you cannot participate, and that is just a reminder to all our guests in the gallery. Hon Minister, please continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker, but if you ask the same child, what is the National Minister of Education famous for, the previous National Minister, they will say for the destruction of education.

So some of the members made comments about Education. We are very privileged in this province, we have a government that cares, we have a government that wants to build and we have a government that focuses on education and building schools for education, and the more important point, hon Speaker, is the allocation of funding.

The Western Cape, our money was taken in a year more than a billion rand ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: And not once, [Interjections.] and not one of these members have raised the critical issue of fair allocation ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...to the people of the Western Cape ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...and we deserve it ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...I thank you. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members.

Hon members, that concludes the debate on the Premier's opening address.

[Interjections.] Hon members, business will now be suspended.

An HON MEMBER: Wasting our time.

The SPEAKER: Members and guests are invited to enjoy some refreshments in the members' dining room.

The Premier's reply, hon members, will commence at 14:15. The bells will be rung at 13:45 to indicate to members and guests to please take up their seats and the bells will be rung again at 14:10 to indicate the resumption of the business for the day.

The House is now suspended.

[The House is suspended.]

The House resumed at 14:15.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, the Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Reply by the Premier to the debate on the Premier's Opening Address.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I will now afford the Hon Premier an

opportunity to reply to the debate. Hon Premier, I recognise you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Thank you very much to all of the hon members who took part in the debate today. Much appreciated. Copious notes have been taken from all of the inputs. Before I deal with the hon Leader of the Opposition, I am going to start with the very last speaker. I was tempted to say what he said, but ...[Laughter.] but can I say to the hon Minister Mackenzie, thank you very much for your sweep. It was a great sweep! [Laughter.] It really was. It hit the nerve where it needed to. [Applause.]

But hon Speaker, thank you very much and to the hon Leader of the Opposition, thank you very much. You know, you obviously have a serious role to play, and I like the way that you are saying that not only in your position as Leader of the Opposition from a single political party, but also how you will bring the Opposition together and I really like what you are saying there.

I would like to just address you on your first point which says: lack of a clear plan of action. And perhaps, also just add to that the end of term report which is raised by some other hon members as well. And so, it is online for everybody, but we will get it circulated to you so you could quickly go through the high-level report. Some members said ‘jeeppers, we were bragging yesterday, wait until you read this report’ ...[Interjection.] because you obviously have not read it yet.

An HON MEMBER: We do not need a book ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: But can I say to you and refer you to not only this report. I will refer you to the Growth for Jobs plan. I will refer you to the Safety Plan which I will speak about in depth today. [Interjections.] I will refer you to any of the Good Governance plans and outcomes. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: The Safety Plan.

The PREMIER: I will also refer you to the process called PSP – Provincial Strategic Plan – by law, which we put in place which is the plan for the next five years. And as I said yesterday that plan has to be formulated before the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement around October.

And, of course, that plan also has to link to the National Plan. Now, the draft National Plan was tabled at the lekgotla. They do not call it a Strategic Plan anymore, in other words, an MTSP. It is now called the MTDP. The President has changed the name. It is now called the Medium-Term Development Plan and that draft has been tabled.

I will actually try and find out if we can; I am not sure if we could circulate that draft to the hon members because it is a draft plan and, of course, National Cabinet documents are secret. But it really does outline a plan and I can say that most of that plan, we fully agree with, but as a province, we

have also got agreement through the Minister in the Presidency for Monitoring and Evaluation, Minister Ramokgopa, that we will submit in writing anything that we want to bring about as a change or as an objection to anything in that plan. And, of course, that will also formulate not only the National Plan, but our plan over the next few months.

I want to assure the hon Leader of the Opposition that you spoke about the G F Jooste Hospital, and I want to assure you, or we call it the Klipfontein Hospital, that that work has already started. Money is already appropriated for it. Those processes are already ongoing. But we have a much bigger plan for hospitals in the province. I think it has been announced already. You are aware of the World Bank enabling us for a massive PPP project. This is the total rebuild of the Tygerberg Hospital and also, work being done on the Belhar Hospital as well. So, I can assure you that that is going to be a major focus in this term.

I would also like to, and you have raised it, a number of other hon members have raised, the racism issues that are being faced specifically at the moment in our province in two schools. But in general, racism, and it must be dealt with decisively. Absolutely! It is absolutely unacceptable if racism is used in this day and age. We must also, any form of discrimination, we have to make sure that we deal with it decisively.

And as I said yesterday in this House, our behaviour, our rhetoric, how we behave as public representatives, how we take these stories forward, we must

make sure that we have all the facts every single time. We must also know that in our positions, that it is our duty to hold this space for difficult conversations. Not further inflame them or create anxiety for our residents. [Interjections.]

Therefore, Hon Speaker, I am aware of the concerning and serious allegations at two of our schools. These are currently being investigated and extra support is being provided to the learners at these schools. I appeal to politicians, activists and the media to remember that there are children involved and to behave ethically and allow due process to be followed. Our priority must be in the best interests of our children and not personal interests in gaining media attention.

Remember that learners, young learners, are being victimised and picked on at the moment, and we have got to make sure that we protect them at all costs. That is a bare minimum that we, as public representatives, need ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No plan.

The PREMIER: ...to take control of.

Hon Speaker, I also want to say that I agree with him. We have to reduce informal settlements. We must! We cannot and it is a question that I ask in 2030, in 2050, will we have more shacks or less shacks in our country and in

our province? We have to make sure that we have less. We have got to put plans in place, come up with ideas of how we decrease the number of shacks. As the hon Minister said in his input, hon Minister Simmers, how we really start to densify, massify, go up. We have got to produce more square metres to enable the reduction in informal settlements. So, I absolutely support him in that.

Perhaps referring back to where he said he wants to bring policy proposals and even legislative proposals: I would absolutely welcome that. We really need to, as every party represented here. We must not only just, you know, come here and say this is what is wrong. We really would like to see other alternative policy proposals being put on the table and I can assure you, we will take those policy proposals forward.

The hon Sayed also spoke about high tariffs and specifically, if I think about high tariffs, I think about how electricity tariffs are hitting our citizens very hard. But I hope that I am going to get the support of the full Opposition here to put pressure against the new proposed tariffs of NERSA. Can you believe, NERSA's new proposed tariffs is a rise of 36,15%? [Interjections.] A 36% increase in the cost of electricity! How on earth! ...[Interjections.] So, I sincerely hope that you will support us ...[Interjections.] in making sure that we absolutely object to that. [Interjections.] We absolutely. And then, of course, this is the increase that is being asked for by Eskom, but at the same time, they cannot even always guarantee that we have power ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: ...in our country. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: You can see it in the City of Cape Town ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: But perhaps, and I hear the comments about the City of Cape Town, so let us actually talk about that because I have got here the cost of electricity for Lifeline customers and this here measures cities across South Africa. And if you take all the cities across South African, [Interjections.] their increase ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: ...their increase 2022/2023, to 2023/2024 ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: Thank you, hon Speaker. Their increase across ...[Interjections.] is increased by 15,1% and Cape Town has actually got a minus 5.1% decrease in costs. [Interjections.] So, if you look at the actuals right now on 450 units of Lifeline electricity, if you were in the City of Durban and you would pay for those 450 ...[Interjections.] R1 336. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...the citizens of Cape Town.

The PREMIER: I am getting ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: ...to the citizens of Cape Town, I am getting to the cost. Just hang on! [Interjections.] So, I will say that again, hon Speaker: R1 336 in Durban. In Johannesburg it is R1 151 for the same 450 units of electricity. [Interjections.] In Cape Town ...[Interjections.] in Cape Town ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: [Interjections.] In Cape Town ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Can you please take your seat. Hon Nkondlo, you have had an opportunity to participate in the debate if you so wished. The Speakers List was not determined by the hon Speaker. I am saying that the mechanism was presented to you as a member. Your party chose not to put you onto the Speakers List, but that does not mean that you have an opportunity now to engage the hon Premier.

Hon members, you had the same privileges this morning, allow the hon

Premier to reply to those inputs made. If there are any other comments you want to make afterwards, there will be other opportunities and other mechanism at your disposal. Hon Premier, my apologies. You may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you. Maybe I was purposefully being disrupted so that I could not get that number out. So, maybe I will start again ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): That is not true! That is not true!

The PREMIER: ...that the City of Cape Town has the lowest Lifeline tariff of all South African cities. It is the only city to actually reduce the price of subsidised electricity for the poor; provides a bigger cross-subsidy this year ...[Interjections.] to help those who need it most. So, Durban is R1 336, Johannesburg is R1 151, and Cape Town is R899. [Interjections.]

Then, to the hon Sayed: I agree with him on extortion. I mean extortion, we have seen what it has done to and it has been spoken about at Manenberg School of Skills. We have seen what is happening in housing projects. We have seen what is happening in roads projects. We have seen it happening and it is happening across South Africa, and it is happening across this province. It is a huge, huge problem.

There is a team that has been put together on it, but I must also say, and I have just spoken about Cape Town, I think they as a city have also ramped up

a lot more now to deal with extortion. We have got the extortion hotline that has now been launched, but I absolutely agree with him. We need to make sure that we get more and more resources to our Police Service and our investigations so that we can deal with this decisively. Minister Bheki Cele announced the Special Committee on extortion, and it took a long time to get up and running. That is now running, and we have got to make sure that we deal with it.

You know, I went to visit some of the SMMEs, the small businesses that get support through the Booster Fund. I was visiting with a lady who has a number of small beauty salons in Khayelitsha. The Booster Fund not only comes with money, but it also, because of the way that it is dealt with now through the Silulo Foundation and other really amazing entrepreneurs that help entrepreneurs with the funding and also, other business practices and identifying what is most needed.

In this business, she had too many outlets and did not have enough systems in place to control them. So, she brought the outlets down from about 50 to 21. Now, suddenly, those 21 businesses are making a profit, and it is really good news. I mean, this lady's business turns over in beauty salons in Khayelitsha, R1-million per month.

But you know, she said to me she pays two different organisations extortion money. So, I said I need the details and she said, 'I cannot' ...[Interjections.] 'I cannot give you that detail because they will

...[Interjections.] they will shoot out in front of my shop and drive my customers away.’ That is how much fear is instilled by these horrendous criminals. So, extortion is a massive issue, and we definitely have to deal with it decisively.

I hope the hon Leader of the Opposition does support us in that and maybe, that is a space that we say well, as we agreed, how do we bring you into these conversations. When Minister Mchunu comes down, we need to create that space to say let us have this discussion. Let us ramp up dealing with extortion because it is something that is killing so many of our businesses and destroying so many opportunities for people across our province.

I have already said to you, policy proposals and bringing legislation: absolutely would welcome that. I will anyway support you in that because that is really what we want. Let us create a space of ideas, a space of interest in developing new policies for bringing change for the citizens.

Perhaps the last thing that I would like to or second last thing ... I know that you spoke about the soccer field or investment, international investment on a school property. I believe it only came in in June. They are busy assessing it, but if we can help in any way, of course we must facilitate investment to help and especially, if it can help with sporting facilities in and around a school that really will help us fight crime as well because it gives people much more meaning, especially afterschool activities, et cetera.

And then the last point: thank you very much. You said you are going out with Gift of the Givers. They are an amazing organisation. There are a number of really amazing organisations that step up every single time we have disasters in our province. I just want to say that I hope you are going as the Leader of the Opposition and not as party political because that would be wrong. You know, they help our Government a lot and we need to keep politics out of it, but we all need to make sure that we support these organisations because they are amazing organisations.

Hon Speaker, moving on to hon member Van Minnen: thank you very much and of course, the new Chair of the Premier's Department and Oversight. So, congratulations on that appointment and I look forward to working with you. I am sure that you are going to also be pretty strong in your oversight, so I look forward to that, too.

You spoke definitely about plans for the future, especially around the impact of floods and climate change. You know, and I kind of talk about it in some of the other replies, but hon Speaker, it is not as if, and I asked yesterday that we have got to really start thinking and investing differently because of climate change, but it is not as if it has not been done before.

I think about the Ashton Bridge and the design around the Ashton Bridge, and that was specifically done in a way to say we have had this bridge wash away before, we do not want to have it wash away again, and it stood the test. It was interesting to see how that water came right up to the bottom of that

bridge, but it did not wash away because the bridge is designed that it does not have any pylons underneath. It does not create space for the trees to build up and wash the bridge away. It allows for the flood waters to disperse.

The reason that that is in place is because we talk about future planning, but especially the Department of Infrastructure has for many years, been working very closely with the Futures teams in our universities and that is how these plans come into being. Whether it is an Ashton Bridge or some of the new roads that we have built over the last few years, to see how they sustain floods. They get covered in boulders and mud and things, but the whole road does not really wash away and that leads to now the work that has been done or that needs to be done in Citrusdal.

Of course, the team is already working on it. We already know that that is a massive budget to actually replace that whole road, but it is about planning for the future, working with the future on how we deliver, but it is also about how we understand that, as hon Minister Bredell says, the future means that we have got to have so many more litres per person per day in water. We need to have so many more schools, so many more hospitals. Futures and future thinking definitely has to be something that we continue to do, but actually do at a higher level.

The hon Van Wyk, thank you very much and again, your maiden speech. Welcome to this House. You spent quite a lot of time talking about your new portfolio of Education and I am especially highlighting the shortfalls, and

this is something that is not only this side of the House. We have said we need to fight for more money and our fair share of money. I hope the whole House starts to fight for the fair share of money because it is for every citizen in this province. But thank you very much.

I also want to say that I think we have done very well with not only our own schools, but the private schools, the collaboration schools, new ways of education. I think that is something we have got to embrace even more as we move forward.

To the hon Petrus: thank you very much and also, welcome to this House. You were speaking a lot about specifically as someone coming from George, the George building collapse. And of course, not only you, a number of other hon members raised this issue, and you called for a commission of inquiry.

Now, I am going to say to you that if the investigations that are underway at the moment, are not satisfactory, then I will call for a commission of inquiry. I do have that power within the Constitution. But I first must give the South African Police Services the space to do and complete their investigation. We are still waiting for that investigation. I must give the Department of Labour their space to finish their investigation. They actually have a very serious role to play in this space of making sure that the rules are adhered to, especially on building sites, et cetera.

We also know that I have asked this Province and specifically, the

Department of Infrastructure, to do another investigation. I was not just going to leave it up to the Police or to the Department of Labour, I said let us also do one. Let us see exactly why this happened. So, what I can tell you is actually last week, the preliminary report has been received by the Department. They are busy working through that report, and they will bring it, more than likely, to our next Cabinet meeting. That surely would help us on the way to say we have got sufficient information to lay charges, to do whatever we need to do because as I said yesterday, those who are complicit in the cause of this devastating collapse need to be brought to book. They need to be held to account.

Then, I would also like to say that as we stand here today, our social workers are still working with those families, supporting those families. They have been from the very beginning. A lot of the George community themselves stepped up and are still involved. I know that the Rotary Club is still involved, specifically in helping many of those victims of this collapse. So, we will continue to make sure that that support is there because obviously it is imperative and a must. But thank you very much for your input.

To the hon Cassiem: thank you very much. I have specifically handed this out for you because of, I think, some of your comments that you made. You obviously said no report on the last term. You know that last term you were here. There would have been the Mid-Term report and I hope you did read that, and then you could have read this report as well because that would have given you the report on the last term. So, you do not have to say: no

report on the last term. There is a report, and it is also online, so you can go and draw it down there as well.

I would also like to say that I am going to talk a little bit more on the Safety Plan because you also raised issues on the Safety Plan. A lot of people get stuck on one component of the Safety Plan called the LEAP officers and we will talk about that. You also need to engage a lot more on the Violence Prevention Plan, the Violence Prevention Unit that has now been established and programmes across different departments that are involved in violence prevention. Because in actual fact, that is the real work that has got to happen. You cannot police your way out of the murder rate that we have in whichever way policing is done. At National level, as it is now, and what we would like to see differently and the pilot projects that we run, to try to influence national policy. I think that would be a good idea to go and have a look at those issues.

I would also like to say I think the hon Mackenzie has already said it, but I do not think you were in the House when he said it: please go to Grabouw and go and have a look. It does operate 24/7.

Then, [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Interjection.]... live there.

The PREMIER: ...you raised the issue of Blue Dot. So, let me say again.

The Blue Dot pilot that we ran was an outstanding pilot. It really was a great piece of work. There were good, innovative plans that were put in place to try something else to enable the taxi industry, which is a major contributor to the movement of people. In actual fact, with the collapse and failure of PRASA, the taxi industry moves so many more. Well, they move the most people in our City, but in all cities and in all towns across our province and South Africa.

We, obviously, in that pilot took millions and millions of rands, put it into a pilot. Took data and evidence and worked with the taxi industry, and we ran a pilot on 1 000 taxis. Everybody says roll it out to all 16 000 taxis. I would love to, but the only way we can do this is if it can be a national project because you cannot fund 16 000 taxis with the Blue Dot programme. It is just not affordable for our province to do that.

But why we ran the ...[Interjection.] why we ran the project and why we ran the pilot was to show South Africa that you can actually make a difference. The industry really loved the project. [Interjections.] They welcomed the project. [Interjections.] So, if you like the project as much, please let us support this project at a national level. Bring it in at your National. You have got members at National Parliament. Table it at National. Put a motion. Ja, or ask Ricardo to write a letter for you. [Interjections.]

Then, hon member, you raise Robbie Nurock. You obviously were not listening in this House. You were in this House last term, and you were not

listening in this House. You must listen. You must read the report because we said let us build a homeless shelter in the Robbie Nurock building. An old hospital that is not used. It made a lot of sense and we put R8,1-million to the project.

The problem is, when we went in to go and actually rejig this building, asbestos was discovered throughout the building, and it is going to cost more than R25-million just to redo the building from an asbestos point of view. So, as we said in the last term when Robbie Nurock was brought up, we said and a Robbie Nurock plan of R8,1-million was due, put 120 homeless shelter beds in place. We could not afford the R21- or R25-million for the building's asbestos removal, so we went to our NGO partners and the R8,1-million was then distributed amongst our NGO partners, and we put an extra not 120 in place ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Interjection.]... giving, you just wanted to take money for your flats.

The SPEAKER: Order.

The PREMIER: Not 120 beds in place, 186 beds in place. I do not know if I must repeat that again: 186 beds in place, hon Speaker. Then what we did as well is, we added another R6,5-million that is going to the Haven Shelter and that is specifically to build extra capacity for families who are on the street. So, it might not just be a man or a woman, now the family and

families can be looked after together. You would have noticed that also in the City, they just opened a new street shelter and that also has beds, but that it also has family units as well.

To the hon Jacobs: thank you very much and welcome to this Parliament. Thank you very much for your contribution. But listening to you, you know obviously, you know, you get elected, you play a part here, but you obviously are very much a nationalist ...[Interjection.]

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Yes!

The PREMIER: ...party and, of course, we already fought nationalism in our country a long time ago. We do not need to go back there, but I mean, obviously you must be here and represent, and what you get voted for and of course, that is your seat.

But I did go to have a look, a quick look at your manifesto, but I just want to tell you that the link is down. So, you might want to put the link back up again. So, I could not really have a look at your manifesto to see what it said because in this House, we need to bring issues to the table as well and I look forward to those inputs from your party. Because if you have got ideas and plans, let us look at them. I think I will not go any further. I think the hon Ricardo Mackenzie did also answer a number of the other issues that you raised.

Hon Minister Bredell, thank you very much for your input. I am going to highlight one or two things. You spoke about Driftsands, and I think I want to say it again here today. Driftsands: obviously, during the pandemic we had a number of areas that were invaded. Of course, during the pandemic there was a moratorium, no one could be removed.

The big, big risk in Driftsands, as you said, it is a retention dam. It is a dam that is supposed to fill up with water and people have actually built homes in the dam wall. It is a high-risk area. We have, I mean, we brought in the Human Rights Commission. You personally have walked with Commissioner Nissen. We have gone to every household, issued them with letters. We have really worked very hard to point out to those citizens that they are highly at risk.

Of course, this was a nature reserve. We have de-proclaimed that nature reserve. We have taken areas in that nature reserve that are higher off the flood plain and created that space so at least there is formal space for people to move to. But it is still an issue and I think in this case, that perhaps we also need to get multi-party buy-in to say citizens, please, you are at risk here. Let us try and find a way to actually move you away from that risk. It is going to be the worst thing ever if that dam wall breaks because there are not just hundreds, but thousands of people who are going to be affected and I am pretty certain then we are going to have high death rates because of the mass movement of water and mud, et cetera. Like we saw in KZN, it really is devastating, so it is ...[Interjections.] it is a big issue. We have spoken to

these individuals, and we must make sure that together, we move them.

[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Have you identified a ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Then, can I also say that you spoke about the work with the COGTA Minister and of course, I was part of that initial meeting when he came down. We have got to keep on working in the MOU between provinces. Although I am actually quite proud of the work that your team does with provinces anyway. I spoke about the floods in KZN. I mean, I will never forget that devastating flood that they had, but when the Premier was standing there being interviewed, there was Collin Deiner standing next to him because he had moved in to come and help. We really do that. We go out of our way to go and help in other provinces and visa versa. We need to do more, and I think this agreement or building an MOU between provinces is a really good idea.

You also spoke about Citrusdal and Citrusdal, I see that, I cannot remember the number exactly. Probably R300-million now is the current damage to infrastructure. A meeting last Monday, another R15-million was made available specifically to the agricultural sector to try and remove further barriers because it is going to rain again this season, let alone next season and we better protect ourselves as much as we can because we cannot keep building infrastructure. And then, of course, we will fix and open the road, but then we have got to plan for what is the future. Then, we have got to try

and draw down money for investment there.

Hon member Masipa, thank you very much for your contribution. Perhaps, I know it was your maiden speech, but you did bring in some issues that maybe were not so maiden speeches, like VBS and Nkandla. But of course, you were saying it is not in this province and I am glad it is not in this province.

But you spent some time on the Clanwilliam Dam, and it is a travesty that we have not had that dam built yet. Hon Speaker, you know, and you spoke about the initial planning and initial budget in 2007, and the big launch in 2008 with the big tent and a spade and invite all the people. I think we have had five of those launches since 2008. They always seem to coincide with election time, ...[Laughter.] which is quite interesting. But we still do not have the dam wall broken. Our side of the bargain has all been done. The road has been moved. I mean, everything has been changed. All the other stuff that has to happen, but the actual construction of the dam. Now we have been told that it is happening at a much higher cost, but we need it to happen.

If it is not going to happen, then I agree with what hon Minister Bredell said, then we need to go to National and say hon Minister Simmers and the DOI will build this facility. We will manage it. [Interjections.] We will do it. And so, I think that is a must. [Interjections.] But, hon member, there is one thing that you miss which is even more critical. I mean, we want the extra water capacity, we want the water capacity for the region itself, but we also

need that water capacity downriver to all of those towns downriver from this dam. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: When are you starting with ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: But the big issue on this dam is not the capacity of water, the big issue is the integrity of the dam wall because that is why the study was done. That dam wall, the integrity is a problem, and it is moving. The dam moves millimetres every single year and the engineers were saying we have to redo this wall, and that is actually what we have to get right. So, we cannot allow this to go year after year because we have to mitigate that risk. [Interjections.] And every year that goes past that we do not build it, we will up the risk on. And imagine if that dam wall had to break, all of those towns downriver are all hugely at risk. So, that is really the critical thing we have got to get right.

You spoke about AGOA and absolutely. In actual fact, yesterday I was engaging with the Deputy Minister who has just come back along with Minister Parks Tau. It sounds like there were some very good meetings in the US and it was nice interacting and understanding what the update was because, of course, you know this province played a strong role last year in really invigorating our National Government to get AGOA going and back on the books. [Interjections.]

And then the last point is foot-and-mouth, and that is a serious issue that is

being faced by the agricultural sector in the Eastern Cape. It is devastating business there at the moment and we have to make sure that it is managed, it is quarantined, and it does not spread to other parts of our country, and specifically, not to this province. As you said, both our hon Minister of Mobility and our hon Minister of Agriculture have been actively involved in making sure that we are protecting this province and making sure that we are mitigating wherever that risk raises its head.

Welcome to this House, hon member. I must say that I had a kind of feeling that we were taken back to 1917 in Red Square ...[Laughter.] when you started speaking. You know, I am sorry to say, but those policies have all failed. They failed around the world and, of course, you have also failed within the ANC alliance because those policies are not the policies of the ANC alliance. [Interjections.] In actual fact, if you listened to the President's speech in the House in the National Assembly just two weeks ago, you would not have heard any of those policies in that speech because we see that they do not work.

You know that you spoke about the widening gap. That is called the Gini coefficient. I would ask you to go and read up on the Gini coefficient. Go and have a look at the Stats SA report on the Gini coefficient. If you go and have a look in 2016, the Gini coefficient measurement, and have a look at it every single year. So, in South Africa the Gini coefficient was 0,67 in 2016 and then, so, you go 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022. Guess what, the national Gini coefficient still at 0,67.

In this province we were lower. We were 0,60. Of course, 0,60 is still way too high. [Interjections.] Even where we are now at 0,59, it is still way too high. Obviously, it is way too high, but it is reducing in this province. If you look at our documents you will see that every single year in all of our municipalities, it reduces slightly, but it reduces where it does not reduce anywhere else. That is the policy differential.

The policies that you speak about, tell me how they are going in the other provinces where you are in government. Tell me how those policies are making a difference. [Interjections.] I will talk just now on jobs across South Africa, as raised by other members. I will talk about jobs and the difference that a job makes. [Interjections.] It reduces poverty. It reduces the Gini coefficient. [Interjections.] I will talk also about the 74%, I will talk about that just now and the number of households. Also, by Stats SA, not controlled by this province. So quite frankly, hon member, those policies are dismal failures and I do not think that that kind of policy is something that we will take forward in this House.

The hon Constable, thank you very much. You first spoke about the DDM model. Now, we have a different model in this province, and it is based on the Constitution, and it is based on the rule of law. Because, and I have written a number of letters to the President and in actual fact, we have just written to the President again and to SALGA again. I had a discussion with the President of SALGA on this and he goes yes, we had better have a

discussion on this. Because the DDM model which we have now got some legislation, which basically says that a National Minister can come in and usurp the power of a District Mayor or a Municipal Mayor. That is unconstitutional. You cannot do that.

The second thing is, how do you hold that Minister accountable for what happens in that municipality? There is no mechanism to hold him accountable. Our model is not about sending power from National into a municipality. [Interjections.] It is about saying how do we support this municipality. [Interjections.] So, when hon Minister Bredell goes alongside one of the Ministers that come here, it does not happen very often. In the last five years, you can probably count on your one hand how many times those Ministers actually came and involved themselves in those meetings. [Interjections.]

But when hon Minister Bredell goes there, he says explicitly: Minister, you cannot chair this meeting. It must be chaired by the District Mayor, not you, and that is the difference between the DDM model and the JDMA model. It is constitutional and we must be constitutional because that is how you hold it accountable. I would really like to see a report, a five-year report, on the DDM model and how it has made a massive change to failed governments across South Africa because I do not believe it has made a massive change.

We do not see it. Because obviously, if it did, if suddenly we were seeing clean audits in some municipality where a National Minister was deployed, it

would be very interesting because then we could say okay, well how do we change the Constitution to allow this to happen. But it has not done that so far and of course, we will remain constitutional. We will continue to show this model and the different model. We will continue with that.

Then, of course, I think the hon member Mackenzie spoke about Dubai and Dubai and, but you spoke about the Karoo and that we just do not give any support to the Karoo. I would ask you and I know that you are a new member, so you probably still have not had a chance to look at it. You must go and have a look at our budget books because it shows you exactly how much we spent, where it is spent, from which department it is spent.

But if you look at the overall expenditure in this province and it used to be the highest per capita spend. It is now number three because the Winelands have now got the highest per capita. But in the Winelands, the funding from this Government going to the Winelands, it is R12 591 per capita. Number two is actually the Metro which is R11 679. What is actually spent in the Karoo is R11 243. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: That is a fair share.

The PREMIER: Lower than that, is the Garden Route at R9 300 or the Weskus at R9 400. So, it is not true what you say. [Interjections.] It is not true. They get ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The PREMIER: ...actually more than their fair share because they need to.
...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: You have no idea.

The PREMIER: They need to. I must also say that when you speak about the Energy Plan ...[Interjections.] it is not true that the Energy Plan is only there for DA municipalities. The Energy Plan is a 5 700-megawatt plan for the Western Cape, the whole of the Western Cape. But the challenge to the municipalities actually is when we have a project like Small Town, which small town is going to be the first Small Town to have its own energy source to make sure that it is loadshedding free. That was an open bidding process. We said to every municipality in this province, you are welcome to bid. Come with your ideas and we will go through the process and support the idea.

We did not get the bid. No bid, nothing! It did not happen. No, so you cannot say that we do not support. We do not handfeed. We put out the challenge: take up the challenge. We also have a unit that is supporting municipalities to bring in their own energy from the World Bank to the EU Bank to our Department, to Treasury, to the Economic Development Department. How are we going to support and, of course, the Energy Council, how do we support your municipality to enable you to become

loadshedding free, to have your own energy. And if ever there were municipalities that could do this, it would be the Karoo because they have such good radiation numbers for sun.

But of course, we did notice in the Karoo a big fanfare and a press release, and look at – this was part of Dubai, I think – look at all these solar panels and it was amazing. And then, of course, a truck came a few weeks later and loaded up the solar panels and took them away, and now it is just bare desert. †Dit kan nie wees nie! [This cannot be!] It is only a media stunt. We want real things. Then, you will get real support in the Karoo. I think that that will change now, †want ek dink Thekiso het besluit anders vir die Karoo [because I think Thekiso decided differently for the Karoo.]

Then, the hon Marais: thank you very much. Again, I agree with you. The GNU does bring hope for South Africa. Thank you, my second term in office. You spoke about disasters. You said we need to get a Risk Management Task Team in place, but we actually do have one. I would venture to say the best team on the African continent and many of them were standing up there yesterday because they are the ones that are there. It does not matter what it is: a collapse of a building in George, the floods in KZN, our own fires across this province, floods, you name it. Even in COVID-19, it was amazing to see how the Disaster Team actually was the team that stepped up and tried to hold everything together.

It is critical. They play a critical role, but of course, we can always invest

more, and we are busy with the process now, as I said yesterday, to say well, what is the next iteration of the Disaster Centre because it has to move because of the Tygerberg Hospital rebuild. So, in that process, which we are busy planning for at the moment, how do you even then bring even the newer technology into being. That, if you go and visit there, it will be a good idea to go and have a look at just the technology that is used for mitigating risk on floods.

So, we see how much rain is coming and then, it puts into the model and then that is when they go and say please, you must evacuate your house because it will be flooded tomorrow. I remember in the September floods, we actually lost a life on the Weskus because the guy said, 'You must be mad. The sun is shining.' They said no, you must evacuate today and that very guy did not evacuate, he refused to, and he is the very guy that drowned the next day, which is really sad. We can probably take this even to the next level.

I agree with you on devolution of power and the Cabinet is busy having a look at the process that we are going to follow, and it is on Police, Rail, Ports. I must actually say that in the election campaign door-to-door and specifically, coastal communities, I am pretty convinced that we should actually add fishing to that devolution list as well. [Interjections.] Because fishing is decided centrally, but it impacts provinces, and those provinces should have the say in it. Perhaps we will find an open door because we actually have a Minister now in that portfolio which is really encouraging. ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: So, you do not need a vote.

The PREMIER: The hon Bryant, thank you very much: climate change. I know that you are passionate about climate change. You have been driving this for many years and thank you very much for your input. Specifically, what you say is we remove fossil fuels and start to push for the green energy economy specifically, but also how it opens up other economies. It is critical.

This province has been involved in it and seen it for quite a long time. I was personally the MEC for the Economy many years ago when we launched GreenCape, which has now become a really unbelievable organisation. You know, you set up these SPVs and you set up these boards to try to take an idea, an issue or whatever it is, a sector forward. You also say to them we will fund you in the beginning, but you have got to become self-sustaining, and they have done exactly that.

I was absolutely amazed. I was last year at the EU, and I was at a meeting at the EU, and the next thing, someone joined our meeting and they said, 'Oh, I am from GreenCape' and I went 'Wow, you come all the way from Cape Town.' They said, 'No, no, no, I have got an office here in Europe now.' So, GreenCape have got offices in Europe in the EU. That is the kind of expansion that we have had through there.

We have also obviously got the Greentech Special Economic Zone specifically focusing on this green economy. But I think even more important is all the tax that is going to come in and I think that the crisis that we find ourselves in with the energy crisis, it is pushing the green agenda ahead of anybody else. I think from an agricultural export point of view, that is going to be our big advantage because other countries would not have got that far. We are forced to because of the crisis and I think it is going to give us a competitive edge with our agricultural exports going forward. So, that is another added extra in the economy.

You also spoke about JET IP, the transmission lines. That is really one space that needs a lot of investment, specifically in the Northern Cape because the Northern Cape is really the province with all of the sun and solar capabilities. Of course, we are in partnership with the Northern Cape and the Eastern Cape on the green hydrogen project and of course, with Namibia. Hon Minister Wenger, when she was holding that portfolio, made sure that we took that partnership of a corridor not only within South Africa, but into Namibia, who on the green hydrogen front are actually doing amazing things. They really are pushing so many boundaries.

Hon Minister Simmers, thank you very much for your input, making sure that the Western Cape is a construction site. Roads, buildings, hospitals, schools, you name it. Fixing flood damage rapidly. It really is amazing because so many of those projects are done inhouse with our Yellow Fleet, with our own capacity. That is what gives us that quick response because we do not have

to go out to tender to actually fix that washed away road. We can actually get stuck in and do it immediately. So, well done and thank you very much for all that happens there.

You spoke about the N1, and I spoke about the ducks swimming across the N1, and of course, we just saw how that blocks our economy. You know, I do not know if people really know that just that work of that retention pond and how to fix it because it sits between us as the road authority, the City, PRASA. It is not all one easy space to go and sort out. And then, of course, it should have a drain and the drain plan is not there and you cannot find the drain. Through the night, in the dark, in the rain, you have got teams in there busy looking for the drain. You find the drain and the problem gets sorted out. So, well done and thank you for that.

I spoke earlier about the Citrusdal, is it MR310. It is a critical road and we have got to have long term investment there. I have mentioned the R15-million that went in last Monday to try and remove some of the blockages, as well as the millions and millions that are being spent at the moment. And, of course, you also spoke about rolling out and I am really glad to hear it, Conradies all over the place. Ja, those foundations are just about to go in. I am very happy about that.

Hon member Lithakong, thank you very much for your inputs. You spoke about racism at school and absolutely, I agree with you, and I spoke about that at the beginning of my input. I want to say that you had a lot to say

about the lack of planning and the lack of infrastructure, and I just raise with you where you are in government.

You know, you must always think about yourself where you are in government and you know where you are in government in this province, in Knysna, and let us talk about rubbish removal and services and sewerage running through the streets in Hornlee. Let us talk about water and dead bodies in the reservoir system and of course, let us not talk about the stealing. The amount of money that has just disappeared. So, you must remember that you are also in government, and you must be responsible for where you are in government. But I take the points that you have raised for us because that is exactly what this House is about. [Interjections.]

I want to say to you that ...[Interjections.] you have mentioned to me the road that you would like me to come and see. [Interjections.] I think we also must speak to hon Minister Simmers just to find out exactly if there is also something happening there immediately, or there is a plan for that road. But I will also endeavour to come with you to go and visit that road.

Then, the hon Brinkhuis. Thank you very much for your input. I think your words were '74%' – no, where is he? [Interjections.] †Ag, nee man [Tussenwerpsels.] [Ag no man!] [Interjections.] Ai-ai-ai. I know, so he comes here, says 74% of households with a salary is laughable. He knows it is rubbish and then, he leaves. Well, in his absence and for the benefit of this House, it is actually 74,6% of households in our province have a salary.

By far the highest out of any province in South Africa. Of the households in our province, and this comes from Stats SA, it is the report on salaries, on grants, on income from businesses, on remittances and pensions per household across our whole country.

The country average is 62,2%. We are at 74,6% of jobs in or salaries per household. Grants: we are 39,5%. The average is 50,5% in South Africa. Income from a business: 14,8%. In actual fact, in South Africa, that one is a bit high at 16,2%. Remittances at 4,1% whereas at 13,1% in South Africa and at 6% on pensions, 3,0% as the average in South Africa.

But there it is. That is the number of households already with a salaried earning and obviously, 74% means that there are 25,4% of citizens who do not have an income. [Interjections.] Of course, that is what we have got to fix. You do not believe it? [Interjections.] Please go and ask the Standing Committee for Stats SA to come and talk to you. You have got your number wrong on unemployment, but we will deal with that just now. You also spoke about informal traders and red tape.

Please, please, please, we have been doing red tape reduction for a long time and we measure it in billions saved. But if you have got, anyone, have got red tape issues that people are faced with, please put it in the system. If it is not dealt with let me know. Let the MEC know. Let us make sure that we are reducing red tape to make it easier to do business. [Interjections.] That is what we have got to do.

The hon Christians, thank you very much for your input. Again, you raised the issue of racism in schools. You also said, 'I want to see the Western Cape as the first or number one when it comes to Matric passes.' I am looking at the hon Minister. I am absolutely sure that he wants to be number one as well. He is competitive. But at the same time, it is not about being number one at all costs because that is where, I think, we fall flat. We cannot, we cannot try to achieve number one, but then exit people in the system because that gives us a better outcome. We have got to grow the number of learners in our system, the retention rate.

I remember getting into government here 15 years ago and that rate was 40%, our retention rate in Matric. It is now 69,3%. It is not where it needs to be. It is getting better. I mean, we all know. You see kids that are dropping out of the system. That should not be happening. So, we have got to keep working, but I am really proud that we are getting that number up and of course, focusing on it. It is about getting those two things right and they also have an effect. I cannot say anything now. I will wait for the hon Minister. He has got a plan and I said he is competitive, and I am sure you will all welcome that plan when it gets tabled.

Your issue about absentee teachers, absolutely, and vandalism. I mean, that is critical. Our school infrastructure cannot get damaged year after year because we need to be putting new stuff in place, not replacing older stuff that is getting damaged or in many cases, brand new stuff that is getting

damaged. That is basically a whole of society approach and the responsibility that citizens have to have.

Then, let me get to the hon Herron. I know it has been a while since he has been in this House, but I notice he says a lot about jobs and he says a lot about safety. But let me start on jobs. So, maybe I should do this one first which is quite an interesting slide seeing as a lot of people talk about this province and opportunities specifically for the previously disadvantaged.

This was a study done by hon Minister Wenger when she was the MEC, on the rate of increase of jobs for African citizens in the province and here is the graph. Here is the graph and it does not only measure the Western Cape and the growth of African jobs in our province. It measures every province in South Africa. So, the growth of African jobs in the Free State is 25% and this is from 1996 to 2023. [Interjections.] In the North West it is 51%, in Mpumalanga it is 99%, then it goes to 112%. The national average is 124%. Let us look at Gauteng: 146%. [Interjections.] A 423% in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] By far better than any other province because when jobs are created and jobs numbers grow everything gets better. That is why the Gini coefficient comes down and that is why people come out of poverty. [Interjections.] That is why our focus ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The PREMIER: ...on jobs in this province. [Interjections.]

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

The PREMIER: So, let us look at the actual numbers, hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: Again, a graph. [Interjections.] Again, a graph. [Interjections.] So, this is ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Nkondlo, I understand that the debate is heating up, but can I please ask that you do not continue with your running commentary. It has been going on the entire debate. I have provided you an opportunity this morning through the Parliamentary mechanisms. You did not use it or opted not to use it. You cannot now have your comments made in the Reply. Hon Premier, my apologies. You may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] And hon Speaker, through you, again, this is just a graph. This is jobs created in provinces 2018 Quarter 2 to 2023 Quarter 4 and it obviously does not. The next study will show the full term of the last term of office in this province. But it basically measures five years up until Quarter 4 2023.

The one thing that the hon Herron, the way he spoke, it is as if he did not think that 2019 existed or the world's economic slowdown around then or the effect of energy shortfalls, and he did not think that. It is as if it did not even exist and the impact that that has had on jobs in our economy. [Interjections.] But it is quite ...[Interjections.] it is quite interesting ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Petrus, is that a point of order?

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Dankie agb Speaker. Die syfers wat die Premier genoem het ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The figures that the Premier mentioned ...][Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: No, no. Hon Petrus, would you like to pose a question to the hon Premier?

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Ek wil duidelikheid hê oor daardie ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): I want clarity about that...][Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Because you want to pose, you want to pose a question. So, in terms of the Parliamentary Rules, I will now ask the hon Premier. Hon Premier, are you prepared to take a question?

The PREMIER: Absolutely.

†Die SPEAKER: Die agb Premier is bereid om die vraag te aanvaar, so u kan die vraag stel.

[The SPEAKER: The hon Premier is prepared to accept the question, so you can put the question.]

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Baie dankie, agb Speaker; baie dankie agb Premier. Ek dink nie daardie syfer – kom ek verander my [???] Ons moet baie seker maak dat daardie syfer nie ongedokumenteerde arbeiders of werkers insluit nie.

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker; thank you hon Premier. I do not think that figure – let me change my [???] We have to make very sure that that figure does not include undocumented labourers or workers.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Petrus. That was more of a statement, but hon Premier, I am not going to dictate how you are going to respond to that if you so wish to respond before you continue.

The PREMIER: So, obviously this is a substantial document, and I will refer the hon member to it. You know, it is a piece of research and also Stats SA, and he can go and interrogate a little. It will give you all of those answers.

If I may carry on, thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Please take your seat.
Hon Nkondlo, is that a point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Can the hon Premier allow me to pose a question?

The SPEAKER: I will ask the hon Premier. Please take your seat. Hon Premier ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Are you prepared to take a question?

The SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, please pose your question.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker. I just want to check with the hon Premier: is it a lie, hon Premier, that in your first SOPA Address in the last Parliament, you promised a job in each household of the Western Cape. Is that a lie?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Nkondlo. Hon Premier, again, I am not going to dictate how you respond to that question.

The PREMIER: So, I am going to say no, it is not a lie. It was actually in the manifesto ...[Interjections.] but it is not a lie. Even if, but let us say yes, and

we are sitting at 74%, the highest in South Africa so far. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright. Thank you very much. Hon Premier, before you go. Hon members, I have allowed those questions because the Parliamentary Rules provide for it. I do not want to turn the debate, the Reply into a Questions to the Premier session. [Interjections.] You will have an opportunity for that, too, so if there are any burning questions that you want to pose, please then use the Rules. If not, let us allow the hon Premier reply to those inputs made. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. So, just as a reminder to the House. I am replying to the input from the hon member Herron and he selectively uses one Quarter as a statistic, but I am going to give him the overall Term statistic. ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Herron, is that a point of order?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Yes, may I ask the hon Premier a question.

The SPEAKER: I will ask the hon Premier if he wants to take the question.

The PREMIER: No.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier? The hon Premier is not prepared to take a

question. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: I am actually replying ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, hon Premier ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...to the hon member right now.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Herron, is that a new point of ...[Interjection.]

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): It is a new point of order. Is the hon Premier going to mislead the House as to what I was quoting now?

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

An HON MEMBER: You misled the House here.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): It is, it is in terms of the Executive Members' Ethics Act that he does not mislead the House.

The SPEAKER: Hon Herron, if you are not happy with my ruling, that was not a point of order. There are mechanisms in place where you can challenge that ruling. Hon Premier, you may continue. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I promise you I am not going to mislead the House. I am going to give you the exact statistics: exactly. So I think this is the last five years ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: This is the last five years and I think the prominent numbers to talk about is in the last five years. Let us talk about the Gauteng jobs numbers and in actual fact ...[Interjections.] and in actual fact, in five years they went down by 10 167 jobs. So, they are 10 167 less in Quarter 4 2023 than there were in Quarter 2 2018. The best performer outside of the Western Cape is actually KwaZulu-Natal and they had 245 000 jobs over that five-year period.

In this province, we are 300 589 jobs up over that term of that period. As you can see, they are by far the best performing province in South Africa. And those are actual jobs. That is not taking into account the size of the economy, et cetera, because that is why I referred to Gauteng. Gauteng should be the engine room of our economy in South Africa, it should be 35% of our economy and it is not able to do what it needs to do. I suppose, we should ask the question why, but I will not get into that right now.

I now want to move to the hon Herron and what he has to say about the Safety Plan. He says basically, the Safety Plan has failed. Now, the Safety Plan has an apex goal of halving the murder rate and whether we get there or

not, I do not know. Remember, this is a pilot project ...[Interjections.] Ja, of course, we have got another five years to go. This is a pilot project because we cannot take over policing in this province. We are not able to. [Interjections.] We are not able to. I noticed that the Premier of Gauteng tried to copy some of the Safety Plan although, he did make a mistake and he tried to put it in the province. Now, you cannot put law enforcement officers as provincial employees. I noticed in his budget yesterday he actually decreased the budget by R300-million specifically for that purpose because I wondered how they actually made that budget available.

Now, what we use is we use the legislation that enables municipalities to have law enforcement officers. And what we did is, we asked the Minister of Justice permission to give law enforcement officers Peace Officer status. Bear in mind, this is a pilot project because we are seriously concerned by 4 000 murders in this province every year. We are seriously concerned ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: ...that the Police ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo and hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Nkondlo and the Chief Whip of the Opposition, I want to remind you or draw your attention to Rule 39 of our Standing Rules. Can I please ask that you allow the hon Premier to respond. The hon Premier is responding to an hon

member that made an input today. I think it is only fair and respectful to allow the hon Premier to respond to that hon member because that hon member obviously raised it because they wanted or expect a reply. So, that reply is now happening. So, please allow the hon Premier to continue.

The PREMIER: So, it is a serious issue. Our children are getting shot in gang warfare. It is terrible and the constitutional mandate for fighting that kind of crime is the South African Police Services, but they are not able to do it. It gets worse every single year. The crime levels go up. They get worse. The hon member Herron said murder gets worse. Yes, it gets worse. It is unacceptable. It needs to change. We need a different model. We need to try something else. We are doing that in this province with the Safety Plan. We are trying something else. [Interjections.] And the interesting thing he has just said ...[Interjection.]

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

The PREMIER: ...it is not working.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, my apologies. Hon member, is that a point of order?

An HON MEMBER: No, it is a comment. Carry on.

The SPEAKER: No, I have already ruled on that. You will have an

opportunity to pose questions to the Premier without notice as part of a parliamentary session and the parliamentary programme going forward. So, I am not going to allow any further questions to the Premier in his reply. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: I just heard the interjection from the hon member to say, 'it is not working!' Five years ago, when we put this plan in place, we were the murder capital of South Africa. More murders per 100 000 in this province than anywhere else in our country. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: We are still.

An HON MEMBER: We are still!

The PREMIER: We are not.

An HON MEMBER: We are still!

The PREMIER: We are not! So, I am going to say to these hon members, go and have a look at the SAPS crime statistics and you will see the changed per capita murder rate in four provinces with the highest murder rates over two consecutive periods. Go and have a look at it ...[Interjections.]

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): You are lying to us.

The PREMIER: Hon Speaker, I have just been accused of lying to the House by an hon member. Would you please point out to him that that is unparliamentary?

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, so you, can you please on a point of order ...[Interjections.] can we just get it for the record. So, who accused you of lying? Hon Jacobs? Hon Jacobs, did you refer to the hon Premier or any other hon member in the House as a liar?

The PREMIER: No, he said lying to ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Or lying?

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): I am saying maybe I used the wrong word, but the hon Premier is misleading this House. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: No, okay.

The PREMIER: No, no, no.

The SPEAKER: No, no, let us first deal with what is on Hansard and for the record, did you refer, or did you say that the hon Premier is lying?

An HON MEMBER: Yes, or no?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Yes, I said the hon Premier is lying.

The SPEAKER: That, okay. Can you, when I address you, can you please stand, hon member? So, that is unparliamentary. Can I please ask that you withdraw that statement.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): I withdraw the statement of lying, but he is misleading the House. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That statement is withdrawn. You cannot withdraw with a proviso. Can you please withdraw the statement. [Interjections.]

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): I withdraw the statement. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and I also heard, hon Speaker, that two hon members in the Opposition benches, the hon Nkondlo and the hon Jacobs said that I am misleading the House. And of course, there are processes and I welcome them putting forward a motion that I am misleading the House, show how I am misleading the House that we can actually have a proper investigation as to how I am misleading the House. [Interjections.] I look

forward to that. [Interjections.]

But let me get back to the report that I am quoting from that uses SAPS crime statistics and it measures actually six years prior to the beginning of last term, and it measures the last five years. It measures the Eastern Cape, it measures Gauteng, it measures KwaZulu-Natal, and it measures the Western Cape in murders per 100 000. In the Eastern Cape, murders per 100 000, the previous six years and last term went up. In Gauteng, murders per 100 000 went up threefold. In KwaZulu-Natal: doubled. In the Western Cape, the only province in South Africa where it came down and now it is in a negative territory.

So, sure, when you talk about this and you talk to citizens to say there is a reduction of 27% in murders in Kraaifontein or 9% in Langa, and there was a murder yesterday on the street, it does not feel like it because 4 000 murders are 4 000 murders too much. But what this says to me is something is happening here. Something is happening and this needs interrogation. Why is this happening? What is going on here? Let us go and interrogate it. Like Minister Mchunu is now saying, let us have a discussion because that was one of the projects within the Safety Plan.

For the hon member Herron's benefit, I would also like to refer to the Safety Plan and how it is reflected by not us, not the Provincial Government, but how it is reflected upon specifically by the Institute for Security Studies. It is reflected on by the Hanns-Seidel Foundation. It is reflected on by UCT, by

STADIO, by the Staatskanzelei of Bayern. It is reflected on by the Centre of Criminology.

Each of these publications and I would ask the hon Herron because he says this over and over again about the Safety Plan where the statistics are opposite to what he says, I would encourage him to go and have a look at these, to go and read these documents: Evidenced policing for South Africa. It is based on the Safety Plan and what is happening here. How to map violence without police data because we do not use police data in our Safety Plan, we use health data from the Health Department.

I would encourage the hon Herron to go to the new pathology lab that has just been built by the Department for Infrastructure at Groote Schuur Hospital where we are using the latest technology, the latest innovations, the latest stuff that our pathologists have gone and searched for all around the world, and we have invested here, the top one on the African continent. I would suggest that he goes there and just has a look. Speak to them as how they take that data and they feed it into the LEAP officers and the deployment of the LEAP officers.

How also, South African Police Services come there. How they have created the space with the technology, the TV screens and the computer screens that the investigating officer can actually be present when the autopsy is happening, while that is happening so that they can feed to that investigating officer while that is happening. But also, go and have a look at how just the

caring component of that investment where before, you wanted to go and view your loved one, you would go to the morgue.

Now, when you go, you get taken to a separate entrance, you get offered psychosocial support, you go into a specific room identified for yourself. Someone helps you there. You go to do body identification. They dim the lights on this side, they up the lights on the other side. They have then got a reflection garden for you to spend some time in. It really is amazing to see the thought that has gone into it. But the reason here is it is about the health data. The Violence HECTIS System that measures data in our hospitals.

I would encourage him to go on a Saturday night or a Friday night to Mitchells Plain Hospital and go and see how often the doctors have to push that alarm where you have got to stop looking after the heart attack patient, where you have got to stop looking after somebody else's mom who has just been brought in with whatever the problem is because another shooting victim, another stab victim has been brought in and you have got to save that person's life immediately.

That data is the data that we use. The data where the ambulance collects that person who has been shot. GIS maps it. That is the data and that is what they are writing about in this Safety Plan. Go and have a look at Hotspot Policing for Murder and Robbery Cape Town case study. There it is. Not us. Universities and international markets interested in what is happening here on the Safety Plan.

I want to also say that I am really looking forward to the Safety Plan 2.0 because that is the next stage. We have got to learn from it all the time. I noticed the hon Herron's comments on the Safety Plan time and time again. I would ask that he, smart guy, come on, do not just rip the thing to pieces. Put some extra ideas on the table. Come and help us bring this horrendous scourge of murder in our province down. We are putting extra energy beyond our constitutional mandate in this province into finding ways of bringing murder down, and we will work day and night because we need to make sure that we get a change in policing and the policing system.

But then, go and have a look at the work that we do according to our constitutional mandate. The Western Cape Policing Needs and Priorities report. It is an outstanding document that goes and has a look at every single one of our police stations. What is needed, what lacks, what works well. What extra support they should get. Quite frankly, our police officers are not getting the support that they need.

Then, perhaps lastly, hon Speaker, to the hon Herron. He speaks about the budget and of course, if we have to make a plan of doing something outside of our constitutional mandate, we will not get funding for it. We would have to bring the funding together for it. It does not take rocket science to work out that if you want to take R1-billion and put it towards a Safety Plan, that basically because 80% of our budget goes to Health and Education, you know, 80% of that budget would come from Health and Education.

But the interesting thing would be right now and of course, this is less than 1% of the budget over that period, less than 1%. But I guarantee you that just on the Burden of Decease report that the Health Department puts out and the measurement of trauma, for every gun that you remove off the street, you have less chance of a shooting victim in our hospitals. Every single time that a LEAP officer stops a stabbing, we do not have to deal with that case in our hospital and that that saving would be far in excess of the R1-billion over the three-year period.

Of course, we can have that debate, too. I do not mind making tough decisions and trying different things to bring about change because quite frankly, 4 000 people in our province murdered every single year is totally unacceptable. I actually would like this whole House, this whole House to say that we need a change in policing. We owe it to our citizens to show that we are going to come up with different ideas, that we are going to come up with different ways of approaching safety in our province. We have to make sure that we end this scourge. It cannot get worse year after year in our country and it cannot get worse year after year in this province.

So, I really would welcome not just objections and complaints that it does not work, give me another idea. Come on? Let us put some other policy idea on the table. I am very happy to try it.

Then, to the hon Windvogel: thank you very much. You started off by

talking about votes and how political parties are voted for, and you referenced what I spoke about yesterday specifically concerning to me that four out of ten registered voters actually voted in South Africa. But not in this province. Here, it is six out of ten. So, the voters in this province are fare more engaged. I think it should be more than six out of ten, but it is six out of ten and not four out of ten. So already, that is a better number.

But that is what I said yesterday, I said it is up to all of us. It is how we work in this space. How we try to build trust that we are really trying to take on the very difficult things that our citizens face. As the hon Sayed said, how do we reduce informal settlements? Let us get that right. How do we reduce murder? What are the big issues that face our citizens and let us make sure that we get that right.

I also want to say that I would look forward to her helping us with calling for fair budgets. We need to make sure we call for fair budgets in South Africa and whether it is the governing party or an Opposition party, we should all be at one for this because these are budgets that go to serving citizens in this province. I would really hope that this House together fights for more money.

She did mention J P Smith. Of course, he is not in this House, but again, we have got to make sure that we deal with illegality. Whether it is an illegal taxi or it is a criminal that is extorting money from a person trying to earn a living, or whether it is a gangster. We have got to make sure that we have

the rule of law here in our province and in our country, and we have got to work hard to make sure of this and get stronger. I mean, the criminals get away with far too much in our country.

The hon Kaizer-Philander, thank you very much for your input. Specifically, again, speaking about SWIMS and you spoke about our social workers, and I thought I just want to spend one or two minutes on that. I mean, this App is really there to help our social workers become more efficient, to offer better services to our citizens and that is really exciting. But you know, I was at you call it the 'White House' in Langa at the Social Development Office there. What a beautiful office! I mean, hon Minister, you have just rebuilt that office from Infrastructure. What a beautiful office! Really an amazing facility! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: But the hon Philander spoke about the hijackings that our social workers face. I mean, that is just horrendous. I do not understand how in our society, a social worker with a vehicle that says 'The Social Development Department' is on its way to go and give some psychosocial support to a rape victim, and that car gets hijacked. Those social workers get robbed and abused. How does that happen? The same thing with our ambulance drivers. Come on!

That comes back to civil society and citizen responsibility as well as

policing, et cetera. We have all got to work harder at that. It is not acceptable that our social workers have to face that kind of criminality and really fear. They have to then have their own psychosocial support because they have just been robbed at gunpoint. It is unacceptable. Our criminals are just getting away with too much and we have to make sure that we deal with the specifically.

You spoke about safe spaces. I absolutely agree with you. I mentioned earlier how we and across the province, but also in the City, more safe spaces being invested in. Not only safe spaces as in homeless safe spaces, but in also GBV shelters across the province that the Department of DSD invests in, and in the support that is given. That is also quite critical that we enable as many people to get back on their feet as possible.

And then lastly, I started off this debate or this reply to this debate by referring to the hon Mackenzie. I want to say thank you again, hon Mackenzie, first of all for making us super proud when you went off on ...[Interjections.] behalf of. No, this is the main Mackenzie, the real Mackenzie. [Laughter.]

An HON MEMBER: He is a real!

The PREMIER: This is the real McCoy. [Interjections.] [Laughing.]

An HON MEMBER: Mackenzie the great!

The PREMIER: This is the real McCoy.

The SPEAKER: Order.

The PREMIER: I want to thank you very much for going ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: ...for going to fetch ...[Interjections.] going to ...[Interjections.] well, first of all being part of that process and then, getting that award and that recognition.

And as you said, it is just a part of what is happening here because, of course, we have not even gone through the process of application to include the Klipdrift Caves which are off De Hoop, which even more stuff is coming out of. The exciting stuff for me is about the Origins of Man and you know, if it very interesting when you go to the museum in De Hoop and you see the work that is happening there with the scientists from all around the world, and they talk about the Origins of Man. South Africa is always quite proud of Mrs Ples and quite proud of first signs of man in Gauteng at the Sterkfontein Caves and linked to what happens in other parts of Africa. It goes back, you know, 300, 400 000 years.

But the work that is happening in the caves here, in the caves in Mossel Bay,

but also down in the caves in De Hoop, is actually starting to show the history and the documents of modernisation of man in Europe up. So, they always have said that man modernised from Mrs Ples humanoid to a more modern man with language, with community, with art, with communication and leaving records. That man modernised about 30- to 40 000 years ago and they always said it was in the French region. Somewhere round about France.

Well, what is happening in these caves is news for Europe! Absolutely news for Europe because they said man modernised about 30 000 years ago. Well, man actually modernised here 130 000 years ago! One hundred thousand years before that. And that is where the ...[Interjections.] Yes, that is where it first started in those caves.

So, I say to all hon members, please make a trip to the museum and have a look at the work that is happening in these caves that is showing that this is where we learnt to communicate, where language started, where modernisation of man started. Where we learnt to hunt with weapons. Where bows and arrows started. They started here, not in Europe where language started, where we could leave messages for another family that would come along to a cave a year later or five years later or 130 000 years later.

That all happened here, and it is really exciting. And, of course, the project that the hon Minister spoke about which is something that I got excited about way back then when I was the MEC of the Economy and understanding the

tourism potential. So, with this work that is happening I cannot wait for the big sign at our airport that says to anybody and everybody who comes from anywhere in the world: welcome home, because this is actually where it all began, and this is actually where you come from. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. ...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon members, that concludes the debate on the hon Premier's Opening Address. Hon members and guests are requested to remain standing in their places while the procession leaves the Chamber. Guests must please remain seated while the hon members leave the Chamber. Hon members, that concludes the business for the day and the House is now adjourned.

The House adjourned at 15:44.