
THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2024

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 10:00.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. Hon members, as has been our practice, hon members are participating in this Sitting of the House from both the Chamber with the Presiding Officers and the Table Staff, and via Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended. We are heading towards the end of this particular calendar year, and I trust that all members are fully familiarised with the Standing Orders and the Rules.

We will then promptly commence with this particular Sitting for today.

I will now note the Secretary to read the first Order of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 1 – Premier – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B2–2024].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I now see the Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker, and to the hon members of the House, thank you very much for this opportunity for opening remarks on this Vote, but before I do so if you will just allow me to perhaps also recognise that we are commemorating – we want to say celebrating, and there is some celebration, but it is World Aids Day that is being celebrated obviously on the 1st but also today specifically, and I saw some of the members coming through downstairs. Minister Wenger and the full Health and Wellness Team are down there but obviously also other departments, and perhaps also just to recognise, 20 years now of anti-retroviral treatment. 20 years of partnership. 20 years of really working hard at bringing down the numbers and they are encouraging the whole of South Africa, but one province you can see the numbers steadily coming down, and in this province by far the lowest number. In 2017, 560 000 citizens HIV positive and on treatment; now it is 540 000, even with the growing population, so that has come down. Our prevalence has come down from 8,6% to 7,4%, so in the right direction, and I think we just need to note that and thank everyone involved, but also remember all of those who have passed. It is the fourth

biggest killer I would say in our province – taker of lives – so we do recognise everyone that is in that space and probably also to say that every one of us needs a responsibility hereto, but, Deputy Speaker, we are here for the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, the Adjustment Budget, and so to you, Deputy Speaker, to my Cabinet colleagues, the Leader of the Opposition and members of this Parliament and the citizens of our province.

I must start off by saying that 2024 has had its fair share of challenges. The multiple natural disasters that we have faced in floods and storms, manmade disasters, of course disasters like that are horrific, a building collapse in George, and so our resolve has been tested to the limit, but it has also been a year that every single member in this House has fought an election and in this province I think the citizens have had their say and I want to call it the ultimate referendum and the citizens have said to this side of the House, thank you very much for what you have done in the previous five years, please carry on with those plans, and so we take those plans and we take them to the next level. Of course it gives us that opportunity post this solid support of our citizens to say, let us move forward with our policies, with our programmes and with our plans. But today we also grapple with the consequences of a disaster of another kind and that is the collapse of our national budget process where we have nationally negotiated Public Sector Wage Bills that happened in the end of the previous term in 2023, and of course the consequences of that has had a pull-through effect on this Government going forward and of course Minister Baartman spoke about this in her speech.

We in this province are being short-changed. We do not get our fair share. Because of the fiscal emergency that has been caused centrally we have questionable and outdated Census data on top of those negotiations and that again is like a double whammy, and then we are the third largest province by population but of course we only get the fifth largest amount of money, so since 2021 the consequences for this province is that we are short changed by over R8 billion.

Of course, what we have seen is an election in this year that I have been speaking about and I will speak a little bit about that and what that means for us as well, but this year we have been forced once again to fight for our fair share and for the budget that our citizens need to be able to live lives that they value.

We have been forced to fight for the funds that we need to keep our frontline services working for the people of the Western Cape to offer quality Education and Health Services, to build roads and vital Infrastructure, Healthcare, Education, etcetera, We have to bulldoze that Infrastructure so that our citizens can live those lives that they value, and Mr Deputy Speaker, we should all, every single one of us in this House, I said that the ultimate referendum is an election and given the mandate to this side of the House, but when it comes to our citizens and getting our citizens across the board, whomever they are, their fair share, the whole House should be standing together saying, we actually need that change to come about. We need the

right numbers to be giving us the right amount of money. As tough as the economic environment is, we need to all be standing together fighting for that fair share.

Deputy Speaker, I also go around this province in unannounced visits, and over the past few months seen with my own eyes the immense pressure that our citizens are feeling, whether it be in our Health system, in our Education system, you feel those strained resources, but whether it be in our SASSA offices, whether it be in our Home Affairs offices, everywhere you go, whether it be in our Police Stations, you can feel the budgetary pressure that is on every single citizen from National Departments to Provincial Departments to Local Governance and this is how we give services and again that is why I say we should all be standing together.

Deputy Speaker, our economy is almost at a standstill. We celebrate that it went up; that it went up from 0,2% to 0,4% economic growth. That is near stagnant economic growth and that is also a key driver of us not having enough money. We have to get shoulder behind the wheel to get our economy going.

I said that the GNU, what that does now is it gives us some hope into the future. We can feel it from an investment point of view, but of course we have to make sure and I think that GNU, we have got commitment across the board that we stop the bailouts, as Minister Maynier normally calls them, the zombie-states, the zombie-state-owned entities, and across the board we now

seem to be getting support that we are stopping that bailout, because again that was taking away over the last eight years so much of that frontline money that should have been delivered to our citizens across this province.

Deputy Speaker, it also worries me immensely, the rising cost of living and how that is affecting our citizens. We are still suffering from the consequences of a pandemic where so many people lost their jobs, but you can feel it as well. You can feel that food insecurity out there and then of course, on top of it, we still have a 40% suggested increase in electricity costs. That again is going to have a massive impact on our citizens and of course that is what brings us here today to stand up to say we have to fight now in our budget processes, but Deputy Speaker, in our Province and in our Government, we are known to rise to the challenge irrespective of these global pressures, these national pressures, the financial pressures that our citizens face. In our Government, we step up, we run a tightrope, but we step up and we step up on the side of our citizens. Our citizens do that too. Our business people do that too, and so I think in this Province we put our best foot forward to maintain stability through these uncertain times and we push harder and harder and nothing shows it like the jobs numbers that have just come out, when once again this province is now way ahead of any other province in South Africa, below 20%, our unemployment rate; another 75 000 people in our province getting a job opportunity, a job that changes their lives, gives them dignity and food on the table and really makes a difference in their lives and we will continue to push and there again I said it shows the vast difference where we have just dropped below 20%. There is no other

province in South Africa that is below 30% and in actual fact our broad base is 25% and there is no other province nowhere near that, so even our broad-based unemployment is still way lower than the narrow unemployment rate in other parts of our country.

We will continue to push to get our economy to thrive, to build more job opportunities, to grow our slice of the cake, and to create that economic environment of investment that change people's lives with jobs. But Deputy Speaker, we are here for an adjustment to our budget and talking about our officials, our 90 000 officials that really get up every single day to move that needle. Here I must talk about the officials in the Department or the Premier and we get a slight increase in our budget in the adjustment, and I thank the Minister for that. Our baseline of just over R2 billion; we have R95 million more and of course a big driver of that is the inflationary costs on our Licensing System for ICT but I first want to start off by saying to our officials, the DG, our Financial Officials and the Financial Team for really being frugal for – the Minister has been *op dit*.

They do not let the money run away. They keep a beady eye, and it is quite interesting to see because of this strong management to see the realignment within our budget and specifically in the Energy Resilience Programme, a budget realignment of R37,8 million. R10 million was the saving on the loadshedding packs through a number of procurement processes and getting to a space where we could deliver 95 000 energy packs to citizens across this province but in that process saving R10 million and of course that again

going back to the fund.

R6 million from the Demand Side Management (DSM), this is because of the USAID-support that we have managed to bring in, they proactively go out there and look for extra funding and this is around the water load control modelling in three of our municipalities so there is another saving of another R6 million that we put back to the Revenue Fund. R11 million budgeted for the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and there again, the officials went out and said well, let us not spend this money, let us try and save this money, and they got a further sponsorship through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Empower South Africa Programme, and that is a donation in kind that is going to help us with understanding that space. So that is another R11 million, the IRP, the first province to be doing this, so we can actually give certainty to the private sector and to our citizens as to what that mix of energy is going to look like in our province.

R1 million budgeted for the Western Cape Independent Power Producer's Auction. This was a payback also to the Provincial Revenue Fund because of a sponsorship that we received from the World Bank.

The remainder of just under R9 million went back to the Provincial Revenue Fund because of posts that we did not fill, and this again is about managing the system, not just filling a post for the sake of filling a post, making sure that we are managing our compensation for employees, managing our workforce in the interests of the citizens and the interests of the ability to

make sure that we are spending that money properly.

In the process of negotiating for Broadband 2.0, there we have seen additional savings, R46 million over the first two years of implementation of this new space. Also just generally across our Compensation of Employees there, we have had to go and despite the unfunded 2024 Wage Agreement, which I spoke about right in the beginning which obviously we cover in our Department within our existing envelope, we have managed to absorb those costs, R26 million.

The non-adjusting event – that is the Commissioner for the Children, we have spoken about that often in the Committee and in this House. R4,3 million remains in the Provincial Revenue Fund. This is in staff allocation challenges that she has had and of course, we also know that the accommodation getting to a final decision on which accommodation that the Children's Commissioner needs and so that money will be rolled over and not just handed back, so it is still available for the Children's Commissioner and so obviously there are some smaller amounts that have been moved back and forward. We dealt with those in the Standing Committee, and I'm happy to say that in that process I think all questions were answered and it seemed that the Committee was in full support.

So Speaker, as I close, I would like to thank first of all our residents. You are the heart of this Government, and we will continue to serve you absolutely to the best of our ability, all 90 000 of us, our family, committed civil servants

for you, the citizens of this province.

I also want to say specifically to the DG and the team in his office, thank you, and then, of course, the team in my office, thank you very much for the continued support that you give me to make sure that we can get the pressures dealt with, ongoing new ideas that we bring to the fore. Some of you tried to stop some of those ideas, but that is also about getting a good, strong team around you to make sure that you can deliver in the interests of the citizens of our province. So Deputy Speaker, with that, I am happy to table this Budget. [Applause.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Leader of Government Business, the hon leaders of the various political parties, hon member of the House, I would like to begin by firstly thanking Premier Winde, his Department and the Provincial Treasury for their efforts in preparing the Adjustment Estimates of the Provincial Revenue and Expenditure.

This year's Adjustments were not just about balancing the books, they had to lay the groundwork for 2025 and reflect the priorities of the Seventh Administration, including our Government of National Unity's Statement of Intent and the commitments made in the Premier's Opening Address on

31 July 2024 in this House.

As the Official Opposition the African National Congress expected this Adjustment Budget to reflect these priorities, especially in the Department of the Premier. Unfortunately we see significant gaps in leadership, alignment and the allocation of resources, gaps that hindered the Department's ability to fulfil its core mandate of strategic leadership, policy coordination, oversight and public engagement.

Instead of focusing on these priorities over R1,4 billion has been directed to the Centre for e-Innovation (Ce-I). While Ce-I is supposed to drive innovation it primarily operates as an IT service provider, managing tasks like Microsoft Licensing and Connectivity, functions that individual departments could easily handle themselves.

Why does Ce-I for example dictate the specifications for MEC Maynier's Western Cape Education Department School Computer Labs bypassing the WCED's own needs? This kind of centralisation, Deputy Speaker, creates unnecessary red tape, delays service delivery and raises a critical question: does the Premier not trust his own MECs to manage these responsibilities?

Is this the legacy or a directive from former Premier Helen Zille, as we anticipate a Cabinet reshuffle early next year, and we are hoping that that reshuffle will not be one which is similar to the Cabinet that was announced at the beginning of this term where hardworking MECs, such as the Deputy

Speaker, were removed?

The Ce-I employs over 300 staff, but the expertise is IT, not the needs of individual departments. This disconnect can lead to inefficiencies and misaligned priorities. Moreover the Ce-I's procurement process and activities are concerning.

The Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Forensic Report uncovered alleged corruption, collusion and maladministration in a R1,2 billion IT tender awarded to Blue Network Consortium, and we will continue to talk about this. Shockingly at least five officials implicated in this report are still working in the Ce-I unit, with two holding managerial positions. Why are these individuals involved in procurement processes? Why is the Ce-I even involved in services like computer connectivity for the WCED? We fear that this may not be an isolated case, Deputy Speaker.

Could other forensic investigations into the Department of the Premier reveal similar patterns of complicity and malpractice? We also need clarity about who benefits from Ce-I's procurement. Are small and black-owned businesses, which hon member Nkondlo often highlights; are small and black-owned businesses being included in these contracts or do some dominant players like Mustek and Pinnacle, for example, continue to monopolise the space? Furthermore, which of Microsoft's eight models for Government entities has the Province chosen and were Departments consulted on what best suits their needs?

Whilst the fixed-subscription model offers costability, the Department blames the rand/dollar exchange rate for budget shifts. This excuse raises doubts about whether the true cost of these contracts was ever fully understood.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Ce-I's stated goal is to enhance service delivery through real-time data, but where are the results? Have awaiting times for MRI scans at Groote Schuur Hospital decreased? Have crime hotspots been effectively addressed? Has learner enrolment been accelerated? Without tangible outcomes these claims of innovation remain sadly hollow.

An HON MEMBER: That is so true!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): Another pressing issue is the Children's Commissioner, whose independence is critical. Yet, the Department of the Premier continues to undermine this office, offering vague responses, insufficient budgetary support and preferring to play a central role in recruitment. The Premier must prioritise the independence and protection of this essential institution and not run the institution. The primary allocated funds and appointed external consultants to investigate the... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, please conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): ...to investigate the George building collapse, a major disaster, we have seen this. Yet, despite this

Budget Adjustment process this House has yet to receive an update on the investigation's progress.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in conclusion the African National Congress cannot support this Adjustment. Hon Premier, leadership is about aligning resources with vision and taking decisive action... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, your time has expired.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): It is time for the Premier to focus on his core responsibilities... [Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): ...and deliver governance in respect of all the people of the Western Cape. I thank you. [Interjections.]
[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed!

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible] Why are you so uncomfortable? Listen to the answer! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, hon members, kindly, I would wish to refer members again, once the Presiding Officer and in this case the

Deputy Speaker, has spoken, you are to then take your seat. We would want to ensure that the decorum of the House is maintained. I now see the hon member Stephens. [Interjections.]

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon members, we want to thank the Premier for his commitment to the public. The PA rises today with concern regarding the Budget tabled for the Department of the Premier. We note the WiFi and IT upgrades and as much as we understand this need we seriously question the decision to use this amount of money which definitely confirms that the DA-led Western Cape Government does not have a pro-poor budget. We are also very concerned that our members on the ground indicate to us that many has not met or seen the Premier and only know him in newspapers.

The PA would request the Premier to relook at its Budget allocation and start to take Parliament to the people. It is no good for the Premier to have R33 million in upgraded IT, but the people cannot even access the Western Cape Government's online platforms due to the lack of WiFi.

The Children's Commission does a sterling job, and we would like to see this office expand in the light of the increased violence, and children. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Stephens and for maintaining the time limit. I now see the hon member Van Minnen.

The PREMIER: Hear-hear!

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Today, as we deliberate the budget for the Department of the Premier, we are called upon to reaffirm our commitment to building a Western Cape that not only endures, but flourishes in the face of national challenges. This budget is not just a financial document; it is a blueprint for resilience, innovation and prosperity in our province.

On Tuesday, I highlighted the transformative power of the digital innovation in achieving this vision. The investment in Broadband 2.0, which includes a robust network of free public WiFi hotspots and efforts to reach even the most remote communities. This is not a mere convenience as envisaged by the bureau for centralisation, the ANC, it is a catalyst for empowerment, equipping our citizens with the tools they need to succeed in the digital economy. Contrast this with the ANC's dedication to bailing out the 19th century technology of the Post Office as a delivery tool, and we see how the Western Cape is indeed ready for the future and resulting that we genuinely empower people to use their own agency to access and take advantage of these tools for the future.

Similarly, our strategic use of artificial intelligence spans critical sectors such as Healthcare, Agriculture, Public Safety and Disaster Management, which demonstrates our commitment to leveraging technology to improve lives.

However, progress does not come without obstacles. As I mentioned earlier this week, the high costs associated with Microsoft Licensing, driven by volatile exchange rates and the shift to subscription-based services continue to exert pressure on our ICT budget. While the R77 million allocated to address this challenge is significant, it underscores a larger reality: economic instability that is a direct consequence of poor ANC national governance. This makes efficient resource management not only a necessity, but a guiding principle for every department.

Moving into the digital age demands one critical service from the National Government: reliable power, and not just in the metaphysical sense, but literally.

While loadshedding may feel like a ghost of the past for some, its potential resurgence looms ominously over our progress – a Sword of Damocles threatening to plunge at any moment.

Just as the ANC remains the sick man of South Africa, Eskom staggers forward as a symbol of failure and decay – another example of the failure of the ANC's love for centralisation. Yet, the DA-led Western Cape refuses to be shackled by national incompetence. Our province is forging ahead, determined to secure a future where power outages do not derail our ambitions.

Since last year, the Department has taken decisive action, increasing expenditure in Programme 2 by 22,7% to ensure the delivery of loadshedding packs across key sectors – proof that we will not stand idle while others falter. The Western Cape Government literally delivers power to the people in real terms. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, this principle brings me to the office of the Children's Commissioner, a topic of concern raised by the ANC. Whilst calls for increased funding may appear noble on the surface, the reality requires deeper scrutiny. Evidence proves that the office has not fully utilised its allocated funds. This is not an indictment of the Commissioner's dedication to the importance of her work, but rather an invitation to examine our processes with care.

The voice of children is an important voice to hear, but financial prudence demands that we ensure every rand allocated serves its intended purpose. The unspent funds, mainly on staff appointments and offices, highlights issues of resource allocation, planning and implementation that must be addressed. Suggesting that simply increasing the budget will resolve these challenges ignores the complexities of governance. Instead, we must focus on optimising the use of existing resources and ensure financial prudence and that does not include increasing funding when existing funding remains unspent year-on-year and needs to be rolled over. We have heard from the

hon Premier about the financial pressure in the budgetary environment and really need to take cognisance of the need to ensure that every rand is carefully allocated.

This commitment to accountability extends beyond any single office. It speaks to the broader ethos of the DA-led Western Cape Government: responsible transparent governance that delivers tangible results for our people. Every Department must strive to maximise the impact of every rand entrusted to it, and I say entrust because there is no such thing as Government money. It is all the people's money, and the Government is merely the agency who must navigate its spending in order to deliver services to the people.

The Department of the Premier's Budget exemplifies this ethos. It prioritises digital transformation as a driver of economic growth and improves service delivery, while acknowledging and addressing the challenges inherent in ambitious undertakings. It is a budget that reflects financial responsibility, innovation and a steadfast commitment to serving the people of this province.

Indeed, innovation, culture and governance is an important key focus for the 2025/2030 Provincial Strategic Plan, along with Growth for Jobs, leading to a successful province that can continue to grow and outperform the rest of the country. It reflects a province that is ready to weather the storms and offers hope to the residents of this beautiful province.

I therefore urge this hon House to support this budget.

Let this budget stand as a testament to our collective dedication to a thriving, inclusive and accountable Western Cape ecosystem.

To this end, I support this budget. I thank you. [Applause.]

The PREMIER: Hear-hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Van Minnen. I see the Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and first of all to the Chair, thank you very much first of all as the Chair for chairing the Committee, for doing that well; for your message that this province is a province of hope and that is exactly what we strive to do every single day, create hope for our citizens; create hope for our country and it is interesting that most of the indicators do exactly that, and that is of course why so many people want to leave other provinces and come to this province.

I also absolutely agree with you that every single thing we do is for the citizens of our province. That is why it says, "for you" and it is the people's money. It is not our money. It is not the ANC's money. It is not National Government's money or Provincial Government's money. It is always the peoples's money. [Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): It is not the DA's money.

The PREMIER: I want to say, you have spoken about the Children's Commissioner and it was spoken about by a number of the speakers and that perhaps here and I know that it sits within this budget and that this budget is now for another year asking to roll over money, but in actual fact the Children's Commission does not report to me, it does not report to DoTP, it reports to the Parliament and so these are the questions that should be raised in the Parliament about why are these posts not being filled? Why are you not getting to your accommodation that you want because that is the money that is being rolled over. We are not getting to say, this is the property, we will pay the lease, let us get it done; this is the post we want to fill, let us fill that post. [Interjections.]

I promise you; we are a willing partner here to enable and of course we do not want to roll this money over time after time. We need to make sure that it gets spent in the interests of the children of this province.

To the hon member Van Minnen, thank you very much, obviously talking about our Energy Plan. I said in the beginning I was very happy that our team really has gone above and beyond to save where they can to find outside external support whether it be USAID or the World Bank or wherever we can find extra support that saves money again that can actually be put back to the Revenue Fund and you spoke about the energy packs on the one side and of

course on the other side it is continuing with our 5700-megawatt Energy Plan to make sure that we have a sustainable green predominantly renewable source of energy that is feeding into every one of our municipalities and the grid, because what will happen is we will start to have – that energy resilience will start to give us better pricing, so in South Africa, while we are seeing a 40% ask in increase for Eskom to give us power, in this province you will see that over time and it is a 2035 plan, that already the first study, independent study on the plan says that on the progress that we have achieved so far, by 2032 this province will be able to export energy to other provinces that need it. And of course it is not only that component of bringing new power in, it is also the whole focus on green hydrogen, building that corridor between Namibia, the Northern Cape and the Western Cape and the Eastern Cape and our teams are working very hard on making sure we get that right. But then at the same time, while you are putting the big long-term plans in place, we are doing what is necessary to help those most in need, whether they be women in shelters, whether they be learners in our school system, getting those energy packs.

You also spoke about centralisation of an ANC policy versus decentralisation of a DA policy and of course we drive for that every single day. That is why we want to have devolution of power within our constitutional mandates. We do absolutely believe that policing will be way better managed with the devolved power and decision making, because quite frankly, the system at the moment is not giving us what we want as citizens, it is not giving us what we want as a country and I heard the "Ah" when you talk about decentralisation,

but the ANC cannot stand up here today and say the policing system is building a safer society and the numbers are coming down because our policing system is so outstanding. [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): The ANC is doing that, the ANC...

The PREMIER: It is failing the citizens and that is why we are coming up with alternatives; that is why we are driving these alternatives to actually convince our country that we need to change our Constitution and decentralise that power.

Exactly the same thing with rail, rail is not serving our citizens optimally and it has to change. [Interjections.]

That is why the citizens in this province continue to give us the mandate but changed the mandate at a national level and said to the ANC, "Sorry, no more, and we will now give it to GNU."

The same thing about our ports, that really starts to change; job opportunities so that decentralisation, that different policy environment is what we will drive for. [Interjections.]

Can I say to the hon Stephens, thank you very much for your input, but I do want to say to you that and I know that you are new here, so, but just say to you that the Broadband Programme is about taking WiFi to the citizens,

exactly that and there is no other province with WiFi, free WiFi Connectivity like this province has; 2000 free WiFi hotspots, giving them two gigabytes of free WiFi, four million citizens in this province make use of the Broadband free WiFi system across our province and then over and above it, of course you have to connect your municipalities; you have to connect your hospitals, your clinics, social development, your schools. That is also what this plan does, and it is about making sure that there is connectivity because it is moving us into the modern world, and that is what it is about. It is across this province. No other province does it. Now we have gone to even the most remote communities with having a mobile bus system where you can actually take that opportunity where there are computers, where there is connectivity, where you can do CVs, where you can research, where you can apply for a job or education, furthering your education. That is being taken to the most remote parts of our province – all part of this programme and then of course it is also about making sure that our systems are connected and licensed and that they work and at the same time knowing that there is something called the rand/dollar exchange rate, but I will get to that when I answer the hon Leader of the Opposition.

I also want to say to you when you said: "The citizens want to see you personally and not see you just in the newspaper" or something like that. There is no other government in South Africa and there I have not found one other government in the world that has something called First Thursdays where we are open every single first Thursday where any citizen can come... [Interjections.] Any citizen can come at any stage, and it is not only here

and come this evening yourself, please come and see me this evening and let us talk about it one-on-one. [Interjections.]

Anybody can get that, first come first serve and I will sit there until the last person is seen. But we also take this out to Beaufort West, we take it to George, we take it to Pacaltsdorp. [Interjections.]

We take it out to all other locations as well. We take it to Delft. We take it to Mitchells Plain. We take it to the citizens, so and there is no other government that does that, no other government, so just that one: we are the most open, transparent and connected to our citizens. [Interjections.]

Now unfortunately I need to answer the hon Leader of the Opposition, and he decided he would throw a stone in the pond and then run away before the ripples start to bounce back.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We are here, we are here!

The PREMIER: Ah! welcome back tot the Leader of the Opposition. [Applause.] Thank you very much, welcome back! [Interjections.] So I will start off by saying... [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): They can speak for themselves also.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

The PREMIER: ...by taking some words from the Chair of the Committee where she spoke about the Post Office, and the hon Leader of the Opposition, I think in his speech in how he was speaking about these various issues and specifically how he was saying, we need to take this Broadband AI, Ce-I, the Technology and Innovation Central Hub of this Government and we need to decentralise it and do whatever else to it, basically showing me that all he wants to do is being just like the ANC, which is about the Post Office; and the DA and where we govern it is about technology, innovation and AI and the future. And so we cannot be a political party that is Post Office-based, we have to be a political party whose policies land in new innovation, and you can see the difference how that mentality lands in his political party, and how ours lands here, and you see it in all of the indicators, whether it is four million people who gained free access to Broadband and connectivity in this province or whatever those linkages are to modern improving innovative government, those are the policies that land here. The opposite policies land in his political party and how they then land in government and so, quite frankly, we are the opposite.

He then comes with the much-anticipated Cabinet reshuffle. He is confused. He is totally confused. It is his President that has just shuffled some of the Cabinet members in the National Assembly in the National Cabinet, because they are wanted criminals and they are appearing in Court and all sorts of corruption charges against them and so he shifted them around so he is totally confused and it is not happening in this Government. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): ...locked the reshuffle now.

The PREMIER: Second of all, I must deal with...

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): Leave the ANC.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): You are safe, you are safe.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we are only... [Interjections.]
Premier, please take your seat. Hon members, we are only on the first Vote
debate.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): We have our insights.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only on the first one. We have a long day to get
through. Please let us maintain the decorum of the House, no running
commentary. Premier, I see you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, thank you. First of
all, the hon member spoke about the SITA Procurement Process and a study
that has been handed in that looks at some very serious findings. Now it is
interesting, he stands here not only today, but he has also made
pronouncements in this House through a motion accusing officials in the
Western Cape Education Department of corruption and it just shows me, it

shows me, it shows us, this House and the citizens of this province, that number one, he did not read that report. Number two, because if he did he would have noted that no findings were found against the Western Cape Education Department officials, no findings, and let me tell you that this is going to come out. [Interjections.] This is going to come out so what happens... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! It is not even two and a half minutes ago when I indicated that "no running commentary". We have guests in the gallery that are also observing us. We have rules that we need to maintain. I see you, Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. If we note that, of course you need education specialists to advise on a process, but our problem is SITA, and so in this case the process was devised and it was agreed, and it went out to tender. It was carried out by SITA at a national level and, of course, my prediction is what happened is suddenly SITA saw hang on a second, there is a process, a procurement process has happened, the job has been allocated, it has been done according to the rules but suddenly they realised that probably one of their mates did not get the contract and it is this, part of this side of the House that is making all of this noise. I cannot wait for the outcome of this investigation where you see exactly what the reason was and why it failed, and it actually failed at the national level with the SITA Board. It failed at the national level with SITA and the best thing that this country or the best thing that this National Government can do, our new Minister,

Minister Malatsi could do, is in actual fact close SITA down. Let us get rid of it. We do not need it. We do not need it. We need to make sure that we get proper abilities to procure... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Premier, please take your seat.

The PREMIER: ...and get our processes done here at the provincial level. That power should be devolved to provinces.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I see the Leader of the Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, is the Premier prepared to take a question as to why the current National Minister refuses to suspend SITA Board members... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: You cannot ask the question!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have noted your request. Premier, are you willing to take a question? [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: No. [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Premier is not willing to take a question. Premier, please continue.

The PREMIER: I am busy answering his list of questions. So I am looking forward to the outcome of this investigation, I really am. [Interjections.] Then he also speaks about the ICT central space and again, I said to the hon Stephens, four million citizens make use of this service. Again, he seems to not actually understand how ICT and Tech operates, how it works, how it enables a modern future looking future fit government. He does not seem to understand it, because of course he is still in the mindset of a post office.

We also are knocked by inflation rates. We are knocked by exchange rates and in this case when our Licensing Services were budgeted for, they were budgeted for at R17.00 to the dollar. It is now R19.00 to the dollar and of course that again is something you try to mitigate. You try to get the best guesstimate possible to budget for what will be coming, but again, we saw as a consequence last year of the loadshedding primarily and the effect that that had on our economy and of course that again has consequences for exchange rates and that was a big driver of why we needed to have extra funding for the licensing.

I have answered the question on the Children's Commissioner and in actual fact, the hon member, I am pretty certain that those questions that he asked he has not asked personally within the space of where the reporting has to happen and I say again, the Children's Commissioner actually does not report to us; she reports to this House, so that is where that lies. I am concerned, we should not have rollovers. We definitely should not have rollovers. That money should be spent, it should be spent on the office space that has been

identified and it should be spent on people that are actually going to offer children the services that they deserve.

Then I would like to speak about the George building collapse. Yesterday I got to spend some time with the victims. Again we need to offer our condolences to those families who lost loved ones in the collapse of that building. I need to commend and as those families did yesterday, they remembered those who have passed but they also commended those who were there to save lives, the hundreds and hundreds of highly trained, really specialist fire and rescue teams, the canine handlers, the rescue teams that came from across our country and our province that came to really do something that was seen as almost impossible, to save lives that were almost impossible. It was interesting standing there and having the opportunity to sit and have a one-on-one engagement with Shadrack – someone who has lost their arm and their leg. It was amazing to be able to talk to Gabriel, who was the miracle 118 hours into the collapse of that building. But Speaker, at the time of that collapse and getting there fairly soon after it had collapsed and just feeling the trauma of the space, I was immediately seized that we need to know why, how, who is responsible and of course in law there are two organisations that by law have to produce a report, have to investigate, and they are the South African Police Services because there has been the loss of life, people have lost their lives and it needs to have an investigation. They are by law and the ANC knows that. I have just heard they know that. What they also know is the Department of Labour must, by law, have an investigation. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We need the report also. We need the report.

The PREMIER: I have not once, not once in this House ever heard that side of the House ask, so where is the SAPS report and where is the Department of Labour report, or perhaps where is the Engineering report of the Engineering Council of South Africa's report? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We have oversight over you.

The PREMIER: Or perhaps the NHBRC report, but I will tell you about our report, Speaker... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Your friends are there in National Parliament.

The PREMIER: Because the only one that did not have to produce a report has actually said in this province, "We will produce a report." I will tell you that that report is being peer-reviewed right now by engineers and we will receive that report in January.

An HON MEMBER: Your friends will answer that.

The PREMIER: I can hear them, it is still in this House, I have not heard

them once say, when is the SAPS report coming.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Black lives!

The PREMIER: When is the Department of Labour report coming? When are any of the other reports coming? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members!

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): They knew how to do it... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Premier, please take your seat. Hon members!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): They are doing their job, working hard over you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am about to start naming members. We are only at the first particular debate. There are a number of debate subjects and Votes to be debated. Members will be given an opportunity to air their particular views. Let us please afford the Premier to conclude. We have guests in the gallery. We also have guests online. Thank you, Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you, Speaker. So, again, I will be clear that the Western Cape Report through the Department of Infrastructure is in its final stages of peer review so that it can stand up wherever it needs to stand up

against any scrutiny at all and we will receive that report in January sometime and we will let the citizens know as soon as we have it and then of course, we will have to then interrogate that report and then do what is necessary once we have received that report. And so, Speaker, in ending I would like to say, thank you to everyone who took part in this debate. I would like to say that I think the Adjustments show that we have a team that really looks at making sure that the money is spent in exactly the right places where it needs to be spent to the best of their ability and show savings; do not waste money; put it back to other needs, etcetera. But I would also like to say that in the service of our citizens in the province, the citizens spoke. They gave this Government a mandate to run again but of course we are open. We have as the hon Stephens said, and in my reply to her, we are an open, transparent government. You can come and ask us anything you want; you can come and see what we need to do. You can come to our first Thursdays in person but of course you can use our free WiFi hotspots across this province. You can engage with this Province like no other province and so we ask you to please engage with us, to please help us build together a much better province through the modern technology that we are rolling out or of course, what you could do is you could send a letter through the Post Office to the ANC if you wanted to contact them and see what happens on that side of the game and of course, we have noticed that this party is getting smaller and smaller in the seats across the board. We got a clear mandate, they got a clear shrinking mandate and of course, I do believe, Benson, that the hon member that you are going to be contesting the elections also out of this group again because you are dividing even further, and of course we look forward to

seeing the mandate of the people and further shrinking of the Post Office party on the other side of the floor. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. That concludes the debate on Vote 1.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I officially request the Secretary to read the Second Order, Minister Meyer, do you have any guests that will make their way to the box?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: No, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, we will then proceed accordingly. I will now see the Secretary.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 11 – Agriculture – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B2–2024]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: And I see the hon Minister Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. To the hon Premier, the Leader

of Government Business, members of the Cabinet, the Leader of the Official Opposition, members of other political parties and those who are online. Thank you for being here today, but also to those members in the public, those students from the College, welcome to the best run Provincial Legislature in South Africa. We are proud to have you here. Thank you for joining us here today, witnessing excellence from the Chair, a young man, the Deputy Speaker of this House.

I was asked by my hon Minister of Education, hon member Maynier, he said this is the end of the year. Members on that side of the House, members on this side of the House had a long exhaustive year and the hon Minister of Education asked me to keep it short and I will do exactly that.

An HON MEMBER: Yes, please.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: And there are pleas from that side of the House and there are pleas on this side on the online platform, so I will be brief.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise today to table the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's Adjustment Budget for the year 2024/25. Hon Deputy Speaker, I was in this House on 26 March this year to table my Main Budget, and when I tabled it I framed it "Agriculture in the Western Cape has thrived on the edge of chaos."

Today, hon Deputy Speaker, I am back in this House to inform the House that the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's Budget has increased from R1,018 billion to R1,306 billion, an increase of R288 million for Agriculture.

Hon Deputy Speaker, between December 2023, that is last year, and July 2024 this year, my Department's Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme and the grant has increased, as hon member Chair of my Standing Committee has reported in the Standing Committee, has increased by R300 million for infrastructure, reconstruction and rehabilitation following disasters.

The hon Minister of Local Government had to deal with four major disasters last year and I am so pleased for the work that the Provincial Treasury has done, the work that Minister Bredell has done, in making sure that we can get that R300 million for the disasters.

The Department has also managed its finances effectively increasing its Revenue Budget with R1,364 million from R37,7 million to R39,14 million. This is primarily due to an estimated over collection of revenue by Vote 4, Veterinary Services from the rendered services of the Chemistry Analysis. People will know in this House that we have a laboratory, a veterinary laboratory, people pay money for the chemical analysis and that was an over collection.

Further to this the Department's Research and Technology Development

Programme secured R364 000 from the ostrich auction, which would be used to purchase feed ingredients and prepare the ostriches for the 2025 auctioneer.

I know, hon member Beauty Stoffel, a good friend of mine, she loves ostrich meat, and the ostriches that we have, hon member Marais – Deputy Speaker, through you to the hon member Marais, he loves his ostrich meat, and he will know that we have the only ostrich research farm in the whole world. It is based here under the Department of Agriculture in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

Every year, hon member Marais, through you Deputy Speaker, there are auctions, because it is a research farm. †Dan is daar te veel volstruise, jy moet van die goed ontslae raak en die manier hoe ons ontslae raak, dit is 'n veiling. Daar is 'n *auktion*, [Then there are too many ostriches, you have to get rid of the things and the way in which we get rid of them, it is an auction. There is an auction,] and I attended one of these auctions, R10 000, R15 000 per ostrich, so that is what has happened there.

†Ons het meer volstruise verkoop op die [We have sold more ostriches on the] auction and that generated income. †Ek gaan nou nie sê watter ander partye sal die volstruis opgeëet het nie, maar los dit vir 'n ander dag. [I'm not going to say now which other parties would have finished the ostrich, but leave that for another day.]

So we generate income. Also, hon Deputy, and for those who are diabetic, those who are listening online on the internet globally, you will know that ostrich meat, if you are a diabetic, this is your meat, this is your mince, this is the stuff that you need to eat, those who are watching online, this is also a health advice.

Hon Deputy Speaker, revenue retention from 2023/24 totalling R12 million is allocated as follows: R1 million for loans to selected individuals in support of their applications.

Hon member Stoffel will know that some of our people want to work on farms in other parts of the world. Also Black farmers now have an opportunity to also now work on farms in the United States, but they need some support because there are requirements and upfront cost and so we give them a loan to do that. I had a meeting with the US Consulate.

Also, hon Chair, R500 000 towards Emergency Procurement because of the storm damage earlier this year, R3 million to implement and roll out the proactive Surveillance and Disease Monitoring interventions throughout the province to alleviate the cost pressures of the Provincial Veterinary Laboratory that was recently updated. R1,5 million towards the feed and fodder for departmental herds and flocks on various research farms.

Hon member, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, to hon member Marais, we have also animals, we have cows, we have †skaap en lammertjies, maar hulle

moet kossies kry, [sheep and lambs, but they must get food,] and so we also make provision that they can also eat. So this is part of their adjustment.

Hon members of this House will also appreciate that we also have Weather Stations, a Weather Portal, very important to know what is happening in the place. So we have 10 Weather Stations and there is a Weather Station Data Portal. It is very important that we link it also up with the South African Weather Services and we also made R4 million available for the operational cost at the oldest agricultural training college on the African continent, dating back from 1898.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we also shifted R3,1 million of its earmarked allocation to Vote 10, the Department of Infrastructure to replace the bulk irrigation infrastructure at Elsenburg Vineyard. To those through you, Deputy Speaker, we have guests in the House, we have also a farm in Stellenbosch called Elsenburg, we are also the place that they can – anybody that is interested in winemaking, in fact, 98% of all the wine cellars that you see in South Africa are based in the Western Cape. 90% of everybody that has received training in winemaking received it from this Government, and so it is important that you also replace your vineyards. So I have now transferred about R3 million to Vote 10 to the Minister of Infrastructure. They are now replacing the vineyards.

†As die wingerd 30 jaar oud is moet hy vervang word, anders gaan daar nie duiwe kom om wyn te maak nie, [If the vineyard is 30 years old it must be

replaced, otherwise there is going to be no grapes to make wine,] so that is happening.

†'n AGBARE LID: Nagmaalwyn.

[An HON MEMBER: Communion wine.]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Ja. Nagmaalwyn miskien, maar nie goed wat ek en die agbare lede sal geniet nie, [The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Yes, communion wine perhaps, but not the stuff that the hon members and I will enjoy,] and so at our farm we have made provision now for 28 hectare to clean it up, but we are only going to use 16 hectare for the irrigation, and we are going to plant the following wine variety as we call it, Pinotage, Merlot, and then Chenel. For those who wonder what Chenel is, it is a unique wine made, a variety, and produced only at Elsenburg, and so this is why this money is being transferred to the Department of Infrastructure to assist us with it.

In terms of the reprioritisation reduction of R50 million earmarked for the Provincial Equitable Share for the reallocation to mitigate pressures in other Votes in the Budget, R20 million was earmarked for Provincial Equitable Share Funding that was surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund to address existing provincial pressures, and Agriculture, hon Deputy Speaker, as I conclude, is ready to continue its mission in growing the economy and in creating jobs. We have seen over the last 10 years the growth of jobs was in

the region of 38% in this province, so Agriculture is alive and well under difficult circumstances.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I conclude, it therefore gives me a great pleasure to table the Western Cape Department of Agriculture Adjustment Budget of R1,306 billion for discussion in this House. I thank you.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): *Enkosi Sekela Somlomo.*

Hon Deputy Speaker and esteemed members, I rise today to present the ANC's firm opposition to the proposed Adjustment Budget for the Department of Agriculture. We must note that this Adjustment Budget emanates from the Main Appropriation that was done here in the House under the claim of being a pro-poor Budget by the then MEC Wenger.

While we acknowledge and appreciate the increase of R288 million in this Budget, we must emphasise that this allocation is largely driven by the R300 million for CASP (Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme) received from the National Government for disaster recovery.

This funding aims to assist in infrastructure, reconstruction and rehabilitation following the devastating natural disasters that occurred between December

2023 and July 2024.

However, this increase, it is crucial to examine how these funds are being allocated and whether they will adequately address the needs of our agricultural communities, particularly our historically disadvantaged farmers. While some communities, like Riverlands, have been severely affected by the recent disasters, it appears that the allocation of these funds does not adequately prioritise their immediate recovery. Fair share, as said by the Premier, needs also to go hand-in-hand with fair benefit.

One thing that we have not seen in this particular province, Premier, whilst you lament about fair share, is the fairness in the equitable distribution of the budgets, the allocation, the programmes, you know, because the stark reality of the poor versus the rich is also very clear and evident in this particular province so when you speak about your exceptionalism about DA delivery, you have to tell us how exceptional have you been in actually addressing these inequalities. It is important to demonstrate that you are the first province in this country with everything that we have done that is able indeed to actually ensure that the legacy of the past, nobody in this particular province, a Nomi like myself who grew up in Gugulethu, you know for all these years can actually say, my kids when they grew up in this exceptional province they do not experience the very same things that I experienced when I grew up here. Then we will be applauding you. Then we will join you to go and call for a fair share. We want fair benefit of the existing funds that you are getting from National. Then we can talk.

One of the most alarming aspects of this budget is the Department's failure to fully spend the R35 million earmarked for Flood Damage Support. This funding, meant to assist those hardest hit by the Cape storms, was surrendered to the Provincial Revenue for fund reallocation to mitigate Vote pressures for the 2025/2026 financial year, and with this, MEC, part of what we want to see improved is around support to emerging and informal farmers who lost their livelihoods and have yet to receive the support they desperately need. I invite you to come with me to Nduli in Witzenberg where more than 20 livestock were lost by informal farmers and they have not been given any particular support, and these are the things that we speak about when we say fair share, fair benefit.

Another critical issue we must address is the lack of a clear strategy for transformation of the agricultural sector. Despite discussions in last week's Committee meeting no concrete plans have been presented to ensure that this budget will create meaningful opportunities for Black and informal farmers. Urgency to transformation of the agricultural sector is a long overdue necessity, and it keeps being evaded as it may unsettle the old establishment that perpetuates racialised and elite economies. This cannot be sustained if we must triple the Western Cape economy as per the G4J.

As you know, MEC Meyer, there was the threat from the US Trump Administration of possible tariff reforms to our agricultural export, a window is open through BRICS and the recent pronouncement made by President of

China in September 2024 of a zero tariff treatment for 100% of tariff lines, expansion of China's market access for African agricultural products and the support that they are prepared to give to the development of Africa's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, and that is an opportunity for the capacity that has been built of the Veterinary Services by this provincial Department, and I think we need to be a generation of leaders and politicians that actually grow the economy for equitable distribution of its benefit, and we must do that for ourselves and for generations to come.

We cannot keep on being, you know, speaking in this House, in the interest of the elite. We must actually rise above that particular legacy; it is not our legacy. It is not our share, Premier.

I think we can do better with your entrepreneurial leadership that you have proven. We want you to see that also everybody else across racial lines, across where they are in this particular province, whether they are in the informal spaces, trying to get their livestock in Strand there in Nomzamo or whether they are in an official farm in Stellenbosch. Those must be able to get their fair benefit from the fair share that you are complaining about.

Lastly, Deputy Speaker, complicating matters is a troubling trend of slashing compensation of employees, and actually we are very happy that actually from the CSC the management of this Department did tell us that this CSC is also providing red tape, that they have got 117 approved posts, which have been delayed, some with three weeks of shortlisting, because you must still

go through the Premier's Office. Why? Is it because we are not trying to...

[Inaudible, speaking simultaneously] [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, member.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...our responsibilities in Departments? As I conclude, hon Deputy Speaker, I must say we must stand firm and demand a budget that reflects the commitment for equitable growth in Agriculture, one that prioritises the empowerment of Black and informal farmers and ensures that every stakeholder has a voice in shaping their lives. Thank you.
[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Nkondlo. Hon members, I see online the hon member Constable.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and good morning to everybody in the House. I greet you in the Almighty name of Jesus Christ.

Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you for allowing me to give comments on the Budget on Agriculture. Deputy Speaker, I believe, and we believe that this budget reveals structural deficiencies, skewed priorities and a concerning reliance on consultants. It does little to address the needs of the entire Western Cape population, particularly the marginalised. We welcome the R300 million for flood damage, but Deputy Speaker, it is important to know

that rural communities which depend on agriculture remain ill-equipped to deal with climate-related challenges.

The allocation, Deputy Speaker, on Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme underscores a critical shortcoming. Deputy Speaker, it is important to see that the support for small scale and emerging farmers remains minimal and it is important to understand that we need to empower our emerging producers and ensure equitable access to resources.

It is also notable, Deputy Speaker, that we make use of consultants for projects like replacement of vineyards, highlight efficiencies, why are we reliant, Deputy Speaker, on external expertise while we can capacitate our own people within the Department.

Deputy Speaker, with a little time that I have, I want to say that we as the Patriotic Alliance support the Budget of the MEC, but MEC, it is important to understand that the townships and your programme must be transformative to the people of the rural communities. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Constable. I see the hon member Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Greetings to all. I greet you all in the name of His Imperial Majesty.

Deputy Speaker, the NCC notes that the R9,7 million rollover and the allocated budget to the Department of Agriculture for Infrastructure Development. We also note that food security is one of the pillars of a healthy province, and that we note that food production is the biggest industry in the province.

We also acknowledge that the Western Cape is predominantly an agricultural area and that farms employ large amounts of workers, especially seasonal labour. Deputy Speaker, one can truly say that the biggest asset on these farms is not your John Deere tractor, but the farm workers who make the farms operate optimally.

Deputy Speaker, as the NCC we therefore urgently request the Department to ensure that funding is available to assist these farm workers when they are illegally evicted from the very same farms that belonged to their grandparents. The Department should also embark on an urgent programme to bring awareness to the farmers in the legal sphere. This will avoid illegal evictions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Jacobs. I see the hon member Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Good morning to you and good morning to all the members. The building of agriculture must be inclusive, sustainable and create an equitable

economy for the people of the Western Cape. Agriculture remains a cornerstone of the Western Cape's economy, contributing significantly to employment, food security and exports. However, the full potential of this sector has yet to be realised in uplifting marginalised communities. Many farm workers and small-scale farmers continue to face systemic barriers, including limited access to land, resources and markets. The additional R300 million allocated to Agriculture must not only be used to address short-term needs such as flood damage support, but to transform the sector in a way that empowers small-holder farmers and farm workers.

Al Jama-Ah calls for a more equitable redistribution of resources...
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, member.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): ... to ensure that emerging farmers can participate meaningfully in the agricultural economy. I thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Brinkhuis. I now see hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, Budget Votes serve as a vital channel of communication between Government and the communities we represent. Year after year the Western Cape has demonstrated its capability

to deliver on the commitments outlined in its plans.

In line with the democratic principles enshrined in our Constitution, no Government expenditure can occur without prior approval from this Parliament.

The priorities identified in this Budget were carefully determined by the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, and his team after engagements with stakeholders in the sector, consultation with the Provincial Department, and discussions with the Minister of Finance. The Minister's appearance before the Standing Committee further enriched the process, offering an opportunity to gather insights from members on critical pressure points. This collaborative approach, grounded in data, feedback from the public, and expert analysis, ensures that the budget addresses the key needs and challenges faced by our province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the residents of the Western Cape and the agri sector and the Standing Committee have highlighted several critical pressure points, including the challenges with the port operations, Equitable Share allocations, budget cuts, the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme, insufficient funding, climate-related disasters, poverty, hunger, skills development, unemployment and the ongoing failures in land reform.

While this Adjustment Budget could not fully address these challenges, it is clear that collaboration is essential to achieving meaningful progress.

Through you, Deputy Speaker, to the National ANC Government, it is time to face reality. The ANC did not win the elections, and to my colleagues seated to your left, hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC is co-governing this country. It is imperative that this co-governance is approached with fresh, innovative thinking to address the persistent issues of unemployment, hunger and the escalating debt crisis. Let us work together to serve the people we represent in the Western Cape. The undeniable fact in the room is the urgent need for economic structural reform. The practice of bailing out failing State-owned Enterprises that bring no value to the fiscus must come to an end.

The ANC's unwavering belief in these failed bailout policies is like setting your own house on fire to express frustration, only to be left out in the cold wondering why there is no shelter. Meanwhile the fiscus burns and the service delivery is left without a home, and yet some on the left in this House still refuse to see this reality.

The Democratic Alliance welcomes the significant addition of R300 million in the Midterm Budget Adjustment to address Climate Change Disasters. However, this falls far short of what is truly needed. The Equitable Share required to address the pressing challenges in this province remains unaddressed.

Furthermore, the initial request by the Department of Agriculture to combat the devastating climate impacts exceeded R1 billion. We commend Minister Meyer and Minister Baartman for acting swiftly to submit a timely request to

National Treasury.

This proactive leadership stands in stark contrast to the inaction of their Limpopo Government counterparts who failed to request any relief for farmers enduring severe droughts and fires. Those farmers abandoned by their government are left to fend for themselves.

Hon Deputy Speaker, here in this House we are told to trust the so-called competent ANC cadre to implement ANC policies. Trusting ANC cadre is akin to asking CASP to baby-sit the milk with promises that it will still be there for the toddlers later. The results, as we have seen, speak for themselves.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the facts do not lie. Before the DA-lead Tshwane Government was removed by the Lesufi / Maile gang, it left a surplus of R284 million. [Interjections.] In 2020 when the DA returned to power it inherited a staggering R4,4 billion in debt. The administrators led by Mpho Nawa and appointed by MEC Lebogang Maile squandered billions during their tenure. [Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): [Inaudible.] What does that have to do with what we are talking about?

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): We are deeply concerned, hon Deputy Speaker, that Premier Panyaza Lesufi, through his failed e-toll scheme, has emerged as one

of the biggest beneficiaries of this Adjustment Budget. It is shameful, hon Deputy Speaker, that all provinces are forced to endure the consequences of these poor decisions. [Interjections.]

As I conclude, Hon Deputy Speaker, I must highlight, the DA-led Western Cape Government boasts the best-run Department of Agriculture in this Country. [Interjections.] It oversees the top Agricultural College in South Africa, Elsenburg Institute of Agriculture, which continues to lead in innovation and practical results. Hon Deputy Speaker, protect me. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon members! [Interjection.] Please take your seat. We are doing extremely well for time, and I would not want to have this discussion again. Hon member Benson Ngqentsu, for the record that will be the first name that I have now publicly listed; hon member Benson Ngqentsu, please! The members are fully aware of the decorum of the House. I see the hon member Masipa to conclude.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, during our oversight visit, we learned that Elsenburg has produced 70% of the country's winemakers and 90% of its female winemakers, demonstrating its commitment to both excellence and empowerment that the hon member Nkondlo was talking about.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I urge this House to disregard the disruptive and

theatrical drama from the left. Instead let us focus on the importance of approving this very important budget. [Interjections.] It is the only Provincial Agricultural Budget in this whole country that truly makes sense, hon Deputy Speaker.

Colleagues on both sides of the aisle can attest to the transparency and effectiveness with which this Department manages taxpayer's money. The fight against hunger, unemployment and economic disempowerment is not a mere rhetoric; it is a tangible reality in this province. Approving this budget is not just a symbolic gesture, but a concrete step toward real progress, sustainable growth, and long-term development in agriculture.

To this end, hon Deputy Speaker, I support this budget, and I urge my colleagues to also support this budget. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

The PREMIER: Excellent!

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you to the members who took part in this debate. I would like to just say that in terms of Riverlands, this was a farm that belonged to the National Government. The National Department of Water Affairs is responsible for that farm, they have accepted the

responsibility and so they have to face the consequences of that reality.

I am particularly also worried about certain other matters. In terms of the Trump reference, I have suggested that we look into the impact of the Trump Administration on Agriculture generally, so I would welcome that discussion taking place.

Hon member Constable, the CASP funding is exclusively for emerging and small-scale farmers and thank you for your support.

The hon member Jacobs has referred to the most important asset on a farm, he said it is not a John Deere, it is the farm workers, I fully agree and support.

Hon member Brinkhuis asked for further support for emerging farmers and for the whole issue of market access. This debate can be summed up by three things. Support for emerging farmers must increase. I support that proposal.

HON MEMBERS: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: There is a proposal for market access for small-scale farmers and Black farmers. I support that proposal.

HON MEMBERS: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: There is input for transformation that is happening, I support it, but I do not support transformation purely on the base of the colour of your skin, but I support transformation based on the sustainable development goals, and if you do apply that correctly, the majority of the people of this country will be the beneficiaries. So you do not need pigmentation to determine the outcome, you use the International United Nations sustainable development goals, and you achieve an outcome that you want to achieve. That is the transformation that I support and that is the transformation that all of us must support, and I am happy to see that in the Government of National Unity there is a movement towards that approach of sustainable development, and so I want to just – to the member that have indicated that we must in fact have market access, I want to indicate to the hon member that spoke about more market access, hon member Brinkhuis. In fact in this week I met a guy who came to me and said, “Minister, let us work together to get bigger access to markets to Black and emerging farmers”, and I have agreed.

We are now working on that. Unfortunately he fell ill yesterday, but that will not deter us to increase that market opportunity. In fact he told me there are already buyers for the product, so that can happen.

I want to thank hon members for taking part in this debate. I have decided that hon members on that side of the House wanted me to be short and sweet, and therefore I follow their instruction to be short and sweet. I thank you.

[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That concludes the debate on the Second Order.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will now see the Secretary to read the Third Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 12 – Economic Development and Tourism – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B2–2024].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I again see the Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you, hon Premier, members of the Cabinet, members of the Official Opposition, the leaders, members of other political parties, members in the gallery, the full House and those who are online, members, thank you for joining us in the tabling of my Adjustment Budget for Vote 12.

Hon members, I rise in this House today to table the Department of Economic Development and Tourism Adjusted Estimate Budget of R501 million today. This reflects the Main Appropriation Budget of R480 million tabled by my

predecessor, the hon member Mireille Wenger, has increased by R20,9 million or 4,35% of the Budget.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Adjustment Budget allows for the Department to make permissible revisions to the budget in response to changes that we have affected and the planned Government spending. The following Adjustments are therefore tabled in this House.

An increase in Provincial Funding R24,7 million, R4,7 million Energy Green Hydrogen Development, it is a Master Plan Development. You would know that the Premier, about 10 days ago he was invited to Qatar, him, the Eastern Cape Premier, the Western Cape Premier and the Northern Cape Premier. One thing that is going to revolutionise the energy industry is the Green Hydrogen Energy, and we are now busy with the Green Hydrogen Development of a Master Plan.

Also following the approval of the Western Cape Green Hydrogen Strategy and roadmap, the Master Plan is an essential tool to guide prospective investors, particularly as it will identify standard infrastructure requirements to enable investment.

I am also very happy to report to this House that the Premier, the Mayor of the City of Cape Town, as well as I on separate occasions met with Salika, one of the biggest Green Hydrogen investors in Saldanha, is now planning and committed R50 billion into the Green Hydrogen and I met with them last

week.

There is also a R20 million, Freeport Saldanha, to support the Freeport Saldana Recovery Plan in addressing the post-COVID-19 impact, the shifting of funds between virements is R2,4 million. There are also rollovers. I know people are very allergic to rollovers, but what we have done, rollovers, where there are financial commitments in the current financial year, but the invoice is only arriving in the new financial year. That is currently happening in this budget of R300 000 for the College of Cape Town to complete the 2023/24 SMME Booster Fund Project that supports the Western Cape small and medium enterprises with business support; R614 000 for beneficiaries of the Export Competitive Enhancement Programme. A business has a life cycle, you start the business, it grows, and it enhances, and so we have now for those who are already in the business of exports, there is an Export Enhancement Programme.

Also for the completion of the development of the Western Cape Just Energy Transition, there is also about R980 000 for the Atlantis Special Economic Zone to complete the review and the analysis of the Financial Sustainability and Economic Impact. I drove through there yesterday on my way to where I met Minister Bredell. I passed the Atlantis SEZ, fantastic work that is currently happening there.

R320 000 for the Business Technology and Innovation Programme for the beneficiaries. Hon Deputy Speaker, my priority is to grow this economy and

create jobs. I am therefore committed to harvesting the wave of enthusiasm and opportunities offers to advance the Western Cape Growth for Job Strategy.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in record time, I am therefore pleased to table the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism Adjusted Budget of R501,148 million for discussion in the House.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I note that I have now delivered this speech in record time. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, Minister. I see the hon member Nkondlo.

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

Deputy Speaker, with hon members in the House, esteemed guests. I rise today to strongly oppose the Adjustment presented by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in the Province. This Budget, which purports to promote Growth for Jobs, is yet another example of how the DA-led Government continues to neglect the needs of communities in the periphery as a consequence of structural defects of the economy, so part of sustainable development, Minister, was to appreciate and would definitely support all the areas that you have just mentioned of dealing with the structural issues which had actually by consequence excluded people on the

basis of race, excluded people on the basis of gender, excluded people on the basis of where they stay. So you cannot avoid as part of Sustainable Development. There is no way you can avoid the fact that when you look at the number of unemployed people in the Western Cape, there is a peculiarity about their racial complexion, there is a peculiarity about their gender complexion, there is a peculiarity about where they live. So if you are going to ignore that by saying you do not want a transformation of any sector that actually amplifies the racial identities of people, surely you want us to be stuck in the old.

So, I rise here today to say the Growth for Jobs Strategy as outlined by the Department in this budget focuses on seven priorities as we have been told, and our major concern in these claims is the glaring absence of a focus, which is what we are talking about as part of Sustainable Development, as part of delivering this Growth for Jobs that is much needed in this province, that part of that is to ensure that you directly intervene in challenges that are market failures, but also public failures where they are. The issue also of Black industrialists, which is an area that National Government has specifically prioritised, and the disconnect between Provincial Government and National Economic Transformation Policies is concerning.

How can we truly create meaningful opportunities for entrepreneurs in this province if the Government is unable to align efforts of the National economy, with Province and the local economies, because these things in any way creates undue fiscal leakages because we sit and try and compete with

each other as the different spheres instead of harmonising the very purse that the Premier was talking about, because indeed this is the money of the public, it is not the money of the ANC, it is indeed not the money of the DA, but the money of the citizens, and we need to ensure that we sweat every rand to deal with the challenges of this economy.

Hon Deputy Speaker, economic transformation is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Our communities have been systematically excluded from the economy as a historical fact, but also a stubborn structural legacy that we must all be able to confront. The slashing of the Budget for Skills Development and Innovation of over R3 million, along with the R1,6 million cut of the Integrated Economic Development Services (IEDS) Sub-Programme speaks volumes about this Administration's disregard for true economic inclusivity.

The IEDS is a programme tasked with the Department's pursuit of an inclusive economic growth that benefits all in the province. The deliberate neglect of calls for the budget and plan for informal economy, township and rural economies, we traced this from the Helen Zille Administration when the Premier was the MEC.

We had a Township Revitalisation Strategy which then we were told is being reviewed, until today we do not know where it is. Instead we had the money plundered with Pick n Pay as a big corporate under a programme of township entrepreneurs, and also we do not know what happened to the township

economy research that this particular Department then actually said they had undertaken. What has happened to the research and the recommendation? Perhaps it is gathering dust somewhere, as other programmes like Green Economy, Broadband and others are just being frog-marched in as far as these programmes are concerned.

There are plans for just transition, funding for market intelligence and engagement report for tourism, but we see no effort for township tourism. There is also reactive spending to protect safety for tourism spaces and Table Mountain, as we have seen in the previous Budget Adjustments, and the broader CBD, but there is no money for township trade and tourism safety, with increasing extortion in the townships, and even the G4J with its seven priorities has no deliberate intent towards these policy gaps.

Lack of alignment of LED strategies with G4J, a demonstration of a provincial Economic Department that plans for itself, not citizens, and no link, but foolish competition with national economy, although when the benefit of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey with job numbers, this Government jumps first to claim the benefits of the effects of the national economy. This is a missed opportunity to empower the very individuals who keep the wheels of our local economy turning.

In addition to the cuts to the COE, the Department has deferred R4,49 million in goods and services spending to the 2025 financial year, with no adequate explanation. I call this prepaid budgeting, that we have seen now, where

monies are reallocated to future years whilst also you had roll-overs.

So this is a concern in terms of the new budgeting approaches we are seeing. We call on all members of this House across all parties to join us in demanding a budget that prioritises equity, inclusivity and real economic transformation for the sustainable development of the people of the Western Cape. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Nkondlo. I see the hon member Constable.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, while we acknowledge the intentions to revise budgets to reflect economic realities, we must also address the glaring shortcomings and inequalities inherent in this budget.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I do not have much time, so let me rather, without any further ado, make some suggestions for improvement to the MEC of Agriculture and Economic Development.

Firstly, hon Deputy Speaker, equitable development. A greater portion of funds must be allocated to initiatives directly impacting on marginalised communities, for example:

- Why not create localised green hydrogen hubs in underdeveloped regions to promote inclusive economic growth to reduce consultant dependency?
- Establish internal capacity building programmes within departments, engage universities and organisations to fulfil research and strategic planning needs.
- Transparent impact metrics. Every realignment of environment must be accompanied by clear, measurable outcomes that prioritise community impact.
- Funding for high profile projects should be transparently justified against tangible socio-economic benefits.
- Inclusive decision-making.
- Incorporate marginalised voices in budget planning to ensure community-driven priorities are addressed.

Hon Deputy Speaker, with this the Patriotic Alliance support this budget so that the MEC can continue to give economic development to not only Saldana, but also come to the rural areas like your Beaufort West and the Central Karoo. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I see the hon member Cassiem. [Interjections.]

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

I find it quite disappointing that the Department, which is entrusted in creating economic opportunities in this province, is at the forefront of failing to fill up posts across the various programmes. The money which was supposed to be used to cut down on unemployment in the province, is instead used to pay gratuity of those who left the employ of the Department, which shows that the delays in filling these posts are in fact deliberate.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the R20,9 million budget increase will not be going to creating any job opportunities for the people in the province. The situation is so sad that whilst African and Coloured people are enticed with internships, their White counterparts do not participate in such, but are directly elevated into managerial positions, as the DA leader has done with Roman Cabanac after assuming the ministerial position.

Hon Deputy Speaker, to the DA only White people matter when it comes to sustainable job opportunities. In the EFF we believe in sustainable job opportunities that will assist our people to provide themselves and their families while leading decent lives, not stipends earned from its internships, which ends up being all spent on transportation alone.

Our people deserve more as the National Youth Development Agency and Industrial Development Cooperation continue to serve the interests of those who are politically connected and corrupt, instead of serving our youth, who have brilliant business ideas, [Interjections.] but lack proper funding and resources in order to turn those ideas into something meaningful which will

take them out of poverty.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, following the demise of the Pick n Pay spaza shop modernisation programme, which left our people without business and swimming in debt in this province, this Provincial Government has not come with anything of significance to assist our youth to start their own businesses, and that alone equals to a failure. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Cassiem. I see the hon member Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this Department plays a critical role in driving inclusive growth and creating opportunities for all citizens of our province.

The Western Cape is often celebrated for its economic leadership, but beneath this narrative lies the reality of inequality and marginalisation. Many of our residents, particularly in rural and very urban areas, remain excluded from the formal economy. Al Jama-ah believes that through economic development we must prioritise the empowerment of small businesses, informal traders and historically disadvantaged communities.

The Province must prioritise security and safety in high risk areas. The

R30 million allocated to the SMME Booster Programme is welcome, however, much more is needed to ensure township economies on the Cape Flats thrive and entrepreneurs are given the tools to succeed.

Rebuild the tourism sector after the pandemic, it must expand beyond Cape Town City Centre to the townships on the Cape Flats.

Rural and coastal towns are often overlooked. Al Jama-ah calls for stronger investment in tourism infrastructure in historically disadvantaged areas, showcasing the rich cultural heritage ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank [Inaudible.]. Please conclude, hon member.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AJA): ...of our diverse communities. I thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Brinkhuis. I see the hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, in 2021 the University of the Free State Chancellor Bonang Mohale stated, I quote:

“It is broadly estimated that our country lost a staggering R1,5 trillion between 2014 and 2019. This does not even account for the ongoing theft by some of our elected leaders from the poor, hungry, sick and

dying.”

Hon Deputy Speaker, as I stand before you today I stand with pride to support the budget of the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

However, I must express my deep frustration and disappointment that the Western Cape still does not receive its fair share to drive economic growth to the right levels due to funds lost to corruption.

The emergence of the MK Party from the ranks of our colleagues on your left, hon Deputy Speaker, has certainly started causing a stir in the marketplace. The Western Cape is well-aware of the dangers posed by this former ANC rank and file members now dressed in Umkhonto We Sizwe regalia, pretending to represent the citizens of the country. [Interjections.]

We are now subjected to watching their political costume competition party with the EFF in the National Parliament, adding no value to the voters, but instead fighting about stealing each other’s member. [Interjections.]

Hon member Cassiem will understand that their efforts undermine the great work being done by the Government of National Unity and the Western Cape Government to grow this economy.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, theatrical drama at the NAF site, this budget is a crucial step towards unlocking new opportunities, fostering growth and creating jobs for our people.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Together we aim to bring unemployment down to under 10%, hon Deputy Speaker.

The success of the Special Economic Zones in countries like South Korea, China and the UAE can be attributed to strategic bureaucratic competencies, effective political leadership and clear strategic directions. These factors, combined with a strong development focus energise bureaucracies to successfully implement Special Economic Zones. Additionally the right environments, incentives and infrastructures were established.

A key highlight of this Budget Vote is the political leadership that ensured that funding for Freeport Saldanha, which will play a pivotal role in the development of green hydrogen energy.

We welcome the additional R4,7 million allocated for green hydrogen energy as a plan in the Green Hydrogen Development Master Plan, recognising the importance of clean energy source in the Western Cape.

The Democratic Alliance also welcomes the R20 million earmarked to support the cashflow needs for the Freeports operation. This project is not only significant for the Western Cape, but it is crucial in helping South Africa lead in the clean energy sector. This initiative will support the creation of sustainable jobs, hon member Nkondlo, and position us at the forefront of an emerging global industry, through you, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the story of growth and job creation extend beyond this projects. While our neighbours previously used their R10 million to purchase the infamous medical scooter project, the Western Cape invest in economic planning to expand into new sectors and future proof our province.

With an increase of R1,3 million in funding for economic planning under Programme 5, we are laying the groundwork for long-term economic diversification. This will ensure that we create jobs not only in traditional sector, but also in new and high growth industry.

A study conducted on “modelling the link between tourism and economic development evidence from homogeneous panels of countries”, this study suggested that a high level of past economic development in a country can help attract more tourists. This highlights the need to invest in security, infrastructure and health to make these destinations more attractive and increase tourist arrivals. The Western Cape Government has taken a holistic approach to tourism.

Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, my hon colleague, hon member Nkondlo, will be glad to hear that the study emphasises that tourists need to feel safe and secure at their destination. They should have access to essential infrastructures such as roads, airports and internet. Moreover, they should receive high quality service from well-trained personnel.

This study confirms that tourism remains one of the cornerstones of our economy. I welcome the efforts being made as the Western Cape prepares for what is expected to be its biggest tourist season ever. So far the Western Cape Government has done an excellent job in preparing the province to meet the demands of tourists.

With a focus on infrastructure, excellent service delivery and innovative tourism offerings, the Western Cape is poised to attract visitors from around the world, boosting local businesses and creating even more employment opportunities for residents.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Wesgro, its parent Department, and the City of Cape Town for securing two additional daily flights from London. This achievement is expected to significantly benefit our province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the budget before us is not just about numbers, it is about the people both in Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, Cape Flat and all over the

Western Cape. It is about fostering growth, promoting innovation and creating jobs for our citizens in Gugulethu, in Khayelitsha, as well as in Langa. With this investment we are helping our citizens to realise a prosperous province for our people.

To this end, hon Deputy Speaker, I support this budget.

An HON MEMBER: Yes! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, I was again advised by the hon member Leon van Wyk to keep it short. I will therefore comply with a request from the hon member.

I listened to this debate. There are four things that comes out of this debate.

Local economic development, as mentioned by hon member Nkondlo. I am in agreement with her that the local economic development of municipalities are disconnected with the Growth for Jobs strategy, and I will make an announcement early next year about exactly that point. So we are in agreement.

On the issue of the green hydrogen. We are also in agreement. This is

something that is going to revolutionise the energy industry in South Africa, but it will unfortunately take time. Can we take green hydrogen to any specific area? Well, I am not a technical expert, but feasibility studies were done and feasibility studies have indicated where is the best, greatest potential for green hydrogen. This is one of the reasons, in addition, why we are having a master plan as per the Adjustment Budget.

There are two other comments that was made during the debate. One on tourism. I support that particular discussion on tourism. Also local tourism, also township tourism.

The last matter that was discussed here. So, hon member Brinkhuis, thank you for raising the importance of tourism. This is why yesterday I have launched the Western Cape tourism season readiness. I have met with all the diplomats yesterday to outline our plans for the tourism season, but also the issue of safety. I have also discussed this with the diplomats.

Also, hon members, very important, I heard in this discussion people say there must be socio-economic benefits for the poor and in the rural areas, and I am in full support, and I will make major announcements also during my Main Budget next year on 26 March in response to the questions and the issues that were raised by the hon member.

So I want to thank hon members for their support to the Adjustment Budget. This is a budget for growth and I am particularly happy that we can proceed

with this budget and the support, and I want to express my deep thanks to hon member Noko Masipa, an outstanding member doing great work, and I want to thank him for his wise counsel from time-to-time, because sometimes I am running fast, and he says, † “Minister, nie so vinnig nie,” [“Minister, not so fast,”] and then I pull back, but I think he does it in the spirit of collegiality, and I want to therefore thank him for his support, and I want to thank you, hon Chair, for sending a signal that you are in a hurry.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That concludes the debate of this particular House which has been made possible by Minister Meyer breaking records in terms of the time allocation. [Interjections.]

So, hon members, we will proceed to the following debate. I will now see the Secretary to read the Fourth Order of the Day.

An HON MEMBER: Let us give the round of applause. [Interjections.] Let us [Inaudible.]

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 9 – Environmental Affairs and Development Planning – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B2–2024].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see hon Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Premier, hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, members of the public, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the 2024 Adjustment Budget Vote 9.

The original budget of R627 500 000 is adjusted downwards by R8 800 000 to R618 700 000. This can be attributed to R364 000 is shifted to Vote 1 for technical support due to information systems, Spatial Viewer.

R6,3 million surrendered due to realignment of project funding over MTEF. R3,6 million due to compensation of employees is surrendered to manage fiscal sustainability challenges over the MTEF.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have experienced multiple natural disasters in the past few years, and we are appreciative of the R947 million the Province received from National Treasury in this regard. This Adjustment Budget sees R183 million of the R947 million allocated to CapeNature for repair work on infrastructure damages caused by these weather events.

Hon Deputy Speaker, environmental challenges are a global concern. If we look at the World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report of 2024, it identifies the top four risks for the next decade all be environmental risks.

- Extreme weather.

- Critical changes to earth systems, which can be critical for humans' ability to adapt and to survive on earth.
- Biodiversity loss and collapse of ecosystems.
- Natural resource shortage.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these issues are critical for us to take note of. As a responsible and caring government we must include it in all our planning across departments. The problem is that changes to our environment happen slowly and as we saw again in [Inaudible.] 2029, politicians and large business interests think short-term.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the mind shift that is required from us is to understand that we are part of nature and not separate from it. If our environment is not healthy then we are suffering. Hon Deputy Speaker, it means that planning, especially long-term planning and enforcement of environment saw regulations are more critical than ever.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government has an overarching climate change strategy. Our Western Cape Climate Change Response Strategy set out a clear vision to be a net zero emissions and climate resilient province by 2050, and as members of the Under2 Coalition Global Network for sub-regional governments, we pledge to achieve a net zero emission by 2050, as guided by the 2050 Emission Pathway Plan that is under development.

These goals are woven into multiple strategies, including:

- The Growth for Jobs strategy;
- The Department of Health and Wellness participation in the Global Green and Healthy Hospital Programme;
- The One Health global commitment;
- The Smart Agri strategy; and
- The Green Economy Ecosystems Support (GEES) initiative, which aims to attract and help global green economy business.

Hon Deputy Speaker, to manage and to protect our biodiversity we must align plans to all spheres of government and external partners. We are working towards this alignment through the following:

- Provincial Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan;
- The Provincial Coastal Management Plan;
- The Provincial Estuary Management Plan; and
- The Biodiversity Reserve Support Plans.

A healthy environment in our context means many things, but I can name a few:

- The river catchments that are free of alien plants can absorb more water and as such creates a buffer when we have severe winter storms and improves the water security during the dry summer months.

- River courses that are free of alien plants can flow more freely, reducing the risk of damage of property and infrastructure during floods.
- We are entering our wildfire season now. Alien plants burn much hotter and intense than indigenous fynbos. Proactive clearing of alien help to protect people and their property during wildfires.
- Waste management impacts directly on our environment and our human health in the towns and cities we live in.

Hon Deputy Speaker, at the beginning of my speech I said that we need to understand that we are part of the environment. We are living and working in our environment and without proper planning, zoning and enforcement of environmental legislation, we will destroy the ecological services we need to survive.

As a province we must deal with the fast-growing population and ever increasing demand on basic services in our towns and cities. Initiatives such as our Housing Market Study and Housing Framework Policy, play a crucial role in determining what the Western Cape will look like in the future.

Hon Deputy Speaker, maybe we can put our political differences aside and agree that the protection of the natural environment and our unique biodiversity is something worth working together. With this I table the Adjustment Budget for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. I thank you. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I see the hon member Stoffel. [Interjections.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, first let me greet the members of the Sitting, also the public within the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to reject the proposed Budget Adjustment for the Department of Environmental and Development Planning. This budget is a betrayal of the people of the province, prioritising political convenience over constitutional duty and public welfare.

It fails to address the urgent environmental crisis we face and exposes the utter negligence of the DA-led Government. The refusal to appoint an Environmental Commissioner is nothing less than a constitutional diligence [Interjections.]. This Government has continuously ignored its obligation to establish this essential office, despite the mounting evidence of its necessity.

Environmental Commissioner is not a luxury, hon Premier. It is a constitutional requirement and a vital instrument to hold municipalities and [Inaudible.] accountable for environmental harm. Yet in the face of the

worsening climate impacts in the province, collapsing wage management systems and increasing pollution, this Government has chosen to do nothing. Even worse, it has cut the budget for the Department of over R8 million.

The DA failure to appoint an Environmental Commissioner, hon Premier, is a deliberate and a criminal act that leaves our province vulnerable to environmental and public health disaster.

The ongoing sewage crisis in Cape Town [Interjections.] amplifies this Government's failure. Our beaches, once [Inaudible.] and vital to our tourism economy, are now polluted with untreated sewage. [Interjections.] Communities like Strand have become hazardous zones where beachgoers are falling seriously ill due this contaminated water. This is not merely an inconvenience, it is a public health emergency. Swimmers are contracting antibiotic resistant bacterial infections with some requiring hospitalisation, and yet this Government remains silent.

Instead of holding municipalities accountable, the DA defends their negligence. [Interjections.] Despite repeated calls from the outside of the House to subpoena the City of Cape Town and other affected municipalities to address these failures, the DA has shielded them from accountability.

The silence and the inaction make them complicit in the destruction of our environment and the [Inaudible.] of our people's health. In Dunoon and other under-resourced communities, waste management had collapsed

entirely. The streets are overrun with rubbish creating breeding grounds for disease.

The Department [Inaudible.] directive to the City of Cape Town is not enough. Real leadership would involve enforcing compliance, investing in infrastructure and holding the perpetrators of environmental harm accountable. Instead of rising to these challenges, this Government has slashed funding for critical programmes.

Over R8 million has been stripped from the Environmental Equality Management programme, weakening [Inaudible.] to tackle pollution waste.

Key projects like the spatial mapping of Environmental Impact Assessment are delayed. Reduction of Compensation of Employees' budgets undermine the Department's capacity to attract and retain skilled personnel. These cuts demonstrate a complete disregard of the environmental and climate crisis we face.

This Government in [Inaudible.] is not just a failure of governance, it is a norm, it is moral failing.

The Western Cape is on the frontline of climate change, from devastating droughts and catastrophic storms. The people of the province are bearing the brunt of crisis not because of their making, and yet instead of strengthening our defences and investing in the resilience, the DA-led Government is

stripping resources from the very department tasked with protecting us.

The refusal to act is compounded by the failure to address systematic issues like the marine sewage outfall polluting Hout Bay, Camps Bay and Green Point. Community groups like [Inaudible.] have raised this alarm about the devastating impact on the marine life and public health, but instead of working with stakeholders to find solutions, this Government remains focused on [Inaudible.] and outdated water quality data as a bandage for a festering wound.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC has long championed the establishment of an Environmental Commissioner office because we understand the gravity of the challenge we face. This office would ensure accountability, enforcing compliance with the international climate agreements and prioritise the health and safety of citizens. The DA's refusal to create this office is a clear indication of lack of vision and leadership.

We cannot and will not support a budget that demonise and has no capacity to address urgent issues. The Western Cape deserves then a better government that folds its arm in the face of crisis. It is that leadership that prioritises the environment, invests sustainable development and protects the health and well-being of all its people.

We reject the budget and condemn the DA-led Government for its failure. The time for excuses is over, Mr Bredell. The people ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): The people of the Western Cape demand action, [Interjections.] accountability government that truly deserve their interest. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Stoffel. I see hon member Constable.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, while welcoming the Adjustment Budget for Environmental Affairs, the Patriotic Alliance wants to highlight just three key issues that this Province lacks to support municipalities in.

- The landfill sites and waste management treatment. The waste management within municipalities, which is becoming the biggest headache currently in the Western Cape.
- Wastewater treatment plants, hon Deputy Speaker, in some areas operate above the capacity and this also becomes a serious health hazard and has a major impact on the environment.
- Proper town planning and infrastructure management, and this is also

becoming a key issue within municipalities.

Hon Speaker, with this said, hon MEC, the Patriotic Alliance wants to support this budget, but we want you to realign it and make sure that the support to municipalities, specifically with regards to landfill sites, waste management, wastewater treatment plants and also the proper town planning, you must then do so with regards to the municipalities and, yes, hon MEC, we will support your budget. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Constable. I see the hon member Marais.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

To the Minister. The Minister says we are part of the environment and that is a very important statement, because as we are spending money, money spent in a way that will show our priorities, and so climate change is going to be here for quite some time and we need to make sure that we are prepared to address the issues through our actions and through our budgeting.

Our natural environment is also an economic asset, especially for the Western Cape, and so it is important that we take care of our environment.

I want to ask the Minister to please prioritise the protection of our African Penguin, the endangered African Penguin, that there is sufficient funds given,

and then also to address the high staff turnover that is also of concern, that is noted in Programme 4.

I, on behalf of the Freedom Front Plus, in the limited time that I have, we will support this Adjustment Budget. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais. [Interjections.] I see the hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

I do not think it is unreasonable for me to suggest that this Vote is one of the most important on today's agenda.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Because, hon Deputy Speaker, our precious natural environment represents our shared heritage that helps to drive our local economy, but it is essential to the health and well-being of all of us.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Our natural environment really is the backbone of our existence.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Now I know some of you, and I am sure some of my colleagues as well, are thinking, “Here he goes again banging on about the trees and the bees,” and you are not wrong, because, colleagues, it is precisely the trees and the bees and the rivers and the oceans and the skies, our nature reserves, our tiny little succulents ... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): ...the endangered African Penguin, as mentioned by hon member Marais, that demand our attention, our care and crucially our investment.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): To neglect our natural environment is the equivalent of abandoning the foundations of a house while trying to fix the roof.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, many will point to other pressing demands like health, education and safety, and expects us to cut the Environmental Budget even more, but, hon Deputy Speaker, investing in our

environment is more crucial now than ever ... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): ...especially in the face of increased natural disasters and the growing risks of climate change.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): In the past many critics have painted climate change as an issue for the elite, but the disproportionate impact it is having on the developing world is now undeniable. Many countries in the so-called Global South are being devastated by ongoing unprecedented climate disasters, and South Africa has not been spared.

An HON MEMBER: True.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Over the past few years our country has seen severe flooding, drought and fluctuating rainfall patterns affecting many parts of the country, and we must ensure that we, in the Western Cape, continue to focus on integrating climate change strategies into our planning going forward.

Hon Deputy Speaker, there are a few things that stand out in this Vote that I believe should be highlighted. In terms of the shifting of funds between

Votes, R364 000 were shifted to Vote 1 in terms of the technical support provided for the GIS year, and we welcome this, because it is essential that the GIS systems are properly maintained.

The Western Cape has been at the forefront of the integration of GIS data and continues to lead the way in its implementation and effective use. Hon Deputy Speaker, reliable data is a must have. The saying you cannot improve what you cannot measure, applies here perfectly.

Geographic data helps identify and prioritise projects, track progress and benchmark against other countries. Without it we are flying blind and missing out on making smart decisions.

R1,45 million has gone to the realignment of the spatial mapping of Environmental Impact Assessment decisions for utilisation in the 25/26 financial year, and R2,5 million for realignment of the EIA Higher Efficiencies project for utilisation over the 2025 MTEF.

How we conduct and implement environmental impact assessments and associated planning processes can be improved, and going forward it is important that we take steps to align our environment and planning processes across local, provincial and national spheres of government, where possible.

This is perhaps an opportunity for the GNU to assist us in finding common ground so that we are able to speed up development, empower the private

sector and cut red tape, while at the same time ensuring that our natural environment is not put at risk.

There are some very dynamic new Ministers who I am sure would be very keen to assist us to make this a reality, and I do not think they are going to be reshuffled any time soon.

R4,9 million has gone to environmental quality management. This is another indication of this Administration's commitment to ensure that our environment is managed to the highest possible standard, and we have shown that the Western Cape is far better placed to achieve this than any other province.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): We have a good combination of quality, dedicated staff and political understanding, which ensures that we are able to manage our environment effectively.

I know that hon member Stoffel and the ANC seem obsessed with an Environmental Commissioner, but if we look at the stats and what is happening on the ground, we seem to be doing okay at the moment without one, and I also just want to mention ... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] sewage on the beach.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Well, we will talk about the sewage on the beach for a second, because the City of Cape Town [Interjections.] is one of the only municipalities in the country that is actually pro-actively working towards improving the condition of our marine outfalls.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): And I think it is important for our colleagues across the way to be aware that 77% of all the waste that comes from marine outfalls untreated, is coming from one province and that is the KZN Province, which is under the management of the ANC, and furthermore, most of the water treatment facilities in KZN do not even work properly. [Interjections.] So ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): ...[Inaudible.] maybe focus your attention [Interjections.] there [Inaudible.]

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): It is important that we also mention the fantastic success that has been achieved by our entity, CapeNature, which is proving to be one of the most effective Government entities in the country, working with

what most would consider a shoestring budget. [Interjections.]

It is due to the amazing work of CapeNature that we have some of the most beautiful and well-maintained natural assets in the world. [Interjections.] CapeNature is also using the opportunity to sweat these assets [Interjections.] so that revenue generated from tourism can be invested back into the maintenance and improvement of reserves.

Compare this entity, for instance, to the North West Parks and Tourism Board under the ANC-led North West Government, which last year presided over the theft of its entire provincial rhino horn stockpile under its nose, [Interjections.] and for the past two years has not even had a functional board in place which means zero accountability and zero delivery for the people of the North West. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, we [Interjections.] should also be very proud of our municipalities across the province that [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Bryant, are you able to take your seat?

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Ja.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to request that the Chief Whip of the Official Opposition to please engage members that are consistently talking

and the running commentary is drowning out the speaker. Please, I will request from the Chief Whip from the ANC, to hon member Bans. I again see hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, we should also be very proud of our municipalities across this province ... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): ...that are helping us as a force multiplier in protecting our environment with the addition of their resources and skills, which makes our money go a bit further.

As an example, the DA-led City of Cape Town is one of the leading African cities to show climate leadership, achieved largely by recognising and embracing the value of the private sector and being comfortable with leveraging the potential to work together with, and not against, the private sector, as it tends to happen in many ANC-led governments. [Interjections.]

Crucially protecting and improving our natural environment is not a task for governments alone. It requires a whole of society effort. Businesses, NGOs, scientists, educators and each and every citizen has a role to play. Plant a tree, reduce your waste, support sustainable products. These might seem like small acts, but collectively they are mighty.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Challenges such as Climate Change, biodiversity loss and pollution, demand both local and global solutions. The Western Cape will continue to lead by example and help inspire in order to rally other provinces to the cause.

We know that many of our provinces have sadly been decimated by years of ANC maladministration and neglect, but we are now showing here in the Western Cape that there is still hope for our natural environment when we work together. [Interjections.]

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, as I draw to a close, let me paint you a picture of the future we can build together. Imagine a South Africa where one day every home is powered by clean energy, where our biodiversity is protected and our nature reserves are safe and teeming with wildlife, where our cities and towns are green, vibrant and resilient. [Interjections.]

We can create a paradigm where innovation and sustainability go hand-in-hand, where nature helps create jobs and most importantly, ensure that our children inherit a planet brimming with promise.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): This is not an utopian dream, it is a realistic

vision, a future within our grasp, but only if we act and act now. [Interjections.] The clock is ticking, the stakes are high, but the rewards are immense. [Interjections.] So let us rise to the occasion and invest in our natural environment with the vigour and vision it demands. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Adjustments Budget proposed in this Vote is clear, concise and well-considered, and while I am sure the Department would prefer more resources, the Adjustments are making the best use of what we have at our disposal.

So, colleagues, let us all support this Vote in the best interest of our precious environment for the trees, for the bees, for the seas and for ourselves. Thank you. [Applause.]

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

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Chair, thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am going to start off by thanking our Chairperson of the Standing Committee. It is for me a real privilege to work with him. He is one of those people that will hold you accountable, but he also contributes towards trying to make the Department better and we really appreciate the

in-depth discussions and the oversight role, and you understand exactly how to see to it that you can use your oversight role to help us to do our job better, and we really appreciate it.

Hon Chairperson, to the hon member Marais. You are quite right, but I think that we need to broaden the scope. It is not only the penguins, there are seven species that are in danger or critically in danger, that we need to look at the broader scope. [Interjections.] So also our biodiversity is for us crucial to look at that going forward.

The staff retrenching is something we keep a close eye on and, yes, we need to protect our staff, but we must also remember that as staff move on, if we can become a training school to send them out to bigger municipalities, it will all help, it will all contribute, it depends where they end up.

To the hon member Constable, thank you very much. I can see you in a municipality and you have been a previous mayor. The waste management, yes, it is crucial for us, but also realising where it is coming from. We had to start off by having – we have inherited 200-odd unlicensed waste sites. We then had to licence them. We then had to get them to operate within their licence conditions. Those who were unlicensed, we had to decommission them and we are busy with that process, and then a new kind of philosophy to get district sites going so that we can create volumes so that we can do recycling affordable and create jobs with that, and it is a difficult process. We have been in that for the last 10 years and we start to see the fruit of that.

Obviously we need to do more within our towns.

Waste treatment water is something that is for us very important. We keep a close eye on that because we need to get it right, otherwise we will sit with polluted rivers and estuaries and we cannot afford that. So the Green Scorpions work very hard to try and get that right, also with proper town planning, to try and do that, and therefore we do have the Housing Market Studies, the town planning, the [Inaudible.] housing. We have got the SDFs, etcetera, and working very closely with municipalities. It is an ongoing battle because population growth does put a huge pressure on the system.

To hon member Stoffel. Ja, hon member Stoffel, it is interesting. I would like you to show me one ANC province who has got an Environmental Commissioner. Just one. Just tell me which one. [Interjections.] There is not a single one. [Interjections.]

Then we must also understand ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] to other provinces.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Then we must also understand, hon Deputy Speaker, why the Environmental Commissioner was in the first place put in the Constitution, because at that stage the ANC was in control and there was nothing to protect the environment. [Interjections.] They just

stripped everything. So they have put that in to try and control the ANC, but luckily the voters woke up and they voted them out. [Interjections.]

So after that we have got SPLUMA, we have got LUPA, we have got a lot of legislations, [Interjections.] and I can tell you, hon Deputy Speaker, that if we get money the Environmental Commissioner will be very low down the list because there are so many other things that we need to do, [Interjections.] but the ANC must actually – each speaker that stands up today must actually apologise to the people because they have stripped the coffers of this country, they robbed the poorest of the poor of a dignified life in this country, so they must actually start off their speeches by apologising to the poorest of the poor, because that is why we struggle to give them the service ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...that they deserve.

Hon Deputy Speaker, then the hon member Stoffel must speak to her researchers, because National Government is very quick to go and sign a UNESCO agreement to protect biodiversity. Show me how much money you spend to protect our biodiversity. Not a single cent. Not a single cent, hon – we sit with volunteers running that and we contribute, and I have tried on various occasions, trying to ask them, “Meet me halfway, meet me rand per

rand,” but National does not have money to meet us rand per rand, because the ANC stole the money.

Hon – and then I want to invite the hon member Stoffel. There is the National Air Pollution Monitoring app.

An HON MEMBER: There was never...

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Look where is the purple, the yellow, the red, and look where is the green. The Western Cape is green.

An HON MEMBER: Western Cape!

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: The whole country [Interjections.] – Gauteng is purple, it is red, [Interjections.] it is pink, it is all colours of the rainbow.

So, hon Chair, we are doing our utmost best with limited resources [Interjections.] to protect our environment. I want to thank the colleagues that contribute by supporting this Adjustment Budget. I thank you. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that concludes the debate. It is now 12:30. Unless there is any firm objection, we will proceed and also table the Fifth Reading for the Day. So I will hand over to the Secretary.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 14 – Local Government – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B2–2024].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the Minister, Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, to hon Premier, thank you, to the hon members of the House, to the public.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I concluded the Vote 9 by asking the members to put their political differences aside and work together for the sake of our natural environment, †maar, agb Adjunkspeaker, wanneer dit by Plaaslike Regering kom is ek al moeg om te vra vir samewerking. Al wat ek vra is bly net binne die wet. Dit is al wat ons vra. [but, hon Deputy Speaker, when it comes to Local Government, I am tired of asking for cooperation. All I ask is just stay within the law. That is all we ask.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, local governments in South Africa are in a crisis. It is actually a disaster and an embarrassment at the same time. The Auditor-General finds that only 34 out of South Africa's 257 municipalities qualify for clean audits. Of these 34, 20 are from the Western Cape.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: 20 from the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, just reflect for a moment. One province account for 20 clean audits, while the other eight provinces together can only produce 14 clean audits. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the previous Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs stated in 2023 that there are 32 municipalities across the country that are currently under administration, with 66 out of the 257 being labelled as dysfunctional.

Hon Deputy Speaker, a dysfunctional municipality is one you find in towns where all spheres, all services, have collapsed and the concept of running water, refuse collection and reliable electricity is now just a memory.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, as ek na die treurige stand van Plaaslike Regering

regoor Suid-Afrika kyk, ondersteun ek ten volle dat ons kyk na wetgewing om koalisies te stabiliseer. Daar moet minder beuselagtige mosies van wantroue geneem word. Ek ondersteun 'n minimum drempel van verteenwoordigers vir toegang tot 'n Raad. Ons kan nie toelaat dat iemand met 1% van die stemme die burgermeester en die Raad aan sy neus rondlei nie.

Gevolglieke bestuur, agb Adjunkspeaker, ons spandeer te veel tyd op geld in die hof, waar sekere aksies voorgestelde gevolge kan hê, byvoorbeeld, as jy 'n gekwalifiseerde oudit kry, dan moet Tesourie eenvoudig instap en die kluis se sleutel afneem.

Ek ondersteun wetgewing wat dit vir my moontlik sal maak om vinniger in te gryp wanneer ons almal kan sien 'n munisipaliteit beweeg in die verkeerde rigting. Tans kan ons eers ingryp wanneer dit baie sleg gaan en dan neem dit baie lank om die munisipaliteit om te keer en reg te ruk.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, when I look at the sad state of Local Government across South Africa, I fully support that we look at legislation to stabilise coalitions. There must be less trivial motions of no-confidence. I support a minimum base of representatives for access to a Council. We cannot allow that someone with 1% of the votes lead the Mayor and the Council around by the nose.

Consequential management, hon Deputy Speaker, we spend too much time on money in the Court, where certain actions can have prescribed consequences,

for example, if you get a qualified audit, then Treasury must simply step in and take away the keys of the vault.

I support legislation that will make it possible for me to intervene faster when we can all see that a municipality is moving in the wrong direction. Currently we can only intervene when it's going very badly and then it takes very long to turn around and righten the municipality.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are in the summer season now and the focus is on readiness and water management. We had a very good winter with lots of rain so our dams are full, but it also means that there was lots of vegetation growth which becomes potentially fuel for wildfires during the dry and hot and windy summer months.

I am pleased to see an additional R3 million for integrated fire management being allocated to the Department. This means we have a Provincial Budget of R15 million for aerial firefighting this season.

We are also thankful for an additional R3 million for any water challenges that we may experience during especially the busy holiday season.

We also received an additional million rand for the water awareness campaign, "Use water sparingly".

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am very concerned about the national Working on Fire

programme. Working on Fire must protect people and their property when we have wildfires in South Africa. It is an important and essential organisation in a country such as South Africa, and given the impact of climate change it will only become more important going forward.

Recently we learned that cuts of up to R200 million is being considered to their budget. Without the support and funding provided to Working on Fire, to local fire protection, associations and various municipal firefighting units will be left to fend for themselves during this coming wildfire season, especially when there are big fires.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek sukkel om te glo dat ons nasionale weermag nie meer oor die vermoë beskik om lugondersteuning te verskaf tydens rampsituasies nie. Ons het verlede brandseisoen op 'n paar geleenthede dringend nog helikopters nodig gehad, en dit was skokkend om te verneem dat daar nie 'n enkele operasionele helikopter in die land beskikbaar was van die lugmag nie. Dit is iets om oor skaam te wees.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek wil ons kollegas van die Nasionale Rampbestuursentrum versoek om met Nasionale Tesourie te vergader en te vra vir 'n doelgerigte veldbrandfonds wat hulle direk aan provinsies kan beskikbaar maak tydens groot veldbrande.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, I struggle to believe that our national defence force does not have the capability any more to provide aerial support during disaster situations. During the last fire season we on a few occasions

urgently required more helicopters, and it was shocking to learn that there was not a single operational helicopter of the air force available. It is something to be ashamed of.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to request our colleagues of the National Disaster Management Centre to meet with National Treasury and to ask for a goal-directed veldfire fund that they can directly make available to provinces during large veldfires.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, while we are appreciative of R947 million in disaster funding from the National Disaster Centre, we need much more as the storm damages from the recent extreme weather events are more than R6 billion.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek sluit af met 'n waarskuwing oor Eskom se voorgestelde elektriese verhogings wat munisipaliteite se rekeninge met 42,5% sal raak. Enige buitensporige verhoging na munisipaliteite sal die handjievul funksionerende dorpe ook in duie laat stort. Ek dank u.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, I conclude with a warning about Eskom's proposed electrical tariff increases that will affect municipalities' accounts by 42,5%. Any outrageous increase to municipalities will cause the handful of functioning towns to also collapse. I thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I see the hon member Stoffel. [Interjections.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, members of Provincial Parliament and citizens of Western Cape, I rise today on behalf of the African National Congress to register the rejection of this proposed Adjustment Budget for the Department of Local Government.

This budget is not merely a financial document, it is a reflection of the Government priorities and values. Unfortunately what we see here is profound failure to address the urgent and growing needs of our municipalities and communities.

It is a budget that lacks vision, undermines service delivery [Interjections.] and perpetuate systemic governance failure. Our municipalities stand at the frontline of service delivery, but this budget offers no meaningful support to those bearing the brunt of service backlogs and infrastructure collapse. [Interjections.]

Instead we see a budget reduced by R3,116 million, including cuts of R1,344 million to the Local Government Subcom programme. This is not just shortsighted, it is reckless. Municipalities across the Western Cape are struggling to provide basic services, yet this budget slashes R6,891 million from the Compensation of Employees' budget. These cuts [Inaudible.] an already overstretched and under-resourced workforce.

Even more concerning is the governance paralysis within the Department itself. Senior management teams are no longer meeting due to unresolved tension between the Chief Financial Officer and the Head of Department.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this breakdown at the highest level of leadership is a crisis, not a mere administrative hiccup. How can we trust the coherence of a budget development in such a dysfunctional environment?

Adding to this, the conduct of the HOD embroiled in allegations of sexual harassment and abuse of power, is indefensible. MEC Bredell failed to act decisively in suspending the HOD, or initiating transparent investigation is an indictment of his leadership. The unresolved scandal undermines the credibility of the entire Department and raises the question how can we expect accountability from public funds when there is no accountability for misconduct at the top?

Hon Deputy Speaker, we also note a reallocation of R1,4 million for investigators under Section 106 of the Municipal Systems Act. While such investigations are vital, we must ask why are they selectively applied? Why has the Department refused to investigate the City of Cape Town despite serious allegations and fraud, corruption and collusion with the construction mafia, involving the former MMC of the Human Settlement?

This failure has shown disturbing patterns of partisan governance where municipalities governed by the DA are shielded from scrutiny, while others

unfairly targeted and purged by the MEC. We have noted the MEC's recent letter to the Matzikama Municipality, dated 3 December 2024. We believe it is a step in the right direction. We agree with its content and welcome the MEC's firm stance on the matter.

However, MEC, we must be quick to point out the rhetoric without action is meaningless. It is clear that Matzikama Municipality has no interest to act on the recommendations of the Section 106 investigation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Stoffel ...[Interjections.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): So why [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Stoffel, are you able to take your seat? Is that a point of order?

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker, is the hon member prepared to take a question? [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: He must pose questions ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Stoffels, are you willing to take a question?

An HON MEMBER: No!

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon member, do not waste my time, please.

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon member is not willing. Please have your seat. You may continue.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): When it is clear that the Council has no intention of implementing the findings and recommendations. [Interjections.] Hon MEC, we want to see the implementation in the following municipalities:

- Cederberg
- Langeberg
- Drakenstein.

All those municipalities are corrupt. [Interjections.] The DA councillors are [Inaudible.] in the administration in those municipalities, and you are sitting folding arms. Do something, hon MEC.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this budget shows a lot of questionable priorities and mismanagement of funds. It raises serious concern about fiscal discipline and strategic priorities. Considering the following reallocation: R2,5 million shifted to municipal performance, monitoring, reporting and evaluation to disaster management to address the George building collapse. What exactly is the nature of this allocation? Is it a donation, hon MEC? Is it a grant? Or

is it a political favour? Which other municipality have ever in the Western Cape received such, this kind of favours? [Interjections.]

While we are still in the George disaster, when will the final report of the George investigation come out? [Interjections.] Hon Premier, I am asking also to you, through you, hon Chairperson.

The PREMIER: January. Did you not listen?

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Actually led the collapse, why [Inaudible.] so many foreign nationals and why were there such a lot of foreign nationals employed on this project? [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, while so much noise made about investment and bit loadshedding, MEC Bredell is silent on R6,1 million of Energy Response Initiative that has not been spent and surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund.

We note an additional R2,5 million allocated to the legal governance and investigated support, yet much of this funding has been deferred to the next financial year. [Interjections.] This is surely a new innovation to avoid under-expenditure.

†Hierdie besluite weerspieël die swak beplanning. 'n Gebrek aan vooruit dink en verkeerd gefokusde [Tussenwerpsels.] prioriteite wat ons munisipaliteite

sonder die hulpbronne laat wat hulle dringend nodig het. Hierdie begroting is 'n weerspieëling van wanbestuur, verkeerd geplaaste prioriteite en 'n [Tussenwerpsels.] ontstellende gebrek aan agting van ... [Tussenwerpsel - onhoorbaar.]

[These decisions reflect the poor planning. A lack of thinking ahead and wrong focused [Interjections.] priorities that leave the municipalities without the resources they urgently need. This budget is a reflection of mismanagement, wrong placed priorities and a disturbing lack of respect of][[Interjection – inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon members Stoffel. Kindly conclude. [Interjections.]

†Me B N STOFFEL (ANC): Oukei. Saam doen ons 'n beroep en 'n duidelike beroep op ons mense vanuit ons *opposition parties*. Kom ondersteun ons in die Wes-Kaap om 'n beter diens vir ons mense te lewer. Baie dankie. [Applous.]

[Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Okay. Together we make an appeal and a clear appeal to our people from our Opposition parties. Come and support us in the Western Cape to deliver a better service to our people. Thank you.] [Applause.]

†'n AGB LID: Hoor-hoor!

[An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Stoffel. I see the hon member Constable. [Interjections.]

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Patriotic Alliance is deeply concerned with the adjustments in Programme 2, Local Governance. Funds amounting to R2,5 million and R4 million have been deferred to the 2025/26 financial year. These delays will directly impede legal and government support and the roll-out of crucial infrastructure development projects.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the R3 million allocation for water contingencies in high areas is insufficient given the ongoing drought. The MEC must please look into that and make sure that that allocation be up.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the reduction of R6,8 million on the COE budget, citing savings from crucial, from recruitment process. Hon Deputy Speaker, this is unacceptable and also the MEC must have a look into that and make sure that the crucial positions must be filled.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Patriotic Alliance will support this budget, but we request the following, please, hon MEC:

- Address the rural and township inequalities.
- Stop delays of critical projects that should benefit all communities.

- Stop the excessive use of consultants within your Department.

Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I see the hon member Marais.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Local Government Department and the Environmental Department is the same department with different Votes, and so it is important that I respond to the Minister who said that why do they not have the same Minister? Why do we not stop looking back at the other provinces?

You are saying that we do not have an Environmental Commissioner in other provinces, why should we have one? The difference is, hon Minister, that we have a Constitution, the others do not. [Interjections.]

Getting back to this Vote. [Interjections.] We ask that the Minister's obligation is towards all municipalities, not only municipalities that are DA... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, are you able to take your seat? [Interjections.] I see the Leader of the Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, it is not parliamentary for the hon Premier to heckle across that side about people's fathers. Hon Peter Marais is not here to protect himself. [Interjections.] Can we please protect the former father of the House? Thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, hon members, I know that we are approaching lunch, hence the rumblings and the conversations are increasing. Let us please maintain the decorum of the House. I will now again see the hon member Marais.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Hon Deputy Speaker, you can add some time as well. [Interjections.]

I would like to, on behalf of the Freedom From Plus, based on the R2,5 million allocated to the George Municipality regarding the collapsed building, we cannot support this ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

An HON MEMBER: Sure!

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): ...in the absence of information, in the absence of having access to the information to support this budget.

So unfortunately we do not support this one. Thank you.

The PREMIER: Okay, so we will wait, we will wait for [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I see the hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to start off by agreeing with hon member Stoffel that our municipalities are under an immense amount of pressure, but some of our municipalities have worked to build up financial reserves over time, and to take tough decision, and to not steal the money, and those municipalities are coincidentally DA-led municipalities.

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): And we do agree that far more must be done to deal with the collapsing municipalities, but that is not Minister Bredell's responsibility, that is the responsibility of the voters next year, [Interjections.] when they are all going to come out in their droves to vote the ANC out of those municipalities where they are destroying the existing infrastructure.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Local Government is the lifeblood of our democracy. [Interjections.] It is where governance meets the daily realities of our people,

ensuring that their basic needs are met, that they are heard and that opportunities for progress are created. As public servants we carry the weighty responsibility of ensuring that municipalities are not only functional, but are centres of excellence that inspire trust and confidence in governance.

In the Western Cape we have built a reputation as the gold standard in local governance.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Our municipalities consistently achieve top rankings in governance, financial management and service delivery, and I think the ANC could probably learn a lot from them. These accolades are not mere milestones, they are benchmarks that reflect the principles we hold dear: accountability, transparency and an unwavering commitment to the people we serve.

The Adjusted Budget before us is a testament to these values. Every line item is carefully considered and every allocation is driven by the goal of ensuring that the people of the Western Cape continue to benefit from clean governance.

This year we have allocated R165 000 648 to local governance, a cornerstone of our democracy. These funds ensure that municipalities remain strong, efficient and capable of fulfilling their mandates, but strong governance does

not happen in isolation. It requires skilled individuals, proper oversight and active citizen participation.

[Inaudible.] municipal administration R16 million has been allocated, and these funds ensure that municipalities have the capacity to maintain the administrative systems that keep them running efficiently. Where municipalities are well administered they can focus on their primary task, which is delivering quality services to residents. Obviously that also takes quality leadership, something that is unfortunately lacking in some of the municipalities.

Equally important is the role of public participation, which receives R12 million. This funding underscores our belief that Government must be a two-way street where citizens are not only recipients of services, but also active contributors to the decisions that shape their communities. By investing in public participation mechanisms we ensure that every voice matters.

Our CDW programme (the Community Development Worker programme) is one of the shining examples of this Government's focus on connecting with citizens. With an allocation of R83 million this programme ensures that there are dedicated individuals in every community bridging the gap between Government and residents. These workers are the eyes and ears on the ground, ensuring that local challenges are addressed swiftly and effectively.

To strengthen the capacity of municipalities R12 million has been allocated for capacity development. This funding allows municipalities to invest in training, upskilling and enhancing the expertise of the staff. Again, maybe something the ANC could invest in themselves. A well-trained workforce is not just an asset to municipalities, but a direct benefit to the residents they serve.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon members, the Western Cape faces unique challenges, not least of which is the increasing threat of natural disasters. From devastating wildfires to prolonged droughts, our province has seen the severe impact of climate change first-hand and this budget demonstrates our proactive approach to resilience and preparedness.

The Western Cape has built up one of the most sophisticated disaster risk management teams in the world. These teams have saved many lives across the province and helped to prevent further disasters, but the interventions do cost money, a lot of money. The Western Cape Government's been forced to spend over R6 billion dealing with these disasters over the past two years alone, with budgets already stretched to breaking point. One does not have to be a climate scientist to understand the potential risks involved.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to begin by focusing on two essential aspects of this Appropriation Vote, namely water and fire management. Two

crucial components of our environmental and community well-being.

As Minister Bredell mentioned, we have had a good winter with ample rain and that has brought a mixed bag of consequences. On the one hand it is a relief to have our water reserves replenished, but on the other hand it has led to significant vegetation growth, which is a fuel source for wildfires.

Integrative fire management has been allocated R3 million to address the growing threat of wildfires, and I am sure everybody would be in support of that. This funding supports initiatives that include controlled burns, community education and investment in firefighting equipment. Wildfires have the potential to devastate communities and our investment in this area is about protecting lives, livelihoods and the natural beauty of our province.

Disaster management, a vital aspect of our resilience strategy, receives R71 million. This allocation supports a wide range of activities, from disaster risk reduction to response planning. We are not content to wait for disasters to strike, like the ANC does, but we are working to mitigate risks and build communities that are better equipped to recover and rebuild.

Water remains a critical priority for the Western Cape, especially as we approach the hot summer months. To promote responsible water use R1 million has been allocated for a public awareness campaign. This initiative will help residents understand the importance of conserving this precious resource.

In high risk areas we have allocated R3 million for water contingencies, ensuring that municipalities are equipped to manage shortages and maintain supply. These measures are not just about meeting immediate needs, they are about securing the future of our communities.

Infrastructure is another key pillar of this budget. Development and planning received R220 million, with R141 million specifically earmarked for municipal infrastructure.

So this refrain that municipalities are not getting money is simply not true. This funding is dedicated to roads, water systems and sanitation facilities that underpin daily life, and it is through these investments that we create the conditions for economic growth, social development and improved quality of life.

Integrated development planning coordination with an allocation of R7 million ensures that these efforts are strategic and sustainable. By aligning infrastructure projects with community needs and long-term goals, we are building a province that works for everyone.

Accountability is central to our approach, with R28 million allocated for municipal performance monitoring, reporting and evaluation. We are ensuring that every rand spent delivers tangible benefits for our residents. This funding strengthens the systems that track progress, identifies

challenges and drives improvement.

To further support governance and legal compliance, R2,5 million has been received from Vote 1 – Premier, for legal governance and investigative support. This funding enhances our capacity to uphold the rule of law, address irregularities and maintain the high standards that have become synonymous with the Western Cape Government.

Inclusivity remains at the heart of our vision for Local Government. Traditional institutional management has been allocated R825 000 to support the leadership structures that play a vital role in our communities. This funding recognises the importance of cultural heritage and collaboration in building a resilient and united province. [Interjections.] Sounds good, does it not, hon member Masipa?

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Members, this Adjusted Budget is more than a collection of figures. It is a road map for progress. It reflects our commitment to excellence, our dedication to resilience and our belief in the power of good governance to transform lives. Every allocation in this budget is a step towards a stronger, more sustainable Western Cape. Let us not merely approve this budget, but embrace it ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): ...as a shared vision for the future. [Interjections.] Together we can continue to lead the way in governance, service delivery and community empowerment, ensuring that the Western Cape remains a beacon of hope and progress in South Africa.

Hon Deputy Speaker, if any of the Opposition parties deem it necessary to oppose the budget, I challenge them to do more than simply voice their opposition. I challenge them to present an alternative budget, one that can achieve nearly as much as this one, [Interjections.] especially considering the difficult fiscal position our country is currently facing, unfortunately due to the ANC's inefficiency in the main.

An HON MEMBER: That is all that you [Inaudible.]

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): I highly doubt that they would be able to provide us with such an alternative budget.

Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, we are in support.
[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you and again thank you to our Chair.

I am going to start off by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee. Again a privilege and an honour to work with you, and I want to thank you for putting the pressure on us. You understand the topic and you hold us accountable and we really appreciate that because that is to the benefit of the citizens.

To hon member Marais, I did try to explain the R2,5 million and I can try again. No municipality, and we, do not budget for a building collapse. You just do not budget for it. You do not expect it to happen. So when this tragedy happened we were on site and there are a lot of things that happen when you are on a site like this.

First of all we are the only province who has got over 120 trained rescue workers with high tech equipment, and the first phase is to rescue people. As you rescue people, people start to ask when will you move over to a recovery phase. You must manage that very carefully because you work with a lot of people's emotion, and as soon as you say publicly you are going to go over into a recovery phase, obviously the families then lose hope and after 118 hours we managed to get a person out alive, where normally after 72 hours you will call it and say, "Okay, we are now in a recovery phase," but when you are in that first two days you also realise that you sit with over 3 000 tons of material that you need to move.

We have got rescue workers, we do not have building demolition experts, and we had that kind of discussion with one another. So how are we going to get the bodies out? Because we do not have that equipment to lift that kind of concrete slabs, etcetera. You must remember it was a five storey building that just dominoed. [Interjections.]

Those kind of equipment is not in one place, it is all over in City of Cape Town, [Interjections.] and we had to start to prepare to get those kind of equipment into George. You need to transfer that by extra heavy duty loads through the night, because otherwise you will block traffic towards.

At that stage we said to one another it is going to cost round about R5 million, and we said to the municipality we will take their hands and meet them halfway. That is where it is going to.

So I will stand by that. I also said it to the AG, “I wonder what they will say if their family is lying under this concrete and we try to save them, if they also will ask me to first go through a tender process?” We will afterwards report on it, but we then need to save lives. [Interjections.]

To the hon member Constable. [Interjections.] Hon member Constable, ja, I think [Interjections.], I think [Interjections.] – hon ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, may I again, now again see the

Deputy Chief Whip of the Official Opposition to please engage members regarding the running commentary.

An HON MEMBER: She is the culprit.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is the... [Interjections.] that is actually the psychology you use in order to get everyone else.

So, hon member Nkondlo, I trust that the House will depend on you during this time in order to keep the decorum. Hon Minister, I see you.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon member Constable, we share your opinion on a couple of these issues, but I think that is more for a budget discussion and not so much for this Adjustment Budget. We must realise we are in the Adjustment Budget.

Obviously there are a couple of us that are coming from the rural area, we understand that we need to invest in the rural area, we are sympathetic towards the rural area, but we must also balance that where the population is, and there is obviously sewage pressures and water pressures, and and. It is how we are going to balance that and that conversation, I think, we must have

in the MTEF and budget process going forward.

To hon member Stoffel. Hon member Stoffel, the senior management meetings. We do have senior management meetings, not maybe how the ANC will like it, but I do not care what the ANC like, [Interjections.] to be quite honest with you, because you cannot govern. [Interjections.]

Hon Chair, our system works. [Interjections.] All that I am worried about is do we get the results and, hon Chairperson, you can go to all the independent studies, I will not repeat it because everybody knows the results. [Interjections.] We are the best run local governments in the country. Everybody is jealous, everybody wants to come here. [Interjections.] National teams coming here now and ask us, "But how do you do this?" [Interjections.]

So our system work, and that is all that counts at the end of the day, [Interjections.] but I also want to ask the ANC, before they start to destroy people's lives by using the freedom of speech in Parliament, they must just get all the facts ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hi, *suka*.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...and I will not go into that path [Interjections.] I will protect people as far as possible, [Interjections.] and

myself, and I know the Premier, we will act on the reports of independent investigations. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: When?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: I can tell this House ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: When?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...there were two investigations and the first one categorically states there is no sexual harassment. [Interjections.] There is another report and we are busy dealing with that, and the people within that reports got the right to get the reports before the House, because they need to comment on that. [Interjections.] We are in that process and myself and the Premier will deal with the outcome of the investigation, but we will not, hon Deputy Speaker, destroy people's lives because it suits the ANC's agenda. [Interjections.] I will never do that. [Interjections.]

Hon Chairperson, then I understand ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members!

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Chairperson, then I understand that the hon member Stoffel is a new member, and maybe we must ...[Interjections.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): I am not new.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...have again – to the House, to the House ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: You did not say [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...and maybe we can look at a training session and support the hon member, but if the hon member stands up here and if the hon member acknowledges, like she said today, name municipalities where there is corruption, it is her duty to go to the police station and lay a charge. [Interjections.] Not to come here and tell me about it. [Interjections.]

Otherwise she must give me the proof. So she must go after today's Sitting [Interjections.] to the police station and lay a charge.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): You send the Hawks to ...

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: That is her duties.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): You send the Hawks to ...

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: So, hon Chairperson, if I know of corruption, we investigate.

An HON MEMBER: Double standards.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: There is a system. We do not look at the political alliances. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Yes?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Is the hon respected MEC Bredell able to take a question on the role of Parliament with regards to oversight, please?

An HON MEMBER: You cannot ask the question, sir.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I am not asking [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you willing to take a question?

An HON MEMBER: You are not, you are not the Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is not willing to take a question. Please proceed.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Chairperson, members of Parliament have got a responsibility. They must go to a police station, lay a charge if they know about corruption. That is it, hon Chair. If it is so difficult to understand, then I can understand why the country's coffers are robbed. [Interjections.]

Hon Chairperson, on the other one – what was that? The George report, and again, the Premier has answered on the George report. The George report will come when we are ready, but I can tell you we are the only institution ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Always the only.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...that will have a credible report and, ...[intervenes] hon Chair ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: That is why [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Chair, what we need to understand ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. The Table Staff will note, the second person I will be naming is the hon member Nkondlo. I have consistently seen running commentary from your side. [Interjections.] I would not want to request any particular member to leave the Chamber, but the running commentary is ultimately disrupting, but also not helping others to hear.

So please, it is now hon member Ngqentsu and hon member Nkondlo. You may proceed.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Chair, so I think where I stand, I am very proud of the Department of Infrastructure, how they have dealt with this, because this investigation is under the auspices of my colleague, [Interjections.] and we will get the report, [Interjections.] and we need to understand that that report will have consequences, and therefore we need to do it right. Otherwise we are going to lose the Court case, [Interjections.] but, hon Chair, just to say also, on the City of Cape Town and building

mafia.

The Hawks are busy investigating that. There is no place for us to investigate.

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] investigate Matzikama?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: The Hawks must do their job and they are busy doing it. So we watch and we will learn from that process and the Hawks will do that.

In Matzikama we received, we received, I received the complaints, we investigated it. There is nothing ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Where is the Hawks?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...that we try to hide. We are now – because we have got spheres of government, so I had to write back to the municipality and tell them this is what I will expect of them to implement, and if they do not I will take them to Court. It is as simple as that. [Interjections.]

I do not care who is there now in control. They will be held accountable for

their actions, but the ANC must understand that will not stop there, [Interjections.] because we are going to move on to when the ANC was in control there, because that is also in this report. [Interjections.] So this is part of a bigger picture and we will get to the bottom of that. [Interjections.]

Hon Chairperson, I want to thank the members that can see the work that we have put in, and I want to thank the members that support this budget, and I want to thank everybody for their support. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That concludes the debate.

Hon members, proceedings will be suspended and it is now 13:07, until 14:15. The House is adjourned.

[Business of the House is suspended at 13:07.]

[Business of the House resumes at 14:15.]

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Order, hon members.

Thank you very much, hon members. Hon members, it will be remiss of me not to acknowledge before I recognise the Minister for the next Vote, to acknowledge Ms Lynn Simon, who has 26 years of dedicated service to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

So on behalf of all members present – on behalf of all members present, Lynn, thank you very much for your service to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, but more importantly so to the people of this beautiful province that we are elected to serve. Thank you. [Interjections.]

With that being said, hon members, I recognise the Secretary that will read the Seventh Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 7 – Social Development – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B2–2024].

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister of Social Development, Minister Londt.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker, hon Premier, Cabinet colleagues, members of this Provincial Parliament and the public, those that is online, and the media as well, citizens of the Western Cape.

I rise to table the Adjustment Budget Vote for Vote 7 in a time when the

Department of Social Development and other service-driven departments, are the hardest hit by the harsh reality of national budget pressures.

The fiscal outlook has deteriorated over the last few years, driven largely by reduced revenue estimates, tightened monetary policy, higher borrowing cost, inflation, spending pressures and the ongoing impact of the 2023 wage agreement.

Government departments across the board, along with the NGO sector, have faced various challenges or storms, as the hon Minister Baartman said last week.

A decrease of R17,4 million has amounted to the Department's Adjustment Budget Vote, dropping us from R2 539 480 billion to R2,522 073.

There is, however, some good news. R25 million was shifted from DSD budget to the Infrastructure Department budget for the maintenance of Child and Youth Care Centres. This is vital as we have seen an increase in the number of neglected children in need of places of safety, as well as those in conflict with the law, for whom these facilities offer hope and a chance at a new life. So, hon members, that is not money that is lost for the Department, that will still be utilised for the clients of the Department.

There are also some other good news with the Department receiving the following additional funds: R496 000 from the rollover of the unspent social

sector EPWP incentive grant for provinces. The amount was to settle outstanding invoices for the contracted services that ended on 31 March 2024.

I have also conducted visits to various older persons' community-based service centres. These centres are an important space for the elderly as they are not only able to socialise with one another, but here they receive meals and learn skills which they can utilise to earn some extra money, or simply for the joy of the camaraderie.

At one such centre in Strand I met some wonderful ladies who were very hard at work crocheting blankets which they were going to sell. They were extremely proud of their skilfully crafted goods. The NGO running the centre told me about how difficult it has become to continue operating the facility with the constrained resources, but they have found a way because they see the need for it in promoting the well-being and dignity of the older persons.

These centres experience severe budget cuts as the Department had to make difficult decisions to allocate funding so it could meet its statutory obligations. Thus the allocation of additional funding of R897 000 in revenue retention will go a long way towards alleviating service pressures in these centres. We hope it will make a meaningful difference in the lives of older persons who play such a valuable role and have contributed so much to society.

When it comes to disaster funding, climate change is a stark reality we can no longer afford to hide from. Floodings, fires and other weather-related disasters have been commonplace. Now more than ever we have to build a more resilient and ever-ready province so we can address the great needs that arise when a disaster strikes.

Our Department has been working hard on establishing clear roles and responsibilities between us, SASSA and municipalities when it comes to the provision of humanitarian relief. NGOs in this space have played a hugely critical role in assisting us in reaching the most vulnerable residents who are hardest hit when disasters befall them.

The additional funding of R3-million is in line with the Western Cape Government's priority of looking after the residents, especially the vulnerable. These funds are greatly welcomed in bolstering humanitarian relief efforts. The funds are intended to subsidise several humanitarian relief organisations to further their operational objectives and support existing post-disaster humanitarian responses.

The Department also received an additional R3,2-million to sustain its nutritional support programmes. These funds will enable the Department to address service delivery gaps by establishing five further community nutrition development centres in the following areas: in Touws River, in Laingsburg, Langeberg in the Cape Winelands, Theewaterskloof, and Atlantis.

Hon Speaker, unplanned exits, early retirements and promotions within the Department resulted in underspending of R8,845-million in Compensation of Employees. These funds were reprioritised to augment budget shortfalls as follows. To cover the settlement of legal matters, R6-million was shifted to households and another R2,845-million was shifted to households to cover leave and pension gratuity payments due to staff exits. There were shifts of Compensation of Employees between programmes and subprogrammes, where priority posts were filled.

Underspent funds of R1,979-million within Goods and Services were due to various factors, including decreased Travel and Subsistence in line with functions and savings realised by the settling of March 2024 invoices before the end of the previous financial year. This underspending was reprioritised to augment budget shortfalls as follows. The increase in marketing, for the software licences and fleet services, the increase of cleaning services, the annual increase in security services and the above-inflationary increase for electricity at our facilities, as well as the shortfall in the e-mobility contract. Waste removal services due to the disposal of nappies at Sibongile, DSD's facility for accommodating children and adults with severe to profound disabilities, and as well as emergency day-to-day maintenance costs at our facilities.

Hon Speaker, we may continue to grapple with the lingering impacts of the economic storms that were mentioned at the start and in hon Baartman's

debate, but as a Department, we are not resting on our laurels. In the spirit of ingenuity, resilience and innovation that is ingrained in this province, the Western Cape Department of Social Development has continuously tried to find ways to make the rand stretch just a little bit further. I have made it my mission since stepping into this office, to turn this Department into a formidable Government institution that is solutions-driven and presents sustainable models for other sectors to follow.

Some of the ways DSD has done this is the Social Work Integrated Management System application or the SWIMS app, which was launched in April this year and it has already streamlined the way social workers tackle case management. This app addresses the immense administrative burden on social workers who daily have to fill in forms for case management.

On the app, they can securely capture forms virtually anywhere, anytime, and complete the necessary paperwork for tracking of interventions to the clients. This saves them time and unnecessary labour, allowing for more time that can be spent on therapeutic interventions which benefit the clients greatly. Over 21 000 cases have been loaded onto the app by DSD social workers in the Western Cape since it went live in April and these numbers are constantly climbing, showing just how many social workers are going the paperless route to do case management and deliver better services to our clients.

The DSD mobile offices are meeting the service needs of rural communities. We launched one in the Central Karoo in October and two more on the West

Coast, and the Witzenberg Cape Winelands area this past week. This fully functioning Social Development office on wheels, which is the first of its kind in the country, allows social workers in these regions to reach the most rural parts of the province, rendering crucial social services to residents living in these areas. The office spreads the Department's service footprint and alleviates the burden on NGOs in these regions.

When it comes to NGO support, we are also working on an exciting initiative that could provide a double safety net for NGOs, lessening the burden on Government and opening more avenues for us to resources where they are most needed. This initiative is geared towards making organisations that the Department supports, more resilient and sustainable and I will communicate more on this next year during my Budget Vote.

Since we are in the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, I must mention our incredible GBV ambassadors. DSD has six GBV ambassador programmes: in Swartland, Delft, Grabouw, Heinz Park, Philippi and most recently, we launched one in Ceres this past week. These are volunteers that have been trained by DSD and its partner NGOs, raising their hands to help the Department raise awareness about GBV support services. They are often the first responders to incidents of domestic violence or abuse, like the Delft ambassador's tremendous support to traumatised individuals at the Victim Friendly Room at the Delf Police Station. This programme is a perfect example of how we can use limited resources by tapping into communities to address social issues like GBV and

the spread of our service footprint.

Hon Speaker, now more than ever, with service pressures increasing and resources battling to meet this demand, we require the private sector to join hands with NGOs and NPOs that provide crucial services in the social service sphere, whether it be GBV survivor support, child protection, elderly person care, substance use support services. We also need citizens who are able to volunteer their time and any other resources they can, to support registered organisations. Even something as simple as spending time with an older person at an old age home can bring so much joy to those individuals, especially now over the festive period. It is only when we have a Whole of Society and Whole of Government approach that we can effectively address social ills and better support vulnerable citizens.

Finally, I wish to thank my Cabinet colleagues, led by the hon Premier Alan Winde, for their continuous support and motivation, and helping me to find my feet very quickly in such a short period of time. Thank you also to the Standing Committee, to the members in the Committee for their robust and transparent engagement and for holding us as a department accountable to the people of this province. Also, I am grateful to the Department of Social Development and the team, led by Dr Robert MacDonald. Their tireless efforts and leadership in making difficult decisions with the reprioritisation of a budget under serious fiscal constraints, are appreciated. I commend all the DSD staff who remain committed to serving the most vulnerable citizens of this province. Thank you, team DSD, for going the extra mile.

And lastly, to the two sitting in the gallery and two of my staff in the benches there, and those in the office. Thank you for taking my hand and allowing me to spread my footprint in this province, and service our residents.
[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon Kamfer.

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker, hon members in the House.

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): Dankie, agb Speaker, vir die geleentheid.

Agb Speaker, laat my toe om die volgende onder die Huis se aandag te bring. Vandag staan ek hier, agb Speaker, om my teenkanting teen hierdie Aangepaste Begroting ...[Tussenwerpsels]

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker, for the opportunity.

Hon Speaker, allow me to bring the following to the attention of the House. Today I stand here, hon Speaker, to voice my opposition to this Adjusted Budget]...[Interjections]

†n AGB LID: Agge nee!

[An HON MEMBER: Oh no!]

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): ...van die Departement [Tussenwerpsels.] van

Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling uit te spreek, agb Speaker. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Hierdie begroting slaag nie daarin om die behoeftes ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): ...of the Department of Social Development, hon Speaker. This budget does not succeed in providing for]...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): ...van die mees kwesbare burgers te voorsien en te weerspieël nie. Dit is kommerwekkend, die wanbalans van prioriteite in die toenemende maatskaplike dienste en die uitdagings.

Agb Speaker, een van die dringendste kwessies wat ek in hierdie Huis wil uitbring, agb Speaker, is die verontagsaming van die lot van bejaardes, veral dié wat in Beaconvale Versorgingsentrum woon.

Agb Speaker, ons het herhaaldelik ons kommer uitgespreek oor die swaarkry van ons bejaardes, maar min is gedoen om hul veiligheid en waardigheid te beskerm. Die bejaardes by Beaconvale, en regoor ons provinsie, verdien beter en waarvoor hulle gedien word.

Agb Speaker, ek wil ook 'n voorbeeld noem. As ons kyk na die geval in Murraysburg, in 2023 is hy gesluit. Mense moet so ver trek soos Ashton, 700 kilometer van hulle familie af. So is ons ou bejaardes verwaarloos, agb Speaker. Dit is 'n skande vir ons om hierdie begroting goed te keur. [Tussenwerpsels.] Totdat hierdie bejaardes, agb Speaker, wil ons die

Provinsiale Wetgewer - wat ons bejaardes by die Provinsiale Wetgewer - en die LUR het 'n sinnelose langtermyn aangebied en met hulle bespreek.

Wel, agb Speaker, ons het nuus vandag van die burgers van Mitchells Plain en omliggende gebiede met die nuttelose plan. Hulle vereis, agb Speaker, dringende optrede. Hulle wil ontslae raak van die bestuur van die beheer van die fasiliteit en ook die Beheerraad, agb Speaker.

Ten spyte van die bykomende R897 000 aan gemeenskapsgebaseerde diensversorging vir ouer persone toegewys, is hierdie bedrag uiters onvoldoende om die druk op hierdie diens van die fasiliteite te verlig. Dit demonstreer duidelik dat die DA nie die werklike behoeftes van die bejaardes as prioriteit sien nie, agb Speaker. [Tussenwerpsels.] Die R897 000 is niks meer as 'n simboliese gebaar van isolasie om afgeskeep te word sonder werklike aksie nie.

Agb Speaker, die MERO, die Munisipale Ekonomiese Oorsig en Vooruitskouing, 'n plig, agb Speaker. Voedselversorging regoor die Wes-Kaap.

Agb Speaker, in Saldanha ervaar 44,7% van ons inwoners voedselonsekerheid. In Oudtshoorn en Prins Albert is die syfer 43,4%. In Beaufort-Wes en George is dit 42,2%, agb Speaker. Hierdie syfer verteenwoordig duisende mense wat sukkel om die mees basiese kos te bekostig, agb Speaker.

Ten spyte van hierdie krisis en die toenemende voedselonsekerheid, en die kinderversorging, het die DA-geleide Administrasie en sosiale hulpleniingsbronne die begroting met R25,246 miljoen gesny. Hierdie besluit is 'n regstreekse hou teen kwessies en weerspieël 'n regering van ongevoeligheid teenoor die gemeenskap, teenoor die lot van die mense van die Wes-Kaap.

Agb Speaker, verder wil ek sê hiervan is R25 miljoen tydens hierdie aanpassings geskuif. Ek hoor die *MEC* het dit genoem, agb Speaker. Op hierdie stadium kan hierdie Departement geen geld skuiwe om in die behoeftes en die tekortkominge van ons dienste vir ons arm mense, ons bejaardes te voorsien nie. [Tussenwerpsels.] Hierdie ongelyke fondse wat deur die LUR na die Departement van Minister Simmers verskuif is, agb Speaker, vir die Bates Finansiële Reserwe, kon goed gebruik gewees het vir kritiese maatskaplike ontwikkeling, om dit aan te spreek... [Tussenwerpsels.]

Hoe kan ons regverdig om fondse van die Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling te lei ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): ...and reflect the needs of the most vulnerable citizens. It is worrying, the imbalance of priorities and the increasing social services and the challenges.

Hon Speaker, one of the most urgent issues I want to highlight in this House, is the disregard of the fate of the elderly, especially those living in the

Beaconvale Care Centre.

Hon Speaker, we have repeatedly voiced our concern about the suffering of our elderly, but little was done to protect their safety and dignity. The elderly of Beaconvale, and all over the province, deserve better and what they are served for.

Hon Speaker, I want to mention an example. If we look at the case of Murraysburg, in 2023 it was closed. People have to move as far as Ashton, 700 kilometres from their families. So our elderly have been neglected, hon Speaker. It is a disgrace to us to approve this budget. [Interjections.] Until these elderly, hon Speaker, we want our Provincial Legislature – who saw our elderly – and the MEC offered and discussed a meaningless long term with them.

Well, hon Speaker, today we have news for the citizens of Mitchells Plain and surrounding areas with the meaningless plan. They demand, hon Speaker, urgent action. They want to get rid of the management in control of the facility and also the Governing Body, hon Speaker.

In spite of the additional R897 000 allocated to community based service care to the elderly, this amount is totally inadequate to relieve the pressure on this service of the facilities. It clearly demonstrates that the DA does not see the real needs of the elderly as a priority, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] The R897 000 is nothing more than a symbolic gesture of isolation, to be

neglected without real action.

Hon Speaker, the MERO, the Municipal Review and Outlook, a duty, hon Speaker. Food security all over the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, in Saldanha 44,7% of our citizens experience food insecurity. In Oudtshoorn and Prince Albert the figure is 43,4%. In Beaufort West and George it is 42,2%, hon Speaker. This figure represents thousands of people who struggle to afford the most basic food, hon Speaker.

In spite of this crisis and the increasing food insecurity, and the child care, the DA-led Administration and social aid loan resources cut the budget by R25,246 million. This decision is a direct blow to the issues and reflects a government of indifference toward the community, to the fate of the people of the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, I want to further say of this R25 million that was shifted during these adjustments. I hear the MEC mentioned it, hon Speaker. At this stage this Department cannot afford to shift any money to provide for the needs and shortcomings of services to our poor people, our elderly. [Interjections.] These unequal funds that were shifted by the MEC to the Department of Minister Simmers, hon Speaker, for the Assets Financial Reserve, could have been well spent on critical social development, to address it... [Interjections.]

How can we justify to shift funds of the Department of Social Development

...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): ...wanneer kwesbare [Tussenwerpsels.] groepe
...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): ...when vulnerable groups] ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): ...insluitende kinders en bejaardes toenemend
swaarkry? [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): ...including children and the elderly are suffering
increasingly?] [Interjections.]

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

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): Hierdie sogenaamde struktuur van
[Tussenwerpsels.] fondse ontbreek aan deursigtigheid en ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): This so-called structure of [Interjections.] funds
lacks transparency and] ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Hon member Kamer, please take
your seat.

Hon members on my right, there is a member on the floor. Interjections are allowed, but you are drowning out the speaker. I am not able to even hear the submission by hon member Kamfer.

Can I please ask that you allow the hon member on the floor an opportunity to make his submission. Interjections are allowed, [Interjections.] but you cannot ...[Incomplete.]

An HON MEMBER: Sorry, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Interjections are allowed, but you cannot drown out the speaker. Hon member Kamfer, you may continue.

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

†Agb Speaker, in 'n provinsie wat sukkel met 'n tekort aan personeel en werklose maatskaplike werk gegradueerdes en in besonder besnoeiing van vergoeding en werkers, se begroting met meer as R8 miljoen, is onverdedigbaar, agb Speaker. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Hierdie vlak program wat slegs R72 miljoen in die hoofbegroting toegeken is, is van kardinale belang om oorlewendes van geweld en mishandeling te ondersteun. Hierdie besnoeiings is onaanvaarbaar en ontbloom die DA se gebrek aan toewyding van GBV en vrouemishandeling, agb Speaker. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Hon Speaker, in a province that struggles with a shortage of staff and unemployed social work graduates, in particular cuts in the remuneration and workers budget by more than R8 million are unjustifiable, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

This level programme that has been allocated only R72 million in the Main Budget, is of the utmost importance to support the survivors of violence and abuse. These cuts are unacceptable and expose the DA's lack of commitment to GBV and female abuse, hon Speaker.] [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

An HON MEMBER: Yes. [Interjections.]

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): In 'n tyd wanneer gemeenskappe sukkel met stygende armoede, hoë lewenskoste en toenemende kwesbaarheid, is besnoeiing diep kommerwekkend. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Agb Speaker, as verteenwoordiger van die mense, het ons 'n morele en grondwetlike plig om die welsyn van ons mees kwesbare burgers te prioritiseer.

Hierdie begroting ondermyn noodsaaklike programme, verontagsaam kritieke behoeftes en herlei hulpbronne weg van die Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling in 'n tyd wanneer sy dienste meer dringend nodig is as ooit.

Om hierdie redes, agb Speaker, kan ek en my kollegas nie hierdie begroting ondersteun nie.

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): In a time when communities struggle with increasing poverty, high cost of living, and increasing vulnerability, cuts are deeply concerning. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Hon Speaker, as representative of the people, we have a moral and constitutional duty to prioritise the wellbeing of our most vulnerable citizens.

This budget undermines necessary programmes, ignores critical needs and redirects resources away from the Department of Social Development in a time when its needs are more urgent than ever.

For these reasons, hon Speaker, my colleagues and I cannot support this budget.]

†n AGB LID: Ag nee!

[An HON MEMBER: Oh no!]

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): Ons versoek hierdie Huis om dit te verwerp en 'n herstrukturering van prioriteite te doen en eis om die mense sentraal in die regering te plaas.

Agb Speaker, ten laaste. Die bejaardes van Beaconvale is die slagoffers van

mishandeling, en ondervoede kinders en kwesbare burgers in ons provinsie verdien niks minder as dit nie nie. Laat ons 'n begroting aanvaar wat nie die rug op die mense draai wat ons verkies het nie. Ek dank u. [Applous.] [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): We request this House to reject it and do a restructuring of priorities and demand that the people are placed central in the Government.

Hon Speaker, finally. The elderly of Beaconvale are the victims of abuse, and undernourished children and vulnerable citizens in our province deserve no less than that. Let us accept a budget that does not turn its back on the people who have elected us. I thank you.] [Applause.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Kamfer. [Applause.] Order, hon members. Thank you very much, hon Kamfer. I recognise hon Stephens. [Interjections.]

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Hon Speaker, we as the PA are extremely blessed for the Budget Adjustment of an additional R897 000 towards the older persons community-based service centres which play an important part in ensuring that the most vulnerable receive the best special care, that means support-tailored to meet their unique needs and challenges for our older persons. R25-million that was shifted should have been put to use ...[Interjections.] Sorry. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, order! [Interjections.] Can I ask that the ...[Interjection.]

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Sorry.

The SPEAKER: ...Table Staff please stop the time. [Interjections.]
[Laughter.]

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Sorry for that. Sorry, hon Speaker.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): The R25-million ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Stephens, before you continue, can I just get the House to settle down. I think everyone needed that after the lunch break.
[Interjections.]

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: You may continue, hon Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): The R25-million that was shifted should have been put to use in making sure that we provide proper community-based care in

support services to our older persons. We need many more old age homes, transport for our older people from old age homes to hospitals and back.

A media statement made in 2023 by the Department of Social Development speaks to the lack of shelters for victims of GBV. What are we going to do about the inadequate shelters and safe houses for the victims? Research has shown a clear link between drugs and alcohol, and domestic violence. Around 40% to 60% of reported domestic abuse situations involve alcohol and drug use. There is a direct link indicated here. What are the chances that these victims who are addicts, to get help in terms of rehabilitation for their addictions as there are not adequate shelters and safehouses for the victims. Thank you.

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the budget decrease of more than R17,4-million from the Department of Social Development is uncalled for. The time has come for the Department to take responsibility and to directly offer key social services to communities in the form of making provision for shelters and old age homes, instead of outsourcing these services to NPOs. Hon Speaker, it has been shown recently that some of these NPOs receive money from the Department in the form of transfers and subsidies, and when it is time to submit annual reports, they become noncompliant to an extent that we do not know whether our people

received these wealthy services or not.

Hon Speaker, there have also been reported cases of neglect and abuse by some of these NPOs which are entrusted with taking care of our elderly people, as was the case recently with the scandal at the Frail Care Centre in Mitchells Plain and then also, the elderly not being fed and funeral policies not being paid as seen at an old age home during a Garden Route oversight with the Social Development Committee.

With this, hon Speaker, and to emphasise again, the Department should prioritise conducting regular physical inspections of all NPOs who are providing services to elderly people across the province, as part of its monitoring functions against these entities. To add, the Department needs to also spend more by ensuring additional homes across the province, especially to benefit poor Coloured and African citizens who are often rejected and put on a waiting list at current homes due to only surviving on a single SASSA or none.

In conclusion, hon Speaker, the Department must stop trying to save money and must spearhead these services for the benefit of our people. Therefore, the EFF does not support this budget as it does not speak to the poor and core issues affecting this province. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. I recognise hon Jacobs.
Hon Jacobs?

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the NCC takes note of the budget tabled by the hon Minister. Now, looking back at the last few years, we can clearly note the increase in drug related crimes and in general, social degeneration of our communities. Hon Speaker, drug awareness programmes and social workers are nearly non-existent within our communities. Hon Minister, as true as the living God, our communities are feeling the pressure and many, many gang leaders know this. They offer the youth the opportunity to look cool and romanticise a gang life.

Hon Speaker, hon Minister, hon Premier, if charity starts at home, please make sure that drug awareness programmes are implemented back into our schools and open more rehabilitation centres. Aesa! [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Jacobs. I recognise the hon Marais.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, in a time of high youth unemployment and extreme levels of violent crimes, social services are crucial to lend support to families faced with trauma. It is a very important time for us to strengthen the hands of our social workers who are doing selfless work, and we should make sure that there are sufficient provisions made for their employment. The shortage of social workers is not doing us any favours.

I call upon the hon Minister to please ensure that these fancy words, service pressures: does it mean that you are going to address the abuse that is currently happening in these facilities? Neglect, infringement of people's dignities. There should also be an anonymous line created for those who do not want to be victimised but want to register a complaint. I thank you.
[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I wish the former Speaker would want to attend at least one meeting or one oversight visit. Hon Speaker, today as we discuss the Social Development Adjusted Budget, we are reminded of the resilience and courage of the people we serve. It is not just about numbers, it is about lives, opportunities and dignity.

†Dit gaan oor ons mense, ons kinders, ons gesinne, ons ouer inwoners wat op ons vertrou om te bou aan 'n beter toekoms. [It is about our people, our children, our older citizens who are trusting us to build a better future.] Let us be clear. The social wellbeing of the people of the Western Cape, through you, hon Speaker, to hon member Kamfer, is not a political ploy. †Dit is nie 'n speletjie wat ons speel nie. [It is not a game we are playing.] It is sacred

responsibility, one that cannot and should not be taken lightly.

†Agb Speaker, ons inwoners verdien nie net om ingelig te wees nie, maar ook om gehoor te word, ongeag hulle ouderdom, herkoms of omstandighede. [Hon Speaker, our citizens do not only deserve to be informed, but also to be heard, irrespective of their age, origin or circumstances.] To suggest otherwise, like the hon member Kamfer indicated, is to underestimate the intelligence of our elderly merely because they are advanced in age. It is an insult of the lowest order.

Hon Speaker, for three decades the ANC has failed the people of South Africa. [Interjections.] †Vir drie dekades het Suid-Afrikaners gesien hoe gesinne stukkend gaan, hoe kinders lei onder wanbestuur en hoe ons ouer mense aan hul eie lot oorgelaat word...[Tussenwerpsels.]. [For three decades South Africans have seen how families go to pieces, how children suffer under mismanagement and how our elderly people are left to their fate...] [Interjections.] While the ANC National Government turns its back, here in the Western Cape, we are working to protect our most vulnerable ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

† 'n AGBARE LID: Hulle het afgesink.

[An HON MEMBER: They went down.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): The allocation of R1,113-billion to Social Welfare Services speaks volumes about our commitment to the wellbeing of every resident. This programme supports a range of services from empowering those living with disabilities, to ensuring that our elderly live with dignity. [Interjections.] Of this, R670,7-million ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): ...is directed to management and support, ensuring the infrastructure and systems are in place to deliver these essential services effectively. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): You are not serious about those.

†Me W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Ons ouer inwoners is die hoeksteen van ons gemeenskappe. [Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Our older citizens are the cornerstone of our societies.] With R231,3-million allocated to services for older persons, we are prioritising their care and support. ...[Interjection.]

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

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): This includes funding for residential

facilities, community-based care centres and other initiatives aimed at reducing isolation and ensuring our eldest feel valued. Furthermore, R897 000 has been specifically earmarked to alleviate service pressures at older persons community-based care centres. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Where?

†Me W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Agb Speaker, ons weet dat ouer persone dikwels die eerste is om te ly onder ekonomiese druk en hierdie fondse sal verseker dat ons hulle nie vergeet nie. [Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Hon Speaker, we know that older people are often the first to suffer under economic pressure and these funds will ensure that we do not forget them.] Services for persons with disabilities receive R221,2-million, a testament to our commitment to inclusivity. This allocation will help provide access to education, vocational training and support services that enable individuals with disabilities to live fulfilling lives. The Social Relief Budget of R9,4-million ensures immediate assistance for those who face sudden crises, providing a safety net for our most vulnerable.

Hierdie fondse verseker dat kinders in nood die sorg en beskerming ontvang wat hulle verdien, hetsy deur pleegsorg, aannemingsdienste of herenigingsprogramme.

Hon Speaker, our children are the future of the Western Cape, and this budget prioritises their welfare. A total of R502,8-million is allocated to children

and families, with R247,39-million dedicated to childcare and protection. †Hierdie fondse verseker dat kinders in nood die sorg en beskerming ontvang wat hulle verdien, hetsy deur pleegsorg, aannemingsdienste of gesinsherenigingsprogramme. [These funds ensure that children in need receive the care and protection they deserve, whether through foster care, adoption services or family reunion programmes.]

Care and services for families receive R116,1-million aimed at strengthening family units, the cornerstone of any thriving society. Early Childhood Development and partial care are allocated R10,8-million, ensuring young children have access to quality care and education during their formative years. For those who need alternative care, R123,5-million is directed to child and youth care centres providing a safe and nurturing environment for children who cannot live with their families.

The focus on restorative services reflects our commitment to repairing the harm caused by social challenges. †Agb Speaker, ons weet dat misdaad en sosiale probleme diep letsels in ons gemeenskappe laat. R537,4-miljoen is toegeken aan hierdie dienste, met R357,5-miljoen wat gebruik word vir misdaadvoorkoming en programme om oortreders weer in die samelewing te integreer. [Hon Speaker, we know that crime and social problems leave deep scars in our communities. R537,4 million is allocated to these services, with R357,5 million that is used for crime prevention and programmes to reintegrate transgressors into society.]

Victim Empowerment Programmes receive R70,9-million, providing resources for those affected by Gender-based Violence and other crimes. †Die plaag van geslagsgeweld is 'n onuitspreeklike pyn vir gesinne en hierdie fondse sal help om slagoffers te ondersteun en gemeenskappe veiliger te maak. [The plague of gender violence is an unspeakable pain to families and these funds will help to support victims and make communities safer.] The scourge of substance abuse is addressed with R102,3-million allocated to prevention and rehabilitation. These funds will support education, rehabilitation centres and community initiatives aimed at reducing addiction and its devastating effects it has on families.

Hon Speaker, the importance of development and research cannot be overstated. With R92,4-million allocated to this programme, we are building a foundation for sustainable progress. Poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods receive R60,9-million, helping communities become more self-reliant through skills development, job creation and entrepreneur support. Youth Development is allocated R15,7-million ensuring young people have access to opportunities that enable them to become active contributors to society. Institutional capacity building and support for non-profit organisations receive R3,1-million, recognising the vital role these organisations play in completing Government's efforts.

Lastly, hon Speaker, R6,2-million has been allocated for emergency nutritional support and humanitarian relief. †Agb Speaker, in 'n land waar soveel mense honger ly, waar rampe hele gemeenskappe uitwis, is hierdie

fondse nie net 'n toekenning nie, maar 'n baken van hoop. [Hon Speaker, in a country where so many people suffer from hunger, where disasters wipe out whole families, these funds are not just an allocation, but a beacon of hope.] It is not just about feeding the hungry, it is about restoring hope and dignity to those who have lost so much. Hon Speaker, this Adjusted Budget is not just a financial plan. It is a promise to the people of the Western Cape. †Dit weerspieël ons vaste toewyding om die uitdagings van ons inwoners aan te spreek van hongersot tot misdad, van werkloosheid tot isolasie. [It reflects our firm commitment to address the challenges of our citizens, from hunger to crime, from unemployment to isolation.] Despite the fiscal constraints imposed by National failures, this Province continues to demonstrate resilience and innovation.

Hon Speaker, cuts are inevitable, but in the Western Cape we do not allow challenges to define us. †Wanneer die wortels diep is, agb Speaker, hoef ons nie die winter te vrees nie. [When the roots are deep, hon Speaker, we need not fear the winter.] With this budget, we reaffirm our dedication to putting people first, ensuring that every resident has the opportunity to live with dignity and hope. I do support this Vote. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Kaizer-Philander. I now recognise the hon Minister, hon Minister Londt.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. I did not know if I should start or end with this, but I think let us start on a positive. You know you should not have favourites as a Minister, but maybe I am a bit biased. But I am quite thankful to my Chairperson that I have got. Hon Kaizer-Philander, it has been incredible working with you and your Committee during this term. You have held us on our toes, but you have also ensured that the messaging of what the Department is doing, and the service delivery pressures, are going beyond this province. So, to you and the Committee, thank you for also putting pressure on National. And I think that is where I want link to where I wanted to start.

†Hon Kamfer, u sê u bring u teenkanting uit teen hierdie begroting omdat daar te min geld is, maar dit is nie die skuld van hierdie Departement of hierdie Regering dat daar te min geld is nie. [Hon Kamfer, you say you oppose this budget because there is too little money, but this Department or this Government is not to blame that there is too little money.] It is the fault of your political party, ...[Interjections.] the African National Congress who has 30 years, for 30 years, ...[Interjections.] bled this country dry and ensure that there is less and less and less money available for the most vulnerable people in this country.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: And because the most

vulnerable people in this country suffer because of the ANC mismanagement, the vulnerable in this province also suffer and there is less money to look after the most vulnerable because of the ANC looting and stealing the coffers dry ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Leader of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No. Is the hon Minister able to take a question?

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I will ask the hon Minister. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: He can give me a question.

The SPEAKER: The hon Minister is prepared to take a question.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Can the hon Minister tell us when is he going to start attending MINMEC meetings at a National level please? Thank you. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: To raise these issues.

An HON MEMBER: To raise any issues ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: No, no. No, you have had an opportunity. [Interjections.]

Order, hon members!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Go and tell ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister, over to you.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you so much. So, your research needs to be either changed or paid better to get to better research because there have been two MINMECS. The one, they give us last minute notification and the HOD attended and the second one, I attended myself. So, there have been two. I have attended one and the other one, the HOD went in my stead because of the last-minute notification by the ANC National Minister that cannot give ample warning for meetings. That is kind of a reflection of your party and that is probably why your party lost ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ...50% ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Lost your outright majority.
So, hon Sayed ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ...you are leading such a
small caucus because ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ...the voters in this province
have rejected you and your party. [Interjections.] Hon Kamfer, back to you.
It is called Beaconvale ...[Applause.] [Interjections.]

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): He is absent, he sends his ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members [Interjections.] Hon members! [Interjections.] Interjections are allowed, but you are drowning out the hon Minister. The hon Minister is now responding to inputs made from hon members of this House and as part of the parliamentary procedure and Rules, this is now the opportunity where the hon Minister responds. I would have imagined that if you made a submission, you would want a response to that submission. That is how debates normally go or should go. Can I please ask for your indulgence as we end this Vote. Hon Minister, I recognise you. You may continue.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: So, hon Kamfer, I assumed you referred to Beaconvale and not Bacon Valley ...[Laughter.] but Beaconvale is in Mitchells Plain and you did an oversight and I myself went to Beaconvale ...[Interjections.]. There is a service delivery improvement plan that has been signed and we will ensure that that is monitored effectively because it is important that we make sure that we look after the elderly.

You referred to Murraysburg. It is sad. It is sad that Murraysburg closed, and it is a direct result because of the ANC looting and stealing and making sure we do not ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ...get our Fair Share. So

...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ...it is an absolute, absolute shame that with so many elderly people in the ANC, they cut funding so that we cannot look after the elderly in the Western Cape. ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members, it is my duty to protect the speaker on the floor, from whichever side and I am going to continuously stop the proceedings, and I will allow the person to make their submission without being hampered to do so. It is a right of every hon member to have an opportunity to speak, especially when that person is on the Speakers' List.

So, the continuation of the direct commentary needs to slow down, and I ask that the hon Chief Whips of the political parties please assist me with that because, hon members, otherwise we will be here until late this evening because I am going to allow the hon Minister or the hon member to have a fair and free opportunity to make his or her submission. Interjections are allowed, but you cannot drown out the speaker. Hon colleagues, please, I ask for your indulgence and for your assistance. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: So, hon Kamfer and hon

Cassiem, you both referenced the R25-million. Now, I do not know how many times we have ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Yes, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Ja, hon Speaker, the hon Minister must speak to you as the hon Speaker, not to me.

The SPEAKER: It is, indeed, a point of order. Hon Minister, can I please remind you to please speak to me and not directly to an hon member. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. That is the first valid point the ANC made today. So, thank you for that and sustaining that. [Laughter.] So, through you, hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, hon Speaker. Can the hon Minister take a

valid question from me? I am just wanting to know.

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Hon members, I am going to allow the hon Minister an opportunity to say 'yes' or 'no', but I wish to remind the House that we are dealing with Adjustment Budgets, and it is my duty as the Presiding Officer to ensure that we stick to the Orders of the Day. If hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question? [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: He does not answer when ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Can you please respond to the ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: No, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The hon Minister is not prepared to take a question, hon Bans. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Ja. Thank you, hon Speaker. If the hon Bans gets more votes and more seats, they will have more speaking time to bring their ayes to the House.

So, the R25-million, I mean, I do not know how many times we need to explain this. It is not money lost for the Department. It is money that the Department of Infrastructure is going to use to build, and upgrade, and maintain facilities for the clients of the Department of Social Development.

Now, if that is an incredibly difficult concept to get your head around, you are welcome to keep on hammering on this drum for the rest of the year, but the answer will not change. [Interjections.] That money is available for DSD and I want to thank the hon Minister of Infrastructure who has already met, and already having a few other projects in the pipeline, that will support the Department of Social Development. [Interjections.]

So, the one thing that I do want the hon colleagues from the African National Congress and the hon Marais to please take up. It is the ANC's Ministers who do not see social workers as essential services. It is not the Western Cape; it is the ANC Ministers that do not see the value and the worth of social workers and that you should please take to your next congress and put a motion forward. If you truly care about this province, take a motion to your next congress, take a policy change and make social workers an essential service in this country.

Then, hon Kamfer, I want to thank you because you actually attended the mobile offices launch and there, you could see the value of what the Department does. So, I thank you for attending that. Hon Stephens, just to point out: 26 GBV shelters supported by DSD in this province. Now, the sad thing is there should not even be one shelter in this province. It is an absolute scourge on this country that we even have to have GBV shelters. But while it is there, we want to thank all the NPOs, NGOs that are taking our hands and the social workers that go above and beyond to looking after victims of Gender-based Violence.

So, the issue about filling the posts and why it is taking so long, that is a Department of Public Service and Administration issue, that have put in so much red tape that we are struggling to fill the positions in time. So, there I again ask the hon members of the Opposition, take our hands and advocate so that we can speed up that process.

To hon Cassiem, you plead for regular monitoring and evaluation. Once you get back from Thabazimbi, we will explain to you that we have got 13 clean audits in a row in this Department. It is a department that ensures that the little money we get is looked after. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: There is no service.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: We monitor that it gets spent effectively and there where it is not being spent effectively, ...[Interjections.] we raise it and we ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Leader of the Opposition, is that a point of order? [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): What hon Minister is this who comes and undermines people with ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Wait! Honourable, before you. Hon Nkondlo and hon Windvogel, there is an hon member on the floor.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, you spoke about the fact that we need to focus on the Adjustment Estimates and that there is a particular focus with this debate. But the hon MEC is consistently focusing on hon members, as opposed to focusing on the subject matter. I am not saying he is out of order ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: He is!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...but just as a matter of not necessarily in terms of the Rules, but in terms of protocol and in terms of the spirit of the debate, hon Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Hon Walters, is that a new

point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, I just want to bring to your attention that some of the hon members, in fact, have been named across the floor for this kind of behaviour. [Interjections.] I just wanted to bring it to your attention as a point of order. Hon Speaker, may I also suggest that we put a pot there because then we will have a Shakespeare Macbeth play taking place. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Speaker, if they are allowed to make frivolous speeches like that one ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...then all of us can stand ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, order.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...address everyone. Haibo! You are ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon colleagues!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...kindergarten.

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjections.] Firstly, order hon members! [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Hon Sayed, firstly, your comment is noted. It is not a point of order. Hon Walters, that is absolutely not a point of order and ...[Interjections.] Hon members, I am not going to entertain any further points of orders during this debate for this Vote. We need to get on with the business of the day and I will not allow this House to degenerate into the chaos it is starting to degenerate into. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Through you, I do think it is very relevant that this Department has got 13 clean audits in a row and that is a testimony of the effectiveness of the professional staff that we employ, and that are service devoted. So, if somebody says that we are not spending our money well, that contradicts it. So, it is relevant. And if hon Cassiem, through you, hon Speaker, says stop saving money, it must go to the vulnerable, I just think about the poor vulnerable who through the VBS scandal, the elderly that lost their life savings that her party stole. [Interjections.] So, there is a clear blue line between what this Department and this Government do versus elsewhere in the country.

Hon Jacobs, I do agree with you that we should not romanticise gang life and there should be healthy role models, but that should also mean that political

parties should not use gang language and set that example for the residents of this province. CYCCs, Child and Youth Care Centres, are actually there to try and turn the lives of those young individuals around. I have gone to these CYCCs and there are amazing testimonies of how their lives have been turned around.

I have extended those invitations to hon members of the Select Committee and I keep extending that invitation. Join us and see where this money is going so that maybe the R25-million question will not be brought up the next time. You can see how that money goes to turning around the lives of young men and women in conflict with the law or waiting trial prisoners, and how much our staff are doing to giving them a fighting chance when they exit that facility.

Lastly, there is absolutely no way we can service all of the residents of this province without the amazing help of NGOs. So, we are not ashamed that we are supporting NGOs that expand our footprint. In fact, we do pay the money to our NGOs unlike Gauteng. We spend almost 40% of our limited budget to strengthening NGOs that expand the footprint. Other provinces struggle to get to 20% and as I said originally, we are going to try and expand the support to NGOs going forward. I do hope that across the board, people will take hands in doing that.

I want to say a special ...[Interjection.] Ja, I did that already. So, thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you to all the participants in the debate and I am looking

forward to working with you over the next year in making sure that this budget lands where it should be. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes the debate on this Vote and Secretary will read the Seventh Order for the Day.

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Secretary, before you continue. Can I just get an indication from the hon Minister if we must give a minute or two, or can we continue? Hon Mr Stemele, you may read the Seventh Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 4 – Police Oversight and Community Safety – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, I recognise the hon Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, hon Minister Marais. [Interjections.]

Hon MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

†Die MINISTER VAN POLISIE-OORSIG EN GEMEENSKAPSVEILIGHEID: Agb Speaker, agb lede. Dit is my voorreg om vanmiddag die Aansuiweringsbegroting vir die Departement van Polisie-oorsig en Gemeenskapsveiligheid aan hierdie Huis voor te lê. Die

Aansuiweringsbegroting het nie 'n baie groot verandering gebring vir ons by die Departement van Polisie-oorsig en Gemeenskapsveiligheid nie.

[The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Speaker, hon members. It is my privilege this afternoon to table the Adjustment Budget for the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety to this House. The Adjustment Budget has not brought about a big change to us at the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety.]

I am happy to say that our budget has seen a slight increase of R1,265-million. It now stands at R764,7-million. The increase is thanks mainly to a rollover of R3,2-million from the Western Cape Liquor Authority. This rollover is due mainly to a higher-than-expected income from licence fees. The Department recorded a decrease in own revenue of R101 000. To some degree, this is the effect of more responsible behaviour by employees of the Western Cape Government. †Ter verduideliking. Indien 'n kollega sy of haar elektroniese instapkaart laat weggaan, moet hy of sy 'n bedrag betaal om 'n nuwe instapkaart te kry. Vanjaar het aansienlik minder van hierdie instapkaarte weggegaan en moes aansienlik minder geld dus betaal word vir die vervanging van die instapkaarte.

'n Verdere bydraende faktor van die vermindering in eie inkomste was studieleenings aan personeel van die Departement. Die voordele van uitstekend opgeleide personeelfonds is omvangryk en voor die hand liggend. As iemand wat daaglik die voorreg het om saam te werk met die personeel van die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Polisie-oorsig en

Gemeenskapsveiligheid, kan ek u verseker dit is 'n skatkis van kennis en ervaring wat ek na waarde skat. Daar is soveel kundigheid en werkywer in ons Departement.

Diegene wat ons begroting bestudeer sal sien dat 'n bedrag van R1,9-miljoen oorbetaal word aan die Departement van die Premier. Agb Speaker, ek wil hierdie Huis verseker dat geen sent daarvan verlore is vir wetstoepassing en polisiëring nie. Soos die agb Minister Baartman Dinsdag netjies en volledig verduidelik het oor die begroting van die Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling, is ons oorbetalings aan die Departement van die Premier 'n oorbetalings vir dienste gelewer.

In ons geval, ter uitbouing en verbetering van wetstoepassing en polisiëring. Van die totaal van R1,9-miljoen is R1,9-miljoen 'n betaling vir die ontwikkeling van IT-programmatuur vir die Departement van Polisie-oorsig en Gemeenskapsveiligheid, en R800 000 is betalings vir sagteware-lisensies vir ons personeel, insluitend ons interns wie ons beskou as 'n belegging in ons toekoms.

Ons operasionele LEAP-begroting bly onveranderd, maar ons het aansienlike besparings aangeteken in die kostes van LEAP-sentrums wat ook soms LEAP-stasies genoem word. Van die R25-miljoen wat aanvanklik daarvoor begroot is, gebruik ons R12,3-miljoen. Die ander R12,7-miljoen word oorbetaal aan verskeie projekte en programme van die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Polisie-oorsig en Gemeenskapsveiligheid. Hieronder tel R1-miljoen vir

kommunikasie, R1,4-miljoen vir ekstra toerusting vir ons Buurtwagte, R1-miljoen vir hulpbronne vir ons K9-eenhede en R3,6-miljoen vir die opleiding van sekuriteitsbeamptes in ons plattelandse munisipaliteite.

So, dit is 'n goeie nuus-begroting hierdie. Ek het reeds Dinsdag vir die agb Minister Baartman en haar span by die Provinsiale Tesourie bedank. My dank gaan voorts aan ons waarnemende Departementshoof, mnr Hilton Arendse asook aan die hele finansiële span van die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Polisie-oorsig en Gemeenskapsveiligheid. Veral mnre Moegamat Frizlar en Burford Noble vir hulle heldere kennis en harde werk. Ek dank u.

[To explain. If a colleague loses his or her electronic access card, he or she has to pay an amount to get a new access card. This year significantly less of these access cards got lost and significantly less money had to be paid for the replacement of the access cards.

A further contributing factor of the reduction in own revenue was the study loans to staff of the Department. The advantages of a well-trained staff fund are extensive and are obvious. As someone who daily has the privilege to work with the staff of the Western Cape Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, I can assure you it is a treasure chest of knowledge and experience which I value greatly. There is so much expertise and work enthusiasm in our Department.

Those who study our budget will see that an amount of R1,9 million is paid over to the Department of the Premier. Hon Speaker, I want to assure this

House that not a cent of that is lost for law enforcement and policing. As the hon Minister Baartman on Tuesday neatly and fully explained about the budget of the Department of Social Development, our transfer to the Department of the Premier is a payment for services rendered.

In our case, for expansion and improvement of law enforcement and policing. Of the total of R1,9 million, R1,9 million is a payment for the development of IT programmature for the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, and payment for software licenses for our staff, including our interns whom we regard as an investment in our future.

Our operational LEAP budget remains unchanged, but we have recorded significant savings in the cost of LEAP centres that are sometimes also called LEAP stations. Of the R25 million initially budgeted for that, we use R12,3 million. The other R12,7 million is paid over to various projects and programmes of the Western Cape Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety. Amongst this is R1 million for communication, R1,4 million for extra equipment for our Neighbourhood Watches, R1 million for resources for our K9 Units and R3,6 million for the training of security officials in our rural municipalities.

So, this is a good news budget. I have already thanked the hon Minister Baartman and her team at the Provincial Treasury on Tuesday. My thanks also goes to our acting Head of Department, Mr Hilton Arendse as well as the whole financial team of the Western Cape Department of Police Oversight

and Community Safety. Specially Messrs Moegamat Frizlar and Burford Noble for their clear knowledge and hard work. I thank you.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.] I recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon members of this House. I rise today to address a matter that not only affects the very lives of our people but also calls into question the priorities of this newly [Inaudible.], the Budget Adjustment for the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety. The way this budget has been adjusted demonstrates a blatant disregard for Black working-class communities, which are disproportionately affected by crime. The Western Cape remains one of the most violent provinces in the country, and these adjustments will further worsen the situation.

The Second Quarter Crime Report released by the South African Police Service paints a stern picture of the Western Cape. These reports reflect the harsh and unforgiving realities faced by our people, particularly the working class whose freedoms have been violently usurped by criminals under the watch of the DA-led Government.

This crisis is compounded by the lack of leadership within the Department of Police Oversight, which has proven incapable of effectively addressing the scourge of crime. The Western Cape is leading the country in contact crime,

with seven of its police stations among the top 10 in this category. The province also leads in murder, with eight of its police stations among the top 30 in this category, five of which are in the top ten. In addition, the province has the highest rates of attempted murder, with ten of its police stations among the worst offenders.

In fact, these statistics officially position the Western Cape, hon Premier, as the murder capital of the country. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: SAPS!

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): This Government must be exposed for failing our people!! ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: SAPS!

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): What is even more telling in these statistics is that violent crime is disproportionately affecting working-class communities like Kraaifontein, Khayelitsha, etcetera. These areas continue to bear the brunt of crime, underscoring our longstanding belief that the Western Cape is a province with two diametrically opposing stories: a positive one for the rich and a devastating one for the poor. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, if we are to turn the tide, we require every cent to be spent on crime-fighting initiatives. We must ensure that every person in this province

enjoys the benefits of our democratic breakthrough, not only the White elite who live in suburbs. We must promote the equality and collective development of humankind without being blinded by the discredited DA's neoliberal ideological perspectives. [Laughter.]

While we continue the struggle to liberate our people from the misery of a capitalist system that thrives on division and the exploitation of the working class, we must use every resource to ensure that every citizen in this process ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, please take your seat.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...enjoys ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, please take your seat. Hon Masipa, is that a point of order?

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, I just want to ask the speaker on the floor if he is prepared to take a question.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member, are you prepared to

...[Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): It is utterly unacceptable that the working class ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, hon Ngqentsu. Hon Ngqentsu. [Laughter.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order. Order, hon members. Hon Ngqentsu, there was ...[Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No!

The SPEAKER: Order! There was a ...[Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No!

The SPEAKER: There was a point of order. Are you prepared to take a question? [Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Any time. It is utterly unacceptable that the working class, the majority of whom ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, please take your seat. You have now agreed

to take a question. [Interjections.] Please note. Please, please.
...[Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I said outside.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I said outside.

The SPEAKER: Outside? [Laughter.] Okay. Okay. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] The hon member, hon Masipa, is not prepared to take a question. Hon Ngqentsu, you may continue.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Speaker, the shifting of funds from core programmes meant to protect poor communities from crime is a clear signal of an ideological stance that does not value human life based on class or race. I dare say, neoliberalism is inhuman, barbaric, and violent and we must abolish it!

The Adjusted Budget, which shifts about R900,000 from the Provincial Policing Functions to other programmes, cannot be justified and must be rejected. This amount should have been used to strengthen organs of people's power, such as CPFs, ensuring they are well-equipped to respond effectively to crime. While our people are languishing in hopelessness, this Adjusted Budget adds R1,5-million to the Administration programme, which

is mainly responsible for administrative and support functions.

Hon Speaker, it is particularly troubling that this budget shifts R12,7-million from the flagship LEAP to cover operational needs of the EPWP and Peace Officer Training by the City of Cape Town. This too signals a disturbing lack of urgency in addressing violent crime in the province. We must unmask the true agenda behind the hollowing out of the LEAP programme of the much-needed resources. This at a time when LEAP officers continue to be unfairly dismissed by the City of Cape Town. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: We are addressing that now.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): It is equally disappointing that in a country with chronic youth unemployment, this budget shifts about R6,2-million from the Compensation of Employees to Goods and Services. While there is a dire need for human resources in support of critical functions of the Department, the resources are redirected to non-essential expenditure items such as daily tariff costs, travel, subsistence, and computer equipment. Nearly R2-million, hon Speaker, has even been redirected to the Premier's Department for software licensing and system development, while security technologies like CCTV cameras remain dysfunctional in crime hotspots such as Khayelitsha.

During our recent visit to Khayelitsha as part of the Police Oversight, it was revealed that the CCTV cameras have not been working for a number of months. Even when they function, the quality of the footage is so poor to a

point that it cannot assist in investigations. This reflects the state of this province and the City of Cape Town. Those cameras are in the computers of the City of Cape Town.

Finally, I must lament that the reduction in funding for safety promotion, as well as the cuts to the Western Cape Police Ombudsman, which weakens the oversight mechanisms essential for holding the police accountable. This adjustment demonstrates a lack of oversight and commitment to ensuring public safety.

Finally, this budget is a disservice to the communities it purports to protect. I urge this House to reject it and demand a better, well-thought allocation of resources to truly prioritise the safety and justice for the workers and the poor of this province, not only the rich who enjoy the comforts of private security. Money must be redirected to where people are and the chronic challenges facing this province must be attended to, such as squatter camps amongst other things. Boots on the ground alone are not enough. We must invest in houses. We must invest in addressing potholes in working-class townships. This Government is failing and continue to fail our people. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Ngqentsu. Your time has also expired. [Applause.] I now recognise the hon Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Hon Speaker, it is noted that the Budget

Adjustment of an additional R1,2-million for this portfolio is allocated for Administration. We as the PA would have thought that more money would have been made available for crimefighting operations within the gang crime hotspot areas where communities are living in fear of gangs and families have to deal with murders on a daily basis.

Proof of this is Everyn is a body of a 13-year-old boy who was found in Delft and a 19-year-old, Enoch Philander, was brutally hacked to death with pangas and burnt beyond recognition in Scottsville, Kraaifontein. Also, a 16-year-old girl, Kwamin Kwaliswa was brutally gang raped in Scottsville Kraaifontein. Crime fighting and crime fighting initiatives should be a high priority and therefore, more money should be directed to achieve prevention of gangs from operating with impunity in our communities. Shockingly, more allocation of law enforcement officers is allocated to patrol beaches, while our children are being murdered in our crime rated areas.

Kraaifontein is in the redzone and is one of the top ten highest crime areas, but yet the LEAP officers deployed to the area were suddenly withdrawn from the area and moved to other high crime areas. Why is more money not directed to combating crime, instead of administration costs? Thank you.

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, a budget

increase of R1,2-million is a drop in the ocean when one considers the amounts of resources needed in order to fight crime in this province. The recently released Second Quarter crime stats are testament that the Safety Plan, which was implemented five years ago, is not only failing, but has also wasted taxpayers' money in the process.

Hon Speaker, the DA Government decided to remove LEAP officers in Atlantis, which immediately resulted in mass murders between October and November this year. At the same time, hon Speaker, we also continue to experience mass shootings in different townships with the latest being Mfuleni, which also ranks high when it comes to the murder rate in the country. Yet, these areas are continuously not fully prioritised when it comes to eradicating crime.

When it comes to the deployment of LEAP, hon Speaker, especially in gang infested communities in this province, the hon Premier, the hon Minister and the DA-led municipalities do not know how to utilise and to prioritise it properly because if the hon Premier and the hon Minister were willing to go all out on deploying and utilising all they have on Russia's Putin and which I hope they will do on Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu as well when he steps foot in this province, then why can the DA not do the same by prioritising and deploying the same in this province, especially in gang infested communities.

Hon Speaker, I do not know what is so difficult in doing this and whilst the hon Provincial Minister made it clear that the Province continues to seek the

devolution of policing powers to the Province, we are reminded that the Safety Plan is a testament again that the DA Government is incapable of tackling crime in this province, and this despite the signing of their cooperation agreements of policing and safety between this Provincial Government and National Government.

In conclusion, hon Speaker, the EFF rejects this budget as it does not speak, once again, to the core issues affecting this province.

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

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we note the budget that is tabled by the hon Minister relating to Police Oversight. The hon Premier in his opening speech of the 7th Parliament, proudly referred to the Western Cape's Safety Plan, a plan we are still to receive. We therefore urge the Department and the hon MEC to critically look at the budget and pending culture.

The LEAP officers should as a matter of urgency be deployed in the gang infested areas on the Cape Flats. Remember, a 140-strong reaction team is just not cutting it. We demand that the budget be used to increase the officers on the Cape Flats and once deployed in the high crime areas, they should not be redeployed to leafy suburbs and beaches while the Cape Flats are at war. Hon Speaker, hon Minister, let there be equal safety guaranteed to all, regardless of race.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Jacobs. I recognise the hon Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, we did have a bit of an ideological slant to some of the previous inputs, so if you forgive me, I will have a bit of an ideological slant myself, but I will bring it back to the Vote in front of us.

Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon members, hon Ministers, and guests. The 9 November 1989 marked the fall of the Berlin Wall and the start of the unification of Germany. This moment will echo in the memory of all freedom-loving citizens in the world and especially had meaning for freedom-loving South Africans. The moment was part of a sequence of events that helped end apartheid in South Africa and expanded democracy across the world.

This moment was not merely the mechanical progression of dispassionate political processes and institutional change, rather it was the magnificent and largely peaceful expression of individuals connecting and refusing to have artificial divisions like class and race, and poisonous political constructs rule them. Exactly, what we should be doing in the crime prevention space and the community safety space. It represented a multitude of individual choices deeply sensing that our underlying connection, our mutual empathy and an ability to see the world through one another's eyes is what can create a better tomorrow.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Who can forget ordinary citizens as individuals coming together to physically break down the Berlin Wall from both sides of it and ending up hugging one another in a display of recognising one another's humanity. I believe the ANC in Lusaka were not that pleased when that was being shown on television. [Interjections.]

We can forget the East German border guards refusing to follow orders and to fire on joyful people connecting over a broken-down barrier that once seemed to be an unbreakable Iron Curtain. This moment forever burnt into the memory of the pursuit of freedom, set the tone of democratisation across the world, from central Europe liberating itself from the Soviet Union, the last colonial empire, to Africa, changing its trajectory towards democratic systems and economic progress, and a negotiated settlement in South Africa that resulted in our constitutional order. [Interjections.] Yet, hon Speaker, a part of this story is still being told. Our progress in the Western Cape and in the Community and Safety space towards a better future ...[Interjection.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, I just want to ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: ...Chief Whip, is that a point of order? Order!
[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Will he be able to take a question because I do not see any relevance in what we are doing here today.

The SPEAKER: I am listening for relevance, and we are very fortunate. Now, we can see the clocks on the big screens. So ...[Interjections.] Order! Hon members! Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, I am responding to your point of order. [Laughter.] I am listening for relevance. I am not going to entertain any further questions to individual hon members. This is an Adjustment Budget Vote. There will be no further points of orders to ask if somebody will take a question or not. You can have some coffee after the Sitting. Hon Walters ...[Interjections.]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: You may continue.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): ...international politics to South Africa, so we are getting there. [Interjections.] A part of this story is still being told. Our progress towards a better future was interrupted and the South African chapter still needs to be concluded.

The early day of openness and the shared mutual vision that resulted from

CODESA and our new Constitution, was replaced by the closing of the political space to different opinions by the ruling party. The concentration of powerful political interest started to make short term electorally motivated policy decision, election to election. Budgeting was directed by this logic and often, the objective was to prevent political rivals to emerge or to accommodate internal factional interest. And as inevitably happens when a National Government turns inward and self-interested, corruption, massive debilitating corruption emerged as a by-product.

The results today are there to see: an energy crisis, an unemployment crisis, a cost-of-living crisis, a safety and security crisis and this is where I want to bring the point home to our discussion. Massive pressure on successful governments that escape this rot to play its part in turning the dial to what we had hoped South Africa will be.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government sets the standard for good governance in South Africa: fact! However, this is a bigger obligation that it is meeting that goes beyond its provincial mandate. It must ensure that the ship must keep sailing while at the same time, save ships that are sinking around us. For example, it must conduct oversight over the struggling Police Services while trying to fill the gaps that that leaking ship has sprung at a national level. It must simultaneously ensure that its own financial institutional capacity does not sink with the other ships. More than that, it must develop a moral of policing that ensures that the Western Cape public are as waterproofed as possible against poor decisions elsewhere in the

future.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape is pioneering a different transversal, Whole of Society evidence-led approach in Community Safety, that breaks down the walls between communities, departments and levels over government like the citizens of the two Germanies broke down the wall between them. We do this not because we view ourselves as separate from South Africa, but because we are protecting the Western Cape's sound Government, is the same as protecting the whole idea of good government and the ideal of a new South Africa.

In fact, the word 'protect' is wrong because it does not represent a defensive mindset, but rather a deep belief, but that by taking this approach we will release amazing creative and energy that lies dormant in South Africa and take our country to greatness. It encapsulates a very proactive and positive mindset, based on the deep belief that it is the single biggest contribution we can all make to the success of the country as a whole. In this regard, we welcome the following budgetary steps.

The continued support of Neighbourhood Watches, a crucial step towards creating a comprehensive safety system within and with communities. We regard this expenditure not as a proforma expense, but rather as an investment into a movement that will make the rule of law a reality for our citizens, particularly the vulnerable communities that were the victims of apartheid and 30 years of misrule.

Similarly, we welcome the continued ceding of the LEAP programme that if National Government buys into its potential, can turn the crime pandemic in South Africa around. We do not agree with the shortsighted arguments to close these pilot programmes. In fact, we believe it should be embraced in South Africa and provided with financial support by those who are tardy with their constitutional mandates.

We applaud our hon Minister's efforts to preserve and expand the capacity of her Department, to take up the extra load that falls on her shoulders, as I have described. In this regard, especially as I previously served in the Opposition, closely seeing what a failing state looks like in portfolio committees, I especially appreciate the current clean audits, the calm and open way she responds to accountability and continuous engagement with communities. She values consultation with our residents and does not regard it as a tick box exercise. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Absolutely!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, these investments and efforts should not be viewed in isolation to one another and what the Western Cape Government is doing in other departments, in civil society and other levels of government. Its approach is aimed at connecting resources, ideas and people across the board behind ideas that improve the lives of everyone. It is an approach aimed at breaking down the walls that prevent lasting solutions and

assures that our differences do not become the differences between our citizens. In this vein, we welcome the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed between National Government, the Provincial Government and the City of Cape Town.

Hon Speaker, I was implicitly critical of the past and justifiably a bit bitter about the contrast between what could have been and what is reality today. Nevertheless, I am naturally an optimist and prefer to see the good, rather than get stuck in the bad. The 2024 Elections produced a new governing coalition inter alia at National Government level. There is a new spirit in South Africa that evokes the hopes of our founders and our Constitution that should inform us and provide pathways to complete the breaking down of our own Berlin walls that prevent us from succeeding. It is a second chance for all of us to get it right and it gives me great hope and affirms my natural positivity about our country and our province.

The Memorandum of Understanding represents one such pathway where we can all cooperate and create a virtuous cycle of support for one another in this province, and it should be nurtured.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): In the spirit of the GNU, I am going to quote one of the ANC's favourite thinkers. Amilcar Cabral said:

“Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories. Always bear in mind that people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.”

Close quote. Hon Speaker, in this vein, we will be watching the Memorandum of Understanding like the proverbial hawk to ensure that its accomplishment does not remain a big signing ceremony. If successful, it will be a blueprint for cooperation, sensible devolution and concrete successes that can be emulated elsewhere in the province and the country and in the end, create a good habit for politicians.

Hon Speaker, I would like to conclude by thanking the Department, our support staff and the members of my Committee. I will be thanking them even more in my next speech. It is my hope that there are heady days ahead of us where we will beat down the walls that prevent us from connecting people and ideas, rather than us playing the role of East German border guards preventing it. The Democratic Alliance supports the Vote.

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

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Walters. I recognise the hon Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please do not. Please do not continue. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you. †Mnr agb Speaker, agb lede, ek bedank graag elke spreker wat vandag aan hierdie debat deelgeneem het. Dit is duidelik dat u passievol en sterk voel oor die begroting van die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Polisie-oorsig en Gemeenskapsveiligheid. [Mr hon Speaker, hon members, I would like to thank every speaker who participated in this debate today. It is clear that you are passionate and feel strongly about the budget of the Western Cape Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety.] On behalf of the ANC, the hon Benson Ngqentsu raised several matters. Hon Speaker, whenever he speaks, I feel the chill of Moscow, October 1917 in the air. [Laughter.] [Interjections.] The chill of the erstwhile Russian Revolution. I often wonder whether the hon member feels he should be here at all, especially at a time of great division between comrade Solly and President Ramaphosa.

Anyway, hon member has the wrong information. He uses old information from the previous Quarter. Like communism, it has been overtaken by events, but the hon member has not noticed. Hon Speaker, as I reminded hon members on Tuesday, the biggest item in the Budget of the Western Cape

Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, remains the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan at R362,3-million and I am very proud of our LEAP men and women. It is a force of about 1 100 dedicated men and women supporting the work of the Police and the relationship between SAPS and LEAP at station level is excellent. You can just visit Delft.

According to the most recent crime statistics, murder in the region of 13 LEAP areas decreased overall by 8,3% when compared with the same period of last year. This means LEAP makes a difference. It is proof that the hard work of LEAP, SAPS and the Cape Town Metro Police has saved the lives of our people and will continue to do so.

Then, to the other hon members. I am also very concerned about the murder rate and therefore, we have our Rapid Unit of LEAP that will help in Atlantis as well as in Kraaifontein. So, we are in continuous discussion, and we will reevaluate the deployment in January next year.

†En agb lede, ek bedank u almal vir julle insette, veral vir agb Walters wat as voorsitter ons op ons tone hou. Ons sal voortgaan om ons beste te doen om die Wes-Kaap so veilig as moontlik te maak, ...[Tussenwerpsels.] vir al ons mense en ons waardeer u rol as agb lede van die Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement om ons aanspreeklik te hou. Baie dankie. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[And hon members, I thank you for all your input, especially the hon Walters who as Chairman keep us on our toes. We will continue to do our best to make the Western Cape as safe as possible ...[Interjections.] for all our

people and we appreciate your role as hon members of the Western Cape Parliament to keep us accountable. Thank you.] [Interjections.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister]. Hon members ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members, the debate is done. That concludes the debate on this Vote.

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Eighth and final Order for the Day, emphasis on ‘final’, hon members.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 13 – Cultural Affairs and Sport – Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister, before I recognise you to make a submission, is there anyone that you would want me to wait a minute for from the Department? Can we continue? Hon Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, hon Minister Mackenzie.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. All the hon members of the House are here, and all the members of the Standing Committee are here, and I appreciate that they are here. Hon Speaker, hon members of the House, distinguished guests and people of the Western Cape.

It is worth repeating what hon Baartman said earlier this week so that the message can resonate clearly. We have to do more with less, for more people. This profound statement underscores our collective responsibility. As the Western Cape Government, we are weathering the storm and emerging stronger. I would like to thank my hon colleagues in the Cabinet led by hon Premier Alan Winde, for their resilience and commitment during these challenging times.

Despite a tough year for South Africa, the Western Cape continues to lead with distinction as evidenced by our recent clean audit. I also want to extend my gratitude to our Head of Department, Mr Guy Redman in absentia and his team, for their dedication and efforts in making this Department a success. The hard work is evident in this Adjustment Budget.

Hon members, this year our budget has increased by R29,575-million, growing to a Main Appropriation of R903,388-million to an Adjusted Appropriation of R932,963-million. This adjustment reflects the Department's dynamic response to emerging needs, collaboration with other sectors and a focus on impactful service delivery. The Adjustment Budget demonstrates this Department's commitment to continued investment in our culture and our heritage. While we have to revert to the exact details in the Standing Committee and we have responded to questions in detail to my colleagues in the Standing Committee, I would like to highlight some key aspects here today.

We are proud to celebrate the Western Cape's new World Heritage Site which includes the Pinnacle Point Site Complex in Mossel Bay, Elands Bay on the West Coast and Sibhudu Caves in KwaZulu-Natal. This achievement is a testament to the value our Government places on culture and heritage. To support this, the Adjustment Budget allocates R1-million to Elands Bay and R500 000 to Mossel Bay. These investments align with our priorities and demonstrates that budget must follow strategy, a principle for which this Government is well known.

In this regard, I also recently visited Mossel Bay to meet with the Mayor of Mossel Bay and see how we can further support the town in increasing our heritage offering to enable economic growth. It fits well into the Mossel Bay's own strategy where I have seen a recently massive increase from two tourist cruise ships to 26 over a two-year period. That means our cultural and new heritage sites will benefit from these tourists visiting their town, and the same intentional investment of the million rand to Elands Bay will also invite more tourists and culture. So, we fully support our Western Cape Jobs for Growth strategy, and this Adjustment Budget demonstrates that.

Hon members, I want to thank my colleague, hon Minister David Maynier, and we welcome the R25,7-million shifted from Education to our Mass Opportunity and Development Programme in helping sport in the Western Cape. These funds will support the procurement, refurbishment and maintenance of sports equipment reflecting of our continued investment in

sports. Again, our budget supports our strategy.

Hon members, libraries are a cornerstone of personal and societal development. I urge this House to support the Public Library Service Bill to prevent the risk to libraries in the Western Cape. Let us champion literacy and make the Western Cape a beacon for reading and knowledge.

Hon members, the Adjustment Budget reflects our values as a government. It prioritises the wellbeing, growth and development of people of the Western Cape even in tough times. To oppose this budget of DCAS is to reject progress, to reject our culture, to reject our heritage, to reject our love of reading and to reject school sports. It is to turn away from the opportunities we are creating for communities across the Western Cape, from Mossel Bay to Elands Bay.

Let us unite behind this vision and continue to make the Western Cape a beacon of cultural and sporting excellence, and anyone who opposes this budget, opposes that vision. So, thanks to the Chairperson of the Standing Committee and members of the Standing Committee for holding us to account and for shining light where we have a little bit of darkness. We will continue to honour our commitments to the Standing Committee where they must hold us accountable. Thank you, hon Speaker and thank you, hon members, for your unwavering support in supporting a vision of culture, heritage and sport in this province. Thank you. [Applause.]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Speaker, hon members of the House, the hon ANC Chief Whip. I dedicate this speech to Bethwell Damana whose remains will be laid to rest next to his mother this coming Sunday. Bethwell died for the freedom we now enjoy, and we must resist those who were part of the apartheid system, to reverse the gains of our freedom and democracy, and some of them are here on the other side of the House.

Today, as we meet in this Legislature to discuss the Adjustment Budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, exactly 11 years after the passing of President Nelson Mandela, the father of our democracy, the leader of the ANC, an international icon. His words on the power of sport resonate deeply today:

"Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does."

At the heart of this debate lies a critical question: are we committed to equitable development, or are we perpetuating systemic inequalities? The tragic deaths of children in our communities due to neglected recreational spaces serve as a stark reminder of this DA's failures. Lack of facilities has left our youth vulnerable, leading many into gangs and crime. This is a tragedy that demands immediate action and action by this Government of the

new liberal DA.

The ANC has long argued that the current budget allocations continue to be insufficient to meet the Department's mandate of fostering youth development, promoting sports, and supporting marginalized communities. Even senior officials in your Department do agree with us when we say that the funding does not adequately address the needs of vulnerable people from the working-class communities' distances. Yet, this new liberal DA continues to underfund this Department, leaving working-class communities behind. It is simply because you do not appreciate the delicate relationship between elevating sport and the fight against crime, and that sport is a crucial platform to mitigate or to prevent crime. You will now know because you live in suburbs and there are no murders where you live. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Exactly!

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): We reject attempts by the City of Cape Town and Provincial Government to make the people of Gugulethu choose between sport grounds and healthcare facilities, We want the sport grounds not to be demolished, equally, we want healthcare facilities to be built in Gugulethu. Where is our [Inaudible.] as you want today to demolish a historic sports ground in Gugulethu. [Interjections.]

Similarly, the redevelopment of the Bellville Velodrome to make way for an economic hub is a misplaced priority. These actions undermine community spaces that are central to sport, culture, and youth empowerment. Hon Speaker, despite an increase of about R29,575-million, the Adjusted Budget of R932,9-million remains inadequate. We are particularly concerned about the R3-million allocated to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism for the Formula E event; funds that could have been better used for youth programs, including championing the off-school sport here among other things. Furthermore, the reimbursement for this event, delayed for almost a year, raises concerns about fiscal transparency.

Hon Speaker, the R14,955-million cut to the Compensation of Employees budget will exacerbate staff shortages, undermining the Department's capacity to serve our communities effectively. This Department's Annual Report revealed that 20 staff members resigned last year, and many left due to a toxic work environment worsened by shortages and excessive workloads. If you like, the entire Provincial Government faces a crisis of workers leaving and many of them could not disclose and refused to disclose their basis for their departure. Maybe, hon Chief Whip of the ANC, there ought to be an enquiry around the fundamental basis for these departures. It is an [Inaudible.], if you like.

At a time when sports facilities urgently need renovation, the Department's failure to spend allocated funds, such as the R4,364-million for SASREA compliance at Philippi Stadium, is both irresponsible and unacceptable. This

is the money that could have been used to maintain facilities in working-class areas, yet it was surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund, representing a missed opportunity.

Hon Speaker, let us consider Siphó's story. Siphó is an 18-year-old from Nyanga, a township where opportunities are scarce. Raised by his mother, a domestic worker, he dreamed of a better future. Despite excelling in school and having a passion for sports, Siphó's potential was limited by the lack of facilities and programmes in his community. With no opportunities to pursue his passion for sport, Siphó, like many others in his situation, faced unemployment, frustration, and ultimately turned to the streets where crime and violence are rampant.

Nyanga, like many other working-class townships in Cape Town, is plagued by poverty, unemployment, and a lack of resources. Without proper investment in sports facilities and youth development, the cycle of crime and despair will continue. Siphó's story is not unique; it is the reality for many young people in our province. ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The current budget fails to address the root causes of crime and youth despair in communities like Nyanga, et cetera. On behalf of the ANC, we therefore reject this budget ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...which is unable to take our...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...people into account. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, can I ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: It is meant for Rondebosch and not for Philippi.
[Interjections.] [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. Have you concluded your discussion? I now recognise the hon Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Hon Speaker, we welcome the Budget Adjustment of R28,2-million to Sports and Recreation, and commend the DA-led Government for recognising the importance of sports within our communities and the positive impact this has on especially our youth. As the saying goes, a child in sport is a child out of court.

The hope is that these additional funds will be spent to improve current dilapidated sports fields and facilities in our disadvantaged areas and not on

the already affluent areas. We will keep a close eye on how these funds are spent. It is also noted that the winter games were cancelled during the current financial year. What was the reason for the cancellation and the monetary value that was lost? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, there is a saying that goes: a child in sport is a child out of court. Now, these words echo vibrantly in the minds and the hearts of all of us here. Hon Speaker, immediately the lives of the young Benny McCarthy and others come to mind. As young sports stars on the Cape Flats who took the opportunity to become household names across the globe, and by that, we need to understand the power of sports.

Hon Speaker, as we sit here today to debate the budget, there is a plethora of new and emerging artists rising from all walks of the Western Cape. Little kids are now shouting the names of local Coloured artists and not well-known gangsters anymore. Hon Minister, let us now invest in the local Coloured culture.

Hon Speaker, school tournament initiatives like the Mr Price Football School League and school rugby, needs to be revived. As the NCC we request the hon MEC to channel funding in reviving our youth sports tournaments. Hon Speaker, we can really do with a fresh Benny McCarthy in the Bafana Bafana

team. I thank you.

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus welcomes the Adjusted Budget, and we just call on the hon Minister to ensure that municipalities' infrastructure that is not utilised, that it be recreated to cater for more activities. They are becoming facilities that are not being used. So, we ask that the hon Minister will ensure that we continue to invest in our youth, keep them busy and in our culture.

I was a soccer player in my days. [Interjections.] For the record: it kept me out of mischief, it kept me busy while growing up in a very gang-ridden community. So, I believe in the value of investing in sport so that young people can stay out of trouble and play on the field. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I recognise the hon Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, I am going to be doing most of my speech in Afrikaans, so I just want to give people the heads-up just in case they need a translation. I do not want to surprise anyone.

The SPEAKER: Okay.

†Mnr T C R WALTERS (DA): Agb Speaker, agb Premier, agb lede en gaste in die galery. Soos van my kollegas weet is ek 'n toegewyde sportentoesias wat fundamenteel glo dat die stroom van sportuitnemendheid begin by die oewers van die Eersterivier in Stellenbosch; dat dit vloei deur die Boland en die WP en eindig by die Proteas, Springbokke, Bafana Bafana en ander nasionale spanne wat Wêreldbekers lig.

Ek het wel na jare se, en ek noem dit, sendingwerk in Gauteng, onder my kollegas en inwoners in Gauteng, tot die slotsom gekom dat nie almal noodwendig saamgestem het met my eie analise van waar sportuitnemendheid soos hierdie begin nie.

Nietemin, hierdie meningsverskille onderstreep vir my hoe diep ons liefde vir sport loop in Suid-Afrika. Die lieflike kenmerk van sport is dat meningsverskille soos hierdie juis verenigend is. Dit is anders as politiek. Ons verskil en ons geniet dit eintlik as ons verskil. Juis uitnemendheid inspireer, juis uitnemendheid wakker drome aan wat veral ons jeug inspireer om weer en weer te probeer.

Dit skep 'n kultuur waar ons mekaar se suksesse na waarde ag; mekaar se teleurstellings en suksesse saam voel en op die einde van die dag vir ondersteuners en deelnemers beter mense maak.

Agbare Speaker, dit is daarom vir my 'n spesiale voorreg en 'n werklike plesier om die Minister van Kultuursake en Sport ten volle te ondersteun in

sy doelwit om sport as 'n kernaspek van opvoeding op skoolvlak terug te bring.

Sport gaan nie net oor wen en verloor nie. Dit gaan nie oor die beste sportspanne nie, dit gaan oor basiese lewensvaardighede wat gekweek word van kleinsaf aan. Dit leer ons oor die harde werk wat sukses verg; dit leer ons hoe om saam te werk om saam sukses te bereik en dit leer ons hoe om op te staan as ons misluk. Dit leer veral vir ons wat dit vat van die mense om ons om sukses te bereik en skep beide waardering vir mekaar sowel as empatie.

Dit is daarom nie 'n verassing vir my dat ons in Suid-Afrika nie net die wen van 'n Wêreldbeker vier as die Springbokke die koppie lig nie, ek moet inspring om te sê dit is die tweede keer na mekaar en die meeste keer deur een span, maar dit is ook ons mense wat vir ons wys deur hulle feesvieringe wat hulle van ons as politici verwag en wat ons van mekaar moet verwag.

Dit is 'n wekroep aan ons dat ons die beste moet wees, dat ons moet droom en diegene om ons moet toelaat om te droom, en dat ons ons sukses moet verhef eerder as aftakel, maar almal se sukses moet vier.

Die agb Minister en sy Department het die wekroep gehoor in hierdie begroting en probeer sy bes om sport 'n daaglikse ervaring en opvoedkundige skat te maak in hierdie provinsie. Ons aanvaar dat daar beperkte hulpbronne is en ander prioriteite is wat met hierdie begroting kompeteer en sien raak

hoe hy elke rand probeer bestuur om meer as 'n rand se waarde uit elke rand te kry.

Ons verwelkom daarom die skoon oudit wat sy Department verkry het; ons ondersteun sy pogings om meer beleggers in sport te kry; sien hoe hy besig is om dienslewering te vaartbelyn en ons weet dat hy met 'n ware passie vir skool- en-gemeenskapsport druk op ander vlakke van regering sit om deel te word van hierdie breër visie. En dit is belangrik om ons visie 'n bietjie uit te spel.

Dit gaan nie oor die klubs en skole wat reeds goed doen nie, ons vier hulle sukses, maar dit gaan ook om daardie suksesse vinnig uit te voer na alle skole sodat die stroom van uitnemendheid in sport vele strome is wat begin in die platteland van die Wes-Kaap; begin by Bonteheuwel; begin in Khayelitsha; begin in Mitchells Plain en almal eindig met selfs meer bekere wat gelig word.

Dit gaan ook oor die deelnemers wat nie bekere lig nie, mense soos ek wat besonder swak was in spansport, dit gaan oor almal wat op alle vlakke vir die laagste spanne deelneem en trots is op die bydrae wat hulle maak. Dit gaan oor die ekosisteem van ouerondersteuning; gemeenskapsamesyn en gedeelde trots wat met sport gemeenskappe saamtrek om meer en meer die waarde van mekaar te besef en 'n belang te skep om so 'n skat saam te beskerm.

Agbare Speaker, ek het nou op sport gefokus maar ek kan presies dieselfde sê

oor die rol van kultuur, waar ons as provinsie 'n rykdom van praktyke het wat enige kultuurnasionalis in die wêreld groen van jaloesie maak. Ons verwelkom daarom die benadering van die Wes-Kaapse Regering om aktief die viering van ons erfenis, die skep van nuwe kultuuruitdrukking en die spasie vir kreatiwiteit aan te wakker.

Vanaf Artscape se wonderlike inisiatiewe tot die rieldans tot die Kaap as 'n internasionale groeipunt in die filmbedryf, steun hierdie Regering die manier hoe kultuur en kulture hulle self uitbou. Ons is daarom ook trots op die Wes-Kaap se internasionale prestasie om internasionale erkenning te kry vir ons erfenis as een van die plekke in die wêreld waar die moderne mens die eerste keer begin het om komplekse denke, geesteskeppings en kultuuruitdrukking te wys.

Ons kan daarom met waarheid sê dat die stroom van menslike uitnemendheid hier by ons begin het: ons het groot skoen om te vul vandag. Boeke afstof en lees daarvoor is nie genoeg nie. Ons almal moet dit ervaar en beleef. Van boeke gepraat, die waarde van 'n leeskuultuur is iets wat diep persoonlik vir my is. My eie toegang tot 'n biblioteek en grootword in 'n familie wat lees fanaties is, het vir my struikelblokke in die lewe makliker gemaak. Dit het my bewapen met idees en my toegerus om gapings in my kennis te vul.

Baie mense het nie daardie voorreg gehad nie en die feit dat vandag baie mense dit nie het nie, moet vir ons almal 'n wesenlike probleem wees. Soos met sport en kultuur het ons 'n morele en etiese verpligting om daardie

voorregte wat ons gehad het 'n realiteit vir almal te maak. Daarom was dit vir my 'n riem onder die hart dat die Departement en die agb Minister, wat duidelik ons Komitee se passie deel, pro-aktief optree om biblioteke te red en biblioteke leersentra te maak, sodat almal bemagtig en toegerus kan word met die vaardighede om kennis lewenslank soos 'n spons op te suig.

Daar is 'n reusetaak voor ons almal om hierdie visie 'n werklikheid te maak en dit is die een departement waar ons as politieke partye kan saamwerk. Daardie taak gaan nie net oor die meriete van bogenoemde nie, maar dit gaan ook oor hoe die voordele van 'n omvattende sportomgewing, gedeelde gewoontes van lees en ryk kultuurlewe elders uitkring.

'n Visie soos dit wat lewe kry neem kinders uit bendes, soos wat agb Marais uitgewys het. Dit neem kinders uit bendes uit na 'n positiewe trajek van spanwerk; dit moedig gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid in ander areas van selfbemagtiging aan; dit trek beleggings en ekonomiese groei na ons provinsie en dit messel 'n geloof in onself as 'n samelewing om suksesvol te wees in.

Dit is daarom my hoop dat hierdie Departement se waarde elders op 'n data-geleide manier gekwantifiseer kan word. Dat ons die wins wat daaruit spruit en die kostes wat gespaar word deur 'n suksesvolle Departement geldwaarde kan gee, sodat meer en beter beleggings kan plaasvind.

Agb Speaker, ek wil ook die geleentheid gebruik om die agb Minister en sy

Departement; ons ondersteuningsamptenare en my komiteelede te bedank vir hulle bydraes in die Staande Komitee. Agb Booyesen vir sy humoristiese maar wyse ondersteuning. Agb Van Minnen vir haar intellek, analise en passie vir biblioteke. Agb Kaizer-Philander vir haar ervaring, professionaliteit en hoë standaarde.

[Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon members and guests in the gallery. As my colleagues know, I'm a dedicated sport enthusiast who fundamentally believes that the stream of sport excellence starts at the banks of the Eerste River in Stellenbosch; that it flows through the Boland and the WP and ends with the Proteas, Springboks, Bafana Bafana and other national teams that lift World Cups.

I did, after years of, I call it missionary work in Gauteng, under my colleagues and citizens of Gauteng, come to the conclusion that not all necessarily agreed with my own analysis of where sport excellence like this starts.

Nevertheless, these differences of opinion confirm for me how deeply our love for sport runs in South Africa. The lovely characteristic of sport is that differences of opinion are actually unifying. It is different from politics. We differ and we actually enjoy it if we differ. Excellence inspires, excellence awakens dreams that inspire especially our youth to try again and again.

It creates a culture where we regard each other's successes at its value; feel each other's disappointments and successes together and at the end of the day

making better people of supporters and participants.

Hon Speaker, it is therefore for me a special privilege and a real pleasure to fully support the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport in his goal to return sport as a key aspect of education at school level.

Sport is not just about win or lose. It is not about the best sports teams, it is about basic life skills developed from an early age. It teaches us about the hard work that success demands; it teaches us how to work together to reach success together and it teaches us how to stand up when we fail. It especially teaches us what it takes of people around us to achieve success and creates both appreciation for each other as well as empathy.

It is therefore not a surprise to me that we in South Africa not only celebrates the winning of a World Cup when the Springboks lift the cup, I must jump into say it is the second consecutive time and the most times by one team, but it is also our people who show us by their celebrations what they expect from us as politicians and what we have to expect of each other.

It is a call to us that we have to be the best, that we have to dream and allow those around us to dream, and that we have to elevate our success rather than break it down, and celebrate everybody's success.

The hon Minister and his Department heard the call in this budget and tries his best to make sport a daily experience and educational treasure in this

province. We accept that there are limited resources and other priorities, competing with this budget and see how he tries to manage every Rand to get more than a Rand's worth out of each Rand.

We therefore welcome the clean audit that his Department achieved; we support these efforts to get more investors in sport; we see how he's busy to streamline service delivery and we know that with a true passion for schools and communities sport he puts pressure on other levels of government to become part of this broader vision. And it is important to spell out our vision.

It is not about the clubs and schools doing well already, we celebrate their success, but also about exporting those successes quickly to all schools so that the stream of excellence in sport become several streams that had started in the rural area of the Western Cape; start at Bonteheuwel; start at Khayelitsha; start in Mitchells Plain and all end up with even more cups being lifted.

It is also about the participants who do not lift cups, people like myself who had been quite poor in team sport, it is about everybody at all levels participating for the lowest teams and are proud of the contribution they make. It is about the ecosystem of parent support; community togetherness and shared pride which through sport draw together communities to more and more realise the value of each other and create an interest to protect such a treasure.

Hon Speaker, I have now focused on sport but I can say exactly the same about the role of culture, where we as a province has a wealth of practices which will make any culture nationalist in the world green with envy. We therefore welcome the approach of the Western Cape Government to actively promote the celebration of our heritage, the creation of new cultural expression and the space for creativity.

From Artscape's wonderful initiatives to the *rieldans* to the Cape as an international growth point in the film industry, this Government supports the way in which culture and cultures build itself. We are therefore also proud of the Western Cape's international achievement to get international recognition for our heritage as one of the places in the world where modern man for the first time started to show complex thoughts, mental creations and cultural expression.

We can therefore in all truth say that the stream of human excellence had started here with us; today we have big shoes to fill. Dusting off books and reading about that are not enough. All of us must experience and live it. Speaking of books, the value of a reading culture is something of deep personal value to me. My own access to a library and growing up in a family fanatical about reading made it easier for me to overcome life's obstacles. It empowered me with ideas and fill the gaps in my knowledge.

Many people did not have that privilege and the fact that today many people

do not have that, must be a real problem for all of us. As with sport and culture we have a moral and ethical obligation to make those privileges that we had, a reality for all. Therefore it has been encouraging for me that the Department and the hon Minister, who clearly shares our Committee's passion, are acting proactively to save libraries and make libraries centres of learning, so that everybody can be empowered and equipped with the skills to absorb knowledge like a sponge for the rest of their lives.

There is a huge task ahead of us to make this vision a reality and it is the one department where we as political parties can work together. That task is not just about the merits of the above, it is also about the advantages of an expansive sport environment, shared habits of reading and rich cultural life expanding elsewhere.

A vision like this taking on life takes children out of gangs, as the honorable Marais has pointed out. It takes children out of gangs to a positive trajectory of teamwork; it encourages community involvement in other areas of self empowerment; it draws investments and economic growth to our province and it establishes a belief in ourselves as a society to be successful.

It is therefore my hope that this Department's value can be quantified somewhere else in a data-led manner. That we can give monetary value through the benefit derived from it and the costs saved by a successful Department, so that more and better investments can take place.

Hon Speaker, I also want to use this opportunity to thank the hon Minister and his Department; our support officials and my Committee members for their contributions in the Standing Committee. Hon Booyen for his humorous but wise support. Hon Van Minnen for her intellect, analysis and passion for libraries. Hon Kaizer-Philander for her experience, professionalism and high standards.] The hon member Ngqentsu ...[Interjections.] for his humour and unapologetic beliefs. I sometimes have to red card him if he goes over his allocated time, but given his ideological proclivities, I know he does not mind a red card. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: He loves a red card. [Laughter.]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I would like to thank hon member Cassiem for her no-nonsense focus on specific issues, and I would like to thank hon member Stephens for the love in her heart for her family and community. We have our differences, but we as a Committee we do share a passion for what we do. I thank you and wish you a restful and pleasant festive season! The Democratic Alliance supports the Vote. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Walters. I recognise the hon Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, hon Minister Makenzie.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you again,

hon Speaker. ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Walters for those lovely words. I do not know what you guys do in Standing Committees these days using words like † ‘passie’ [passion] and ...[Laughter.] When I was in the Standing Committee we had more passion, but with a different reason. So, thank you to your Standing Committee and for the lovely words that you say.

I actually want to start with you. I think the words that you expressed is exactly how the country feels. One of the slides the hon Premier asked us to present as a *bosberaad* is what does success look like and the picture of that was the Springbok team holding that Rugby World Cup. You cannot put a price to it, that feeling in your heart. You know, when you watch a child being born, life being created in front of you. There is no amount of money that can replace that feeling and that is what we want to create, and that is what this Government has always been about the last 15 years. I will speak to that slightly more when I respond to the hon member of the ANC.

But I just want to thank the hon member of the Freedom Front Plus. I am happy to know that you were a soccer player and that it did not work out as you are here. [Laughter.] Do not worry, that ...[Interjections.] that makes two of us. I also played a little bit of rugby, and I am here. So, I was not

good enough to play for the Springboks, so two of us are here.

To the hon member of the NCC, I agree with your [Inaudible.]. A child in sport is a child not in court. In fact, we had a Mitchells Plain Youth Cup, so we are definitely reviving youth tournaments, and we are sure to invite you next year, but that, we fully agree with you and share your sentiments on that. Lastly, to the hon member of the PA. Indeed, thank you for welcoming the budget. We believe in sport and the developing of the young child.

If you want to create more feelings like the World Cup, hon member of the ANC via you, hon Speaker, thank you for the valuable input. Let us start with the story of young Sipho, 18-years-old, I remember you said and let us start with the real story of Sipho. The real story of Sipho who is now, using your analogy, is 18 years old: crime ridden, no facilities. I am going to give you a number of what is the real story of many Siphos in this country.

The real story is R590-billion. That is the amount of money that was used for bailouts for entities that have failed ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...and I am sitting and thinking here while you speak, hon Speaker, and I am sitting and thinking how many young Siphos could we not have changed. How many young Siphos could we not have had at university, playing overseas, living in

mansions across the country if R590-billion was just better spent. Not even stolen. Let us assume some people will steal. If it was just better spent. It is the choices that the governing party made with members of the Communist Party in that Cabinet. [Interjections.] I was not a member of Cabinet. Now I am a member of Cabinet. [Interjections.] The choices they made: R590-billion!

So, young Sipho suffers the consequences of bad decision-making via bad government with bad policies who had bad leaders. So, young Sipho now, using one example for crime, young Sipho now has to wake up in the morning and he cannot take a train. Why can young Sipho not take the train to Cape Town? Because the line is not working. But why is the line not working for young Sipho? Because a bad government made a bad choice with bad leaders with bad policy. [Interjections.]

So, the young Sipho cannot use transport at the moment. [Interjections.] Now, why can young Sipho not use public transport like a taxi? Because a bad government made bad choices with bad leaders who used bad decision making. [Interjections.] If they used the 1999 or I think 1996, hon Speaker, you were there in the portfolio of Kader Asmal, who would draw up and report and said, 'Here is the report, ...[Interjections.] fix the minibus taxi industry'. The bad government with bad communist leaders in a bad Cabinet made bad choices that resulted in young Sipho not being able to take a taxi today.

So, young Siphon, hon members, suffers in crime. Why does young Siphon suffer in crime? Because a bad government appointed a bad Minister who appointed a bad Commissioner who went to jail, appointed a bad Provincial Commissioner who was found guilty of crime, ...[Interjections.] who destroyed you ...[Interjections.] I am coming to that. I will respond to every single item. Who appointed a bad Commissioner who went to jail, a Provincial Commissioner as well, who appointed a bad Provincial Head of Crime Intelligence who bizarrely was promoted nationally. So, that collapse because a bad government made bad decisions with bad leaders ...[Interjections.] and a bad environment.

So, young Siphon: three examples of why young Siphon is suffering today. The fourth example why young Siphon is suffering from infrastructure and I quickly just look at it. In November 2011, the Gallagher Estate, a document called the Sport and Recreation Plan, was supposed to be funded by the National Government and including municipal infrastructure grants, which they somehow bizarrely have made it, and they have allocated it to Local Government. Because I understood what has happened, how bad government made bad decisions with bad policies and now young Siphon is suffering.

So, what I did, and I am going ask the hon member for his help. I wrote a letter to the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, which in our grace, thankfully, is a member of our party, to ask him to please call a meeting in the Standing Committee in Parliament with all nine MECs and the National Minister to discuss the Municipal Infrastructure Grant. And I hope the hon

member who wants good infrastructure, will be at that meeting in January, to plead for young Siphos because young Siphos deserve people fighting for him.

The second letter I wrote to the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. I will give you copies of the letter because I fully understand why young Siphos is suffering not from decisions this side of the House has made. We now have to fix the decisions the other side of the House has supported over many years. I wrote a letter to Dr Annelie Lotriet and I asked her for an urgent review of these matters, to call an urgent debate on these matters because we constantly have to fight and hear on matters that we, this side of the House as a functional good government, had no input into ...[Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): There is an order, hon Speaker.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...the bad decision making by the bad government ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Ngqentsu, was that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Yes. The order relates to the relevance of the examples he makes or he is denouncing the existence of what we have debated that there is no such a ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Okay, alright. ...[Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Or his lack of commitment thereof
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: No, hon Ngqentsu, that is not another opportunity for you to make a submission. Relevance is the question.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Yes!

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I am not going to dictate to the hon Minister ...[Interjections.] Hon Minister Simmers and hon Lekker. I am not going to dictate to the hon Minister how he is going to respond or should respond. The hon Minister is responding in terms of the debate and inputs made. Hon Minister, I wish to just draw your attention to bringing it back to your Adjustment Budget. So, in your ...[Interjections.] Hon members, I am on the floor! [Laughter.] Hon Minister, without dictating to you how you respond, please ensure that you bring it back to your budget. You may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I am just responding to the hon member. I did not bring up young Siphos. The hon member brought up young Siphos, so I am responding to him and raising why young Siphos, supported by the Communist Party, is in this position. But I will keep it short.

I will invite the hon member to those Standing Committees, and I hope he

brings young Siphon up in that Standing Committee because I am going to bring young Siphon to that meeting. I am going to bring young Mogamat to that meeting, young Ricardo to that meeting so that that Standing Committee can finally tell these young people why they are in that mess created by the Communist Party. I hope he brings young Siphon to that meeting so that we can all, in a public forum, tell those young men [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: What about young Thomas? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Young Thomas as well. [Interjections.] Apologies, we will bring young women as well. We will bring hon Lekker, we will bring young women. [Interjections.]

But hon members, I appreciate the support for this budget, and I hope for the sake of young Siphon, hon Ngqentsu will support this budget. If he rejects this budget, then he rejects young Siphon. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Thank you very much, honourable ...[Interjections.] Thank you very much, hon members. Hon members, that concludes the debate on this Vote and that also concludes the business for the day.

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: The Secretary will now end the meeting, and all hon

members will be exited from the Sitting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 16:12.