
THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST 2024

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

The House met at 14:15.

Hon W F Kaizer-Philander took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Good afternoon all hon members and all guests present. Before we proceed I would like to remind members about some logistical arrangements for today. As has been our practice to date, hon members will participate in this Sitting of the House both from here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table Staff and via Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sittings of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

The hon members experiencing challenges in connecting to the Sitting are requested to contact the WCPP ICT colleagues, who will assist them to resolve their connectivity issues.

Suppose that a member of this Provincial Parliament elects to participate virtually and not from the Chamber, in that case such a member's responsibility is to ensure that he or she has got a good quality data connection, good quality audio and video and that there are no disturbances where they are. Members would note that the hybrid system has been functioning well. Poor audio and/or video are not attributed to the system but rather the quality of data connectivity.

Hon members, please allow me to highlight some of the important directives in this regard. The quorum requirements for the Sitting of the House are provided in the Constitution and within the Standing Rules. Unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and on the hybrid system who are entitled to cast their votes as per the ATC that was issued on 11 August 2020.

Members that are present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order.

The Serjeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance. The Serjeant-at-Arms and the Compliance Officer appointed under the relevant Disaster Management Regulations will ensure that we comply with the health and safety requirements observed in the country.

In instances where these directives do not cover a particular eventually the Standing Rules must apply. In instances where the Rules cannot be applied the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

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

Hon members are requested to please ensure that the mics are unmuted when the Presiding Officer recognises them and when they are done speaking to please mute their microphone. Hon members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams are requested not to sign into Microsoft Teams on more than one device, for example both your laptop and your cell phone, unless the second device is utilised with earphones for Language Translation Services, as all these actions result in a disruption of the sound during the Sitting.

Hon members, please note that the media have also been granted access to this Microsoft Teams meeting as guests of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

However, members of the press may not use the chat room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress.

If an individual who is not a member of this House activates their mic and video camera, such an individual will be exited from the Sitting immediately. I request those here today who are not members of this House to please observe the decorum of the House.

For this Sitting, Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber as usual and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels. Hon members participating in this Sitting of the House must please access Language Translation Services via a second device, for example, your cell phone, and if you have earphones available please use them for the Language Translation Services.

Hon members are then also reminded that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid Sittings. To this end, hon members, I draw your attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

Hon members, at this point we will proceed with the Business of the Day and in terms of Rule 150, Motions without Notice, I recognise the hon Chief Whip.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you, hon Deputy Presiding Officer. I give notice and move:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 20(1), that precedence be given to the Speaker's Debate. I so move.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

No objections? Agreed to.

To the next item on the Order, which is the Speakers Debate in terms of Rule 147, we will now deal with the Speaker's Debate as it was printed on the Order Paper, but before we proceed to the Speakers List, I recognise the hon Speaker.

SPEAKER'S DEBATE

**Celebrating 30 years of democracy for women's development in
South Africa: reflecting on the achievements and challenges
to advance women's rights and empowerment**

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chairperson. Hon Chair, hon Premier, and hon members, it is indeed a great privilege and it gives me great

satisfaction to use my powers under Rule 147 of the Standing Rules to identify the first topic of national and provincial interest, namely "Celebrating 30 years of democracy for women's development in South Africa, reflecting on the achievements and challenges to advance women's rights and empowerment" for debate in the Seventh Parliament.

Madam Chair, may I say at the outset that I am extremely proud to present a very competent all female support team to the House this afternoon to guide the House through all the matters procedural. Without anticipating, Madam Chair, the contributions of members participating in the debate, I am reminded what the First President of the Democratic South Africa, President Nelson Mandela said in a speech made on Women's Day back in 1996. I quote:

"As long as women are bound by poverty and as long as they are looked down upon, human rights will lack substance. As long as outmoded ways of thinking prevent women from making a meaningful contribution to society, progress will be slow."

Hon Chair, I am sure members will agree that 28 years on, this still is relevant and valid. Madam Chair, I look forward to hearing the inputs of our members and wish the House a fruitful discussion on an extremely important debate on the plight of our women. Let us celebrate the achievements of the last 30 years with regard to women's development, but also and always remain cognisant of the many challenges we face to advance women's rights and empowerment. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, for that very impactful introductory remarks.

Hon members, our Speaker's Debate, "Celebrating 30 years of democracy for women's development in South Africa: reflecting on the achievements and challenges to advance women's rights and empowerment."

Hon Members, I will now call out members according to the Speakers' List provided, and I now recognise the hon Mbombo.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Thank you, House Chair. Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, members in the House, and I also want to acknowledge the staff members of Parliament who are in the House, and others who are listening elsewhere in the offices. Thank you for the opportunity.

On August 1956, about 20 000 women of all races staged a march on the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the proposed amendments of the Urban Areas Act. It is these women, out of millions of women in South Africa then, that made sure those discriminatory laws are reviewed, be it to benefit not only them but everyone: families, community and also the perpetrators themselves.

Speaker, House Chair, the significance for this background is threefold: one, it took fewer strong-willed women to dismantle the system and systemic structure that was intended to destroy families. Further, if you remember the code, if you think you are too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room. Let us talk about those women.

Secondly, House Chair, women, do not underestimate your power. Where you can be able to dismantle the enemy of gender equality that is patriarchal racism, misogyny; thirdly, gender inequality benefits men only whilst a gender-balance institutional society benefit all women, children, the whole-of-society, men fighting against this evil system. It needs everyone. It is not about a fight of women versus men.

House Chair, this brings me to the topic of what the Speaker has chosen, "Celebrating 30 years of democracy towards women's development in South Africa: reflecting on achievement and challenges to advance women's rights and empowerment."

Thank you, Speaker and Deputy Speaker, for giving us this tender as women to lead this debate. Not necessarily, you were saying the agenda of advancing women's rights and women's parliament is not a man's problem, but we are saying women set the tone, you will want to for this Seventh Parliament, to advance the gender agenda. The institution of Parliament will follow suit to support you. Thank you very much.

So the tone that I am tabling is that Parliament has functions and Rules to advance women's rights and empowerment, and it starts with us here to drive the gender agenda and how we are going to be able to do that. That I will answer later.

House Chair, here I present some of the hard work that has been done by this Parliament with a focus more on the Fifth and Sixth Parliaments, which is the 2014 and 2024. I chose only this period because I also want to take responsibility and account, if need be, as I have been part of this Parliament during this period. I analysed using the tools that this Parliament, both administratively and politically, have identified to tackle women empowerment and advancing their rights.

One of those through the debates like the Speaker's Debate in the Women's Month, also 16 Days of Activism, I look at the Hansards and then it does demonstrate that we have been on the right course, for example, the 2021 theme was about "Women's Day, Dignity and Rights." The 2023 theme was about "Creating Hope and Opportunities for Women" and all others and the other Parliament functioning is through Committees for Executive Oversight. I did not look in terms of the role of the Committees in this regard. The Parliament's role in areas of education, public education, diplomacy, engagement in civil society and other institutions for public good, I look at that.

Parliament, the supreme authority, which is elected by the voters to rectify national / international conventions and treaties; the memorandums that this Parliament has signed; memorandum agreements with other partners.

House Chair, but due to time constraints I will not be able to do justice to paint the picture on all four points, but my focus is on public education and also Parliament's commitment within the treaties that they sign and to what extent these have been able to be resolved – the issues that we are talking about.

Firstly, I want to applaud the parliamentary team for progress in implementing some of these progressive policies, because I would not have been able to do this without the help from the Speaker's Office and also from the Secretary's Office.

The Sexual Harassment Policy for Staff, we do have that and they made a recommendation that this needs to be extended also to the House, to the Members of Parliament, and also it needs to include bullying. We need to applaud them for doing that, for having that.

Parental leave for parliamentarians, with the rights to parliamentarians for maternity, paternity, adoption and surrogacy leave to ensure parliamentarians can serve their province and still be able to look after their families.

The second thing, House Chair, is about public education. I am focusing on these things, because throughout all we have been doing, it was always about, “What did we do?”

Now I want to say: What are we doing?

So that we could be able to tell the people there at the Auntie Sarahs.

In the public education space ... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Mbombo, can I please ask you to kindly round up. Thank you.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Okay, in the second part, of which I am going to talk about it in the last part, is the public education where we came up with recommendations that are related and the resolutions that we are supposed to be implementing.

Now the question is what are we doing with those? I will come up with those proposals at the end of this debate, but this Parliament has done very well when it comes to advancing the women's rights. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Mbombo. I now recognise the hon member Windvogel. Can we please ask that member Windvogel be provided with the podium? [Interjections.]

Thank you very much for your service, hon member Booysen. [Interjections.]

†n AGBARE LID: Ja, vra hulle.

[An HON MEMBER: Yes, ask them.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order members! Members, can I please ask you to calm down. Hon member Windvogel, you may proceed.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, House Chair. Premier, Leader of the Opposition, House Chair, members, today as we celebrate the 68th Anniversary of the Women's March, we are reminded of the historic courage and resolve demonstrated by women on August 9, 1956, when they marched to the Union Buildings to protest against the pass laws. This iconic march was not merely a demonstration, but a bold stand against an unjust system that dehumanised black people, especially women, casting them to the margins of society – both economically and politically.

It is important to remember that Women's Month should not be viewed simply as a celebratory occasion, but as a solemn reminder of the ongoing struggle for justice. The role of women in the liberation struggle extends far beyond the 1950's. Countless women sacrificed their youth and lives throughout the 1960s, 70s and 80s for the liberation of all South Africans.

As we honour Women's Month let us not forget these remarkable women, our

flowers of the revolution who fought courageously for our freedom, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice. In commemorating their legacy let us renew our commitment to ensuring that their sacrifices are not in vain.

We must continue to advance the fight for complete emancipation of women throughout South Africa and the Western Cape. Many women are caught in a cycle of poverty, unemployment and inequality which limits their access to opportunities and hinders their financial independence.

Unemployment disproportionately affects women, particularly Black women, African, Coloured and Indian women, with severe impacts on their families and communities. Despite the progress we have made it is clear that 68 years after the historic march true liberation remains elusive for many women.

House Chairperson, Women's Month is also a time for reflection of how far we are in redressing gender injustice of the past.

Three decades ago in 1994 we embarked on a mission to transform a deeply divided society fraught by socio-economic and racial disparities where women's voices were often silent and their roles marginalised. Since that defining moment, we have made notable strides. Women representation in our National Parliament has increased from 27,7% in 1994 to over 43,43 today. Despite this remarkable progress in the Western Cape women representation stands at 33,3 in this august House, highlighting that there remains considerable work to be done.

While the ANC has demonstrated a strong commitment by fielding 62% women in their Provincial Legislature representation, the DA's contribution lags behind at only 24%. This figure narrates a story about the party that neglects the development and empowerment of women.

It is not surprising that within the DA-led Western Cape Provincial Government there exists a pervasive culture, misogynist and toxic masculinity, when female employees are often mistreated and belittled by powerful male officials who act with impunity, sealed by a system that enables their misconduct.

We call on Premier Winde and his Administration to walk the talk and end the protection of those who abuse women within the Western Cape Government. We demand the immediate suspension of Farrel Payne and Graham Paulsen, while their cases are not finalised and insist on adequate support for their victims.

House Chairperson, under the ANC-led 30 years of democracy and now under the ANC-led Government of National Unity, women hold key roles across various sectors, including the judiciary, where we have seen remarkable representation. One third at the Constitutional Court, 48% of the Supreme Court of Appeal and 40% of the High Court are women.

Let us use today this debate to celebrate the historic appointment of Justice

Mandisa Maya as South Africa's first female Chief Justice. Chief Justice Maya's appointment is a beacon of hope and progress illustrating that women are not only participants, but leaders in shaping our legal landscape and upholding justice.

Another groundbreaking achievement we celebrate is Mia le Roux from our province who is the new Miss South Africa and the first to come from a deaf community. She stands as a statement to the resilience and strength of women who challenged and overcame societal expectations.

Another example of courageous and inspiring women who have become task bearers of emancipation and quality is Christina Nomdu, the first female Children's Commissioner in the Western Cape. Her exemplary leadership is a testament to her unwavering dedication and remarkable vision for child welfare, affirming that our decision to appoint her was not only wise, but profoundly impactful for the future of our children.

In conclusion, Speaker, as Women's Month comes to a close let us recognise that, while we have made strides, there is still a significant journey ahead to achieve true gender equality. The struggle for women's full emancipation persists as they continue to face challenges rooted in race, gender and social class. Our commitment to this course must be unwavering, ensuring that our efforts address these issues with the deserved urgency. Only then we can hope to reach a future where every woman is empowered and free from barriers that have historically constrained them. I thank you. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Windvogel. I now recognise the hon member Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Hon Premier, distinguished colleagues, hon Speaker and House Chair. Today we stand at a significant milestone in our nation's history, celebrating three decades of democracy, a democracy born out of the sacrifices of many and nurtured by the collective will of our people.

As we reflect on the progress we have made, it is fitting that we turn our attention to one of the most critical aspects of our democratic journey: the development, empowerment and advancement of women in South Africa, Women in our country have faced systematic discrimination, marginalisation and violence for centuries. The legacy of apartheid compounded these injustices and relegated women, especially black women, to the lowest levels of society, but today we celebrate not only the resilience and strength of South African women, but also the remarkable progress we have made in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment. Yet we must also acknowledge the persistent challenges that continue to impede the full realisation of women's rights.

Achievement in women's development: our journey towards democracy was

also a journey towards gender equality. The dawn of democracy in 1994 opened new doors for women, laying the foundation for significant advances in women's rights and empowerment. Let us take a moment to reflect on these achievements.

Constitutional and legislative reforms at the heart of our democratic transformation: the South African Constitution adopted in 1996 emphasised the principles of equality, dignity and non-discrimination.

Political participation in leadership: one of the most visible signs of progress in women's empowerment is a significant increase in women's political representation.

In 1994, women constituted just 27% of the National Assembly. Today, that figure has risen to nearly 50%, making South Africa one of the leading countries in the world.

Challenges to advancing women's rights in empowerment: while we have made significant strides, it is clear that much work remains to be done. The challenges that women face today are complex and multi-faceted, requiring a comprehensive and sustained effort to overcome the following: gender based violence; economic empowerment; health and reproductive rights.

Conclusion: as we celebrate 30 years of democracy, we have much to be proud of in our efforts to advance women's rights and empowerment. Thank

you for this opportunity. [Applause.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Stephens. I now recognise the hon member Lithakong. You may proceed, member. The member needs the podium, please. [Interjections.]

You are protected member, especially today. Order members! You may proceed, hon member Lithakong.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you, House Chairperson.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Chair 30 years into democracy as a country, we are yet to elect a woman President, despite the assurances out there that women are as equally capable as men when it comes to leadership roles, if not better. It is high time as a country, we have to take initiative and walk the talk; on women's standing and achievements in society. However, Chairperson, despite this unfortunate setback we will still continue to see women occupying positions of power elsewhere, both within the private and public sector and performing remarkably well.

The recent Olympics hosted in France also bears testimony that when it matters the most, women are able to raise the South African flag and fly it high. The recent achievements by the likes of Joanne van Dyk and Tatjana Smith follow on the footsteps and foundation laid down by their predecessors before them, and they are all worthy of celebration and embracement on the

gender-based violence and femicide.

Chairperson, despite all these remarkable achievements, women continue to be on the receiving end of the horrific pandemic of GBV and femicide. On a daily basis we hear and read about stories and accounts of women who are turned away from the police stations when they came to open assault cases at the hands of men.

Stories of women and children who are butchered and killed without any signs of mercy, the recent murder of a 16-year old Deveney Nel whose body was found in a storeroom at the Overberg High School in Caledon, where the member and the Minister of Mobility comes from. Further testimony that the evil culture of femicide is now crippling into young ones, which leave a lot to be desired; on no budget for a gender-based violence implementation plan.

Speaker, in conclusion I find it sad that the GBV Implementation Plan by the Provincial Department of Social Development has not set a budget. I also find it sad that 25 shelters for abused women funded by the Provincial Government are only found in the Cape Metro, the Central Karoo and the West Coast, while women in the regions such as Overberg, where the Minister of Mobility comes from, Southern Cape and Cape Winelands, are left out in the cold. Thank you very much House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, member Lithakong. I now recognise the hon member Van Minnen.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, Madam Chair. The world has come a long way towards political equality with regards to women. Only a century ago, women across the world were routinely disenfranchised and excluded from their country's most important political institutions. Now women can vote in almost every democratic country. They represent citizens in Parliament and also sometimes lead their countries. Particular stand-out leaders in this regard include Angela Merkel of Germany, Jacinda Ardern in New Zealand, and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia. But the world still has a long way to go towards full equality.

Women are far outnumbered by men in national legislatures and parliaments. Internationally, 27% of parliamentarians are female and less than 24% of Cabinet Ministers are female. Currently, there are only 15 countries where the woman is head of government and at the current rate gender parity will not be reached for another 130 years.

Let us also not forget that, despite the relative progressive representation of women in politics. In this country, our nation has never once had a female President, and our last female Deputy President finished her term of office more than 15 years ago. But women's political equality is more than participation and representation in politics.

It also means that women are able to enjoy civil liberties, such as the freedom of movement, can fully participate in civil society and have the same political power as men and if we have to have all this, we must also have the rights that underpin these freedoms – the right to safety, to equality under the law; the right to freedom of expression and education. Sadly, many women across the world who still not have access to these rights.

Even here in South Africa, we must ask ourselves whether we can really claim to have the rights enshrined in our Constitution. Too many women in our country have an issue with the right to work, not working for them, not able to receive an education as this remains out of reach and for more still the actual right to life remains at risk as we see with our crime figures every single week.

Many of us in this very House have experienced the problem that we are discussing when the media covers women in politics, they too often use the terms that emphasise women's traditional roles and focus on their appearance. They perpetuate stereotypes of women politicians as weak, indecisive and emotional. They sometimes even hold women politicians accountable for their children's or husband's actions, although they really hold male politicians to the same standard. Just think of the number of male politicians in this country who refuse to pay maintenance, who have been convicted of domestic violence or even rape, who are never held to account.

Research by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an organisation that seeks to represent parliaments across the world, has revealed that four out of five women parliamentarians have been subjected to psychological violence such as bullying, intimidation, verbal abuse or harassment. Two thirds have been targeted with sexual or sexist remarks, and more than two out of five have received threats of assault, sexual violence or death.

It goes without saying that these circumstances directly affect the number of women who choose to enter politics and to make a difference in their communities and more than this, today's modern era has started to undo the hard-won progress of recent decades of sexism and politics, which sadly is nothing new, yet the new digital platforms are designed exponentially to increase misogyny to the point of weakening social norms of inclusion and civil discourse. They normalise abuse and create impunity for its perpetrators, who are rarely brought to book.

My message in all of this is simple. Every one of us in this House and every one of us in this province has a part to play in what will be a year's long fight to change the way women are thought of and treated in our society and as a member of the only major political party in South Africa to have ever been led by a woman, I know that many other parties are content to do nothing but pay lip service to the ideals of true gender equity, but today, let us commit to making women's month more than an empty commemoration, and let us give the women of this Government the support they so much deserve. Thank you.

The PREMIER: Hear-hear!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Van Minnen. I now recognise the honourable member Jacobs; I do not see him in the House.

Let us just check online. Hon member Jacobs is not online. We will then move to the next speaker. The hon member G Marais, you may proceed.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, Chairlady. After 30 years of democracy, we celebrate, as hon Windvogel referred to, our first Chief Justice Lady in South Africa and of course, she also mentioned the achievement of Mia le Roux, quite a remarkable achievement and an inspiration for all of us, but I also want to acknowledge the women who took part in the Paris Olympics, hard work, dedication, and made them achieve that position. But I want to also refer to women that are less privileged in this province, who do not always get the opportunity to achieve their full potential due to generational poverty; lack of economic opportunities and crime-ridden communities in which many women find themselves today.

According to Stats SA 2021 Report, the Western Cape is estimated to have 900 000 female-headed households. The children of these households share the same quality of life with their mothers, coping with rising costs of living. Would it be prudent to suggest to the Premier that he considers expanding the functions of the Children's Commissioner to include focus on female-headed

households with a view to advise the Western Cape Government and recommend actions to address their circumstances and their social needs? By increasing our focus on the vulnerable women we can directly improve the quality of lives of the children.

Speaker, on the issue of crime... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Marais, your time has expired. Can I please ask you to conclude? Thank you.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): I will conclude. Thank you. On the issue of crime, women must have access to the sexual offences register so that they can be well informed about decisions they take. It must be granted and we must get that mandate and get it approved on the GNU and the Minister of Justice. I thank you very much. [Applause.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Marais. Hon members, please note this House has Rules. We have time allocations that were agreed to. I am a bit lenient because of the nature of this debate, but please be mindful of your time. Thank you very much.

I now recognise the hon Minister Wenger, but Minister Wenger, before you proceed, just for the record; the Table Staff have informed me that the hon Jacobs did tender an apology for the Sitting.

Hon Minister Wenger. You may proceed. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As Women's Month comes to a close, we honour the legacy of the 1956 Women's March, celebrating the extraordinary contributions women make to this country and the strides we have taken towards ensuring that rights are protected.

Yet, this month is also a time to grieve for the many women and children who are victims of violence in our country. It is time to face squarely the relentless crisis of gender-based violence and femicide that has persisted, despite the myriad efforts put in place to address it, and it is time to ask what we can do together to end it.

One in five South African women is a victim of intimate-partner violence. The rate of sexual offences has remained unacceptably high. Crime statistics for the 2022/23 year indicate 53 498 reported sexual offences. On average, 117 rapes were committed per day last year. Women in South Africa live in the rape capital of the world and know that statistically speaking they have no guarantee of safety at home, at work or in public spaces.

This nightmare is experienced most acutely by the poorest South African women. Poverty not only magnifies the likelihood of experiencing GBV, but also its destabilising impact on the victims and their communities.

These figures, even in their magnitude, cannot capture the devastating harm suffered by the victims of gender-based violence. They face battering beatings, gunshots, and trauma. Their lives are laid to waste, but they must never be forgotten or desecrated.

To quote the words of our former First Lady, Graca Machel:

"There are precious lives between these cold numbers."

We must, however, acknowledge the staggering economic harms of GBVF. In a report entitled "The costly impact of gender-based violence" it is estimated that gender-based violence costs South Africa total of R36 billion in 2019.

It includes judicial and medical costs, lost tax revenues and the human capital loss that occur due to the extraordinary toll GBV takes on women's health, wellness, education and productivity. We must remember that these costs are concentrated in our poorest and most vulnerable communities. We must each ask ourselves what part we can do in our collective response to GBVF.

The Department of Health and Wellness, our core collaborators with the National Prosecuting Authority and the Department of Social Development in the establishment and operation of Thuthuzela Care Centres, the tenth of which was opened last week in Mitchells Plain Hospital. Embracing a whole-of-society approach, these centres provide integrated and comprehensive social, medical and legal support to victims.

The Department's role in addressing GBVF, however, is not limited to the provision of healthcare to victims. We also generate high quality, contextually relevant crime information that is uniquely available in our health systems when victims and perpetrators present in our ECs and mortuaries. For this reason, the Violence Prevention Unit was established in 2022, collecting and harnessing information and collaborative efforts in a whole-of-government approach to drive informed and coordinated safety interventions.

An example of this research undertaken at the world-class Observatory Forensic Pathology Institute, which tracks trends in homicides in real time with granular detail. On my recent visit to this facility, I was deeply concerned to learn of the exceptional rise in the rate at which women are being murdered with firearms in the Western Cape. According to their data, in 2017, 28% of femicide committed with a weapon was perpetrated using a firearm, and in 2022 this rose to 40%. This tells us that part of our efforts to address GBVF must include addressing the availability of illegal firearms and ammunition in communities.

Ending GBVF remains a matter of absolute urgency. Failure to do so will condemn South African women and girls to be victimised by violence and fear. It will mean a continuation of the toll of violent crime on our health systems and harms to our communities. We must continue to embrace the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to put an end to this

crisis. We must fight for the resources to expand our existing programmes and relentlessly pursue new data-informed interventions to destroy GBVF at its roots. Thank you. [Applause.]

HON MEMBERS: Hear-hear!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Wenger. I now recognise the hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, Chairwoman. I want to concentrate on the achievements of women in the Western Cape.

Kerry Hoffman is Woman of the Month in the Western Cape, for August 2024. Her work in the community is done through her NPO, Souper Troopers. Kerry and the team operate the Humanity Hub that offer a range of services to assist the homeless and marginalised. Their ethos is dignity, love and respect with the slogan #humanbeforehomeless.

Chairlady, Souper Troopers caught the attention of Sweet Fragrance, and NPC under the leadership of Tarryn le Roux. This organisation recognised the work that Kerry does in the community and awarded her the Woman of the Month Award.

Now Chairwoman, Sweet Fragrance was founded in 2014. Tarryn assisted with this work and she and her team do superb work. They empower women

of different walks of life, equipping, mentoring on a one-on-one basis. This is the passion the team can see and is changing the lives of many, many women and empowering many, many women.

A story that I read about them, how they empower females, and they were students of a course where they now produce children's wear, tracksuits and formal wear, and they empower other ladies in order to change their communities. The resilience and the self-empowerment of women are breaking the poverty and unemployment in society. So Chairlady, the moral of the story is we have mothers and grannies transforming communities, and this is a classic example.

The ACDP salutes these women who are making positive impact in communities. We will never forget the women that put their livelihoods at stake, that sacrificed so much in order to have a better generation. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Christians. I now recognise hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, Chairperson. Chair, due to our history of slavery, colonialism and apartheid, South Africans have a well developed understanding of prejudice and discrimination, not just applied to race, but also to language, location, culture and sexual orientation. We pretty much embrace the full gambit of hatred. Our Constitution theoretically

unstitched all of these divisions, and we have made some progress.

South Africans must be very careful about racist utterances these days, but besides outlawing racial discrimination, as a society we seem to have deprioritised dealing with other prejudices that continue to define us as a nation.

We speak about them a lot, like we are doing today, but what are we actually doing?

We, the women of South Africa, wives and mothers, working women and housewives declare our aim of striving for the removal of all laws, regulations, conventions and customs that discriminate against us as women, and that deprive us in any way of our inherent right to the advantages, responsibilities and opportunities that society offers to any one section of the population. That statement has as much currency today as when the Women's Charter was adopted.

The face of poverty in our country remains unquestionably that of a Black woman. The feminisation of poverty is perpetuated through a labour market that is described as heavily racialised and gender biased. Men are more likely to be employed and women in workplaces are more likely to earn 30% less than men. The incidence of family violence and gender-based violence is ever on the rise and we have failed to create workplaces that are free of sexual and gender-based violence, harassment and discrimination.

The Campaign for Gender Equality is not achievable for as long as the solidarity of tolerance only gets broken every now and again. Real leaders of all genders must stand up every time there is a transgression, not when standing up is politically unavoidable. Sustainable development, Chairperson, cannot be achieved without gender equality. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Herron. I now recognise the hon Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon Chairperson, one of the most powerful tools that we have in overcoming the injustice of our past, is education, specifically in the field that has being traditionally male dominated such as Mathematics and Science. We need to be urgent and deliberate in advocating and encouraging more girls to participate in these subjects. STEM Education can help bridge the gender divide and provide girls and young women with opportunities to improve their socio-economic status and increasing their earning potential.

Hon Chairperson, here in the Western Cape, the Provincial Treasury has not only reached gender parity, but we have exceeded it. I can say with pride today that, as at the end of the previous financial year, that 59% of Provincial Treasury Staff complement is female and under the exemplary leadership of Provincial Treasury's first female Head of Department, Ms Julinda Gantana.

This group of women is responsible for managing an R84 billion Provincial Budget, and I can confidently say that these women in finance are doing a remarkable job.

Provincial Treasury is not just being led by women, but is also actively involved in empowering women. Through the Procurement Client Centre we are actively involved in supply development in order to broaden access to procurement opportunities for women and we are hoping that we will continue to increase the participation of women within especially the SMME development within the procurement space.

Through the Department's Bursary Scheme, 48 women were awarded bursaries through the external Municipal Bursary Programme to further their studies and equip them in financial governance in the 2023/24 financial year. This is in addition to the 50 interns appointed across municipalities through the Municipal Finance Management Internship Programme, who gain practical and formal training founded on the knowledge that they acquired from tertiary institutions within the financial management discipline.

Furthermore, our entity, the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board, is also playing its part in women empowerment. I had the privilege of attending a Women-in-Gaming event earlier this month co-hosted by the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board and the NPO, Women in Gaming Africa. The event was a coming together of women from across the gaming sector.

Women like Gail Odgers, as the Head of Acquisition at Sporting Bet South Africa; Gail focuses on cross-platform advertising to attract new players, using both traditional and digital media. She ensures that all marketing materials comply with the advertising standards set by the Western Cape Racing and Gambling Board.

Women such as Tumelo Mokoena. Tumelo works as the Assistant Manager for Advocacy and Communications at the South African Responsible Gambling Foundation. Her role involves promoting responsible gambling practices through effective communication and managing related programmes.

Women such as Michelle Salvador, as the Audit Risk and Compliance Manager at Cape Racing, Michelle manages the respective department, ensuring adherence to corporate governance principles, monitoring compliance with laws and regulations, including FICA, POPIA, and the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Act.

These remarkable women demonstrate the diverse and vital roles women are playing in the gaming industry and their combined expertise and efforts have contributed to the over R1 billion in taxes and revenue generated by the industry, which adds to the Western Cape Provincial Revenue Fund. The Province relies on these funds for unforeseen expenses and to bolster our socio-economic programmes, but in order to build the future of the Provincial Treasury, we need young girls to remain committed to their studies in

Mathematics and Science. We need the next generation of innovators and leaders to be ready to become the Finance Head of Department, the Finance MEC, the CEO of major gaming companies, to be our bankers, our economists, our accountants, our auditors and even our AI specialists.

So to the young girls wondering what it takes to run an R84 billion budget, the answer lies in Mathematics and Science. That is how we build the future of the Provincial Treasury. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Hon Minister. Baartman. I now recognise the hon member Lekker. Member Lekker, are you also waiting for the podium? You may proceed. Thank you very much, member.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): House Chairperson, hon Chairperson, esteemed members of this House and distinguished guests. Today as we gather to acknowledge the remarkable progress we have made in advancing women's rights over the past 30 years, we must also confront a harsh and unsettling truth, the persistent and devastating epidemic of gender-based violence and femicide that continues to plague our country and the province.

It has been exactly five years since the 19-year old, Uyinene Mrwetyana, went to a Clareinch Post Office in Claremont, unaware that this would be the last day of her life. Tragically she was raped and brutally murdered within those walls.

Her death shocked us all and serves as a grim reminder of the violence faced by many women.

We commend the Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation for its unwavering dedication, to preserving her legacy, and for its relentless efforts in combating sexual and gender-based violence and femicide.

This year's theme, for her commemoration, "Eliminate the Fear" prioritising safety and security, encapsulates the urgent need for action. We stand in full support of this call to eradicate fear and ensure the safety and security of every woman and child.

In this period we call upon the Provincial Government not only to allocate adequate resources to address GBV and femicide, but also to provide to vital stakeholders, such as the Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation, which plays an essential role in this fight. Their tireless work deserves our full backing and resources to strengthen their impact.

The theme is also a direct response to the findings of the Victims of the Rape Crime Survey, which revealed that women continue to face significant threats to their safety. The report found that psychological violence and sexual offences disproportionately affect women. With weapons frequently used in sexual violence cases, the data highlights a broader crisis of safety, with a significant proportion of women feeling unsafe even in their own household.

Hon Chairperson, as we mark this year's Women's Month, we are confronted with a growing and disturbing trend. An increasing number of women and children being reported missing, many of whom are later found deceased. This escalating crisis highlights the critical need for a comprehensive and effective response from the Western Cape Provincial Government.

Our hearts and deepest condolences go out to the families who have suffered unimaginable losses.

These include Busisiwe Mthethwa from Samora Machel who was allegedly killed by her boyfriend, chopped into pieces and dumped in a deep freezer on 31 December 2023.

Roslin Martins, 36, who was allegedly murdered by her boyfriend in her Heideveld home on June 27, while she was pregnant.

Zintle Jonase, 21, whose half-naked body was discovered in [Inaudible.] in Kraaifontein on July 7. She had been raped and murdered.

Mymoena Hoffman, 36, killed by a stray bullet in July while trying to protect her children from gangs who were fighting in the streets.

Suzanne Quine, 25, found with multiple injuries in Knysna on August 1st, while pregnant.

Deveney Nel, 16 years old, whose body was discovered hidden in a storeroom at Overberg High School in Caledon on August, 7th.

On the same day, Melanie Stoffels, 26, was bludgeoned to death by an unknown assailant in Gugulethu.

These heartbreaking cases highlight the urgent need for intensified efforts to increase resources to combat GBV and femicide. We reiterate our call for the Provincial Government to enhance its response and support measures to address this critical challenge.

Hon Chairperson, allow me to commend President Cyril Ramaphosa for the legislative reforms we have enacted as a nation under his leadership. This includes the Criminal Law on Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act, the Domestic Violence Amendment Act of 2022 and the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Act of 2024. This legislation demonstrates our dedication to protecting victims and ensuring justice for all.

While these accomplishments are commendable, they are not an end in themselves. They serve as a foundation upon which we must build progress. [Interjection.] The recent murder of Ms Nompumelelo Makeleni, 26, who was allegedly killed by local gangs for refusing to pay protection money... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: My apologies, hon member Lekker, can you please take your seat. Hon member Kamfer, can you kindly mute yourself?

An HON MEMBER: He is trying to explain the loss from yesterday.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. Order members! My apologies, hon Lekker, you may proceed.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): ...killed by local gangs for refusing to pay protection fee, serves as a stark reminder of violence that women endure and the profound impact it has on their lives and businesses. Such incidents not only endanger lives but also undermine economic stability and perpetuate a climate of fear. We condemn with strongest terms possible the cowardly killing of elderly women. This highlights the current risk faced by many female entrepreneurs, especially in informal traders in the poor working-class community, which leads to Provincial Government's urgent attention. Empowering women economically is not merely a matter of fairness, but of economic necessity.

When women thrive, communities thrive. Addressing unemployment and poverty among women requires a targeted Government intervention that focuses on education, skills development and job creation.

The National Government's commitment to ensuring women's full participation in the economy is commendable. By setting aside 40% of public procurement for women-owned businesses and providing financial and non-financial support through institutions like the National Empowerment Fund and Small Enterprise Finance Agency, the National Government has demonstrated its dedication to creating economic opportunities for women.

We call upon Premier Winde's Government to follow suit and make provisions for women's economic empowerment. To truly champion equality, let us not merely speak of women's empowerment, but act with urgency, demanding that our Government closes the gender pay gap with decisive action, ensuring that every woman is paid fairly for the vital work she contributes.

I also want to highlight the commendable work that has been done recently by Advocate Batohi when she opens the first Thutuzela Centre in Mitchells Plain.

In closing, Chairperson, let us honour the legacy of the brave women who came before us and reaffirm our commitment to advancing women's rights and empowerment. Let us work together – Government, civil society and individuals to build a safer, more equitable society for all women. Let us also harness our collective strength to address the challenges we face and ensure that our commitment to gender equality is not just a slogan, but a lived reality through our experiences. I thank you. [Applause.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, hon member Lekker. I now recognise hon member Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon House Chairperson, as we commemorate Women's Month this month, it never fails to amaze me just how resilient and tenacious women all over the world and certainly here in the Western Cape can be.

Women play an indispensable role in all societies, every girl, daughter, granny, wife and mother. We celebrate your resilience. We celebrate your strengths and we thank you for leading our nation in the way that you do.

Chairperson, South Africa has made much progress with the advancing of women's rights and empowerment, but this is still not enough. The Global Gender Gap Index is a comprehensive tool that assesses and compares gender parity across different countries.

They focus on four key dimensions: economic participation and opportunity; educational attainment; health and survival, and political empowerment. Each year it provides valuable data that can influence policy-making, drive social change, and encourages countries to adopt strategies that promote gender equality.

Sub-Saharan Africa has ranked sixth with a gender parity score of 68,4%, has made notable progress in closing the gender gap since 2006. With a 5,6 percentage point improvement, South Africa now ranks 18th out of 146 countries.

Despite the progress, there is still significant disparity between the best and worst-performing countries. With a 22,8 percentage point gap, South Africa ranks relatively high when it comes to political empowerment and health but our worst ranking comes with regards to economic participation and opportunity. This tracks with our unemployment rate, which is still significantly higher for women than for men.

Economic opportunity is a pathway to greater independence and empowerment for everyone, and we must make sure our young girls have every opportunity to get quality education and build a successful future for themselves. There can be no excuses and our commitment to the advancement of this cause must be ceaseless.

Chairperson, women are integral to our success as a country and as a province, and it is my considered belief that it is time for men to become allies for women. It is only through a whole-of-society approach where everyone is treated with fairness and access to opportunity and especially economic opportunity that we can close the existing inequalities between genders.

Being an ally for women is a verb, it is not a noun. It requires us to stand together with women in everything that we do. It requires us to support the move towards equality, and it requires us to speak out when we see injustice. It demands our commitment for if we do not value the power of women in our society, we devalue our society as a whole.

Hon Chairperson, I leave you with the following quote from British actor Daniel Craig:

"Women are responsible for 2/3 of the work done worldwide, yet only 10% of the total income and own 1% of the property..."

So are we equal? Until the answer is yes, we must never stop asking.

I thank you. [Applause.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Johnson and congratulations and well done on your maiden address in this House. I now recognise the hon member Mbombo. [Interjections.]

Order members!

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Thank you, House Chair. In closing, as all the speakers that have indicated just it shows that there is an urgency in terms of how we can be able to act. As I alluded earlier that the time of what have we done - has come and gone. Now we need to focus on *Senzeni Na*, what are we

going to do about it?

In this Parliament, Speaker, Chair, as you also will remember you are also one of the people who led the themes and made recommendations on placing the dignity and rights of women in the spotlight. That was from the former Deputy Speaker. The gender remuneration gap that was led by you, Chair, the gender responsive budgeting that was led by now the MEC Baartman and the enrolment in STEM that was led by member Bakubaku-Vos. It came with the recommendation on what needs to be done.

And lastly in this Parliament, through the Commonwealth Parliaments, the Women's Parliament, we conducted gender sensitive Parliament, our own self-assessment. We know exactly where we are and we look in terms of these areas: equality of participation with Parliament, parliamentary infrastructure; the parliamentary culture; the gender-equality policy; women's substantive representation; without even dwelling much exactly what does it mean? We saw where we went red. We also saw where we went green.

Just to make an example of one of those: the issue of the parliamentary infrastructure where you find that people outside, I mean, during the late hours and also coming from the parking is not safe. Those things need to be looked at now because it does impact on the safety of the women.

The issue related to the gender-equality policy, women's substantive representation, where we are saying that we said the Parliament should

ensure that a gender lens is included in the next five year Strategic Plan and next week this Parliament will be conducting this Strategic Plan. So why are we not forming part of this?

So one of the days when we say what the Government is doing, what the civil society is doing, the question is, what this Parliament is doing administratively and also politically. We cannot come back on the 16 Days of Activism, again, we are saying, "*Senzeni Na*", yet we do know that it is our responsibility as Parliament to be able to act. Every year we cannot be inviting women to come here and listen to their tears in terms of that, how can we be able to help them? We spend 170 000 in the previous term when we brought these women and they are still waiting for us that when are we going to act on those?

So with those words, Speaker, what I am proposing now, in regard to what are we going to do?

To avoid the further lip service, it means that we have to make sure that we are committed that the Women's Month, it should not be women one day or Women's Day, it must be 365 days. We owe our communities. Therefore, I hereby propose an Ad-Hoc Committee related to the gender mainstreaming because we have to again monitor and evaluate.

We do have the benchmark. We do have the tools. We do have the will, but the issue we have not put it into a perspective.

Therefore Speaker and Deputy Speaker, the tone we are bringing, it is about what is it that we need to do so that we do not only sing and cry with those women. They are waiting for us. The Parliament has got the power related to the legislation, the Constitution, just like all other contributory parliaments that are happening throughout the world. We do have the power to have an Ad-hoc Committee relating to the gender mainstreaming institutionalisation, and also take the Executive into account.

What the member previously, what Minister has indicated in the House, what is going to happen related to the STEM and the young girls, that commitment is here in this Parliament. It needs to be taken care of. Therefore that is why I was saying that let us look, use, all the tools of what the Parliament has, Parliament as the voice of the people, Parliament as a legislative and the constitutional element to be able to look at those things. Also Parliament, that has got the ears and the eyes, because the resolution that came from those women, 58 or 60 women that we brought in the past year, some of the recommendations, it said we need a Working Committee that needs to be established to look at the whole sum of those resolutions that have already happened. So in those words, in those words, Chair, what we are saying that we need to avoid the lip service, just like the women of 1950. Let us step into our power and *dala* what we must.

Women, know your place! It is everywhere. It is anywhere. Come to the table and let us build the gender-balanced Western Cape Parliament. [Applause.]

Thank you, Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: *Dala!*

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Mbombo, for rounding off this all important debate and some sound recommendations made with that. Hon members, this concludes the Speaker's Debate. As per the Order of today we will now proceed with Questions to the Premier without Notice in terms of Rule 204.

Hon members, there was a draw last week, Friday, of which the following members' names were drawn to pose those questions to the Premier. In the order of the hon Sayed, the hon Petrus, the hon Stephens, the hon Booyesen, the hon Stoffels, the hon Christians and the hon Wessels.

Hon members, on that note, let me kindly also remind you of Rule 204, Section 9, that states a member called may put one question in a concise form and immediately after a reply thereto, two supplementary questions, which questions must relate. Let me emphasise, your follow-up questions must relate to the member's original question or to the reply provided. I then now recognise the hon Sayed.

The Speaker takes the Chair.

QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE:

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Chairperson. I would like to ask the hon Premier, Premier, you would be aware of the financial mismanagement and grave errors in the municipal budget under your political party's administration in the Langeberg Municipality. Will you be intervening to also ensure that there is a sense of transparency and that people are held accountable for the sake of the residents? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. I recognise you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and thank you very much to the hon Leader of the Opposition. As you said, you will be aware. Of course, we do get regular updates from the Treasury on their monitoring of the budgets of all of our municipalities, as well as the Auditor-General on each of those municipalities and of course then, from that come the interventions.

So, I mean, you say you are aware, and you mention gross misconduct. I would need better detail than that and of course, to understand what I am aware of versus actual detail from the Department itself of the Municipality itself.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon Sayed, your first

opportunity for a follow-up.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. So, of course, while the hon Premier seemingly acts as if he is not aware, he is aware. I have got with me email correspondence from Mr Bester, a chartered accountant in Langeberg, dated 21 August. Hon MEC Simmers is laughing and smiling, the one who wants to break down coalitions, the one who was very much against the GNU ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, honourable ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: He is also ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Hon Sayed, you have an opportunity to pose a follow-up question. You do not need to make a statement. So please, pose your question, your follow-up question.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So, they are all aware. Hon MEC Bredell is also aware. So, while we wait then, given the hon Premier's response, for the DA leadership in Langeberg to present their budget that adds up, that does not claim that it has more households than the rest of South Africa put together, that does not confuse millions and billions, and does not drain its reserves, the people of Langeberg must put up with collapsing infrastructure. There are many households in Langeberg today that still do not have water ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Honourable, hon Sayed. Please take your seat.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And a massive
...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon member!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...housing backlog. Why
should the people ...[Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I am coming to my
question, yes ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, please take your seat. Hon members, questions
to the Premier are guided by in terms of Rules. Hon Sayed is a returning hon
member, so I am not as lenient to him as I would be to the new hon members.
Hon members, please do not; you do not need to make an introductory
statement. There is no need to grandstand. You have already posed your
question. Please get to the question. Hon Sayed, I am going to, for the
second time, ask you to pose your question and please adhere to the R ules.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is certainly a painful

question for the DA's political constituency head in Langeberg. Why should the people pay the price for the DA's incompetence and arrogance? When is enough, enough for the hon Premier to intervene? [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: I was, hon Speaker, I was trying to quickly just get a copy of those mails that were sent to me because obviously, you do realise that we get thousands of mails. Then what has to happen, you have got to then ...[Interjections.] put those into the process for an investigation. Just like the mails I get every single day from the ANC-run Knysna Municipality where alongside the EFF, they are running the place into the ground. I promise you; you will see the stuff coming out of Bitou Municipality now. This is what happens. But of course, when you get these emails, you have got to then put them into the system. I can assure you, there will be a track of when the email arrived, who it goes to, how it gets investigated and it will be taken from there.

If the hon Leader of the Opposition was really serious about getting an answer on this detail, he would have given me that in a written question or in a question with notice and I could have given him chapter and verse of date of arrival, what time, how many emails that individual has sent us. What the answers have been to that individual. How many hours it was between the arrival of the email and the actual first answer of the email or whether he sent the email at quarter past nine in the evening and at five to seven the next morning, he phones to say, 'Why have you not answered my email yet?' And then finding out that he sent it to the wrong address, et cetera, et cetera.

So, the hon Leader of the Opposition must also understand that the kind of question he asks here, if he really wants a detailed answer, he must give a bit of notice of what it is about. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members. Hon Nkondlo, hon Walters on the other side. Hon Sayed, you may. This is your second opportunity.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker. The question still has not been responded to. After all of the round about that we have heard, but essentially, it is this round about that has led to the collapse of Langeberg Municipality. Swellendam, where DA supporters had to actually go and disrupt yesterday, the sitting. The same thing in Cape Agulhas.

Hon Speaker, I wanted to ask the hon Premier: should we not all, should we not all be working together to ensure stable governance in the best interests of residents by actually responding to issues such as these?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: The answer is: absolutely, yes. And I will always be absolutely transparent. So, if the hon member asks me the right question, I would give him chapter and verse. Absolutely! Like in every other

municipality, we will do exactly that.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon Sayed, that concludes the first question to the hon Premier. I now recognise the hon Petrus.

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

The SPEAKER: Good afternoon, hon member. You can pose your question.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The question is on behalf of the PA. Can the hon Premier explain his main priorities for this term and where in those priorities falls the influx of illegal foreigners in the Western Cape?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Petrus. So, as per the Rules, you can pose one question to the hon Premier. The second part of your question I am not going to allow, and you can pose that as your first follow-up, if you so wish. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: I think illegal foreigners are just that: illegal foreigners.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, that was the second part of the question, which I have disallowed. So, hon Petrus, can I just ask the Table Staff to stop the clock. Hon Petrus, please re-ask your question.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Can the hon Premier explain his main priorities for this term and where in those priorities fall the influx of illegal foreigners in the Western Cape.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier, please answer the first part of that question because there are two questions in that one question. ...[Laughter.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members!

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and I feel like saying to the hon member I will message him the speech that I made at the Opening of Parliament at the start of this term. But I will not do that, and I will not spend the two hours repeating that at this specific stage.

But obviously, much of the focus still remains on jobs, safety, dignity, wellbeing, innovation, good governance, but also as was said at that stage, is that when an election takes place, the formation of your PSP, your Provincial Strategic Plan which has to be in place by the start of the next year and aligned to the next year's budget, that is exactly the process that is taking place at present.

So, of course, the hon Petrus, perhaps in asking this question, had the advantage because for the first time since I have been in government and I think it is, you know, pushed forward by the Government of National Unity at a national level, that in actual fact at the gathering which took place in Beaufort West the other day, the hon Leader of the Opposition and I, the Leader of Government Business and I had a discussion on what happens to those political parties in this House, who are also part of a government alongside ourselves at a national level.

For the first time now at that space where all Municipal Managers and all Mayors are present with us as the government, we invited the leaders of those Opposition parties. I know that it was probably a bit short notice and maybe a bit far, but I was very happy that the hon Petrus was the one leader that actually came to Beaufort West.

At that meeting, he had the advantage of having the draft plan of the National Government which was put on the table to all of us at that meeting. So, this comes from Minister Ramokgopa, M, who is in the Presidency, and it was her Department. And, of course, he will remember that that full plan was put on the table to all of us and he was present. Then, of course, the Provincial Plan and the Draft Plan was put onto the table for him as well. So, I mean, it was a lengthy document. He was in the room. So that is pretty much part of what this answer should be.

Then obviously once the PSP is finalised, it will come to this very House as

it must, and you will then start to see it aligning to the new programmes that are going to be put in place. You will see it when the hon Minister of Finance starts to give indications through the Budget Policy Statement and then, of course, you will see how the programmes start to land in the budget next year, and of course, will also be spoken about in detail when we have the Opening of Parliament early next year. And of course, as much as I would like to talk about the second part of the question, I honour what you have just said, hon Speaker, so I will not answer that part.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon Petrus, you have your first opportunity for a follow-up question. If you so wish, you can pose that second part of that initial question as your first follow-up.

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

The SPEAKER: Hon Petrus, you may ask a follow-up question.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Okay, where in those priorities falls the influx of illegal foreigners in the Western Cape, hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Petrus. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. You will not see it in the policy because illegal foreigners are illegal foreigners. It is not part of a Provincial Plan to plan for illegal foreigners. We do not do that.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon Petrus, you may have a second follow-up, if you so wish.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): No, then we must start planning as soon as possible.

The SPEAKER: So, you do not have a second follow-up question?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Just that comment. Okay. I do not have ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Okay but cannot make your comment. You must ask a question. If you do not want to use that second opportunity, that is absolutely in order, but then I will move onto the next hon member on the draw. Hon Petrus?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): You may continue, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, I will continue. I recognise hon Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Hon Premier, a new report by Statistics South Africa, Gender Series Volume X1:

“Women Empowerment 2014 to 2024 reveals disparities in the labour

market. According to the report, women in South Africa are more likely to face unemployment and are less likely to participate in the workforce compared to men.”

How do you address these challenges to ensure economic empowerment for women?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and of course, I was not part of the earlier debate, but I think a lot of what you have just said in the question was also part of what was addressed by so many hon members of this House in the earlier debate.

I think when I was listening to one of the questions around, and I think it was the hon Lekker who was asking the question about equal pay. I mean, we can be very proud in South Africa that in Government, that is not an issue. We do not have those within Government. But of course, outside of Government, we know that these exist. They exist in a space of opportunity, of salary. It exists in the sporting arena of prizes. It exists across society, and we have all got to work on programmes to make sure that we bring about change exactly as was raised in this debate.

But within the Government, then you have got to say what are those specific programmes. So, you will see programmes within, for example, the

Economic Development Department which specifically focusses on how do you, through perhaps a fund like the Booster Fund in the Economic Development Department, enable female entrepreneurs. I think, if I go to some of these Booster Fund programmes, you see how these women's businesses are supported and enabled.

So, you have got to make sure that you are there to help bring about those kinds of changes because it is through that kind of leadership that you start to move the whole system along and get to that parity space, which was so much part of this debate and, I think, the global debate on how we bring about that change. You heard it here. Whether it is political representation or business or job opportunity. Of course, those are the issues that we have got to make sure we build in across all of our programmes, across all of Government.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon member, you have two opportunities for follow-ups. So, this is your first opportunity to ask a follow-up question.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): No follow-up question, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now move on to the next hon member. Hon Booysen.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, during the hon Premier's Opening of Parliament Address, the hon Premier warned that the

Western Cape faces significant financial headwinds. We know that many of our departments are having to cater to an ever-growing number of residents, many of whom move here in order to access better economic opportunities and a higher standard of governance.

With that in mind, hon Premier, I would like the hon Premier to provide us, hon Speaker, with a description of these challenges that the Western Cape is facing in this regard.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Booyesen. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and thank you very much to the hon Booyesen for that question. I think, ja, obviously when we were speaking at that stage, we still do not have real clarity or we did not have real clarity on what the actual budget amounts are that are affecting our province, but we know from last year already when we had in-year cuts. Those were the R1,1-billion that majorly affected or it affects the whole of Government, but the major affect happens in Health and in Education because, of course, that is the natural where the majority of our budget is spent and our biggest constitutional mandate.

That was a R1,1-billion in-year cut. It is because it was a negotiated wage agreement that was above budget and, of course, we were saying that this was an illegal activity. Because in a budget process, you budget, you bring the budget to this very House. This very House then debates that budget

department by department, and then votes for that budget. That is how you then legally start to spend that budget.

In the middle of the year, we then get a cut. In the middle of that year and that cannot be a legal process because it did not come through Parliament. It does not happen through the National Minister's Budget Policy Statement. It does not happen through the National Budget process either. It is in-year, and you must just cover the cost. So, what is the consequence? You have to cut back on whatever it is. It could be cutting back like on schools, 21 schools cut back to ten because it is the responsible thing to do. You have got an in-year cut.

We declared a dispute and in actual fact, we got quite a fair amount of agreement on how to manage that disputed amount and how we would get extra support. Because if you remember at the same time, we had unbelievable disasters last year as well that cost us billions and we had not received, even though we had disaster declarations, we had not received any funding for that either. All of this starts to eat away at your ability to, within your budget, deliver on the pre-approved plans that have been put in place and approved plans by this very Parliament.

We are now faced again with a bigger dilemma. We are going into the new year, which is next year, where we already have to carry that R1,1-billion. We have now had an indication that the budget cut across the Province is going to be a further R7-billion across three departments, I mean across three

years. Now, on top of that, our disaster that happened last year and then, the further disasters this year of which we must repair the road because it has washed away, to go to Citrusdal and you have got to repair it. And in this case, not once, but three times it gets washed away. You have got to repair it. You have got to repair it with the money that you have got. So, you end up taking money away from maintenance or whatever else you are taking money away from, to do that job.

You have also got to plan for the future. How are we going to make sure that we can deal with the 150 000 people who come to this province and our population growth every single year, and how do we deal with them in a schooling space, in a hospital space. So, we have got a R7-billion cut. We have got a further R6-billion, which is what disasters have cost us last year and this year so far. And, of course, the R1,1-billion. This is a massive amount of money. So, that is why we are declaring further disputes, asking for urgent meetings, looking at other options that we have at our disposal to make sure that we get just what we want, our fair share of the budget. That is all we want. We do not want anything unfair.

It is interesting because when we go to the respective MINMEC or we go to these meetings, of course, the other provinces just like us that are facing the same kinds of pressure are Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. If you speak to the Ministers when they go and speak at their MINMEC levels, you will find that they have exactly the same problem and that it is the growth provinces that have a massive problem with budget.

Of course, the national problem is that in actual fact, they have got to make tough choices, just like we have to make because you have only got so much money, and you have got this demand. They actually have to, in reality, start cutting from the provinces that do not have the citizens and give it to the provinces that do have the citizens that deserve that fair service that they need within our Constitution and within our mandate. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon Booyen, unfortunately, the time allotted for questions to the Premier has expired, so you will not have an opportunity to ask a follow-up question. Hon members, with that being said, that brings us to the end of Questions to the Premier without Notice. We move on to Statements by Members in terms of Rule 145. I recognise the Democratic Alliance. [Interjections.] Hon Sayed and hon Premier, there is an hon member on the floor. Order! Hon Masipa.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move that the House notes with admiration the achievements of the winners at the prestigious ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Masipa, can I just remind you. We are now dealing with Statements by Members in terms of Rule 145 and not with Motions without Notice. We are going to get to that after this. [Interjections.] Order, hon

members. Order! So, I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, as part of its push to render the best healthcare service in the world, the Western Cape Government has now rendered more than 600 surgeries with its two hyperactive Da Vinci surgical robots. As hospital staff have steadily received more training, the Western Cape Da Vinci robots have expanded the range of surgeries of which they are capable. At present, the two robots are capable of performing urological, gynaecological, colorectal, and general surgeries, including more advanced procedures such as complex reconstructive surgeries and partial nephrectomies and radical cystectomies. [Interjections.]

I could have asked, you are right. [Laughter.] Also, hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Hon Booysen ...[Interjection.]

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Also, hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Please speak to me and not to your colleagues. [Interjections.]

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): I am getting training in Health, do not worry, hon colleagues. [Interjections.] Also ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Booyesen, your time is running out.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Oh, sorry.

The SPEAKER: So, please continue.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Okay. Also, hon Speaker, by using advanced technologies, including 3-D cameras and computer assisted control systems, our surgeons are able to perform these surgeries with a far greater degree of precision, leading to greatly reduced physical trauma for patients. This not only improves patient outcomes medically, but substantially reduces recovery time and often eliminates the need for post-surgery blood transfusions and intravenous nutrition. This in turn results in more efficient use of resources and a higher turnover of hospital beds which allows more patients to be treated in the same timeframe.

Once again, we see the Western Cape Government's investment in cutting-edge technology taking hold ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Booyesen, please conclude. Your time has expired.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): The rate of surgeries completed is increasing and we look forward to seeing this investment continue ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Booyesen.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): ...to pay off over time.

The SPEAKER: I recognise the African National Congress.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you Speaker, as Women's Month draws to a close it is with great concern that I highlight the pervasive misogyny and toxic masculinity entrenched within our Provincial Government. Female employees are being mistreated and belittled by a group of powerful male officials who operate with impunity ...[Interjections.] protected by a system that perpetuates their abuse.

As women, we must put political lines aside and rally behind the interest of women. We must condemn the rulings made in this House that protect alleged perpetrators under the wording of *sub judice*. To illustrate this matter, I want to raise the following three examples.

One, the horrific allegations of sex for jobs scandal against the former MEC Albert Fritz, was swept under a carpet. He was given a soft landing and continues to enjoy his pension at home while the victims remain traumatised and unsupported.

Two, provincial traffic officer Chief Farrel Payne, remains in his office whilst he is facing serious sexual crime charges. We reiterate calls for the

hon Premier to immediately release the findings of his investigation.

Three, the allegations of sexual harassment against Mr Graham Paulse, the Head of the Department of Local Government, dating back to 2012, highlights a grim pattern. Despite being reported to the hon Premier and his Cabinet, the HOD remains in office. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, the question we should be asking is this: where are the women and the victims, and who is protecting them? Last week, Social Development's Standing Committee presented on GBV with only two females from the Department presenting. The HOD was absent. The MEC: †hy het geskitter in sy afwesigheid was shining in his absence. I do not know how we will take GBV seriously.

The SPEAKER: Hon Bans, your time has expired. Thank you very much. I recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Dankie, agb Speaker. ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you Hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is an hon member on the virtual platform.

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Ja, seksuele teistering vier hoogty, Speaker, en dit is 'n ernstige proleem. Die PA vra dat indien daar klagtes van seksuele

teistering in munisipaliteite in die Wes-Kaap is, dat die klagtes totaal onafhanklik ondersoek en spoedig afgehandel word, en dat sodanige lys van ondersoeke gereeld verslag van vereis gaan word.

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): Yes, sexual harassment is rife, hon Speaker, and it is a serious problem. The PA asks that if there are any complaints of sexual harassment in municipalities in the Western Cape, that the complaints should be investigated totally independently and be concluded speedily, and that such list of investigations will regularly be reported on.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Petrus. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Speaker, yesterday on 27 August 2024, voters chose to unite behind the DA once again during the Ward 17 by-election in Stellenbosch.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): The DA secured 96,28% of the total vote, the ANC 2,58%, MK 1,14% and ARA 0%. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Congratulations to DA councillor Jeremy Fasser as the newly elected Ward Councillor for Ward 17, Stellenbosch, and thank you to all the residents of Cloetesville and Welgevonden for voting DA.

Jeremy is the Deputy Mayor and MMC of Finance in Stellenbosch and has been a proud resident of Stellenbosch for the past 47 years. Jeremy contributed immensely towards the betterment of his community of Cloetesville and has a proven track record for serving his community as a Ward Committee member since 2016. We congratulate Jeremy on his successful election, as well as Mayor Gesie van Deventer and a dedicated team of councillors from the DA-led Stellenbosch Municipality for obtaining yet another clean audit for the 2022/2023 financial year.

The voters have once again put their faith in the DA and the party will repay this faith with more excellent service delivery, good governance and social upliftment for those who need it most. Thank you. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order, hon member. Thank you very much, hon Johnson. I recognise the EFF.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the EFF would like to take this opportunity to condemn the Western Cape Provincial Government over the proposal to cut teachers' posts at the Western Cape Education Department. On 27 August this week, the Western Cape Head of Education, Mr Brent Walters, produced a circular which was directed to school principals, educators and staff at public schools in the province, informing them that the Department's proposal to cut over 2 000 teachers'

posts by the start of next year. The move sets to start at the bottom with contract teachers and move its way up. The rationale behind the cutting of these posts is said to be the result of a reduction in the allocation of budget to the Provincial Education Department.

However, hon Speaker, this move from the Department does not come as a surprise as earlier this year, the hon Premier of the Western Cape mentioned that his Government will cut the budgets intended for Education and Health, and then redirect these funds to the so-called Safety Plan.

The PREMIER: That was ...[Interjection.]

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Flowing from the above, it is then safe to conclude that these latest events... [Interjections.] were well planned – hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

An HON MEMBER: It is the hon Premier.

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Flowing from the above, it is then safe to conclude that these latest events ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, hon member, please take your seat. Hon

Premier and the hon Leader of Government Business, can I remind you in terms of the Rule. You will have an opportunity to respond to any statement that is being made during this session, for up to five minutes. So, may I please ask that you allow the hon members on the floor to make their input. Hon Cassiem, my apologies. You may continue.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Okay, thank you, hon Speaker. Flowing from the above, it is then safe to conclude that these latest events were well planned and well-orchestrated to undermine the Department of Education at the cost of promoting the so-called Safety Plan in which the hon Premier deemed as his brainchild, a venture which has failed at its inception, to say the least.

In conclusion, if the hon Premier and his Government want to cut posts, they should start at the management level of his Government and get rid of all the people who are receiving fat cheques and huge bonuses for sitting in fancy offices and doing nothing. The money that will be saved from getting rid of the rot must then be used to hire more teachers in public schools so that the teacher to learner ratio can improve. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have received an apology from the hon member of the NCC, so I am going to move on to the African National Congress.

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, can I proceed?

The SPEAKER: You may proceed, hon member.

†Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. *Hon Speaker*, ek staan vandag op om 'n dringende bekommernis aan te spreek wat die inwoners van Citrusdal en die Cederberg betref, oor die R303, die pad wat ons verbind vanaf Citrusdal tot die N7 en ook tot die hele provinsie. Die R303 is ook bekend as die MR310, wat 'n lewenslyn is vir die gemeenskap van Citrusdal wat noodsaaklik is vir dienste, ekonomiese aktiwiteit en verbintenis met die res van die provinsie. Agb Speaker, maar hierdie pad is ook 'n probleempad, 'n kwesbare pad vir weerstoestande en word herhaardelik deur die weerstoestande verspoel. In 2023 is 'n gedeelte van hierdie pad verspoel; 2024 in Junie-maand is hierdie pad weer verspoel.

Die huidige herstelmetodes van hierdie pad was wel op 'n kort termyn gedoen wat reeds besig is, maar dit bied nie 'n volhoubare oplossing nie. Die finansiële impak van hierdie pad is herhaalbaar en met herstelwerk raak die gemeenskap ongeduldig. Gegewe hierdie konteks, agb Speaker, stel ek voor dat na 'n meer permanente oplossing gekyk word na die R303 vanaf Citrusdal. Ek wil ook voorstel, agb Speaker, dat daar meer gekyk word na 'n pad wat meer vir die padgebruikers gebruik kan word soos 'n brug, byvoorbeeld.

Agb Speaker, ten laaste vra ek ook net die Departement van Infrastruktuur om in 'n regtigware impakstudie te gaan kyk en met relevante belangstellendes in gesprekvoering te tree om te kyk na 'n brug want dit sal 'n voorhoubare oplossing vir die R303 en vir die gemeenskap wees. Ek versoek

ook, ek wil ook baie graag vra dat die agb *MEC* vir Infrastruktuur ook 'n opgedateerde verslag van die R303 vir ons ook moet voorhou ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I rise today to address an urgent concern regarding the inhabitants of Citrusdal and the Cederberg about the R303, the road linking us from Citrusdal to the N7 and also to the whole province. The R303 is also known as the MR310, which is a lifeline for the community of Citrusdal and which is essential for services, economic activity and linking with the rest of the province. Hon Speaker, but this road is also a problem road, a vulnerable road for weather conditions and is repeatedly flooded through weather conditions. In 2023 a section of this road was washed away; 2024 in the month of June this road was again washed away.

The current repair methods of this road were done in the short term and is still going on, but do not offer a sustainable solution. The financial impact of this road is recoverable and with the repair work the community becomes impatient. Given this context, hon Speaker, I propose that a more permanent solution should be looked at for the R303 from Citrusdal. I also want to propose, hon Speaker, that they should look more at a road that can be used more for the road users, such as a bridge for example.

Hon Speaker, finally I want to ask that the Department of Infrastructure should do a proper impact study and consult with relevant interest groups to look at a bridge because it will be a sustainable solution for the R303 and for

the community. I also ask that the hon MEC for Infrastructure keep an updated report on the R303 for us ...[Interjection.]

†Die SPEAKER: Agb lid, jou tyd het verstryk. Kan ek vra dat jy net afsluit.

[The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired. May I ask that you conclude.]

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): Agb Speaker, ons wil baie graag die finansiële kostes kry van 2023/2024 op hierdie pad. Baie dankie.

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Hon Speaker, we would like to get the costs of 2023/2024 on this road. Thank you.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie. [The SPEAKER: Thank you.] I recognise the ...[Applause.] Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus notes the 2022/2023 Audit Outcomes Report by the Auditor-General and that confirming 20 municipalities in the Western Cape achieved clean audits. How nationally, only 34 municipalities achieved clean audits out of a total of 257 municipalities. This is in contrast where the Western Cape improved on the previous period.

The Freedom Front Plus has been in coalition with the DA in 11 municipalities during and prior to this financial period. Clean audits confirm

that municipalities have complied with the MFMA and that their financial statements are free from material misstatements. Also, no material findings on the Annual Performance Report. The public must, however, understand that this does not necessarily prove that there were no incidents of fraud or corruption and in the words of the Auditor-General herself, and I quote:

“Clean audits are not necessarily an indicator of good service delivery.”

Ask the township dwellers what they would prefer: just clean audits or cleaner townships? Clean audits or higher quality of service delivery? It is a fact that bad budgeting could result in unauthorised and fruitless expenditure and therefore, provision should be made for special circumstances to address urgent needs of communities. The Western Cape must continue to strive to improve the quality of people’s lives. Clean audits are indicators of legislative compliance and transparency, but not necessarily indicators of good service delivery. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. My apologies, hon members. I omitted to recognise the DA before that hon member. So, to the DA, my apologies.

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

The SPEAKER: Hon member, I am still on the floor. I will recognise you now. Hon Marais, was that a point of order?

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker, I just said that was in order with me.

[Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Okay. Hon members ...[Interjection.]

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): My humble apologies, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Van Minnen, you may continue. My apologies.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. As I began my term as a new member in this House, I particularly enjoyed getting to know the people who make up the different facets of this Government. Last week, I had the chance to chair a meeting attended by the Western Cape Commissioner for Children, Christina Nomdo. She provided thought provoking insights into the work of her office and then in particular, the work that she does to facilitate the inputted children into the political system.

Earlier in today's Sitting, we discussed the plight of women in this country, but we also have to keep in mind that children often have even less of a voice in our society. The political system we engage in here in this House is a messy one. It relies on give and take, inputs and outputs, and compromise. But democracy relies on people, all people, having a voice and it is up to us as public representatives to ensure the people of all ages have input into our

political system.

As we enter into a new era of maturing our democracy, we must make sure we allow our youth to live the values which underpin our Constitution so that they might grow up one day to defend it themselves. As has so often been the case, the Western Cape has led the way, but it is time for the rest of our nation to take the necessary steps to ensure the primacy of our children's voices. I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Van Minnen. I recognise Al Jama-ah. I recognise ...[Interjection.]

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

The SPEAKER: My apologies. Hon Brinkhuis, you may continue.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. *Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim*. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the

ACDP in the Western Cape also wants to put on record the shock to hear of the pending crisis coming to our province, namely the reduction of 2 407 teachers' posts by January 2025. This is due to the fiscal pressure the Western Cape Education Department is facing. The WCED has only received 64% of its funding because of the Wage Bill.

The ACDP in the Western Cape's major concern is the impact on schools in our townships that are already overcrowded. They are struggling and I could not get the proper research, but still, Hillcrest and all those schools do not have a 50% pass rate. We believe that this is going to have a major impact on our learners.

The ACDP in the Western Cape is calling on the Western Cape Government to take National Government to task. I know you do, but we must try to resolve this because this is going to be a massive problem. When our communities find out and I know that the Western Cape Head of Department of Education is meeting with the principals, met with the principals yesterday and tomorrow, they will receive, or schools will receive the reduction imposed. This is going to be a major, major problem and we have appealed to the Western Cape Government to take the National Government to task in order to retain those posts. I thank you. [Interjections.]

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

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

Western Cape Education Department, as we have just heard, has issued a notice to school principals indicating they will be cutting 2 407 educator posts from January 2025. The reduction in educator posts will directly affect the rights of children to basic education and will directly affect the quality of education for children in Government schools.

Once again, it is the poorer and less resourced schools that will feel these cuts the most as parents will not be able to fund, through school fees, the appointment of additional educators. Parents in increasingly dense, but middle to low-income communities are already struggling to get their children into schools with parents increasingly reporting that applications for access to schools in 2025 are being denied. The notice to principals and school governing bodies blames budget cuts, but the hon Western Cape Premier is on record for slashing the Provincial Education and Health budgets in order to fund the Western Cape Safety Plan.

Hon Premier Winde proudly claimed that he slashed these budgets in 2019 by R1-billion in order to fund the learner law enforcement officers who operate as LEAP officers under the management of the City of Cape Town. The Western Cape Safety Plan and the deployment of LEAP officers in the ten most dangerous SAPS police precincts was intended to halve the murder rates in these precincts over a ten-year period. While safety of our communities is a top priority across the country, the defunding of core provincial functions of Health and Education to fund the programme, cannot be justified. More specially since the deployment of LEAP officers has not resulted in a

reduction in the murder rate. On the contrary, the murder rate has increased in these crime precincts.

The Western Cape Government must reassess their funding priorities. Reducing the funding of Education in order to dabble in policing will have a long-lasting impact on hundreds of thousands of children and tragically and ironically, on the reduction of crime. No child should be denied the right to quality education just because their parents cannot afford to fund a well-resourced school. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I would like to draw the House's attention to a matter of great concern within my constituency of Matzikama. In recent years, many in our communities on the West Coast have noted an ever-increasing numbers of National Government owned buildings which have been allowed to fall into disuse and disrepair.

These buildings have become what we call dead capital. They are more than just an eyesore; they represent structural risks in many cases and some pose physical danger to any who may enter them. Examples include the derelict old police station in Klawer, as well as the former Spoornet Recreation Centre in Klawer as well. I am more than happy to provide a full list of these buildings on request.

Hon Speaker, we know from the efforts of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport how important it is to use our recreational facilities to catalyse positive change in our communities. Imagine, hon Speaker, what could happen if our National Government worked as hard as our Provincial Government does, to leverage and maintain its facilities. We will help you. We will help you with it. We are there to help you.

I want to implore this House and this Government to put the necessary pressure on various Government departments to pay attention to the state of our infrastructure, especially in our more rural communities. So often, our focus stays on our cities, but we cannot afford to forget the rural communities that still make up a huge proportion of our province's people and our province's talent. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Walters. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Member Statements, but in terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more hon members of the Executive an opportunity to respond to Members' Statements for not more than five minutes collectively, if they so wish. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I'll go first; as short as I can. I just want to correct the hon Cassiem and the hon Herron that in actual fact and in hon Herron's words, 'we slashed the budget'. [Interjections.] It was less than 1% of the budget five years ago in 2019 that went to fund the Safety

Plan which is a comprehensive whole of Government plan. So, he must get his facts straight, or both of them should get their facts straight.

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker. In terms of the hon member Kamfer, and in terms of the R303, it is a pity that the hon Leader of the Opposition has not forwarded me with the constituency NCR for the ANC across our province, otherwise, he would have received my statement of Saturday morning where I have outlined the temporary bypass, which construction has started this week. It will take eight days.

The permanent solution is a double culvert system, but the cause of the break is actually a Burman and privately owned farm. The cost for the permanent solution is R30-million which includes entire resurfacing. In 2023, we spent R15-million. Again, it is not the same area that is the problem, but the real problem here is a transversal management maintenance plan which we have drafted, which will be sent to all relevant departments because the real cause is not the infrastructure, it is the river cleaning itself. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Minister of Education, hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I want to assure the House that we are going to do everything we can to fight for our teachers here in the Western Cape. But we are in this position for one reason and one reason only, and that is National Government's failure to fully fund [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...the 2023 Public Sector Wage Bill. Now, we have imposed a massive R2,5-billion budget cut, but we are unfortunately left with a R3,8-billion budget shortfall. We have raised this matter at the Council of Education Ministers for urgent action because, hon members, this problem is a shared problem. If anything, the budget pressures are more acute in other provinces across South Africa.

So, I really hope in the coming weeks that hon members will join us rather than fight us, as we work over the coming weeks and months to fight for our teachers here in the Western Cape. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister Maynier. Hon Ministers, is there anyone else that wants to make a contribution in terms of Rule 145? If not, then that brings us to the end of Member Statements.

MOTIONS

The SPEAKER: We then move on to Motion without Notice in terms of Rule 150 and I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, I move without notice that the motion printed on the Order Paper in my name reflected as Motion 5 under further business, be given precedence and moved above the line for consideration by this august House as part of our business here today. I so move.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections? No objections, agreed to. I now recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the Constitution of the Western Cape Amendment Bill (Determination of Number of Members) [B 7–2023] be considered from the stage that it reached during the Sixth Parliament. I so move.

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

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections? No objections, agreed to.

Hon members, we now move to Notices of Motions in terms of Rule 151 that all notices of motions by the hon members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing it on the Order Paper. These motions have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House acknowledges that gang violence on the Cape Flats has escalated to become the most pressing crime issue in the Western Cape; notes that, during the weekend of 28 June 2024 to 1 July 2024, the Cape Flats experienced a tragic toll of 120 fatalities and 90 injuries; further notes that a full-scale gang conflict appears to be emerging, with casualties surpassing those reported in the Russia–Ukraine conflict over a comparable period; acknowledges that the existing policing strategy is ineffective and requires an urgent reassessment, given the apparent lack of progress in investigations and the absence of information regarding arrests and successful prosecutions; further acknowledges that our communities are not targets for violence and that the streets of the Cape Flats are stained with the blood of our children; and resolves that the current situation is intolerable and requires immediate action to address and resolve this crisis.

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the pervasive issues of corruption and dysfunction in our municipalities.

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

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the profound impact of drug and substance abuse in our province.

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the current state of education in the Western Cape.

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

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The SPEAKER: I now move on to Motions without Notice. I would like to

inform you that in terms of Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary of 20 August 2024. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this sitting and that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

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

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority as follows: hon D G Jacobs, hon N Masipa, hon B Stoffel, hon R Windvogel, hon A P Bans, hon P Z Lekker.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): I move without notice:

That the House conveys its heartfelt sympathy to the families who lost everything in the Riverlands Dam disaster the past two weeks in the Malmesbury district; and mourns the loss of possessions and property.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes that sustainability in agriculture depends on our relationships with global partners; further acknowledges the recent exposure during the Olympic Games held in Paris, where the media highlighted the pink ostrich plumes originating from Cape Karoo International, a farm in the Western Cape's Karoo region; notes that these pink and black ostrich feathers were prominently featured by renowned musician Lady Gaga during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games; recognises that this significant exposure bodes well for the South African farming industry by enhancing the value of ostrich products, and potentially increasing the demand for ostrich meat and leather; further notes that, according to Mr De Wet, both Lady Gaga and Naomi Campbell often wears garments made from ostrich feathers, which is expected to boost demand for these feathers further and, in turn, to increase South Africa's foreign exchange earnings, contributing to sustainable job creation in the long run; and recommends that a congratulatory letter be sent to Mr De Wet of Cape Karoo International, acknowledging the valuable work being done to promote South African ostrich farming on the global stage.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes the horrific murder of a pregnant woman, Melanie Nelson (29), from Heideveld, whose bludgeoned body was discovered near a footbridge in the area; conveys sincerest condolences to her family and loved ones; and welcomes the arrest of the suspect connected to her murder.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with profound sadness the discovery of the body of Charlene Josephs (57), from Lavender Hill, who was kidnapped at gunpoint by masked gunmen at her home on 10 July; calls on the police to expedite investigations into her murder and to bring the perpetrators to book; and conveys condolences to her family and loved ones.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms A P BANS (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing of Abongile Nyumbeka (35) after a prolonged illness; notes that Abongile, a dedicated member in good standing of the ANC and a valued member of the Sol Plaatjie Branch Executive Committee, was renowned for his

unwavering commitment to local economic development and youth empowerment; further notes that his pioneering efforts in community development have left a lasting impact; and conveys its most heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this time of profound loss.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of Monwabisi Max Ngubabeni, the latest victim of extortion in Nyanga East at Mam's Tavern; notes that he was known affectionately as Max; notes that he was a valued member of the Western Cape Liquor Association; notes that his loss is deeply felt; and stands in solidarity with his family during this incredibly difficult time.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Hon member, are there any objections? No objections, agreed to. Hon member, the motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual member's name as if that member had read them out aloud.

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

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes a horrific incident that took place at Shoprite situated in Gugulethu where an elderly man was kept in storage fridge following allegations of theft by Shoprite security guards and staff. Mr Sandile Khintshi, who is 52 years old, was kept in Shoprite fridge for seven hours after being accused of stealing drilling machines. Further notes that the actions of Shoprite security guards and staff are not only inhumane, but they also tarnished the dignity of an elder in a despicable manner. Moreover, whilst the South African Police Services are still investigating the matter, we further call on the South African Human Rights Commission to investigate this matter and hold those involved to account; and conclude by stating that South Africa is a constitutional democratic country founded on the principles of the rule of law wherein self-help and lawlessness can never be tolerated. I so move. Thank you, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the recent exploits by the University of Western Cape's Women Soccer team for winning the regional Cosafa Cup and achieving qualification to represent South Africa at the African Champions league. The good part about these achievements is that they are taking place on a Women's Month. Further notes that their achievement marks the first time a University Women's team had advanced to this round of the competition. These are women who had to balance their academics and their participation in sports, which also involved a lot of travelling. These ladies are testimony that women can indeed multitask and excel in all fronts; and conclude by wishing them the best of luck going forward and hoping that they will continue flying the South African flag high. I so move. Thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Ngqentsu. I will get it right, I promise you.

An HON MEMBER: Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Ngqentsu. I move without notice:

That the House notes that the month of August is a historic month in our national calendar, as it is the National Women's Month, in recognition of the historic role played by women in our struggle for liberation and social emancipation, including the emancipation of women from patriarchal domination; further notes the women's role in the struggle includes the massive 1956 Women's March led by formidable and courageous women including Albertina Sisulu, Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Sophia de Bruyn and Rahima Moosa to mention a few, with an overwhelming participation by working-class women; acknowledges that while we celebrate the 68th anniversary of the iconic August 1956 Women's march towards national liberation of the historically oppressed and equal rights regardless of race and gender, we remain deeply concerned that working class women remain in the periphery of the economy and by the alarming levels of violence against women; calls on members of this House and society at large to ensure that Gender-Based Violence has no space in our society and denounces the absence of a comprehensive strategy from the DA-led Provincial Government to tackle gender-based violence and barriers to women empowerment in the Western Cape. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

An HON MEMBER: No, no.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and it will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Ngqentsu. Hon member, your next opportunity. [Interjections.] I have recognised you already, hon member. You may continue with your next one.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes that the month of July overlapping to August 2024 mark the 103-anniversary of the founding of the South African Communist Party (SACP) as the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA), as the SACP was founded at a three-day congress held on 30 and 31 July and 1 August 1921 in Cape Town; further notes and welcomes that on 4 August 2024, the South African Communist Party in the Western Cape together with its alliance partners, ANC, COSATU and SANCO celebrated the 103-year anniversary of unbroken struggle to advance, deepen, consolidate and defend our shared national democratic

revolution, our strategic route towards socialism at the OR Tambo Hall in Khayelitsha; recognizes that the ultimate aim of the SACP is to build a communist society in which all forms of exploitation of one person by another will end and in which all the products of human endeavour will be distributed according to need and that the attainment of such a society will require an interim socialist transition in which reward will be measured by contribution; acknowledges that the SACP commits itself to a social order that will respect completely the cultural, language and religious rights of all sections of our society and the democratic rights of individuals; and calls on the House to honour the legacy of former and current leaders of the SACP who contributed in these 103 years in the struggle against capitalist exploitation, gender and national oppression of the majority people of our country. In this instance, those include Chris Hani, ZZ Arch Sibeko, Joe Slovo, Ray Alexander, and Moses Kotane. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There is no objection. Hon members, can I please ask that the Table Staff just stop the clock because I want to address something. Order, hon members. Hon members.

So, last week in the previous Sitting, I have requested assistance from the

Chief Whips from the political parties to please guide and assist in particular with Notices without Motions. Hon members, I have now allowed a motion that has not been agreed upon in the order of delivery. So, the motion was agreed upon, but not where it was delivered. So, there is a reason why there is an order because there are only 30 minutes allocated as per the Rules.

So, hon members, this is the last time that I am going to allow a motion that is delivered outside of the order as agreed to by political parties. The next one that is not following the sequence will be disallowed. With that being said, I recognise the hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, on behalf of the African National Congress, I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep shock and sorrow the brutal killing of a 17-year-old learner at Siphamandla Secondary School in Khayelitsha; notes further with concern reports that the victim Olwethu Dyonta was a significant witness in a high-profile criminal case involving a string of extortion-related murders and was gunned down just days before he was due to testify; acknowledges that the murder of Olwethu highlights systemic vulnerabilities that need to be urgently addressed to protect witnesses who stand against criminal entities; calls on the SAPS to speed up investigation into the murder and leave no stones unturned to bring the perpetrators and mastermind to book and convey deepest condolences to the family, loved ones and classmates of the deceased. I

so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bans. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, and the motion is agreed to. I recognise hon Lekker.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Nkosi, Somlomo. I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep appreciation and welcome the intended signing of the memorandum of understanding between the three spheres of government and the private security industries which will take place in Cape Town on Friday, 30 August; further notes that this pivotal agreement underscores the Government's strong and resolute commitment to combating crime and eradicating the pervasive issue of extortion; applauds this collaborative effort as a significant step toward enhancing public safety and improving safety of our people in communities; calls upon all parties involved to actively contribute to this crucial initiative as it is imperative that each stakeholder diligently address not only the immediate challenges posed by crime but also tackle the underlying factors that contribute to criminal activity; and recognizes that by working together and addressing these root causes, we can forge a more effective and comprehensive approach to safeguarding our society. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Lekker. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, motion agreed to. I now move on to hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): You will get there. I move without notice:

That the House notes and expresses its deep concern regarding the escalating violence between rival taxi associations, Codeta and Cata, in Atlantis; further notes that this conflict has emerged following the recent launch of a new route by Codeta, which has led to significant unrest and allegations of unfair practices from Cata; recognizes that this tension between rival associations poses a serious threat to public safety and transportation stability in the entire province; urges all parties involved to exercise restraint and to immediately cease all forms of violence and intimidation, and calls on all credible community leaders to work with all the spheres of government and the Minibus Taxi Task Team to prioritize this matter and take immediate steps to convene the necessary discussions with both parties to resolve the current impasse through dialogue and negotiation, ensuring that all parties have the opportunity to present their concerns and work towards a mutually acceptable solution. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? The hon Minister and the hon member on the floor, can you take your private conversation outside. I am on the floor at the moment, and I am putting the motion to the House. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There is an objection, and motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I move on and I recognise the hon Windvogel. Hon Windvogel, you may continue. There is an objection, and it will be printed on the Order Paper. We move on.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes and expresses grave concern over the Western Cape Education Department's reckless and ill-considered decision to reduce the number of teaching posts for 2025 by over 2 400 positions, which will have a profoundly detrimental effect on all schools, particularly those in previously disadvantaged communities, worsening the already poor quality of education in these areas; further notes that this drastic measure follows the implementation of WCED Circular 34 of 2023, which has already caused significant harm to under-resourced schools, as these schools have been left with large, unmanageable class sizes and have struggled to cover the shortfall with substitute teachers due to financial constraints; and calls on the House to vehemently reject

this decision and strongly urges the Western Cape Education Department to reconsider; and calls for a reallocation of resources from non-essential programs such as the School Evaluation Authority and the Back to School programme, instead of cutting teaching posts. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Windvogel. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes and welcomes the Western Cape Education Department's current engagement with the City of Cape Town and the Methodist Church for the fixing and opening of Govan Mbeki Road between Stock Road and Sheffield Road as well as the service entrance road off Govan Mbeki, namely Diaz Road to the Klipfontein Methodist Primary School; further notes the closure of the current road contributes immensely to the unsafe conditions facing educators and learners and

that this matter had been raised with authorities and with ourselves at different levels; and calls for a speedy resolution of this matter. I so move. Thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Masipa.

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

That the House notes with admiration the achievements of the winners at the prestigious South African Young Wine Show Awards 2024; notes that this event is one of oldest wine shows in the world and celebrates its 192nd year of existence this year; notes that South African wine is world-renowned and being crowned as one of the best young wines in the country is an enormous honour for the winemakers and wine farms; notes that the South African wine industry is a key part of the Western Cape's economy and contributes massively to both employment and tourism in the province; and that the House send a letter of thanks to the organisers, the South African National Wine Show Association and Agri Expo, for keeping this historic competition going, thus contributing to the Western Cape's reputation as a premier wine-producing region. I so move, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable. Thank you, hon members. Hon members are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House notes the achievement of Western Cape municipalities in the Auditor-General's Consolidated General Report on Local Government Audit Outcomes for the 2022/2023 period and that this again demonstrates that public funds are best utilized when the needs of residents come first. Also notes that of the 34 municipalities across South Africa that received clean audits, the majority (58.8%) were from the Western Cape. In stark contrast, municipalities outside the Western Cape continue to face challenges in delivering credible financial

statements, as highlighted by the Auditor-General when she said: "Municipalities in all provinces except the Western Cape continued to struggle with preparing credible financial statements." Notably, the municipalities consistently failing their residents in the Western Cape remain those under Opposition control and this pattern highlights the importance of electing leaders who prioritize sound financial management and service delivery. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bryant. Hon members are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House notes that on 26 August 2024 the Provincial Minister, of Social Development, Mr Jaco Londt, joined the Overstrand Municipality

Mayor, Annelie Rabie, and A21 at a human trafficking awareness event in Hermanus; notes that this follows the joint awareness campaign held in Cape Town last month; and the Overstrand event brought together various organisations from different sectors such as Early Childhood Development, NGOs, the business sector and Neighbourhood Watch groups; this House further notes that the Provincial Department of Social Development worked with the South African Police Service (SAPS) when a bus with undocumented adults and children arrived in Paarl last month. DSD immediately stepped in to see to the needs of the children to ensure they got home safely. Hon Speaker, I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That this House notes that the Western Cape Government would like to collaborate with other coastal provinces when severe storms hit and that the Department of Local Government has a Memorandum of Understanding in place for cooperation with other coastal provinces; and that this House further notes that the Western Cape Government and the Department of Local Government would like to take this MOU to the

next level with tangible projects and training exercises between different rescue entities in the provinces. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bryant. Hon members are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Van Wyk.

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

That the House recognises the work of and dedication of the 15 Provincial Teaching Award winners, who were recognised for their work at a ceremony on Saturday. Honoured for such categories as Excellence in Special Needs Education through to Excellence in Technology Enhanced Learning and Teaching. These educators have all found ways to do more to encourage their learners into the future. The House should thank them for their dedication and wish them well for the National Teaching Awards in October. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bryant. Hon members are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House notes that on 21 August 2024, the Standing Committee on Social Development furnished a letter to the National Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development requesting that attacks on social workers be classified as attacks on the State; and notes with great disappointment that this letter has been ignored by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Ms Thembi Simelane; and further notes that a follow-up letter was sent to the Minister on 28 August 2024, urging immediate attention to this matter, with a response requested by 6 September 2024. Hon Speaker, I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Kaizer-Philander. Hon members are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? [Interjections.] There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Hon members! Hon members, there was an objection. We have moved on. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. There is no need for debate. I recognise the hon Bosman.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I

move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing of Professor Brian O'Connell who the former Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Western Cape, who served from 2001 to 2014. Professor O'Connell guided UWC through challenging times, including financial vulnerability, staff retrenchments, and a potential merger with Peninsula Technikon. Under his leadership, UWC began a phase of significant rebuilding and transformation; Professor O'Connell also focused on UWC's role as an 'engaged university,' emphasizing the need to address societal inequalities through teaching, research, and community engagement. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bosman. Hon members are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Bosman.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House notes with deep sadness the passing of Ms. Antoinette 'Toni' Whithair, a dedicated and beloved figure within the Western Cape healthcare system. Ms Whithair was a registered nurse and a family planning consultant at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital.

She retired from her job but then went to work for the hospital's Trust. Ms Whithair remained actively involved at the hospital, serving as a crucial liaison between architects, artisans, hospital management, and staff, ensuring that areas in need of restructuring or replacement were thoughtfully designed and executed. Ms Whithair's unwavering commitment to the hospital, even in her later years, exemplified her enduring dedication and the profound bond she shared with this institution. Like the hospital itself, she was a symbol of strength, resilience, and continuity; that this House honours her remarkable service and mourns her loss, recognizing the lasting impact she has left on our healthcare system and all those who had the privilege of working alongside her. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bosman. Hon members are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with sadness the passing of City of Cape Town Alderman Bonita Jacobs; notes that Ms Jacobs was a dedicated public servant and a community activist who always fought for the people she represented; notes that she will be sorely missed and her absence keenly

felt in the City's Council chambers; and that the House wishes her friends and family well during this difficult time. Thank you, hon Speaker. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Masipa. Hon members are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): *[Interjection.]*... my speech. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon members, with that being said, that brings us to the end of Motions without Notices. Hon member, is that a point of order?

An HON MEMBER: Hon Speaker, I submitted according to the timelines as requested *[Interjections.]* and I was not given an opportunity.

The SPEAKER: Please, hon members. I do not need assistance. I accept from the Table Staff, so please just allow me an opportunity. *[Interjections.]* Hon member, I have been advised by the Table Staff that the motion that you submitted was with notice, so it will appear on the Order Paper of next week. It was not without notice. Alright, with that being said, hon members, that concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting, and all hon members will be exited from the sitting, and the House is

adjourned.

The House adjourned at 16:45.