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TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2025

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we will now observe a moment of silent prayer or meditation.

HOUSE: Observing a moment of silence.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Members. You may be seated. Secretary may you read the next order please.

DR MBEDZI: ORDER NO. 2 MOTIONS AS PER RULE 101

2.1 Motions Without Notice as Per Rule 106

2.2 Notice of Motions as Per Rule 107

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I will now call on the Chief Whip of the House to move a motion in terms of Rule 106 of the Standing Rules of the North West Provincial Legislature. Honourable Rosho.

HON. ROSHO: Tla ke go leboge Motlatsammusakgotla #[Let me thank you Deputy Speaker]#. Deputy Speaker, I'm bringing a motion without notice in terms of Rule 106 of the Standing Rules of the Legislature noting that this House has established an ad-hoc committee on the appointment of the North West Public Service Commissioner as known as an ad-hoc committee. Noting further that the motion requires that the ad-hoc committee must submit its report to the House on/or before the 15th of March 2025 as per the granted extension on the 26th of November 2024.

Noting further that the ad-hoc committee is still engaged in the process of recruitment, consultations with legal experts and is still to conduct the interview process to the shortlisted candidates. Noting further that the ad-hoc committee will not be able to complete its work before the 15th of March 2025.

I now move in terms of Rule 106 of the Standing Rules of the Legislature that the time frame within which the ad-hoc committee must submit the report to the House be extended to the 15th of June 2025. I so move. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Chief Whip. Honourable Members; Honourable Wallhorn.

HON. WALLHORN: Chair, I've also got a motion without notice. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May you rise when you address the Presiding Officer.

HON. WALLHORN: My apologies Chair. Thank you. I've also got a motion without notice. Sorry. I was just distracted when the assistance came in. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay Honourable Wallhorn.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker ...
[INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Wallhorn!

HON. WALLHORN: Yes?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May you please follow the order paper. You'll have an opportunity to raise your hand. Honourable Babuile.

HON. BABUILE: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. I rise on a point of order in that today's order paper as processed by the whippery has no item which you just called on the Chief Whip to present. Even if you were to go into the gadgets here, that item is not there. And I want to check with you as to where is this coming from? What precedence are we actually setting as this Legislature?

You called on the Chief Whip to rise and present an item without even raising her hand. So I want to check on that as a matter of raising a point of order. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Steenkamp. Honourable Babuile, the order paper of today has got motions. The Chief Whip was raising a motion. May you rise when you address the Presiding Officer Honourable Babuile.

HON. BABUILE: The Chief Whip has never raised her hand. You called on her to rise and present. She has never raised any hand. Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Indeed, it was a very wrong precedence because we thought you are going to follow the correct procedure of the House and note hands as it is normally a practice and norm of this particular sitting to note hands. All of us we are having motions without notice but you went straight and called the Chief Whip for her motion. It's un-procedural and it is not correct and it is not going to be accepted. Thanks, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I'm sure we are not going to belabour this issue because I want to make a ruling. Honourable Steenkamp.

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I'm just rising on a point of clarity. When my Member got up, you asked him to sit down because we need to follow the order paper. When Honourable Babuile just raised on a point of order you said that there is motions and we are following it.

So my question to you Honourable Deputy Speaker would be, are we then indeed following the order paper as you said to Honourable Babuile or not as you told Honourable Wallhorn? If so, my request is that Honourable Wallhorn then continues as you have given him a platform.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I would like to make the following ruling, that the agenda of today indeed has got a motion, has got an item on motions. I have however noted what Honourable Babuile has raised. I will consult with Hansard and make a ruling in the next sitting.

Honourable Members, are there any motions without notice? Honourable Tsholo, Honourable Wallhorn, Honourable Sonakile, Honourable Mosenogi, Honourable Madoda Sambatha,

Honourable Makgokgowa, Honourable Oliphant, Honourable Babuile, Honourable Matshe. Is that Honourable Molapisi in front of you? Oh, Honourable Lehari, Honourable Bogatsu, Honourable Moema and Honourable Steenkamp. In that order.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, Honourable Premier and Members of the House. I hereby stand on behalf of uMkhonto weSizwe Party to congratulate Banyana Banyana for winning up their two-match series against Lesotho for beating Lesotho 2-0 in an international friendly match which was played at University of Johannesburg Soweto campus last Tuesday on the 04th of March 2025.

We wish our national team well as they will be playing next month to prepare to defend their title at the Women's Africa Cup of Nations to be held in Morocco in July and we wish them all the best. Bravo, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, does any Member wish to respond to the motion? Okay. Honourable Wallhorn.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to extend our deepest condolences to the friends, family and loved ones of the world-renowned playwright Athol Fugard. South Africa and the world have lost a literary giant whose contributions to the arts, culture and the fight for justice will be felt for generations to come.

Noting that Athol Fugard was lauded by Time Magazine in 1989 as the greatest active playwright in the English-speaking world, cementing his position as one of the most influential figures in global theatre. His body of work including the iconic Master Harold and The Boys, The Road to Mecca and Tsotsi, the latter adopted into an Oscar winning film has profoundly impacted both South African and international audiences.

Fugard's plays which courageously confronted injustice, pre-justice and the brutal realities of apartheid were instrumental in amplifying the voices of the oppressed and challenging societal

norms that perpetuated inequality. His unravelling commitment to truth, social justice and human dignity through the lens of theatre played a critical role in South Africa's struggle for freedom and continues to inspire future generations of artists and activists further acknowledging that Fugard's work transcended the boundaries of theatre influencing not only South African politics but also the global conversation on human rights and equality.

His legacy as a champion of freedom and human rights will live on through his writings which continue to receive acclaim and inspire discussions on the enduring importance of combating oppression. As a South African and an international figure, Athol Fugard's impact on the arts, culture and politics remain profound and his death is a loss not only to his family and friends but also to the world at large.

This House therefore calls for (1) The creation of opportunities for South Africans particularly younger generations to engage with and learn from Fugard's works, ensuring his legacy continues to inspire and challenge us in the pursuit of justice. The recognition of Athol Fugard's work in fostering dialogue around freedom, equality and human dignity which remain crucial in the continued transformation of our society.

The DA joins all South Africans in mourning the loss of this literary giant and we extend our heartfelt condolences to Fugard's family, the friends and colleagues. May his memory continue to inspire and guide us as we work towards a more just and equal society. I so move. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does any Member wish to respond to the motion? Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the DA to table a motion in response to the sentencing of individuals responsible for the brutal murder of Constable Simon Ntsekeletsa and Sergeant Mojalefa Molete in 2021, noting that the Mafikeng High Court has sentenced three of the four convicted individuals to life imprisonment for the heinous murder of two police officers from Mareetsane Police Station.

The officers were killed in the line of duty after stopping a vehicle carrying stolen livestock only to be ambushed, brutally attacked with hammers, kidnapped and ultimately burned inside their police vehicle. The court's sentencing including life imprisonment for three of the accused and 15 years for the fourth reflects the gravity of the crime.

Attacks on law enforcement officers undermine the rule of law and pose a significant threat to the safety of both police personnel and the communities they serve. Further noting that while the sentencing sends a strong message, SAPS continues to face severe challenges including under resourcing, inadequate support and rising violent crime against officers.

The protection of police officers must be prioritised through better training, improved equipment and swift action against those who attack law enforcement personnel. The families of the slain officers have suffered immense loss and the state must ensure that they receive the necessary support including financial assistance and trauma counselling.

The DA therefore calls on the Minister of Police and the National Commissioner of SAPS to (1) Urgently implement enhanced safety measures for police officers particularly those operating in rural and high-risk areas. (2) Ensure the provision of adequate resources including protective gear and personnel reinforcements to prevent future attacks on officers.

(3) Strengthen intelligence-led policing to dismantle criminal networks involved in stock theft and violent crimes against police members. (4) Provide ongoing support to the families of the fallen officers including access to financial aid, trauma counselling and other necessary assistance. The DA stands firm in its commitment to ensuring that justice is not only served but that proactive steps are taken to protect those who risk their lives daily to uphold the rule of law. I so move.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sonakile. Does any Member wish to respond? Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to welcome the launch of the provincial Agri-hub which aims at addressing

food security challenges while strengthening agricultural resilience within the North West communities.

This ground-breaking initiative will optimise the potential opportunities for Agro-processing facilities and activities with a specific focus on food and vegetable processing facilities while providing appropriate assistance in the form of skills development, access to capital, infrastructure and equipment to small-scale farmers.

The Agri-hub will also serve as a key platform for emerging farmers equipping them with the technical expertise and business acumen needed to establish sustainable and competitive agricultural enterprises. The successful establishment of this hub will further serve as a centre of excellence dedicated to enhancing livestock genetics, optimising animal feed and facilitating research.

It will provide farmers access to significant research outcomes enabling them to adopt methodologies that have been validated by experts as effective. It will contribute towards creating production marketing and trade infrastructure, market expansion as well as improved access, localised food import replacement and expand Agro-processing to enhance food security, production output and job creation.

The African National Congress commend the collective partnership between the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development led by the MEC and the North West University for the establishment of this hub which must strategically drive Agri-business innovation, foster industry networking and create value added opportunities within the sector.

This initiative will assist in repositioning the province to reclaim its historic status as South Africa as well as in SADC food basket including a continental and global player in the food value chain. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Mosenogi. Does any Member wish to respond? Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Sambatha?

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to move a motion without notice applauding the good work of the directorate of priority crimes investigation otherwise known as Hawks, Mr Arrest-Arrest, for arresting the North West Development Corporation chief financial officer Mr Kudakwashe Mpofu on 28 January 2025 for fraud.

It is alleged that in March 2021, the North West Development Corporation advertised the position of asset manager based in head office in Mahikeng. The investigation indicated that Mpofu applied for the position as part of applicants' application process. Mr Mpofu attached all the necessary documents including his permanent residence permit which is alleged to be fraudulent. He was successfully appointed to the position on May 1, 2021 and in June 2023, Mpofu was appointed as CFO for the entity.

It is alleged that Mr Mpofu submitted a fraudulent South African permanent residence when applying for the job in North West Development Corporation and according to records, the permit was never issued by the Department of Home Affairs. An affidavit was presented by an official of the Department of Home Affairs which confirmed that the permanent residence permit of the accused was never issued by Home Affairs and it is fraudulent.

The African National Congress lauds the action taken by the directorate of priority crimes for apprehending the accused person and brought before court for the violation of South Africa's immigration laws and concomitant legislation such as South African Citizenship Act 88 of 1995. We further urge our government through the relevant departments to tighten its regulations as the abuse of the process allows for illegal foreigners to access benefits reserved for South African citizens and permanent residents.

The use of fraudulently obtained identity documents further creates a dilemma and the country on different levels. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Sambatha. Does any Member wish to respond? Honourable Steenkamp, you've got one minute.

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you Deputy Speaker. We note the statement by the MEC and we also welcomed this arrest a while back in a media statement but I would like to make it clear Honourable MEC that Mr Mpofu did not hire himself. His appointment is a direct result of failures within the Department of DEDECT and its leadership, its vetting processes and its governance structures.

And the key questions remain unanswered, who in DEDECT was responsible for verifying Mpofu's qualifications, citizenship status and appointing him? What due diligence, if any, was conducted before placing him in charge of public funds? And we therefore urge the Premier to take action and bring to this House a full report on the vetting processes of entities as well ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your one minute is up Honourable Member.

HON. STEENKAMP: Vetting entities as well.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. The next Honourable Member is Honourable; oh, Honourable Lenkopane.

HON. LENKOPANE: Thanks, Honourable Speaker. I wish to respond to the motion in the spirit of building the capable state. The President has since proclaimed SIU investigation into the NWDC involving the matters of the former CFO and we are cooperating as a department and we hope all the results will be in favour of the good governance from the side of the department. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Lenkopane. The next Member is Honourable Makgokgowa but before she speaks, I want to bring to the attention of the House that in terms of Rule 106 (5), what it says in terms of the time allocated for these motions. It's

the rules. So I'm looking at the time. At the time when we get to 30 minutes, we would not be able to finish the list of Members here. Honourable Makgokgowa.

HON. MAKGOKGOWA: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a motion without notice congratulating Tete Dijana on recently winning the 42-kilometre Tracn4 Elands Marathon. Tete Dijana our marathon champion hails from our beautiful province of the North West, right here in Mafikeng.

Today we celebrate him for his remarkable strides made in the ultra-marathon scene and all the hard work he has put in to be where he is today. After working as a security guard at North West University, his decision to transition into professional athlete has led to a significant achievement. He has become a beacon of hope to many of our people in the province by being a significant example that where you come from must never determine your destiny.

In his debut as the Comrades Marathon in 2019, Tete finished 50th with a time of 06:25:03 earning him a silver medal. He then joined the Nedbank Running Club in 2022 and secured second place in the Nedbank breaking barriers 50 kilometre race the same year. As the African National Congress, we applaud Tete's dedication and perseverance which led to his successful win of the Comrades Marathon consecutively first in 2022 and later in 2023 with a notable time record of 05 hours, 30 minutes and 38 seconds in 2022. Tete has added yet another accolade by winning the 42-kilometre race at the Tracn4 Elands Marathon.

His journey from the university security to ultra-marathon champion is a testament that one's determination and passion. As the African National Congress, we take this opportunity to once again honour Tete for all that he has achieved. We are truly proud of the hard work endured no matter the hardship and challenges he has come across. We wish him well in his future endeavours and hope he will continue to raise our flag high and inspire others from humble beginnings to work hard in order to achieve greatness. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Does any Member wish to respond? Thank you, Members. The next Member is Honourable Oliphant.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to move a motion without notice commending the Department of Social Development and other stakeholders including the South African Police Service that came to the rescue of stranded families in Asen and Klipfish in Madibeng Local Municipality in relation to social relief aid.

The two villages were left destitute during the recent floods which severely affected 84 families that were displaced by the rain that flooded their homes. Families faced undue hardship but received social relief of distress in the form of food parcels from a team of social workers and SAPS who used a helicopter and some boats to access the remote areas in Madibeng.

The affected families were identified with the help of the disaster management in Bojanala District Municipality and were assisted by the Social Development Department service point in Madibeng. Social workers worked tirelessly with SAPS and other stakeholders to distribute food parcels to the affected families and in addition to the social relief packages, social workers will also determine the extent of the needs of the residents.

The ANC applauds the good work of the Department of Social Development and its stakeholders in coming to the rescue of the vulnerable families by providing them with blankets, food, temporary shelter and clothing. The action of the ANC-led government has demonstrated that ours is not only a caring and compassionate but also a responsible state to the needs of our people, the needs of our communities in a time of need. I thank you Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Does any Member wish to respond? Honourable Dantjie.

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Let me also really appreciate the statement by Honourable Nathan and also appreciate the role played by the Bojanala District Municipality and the Madibeng Municipality and other sister departments

because indeed our people were struggling. The intervention as much as, as little as it was, they really appreciated but we intend to do more in assisting our people in alleviating poverty.

So we want to encourage all other sister department to say kgetsi ya tsie e kgonwa ka go tshwaraganelwa #[a load is lighter when shared]#. When we have these kinds of disasters, we are fully aware that the Department of Social Development does not have a budget for disasters but we are trying in all other areas including Ramotshere and Klerksdorp we have intervened. Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. The next Member is Honourable Babuile.

HON. BABUILE: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. I hereby rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters in this esteemed House to table a motion to congratulate all young athletes who emerged victorious in the provincial school sports athletic championships held at Mark Arthur Stadium in Potchefstroom.

Deputy Speaker, we acknowledge the dedication, discipline and hard work demonstrated by these young sportsmen and women. Those achievements are a testament to the immense sporting talent within Bokone Bophirima. Their success is not only a personal triumph but a source of pride for their families, schools and the entire province.

Furthermore, Deputy Speaker, we extend our best wishes to these exceptional athletes as they prepare to represent our province in the national school's sport athlete championship in Bloemfontein. We trust that they will compete with the same resilience and determination that brought them victory to this province.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the EFF calls on the Department of Education and the Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation to continue supporting school sports by ensuring that young athletes have access to the necessary resources, training facilities and developmental programme to excel at both national and international level. May the spirit of excellence and

perseverance continue to thrive in the hearts of our young champions as they carry this flag of Bokone Bophirima forward. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Babuile. Does any Member wish to respond? Okay, thank you Honourable Members. The next Member is Honourable Matshe.

HON. MATSHE: Thanks, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a motion without notice welcoming the reopening of the Boitekong Clinic in the Bojanala District on the 06th of March 2025. The Boitekong Clinic recently underwent refurbishment that was funded by multiple stakeholders.

Gift of the Givers funded installation of parameter fence, gates, guardhouse, ceiling and air conditioners. Sibanye-Stillwater Mine repaired the leaking roof, flooring, painting, plumbing and installed the wi-fi as well as a service board. Bonitas Medical Fund installed a borehole as well as the water tank while PEPFAR, Anova constructed the administration block for the facility.

As the ANC we welcome the reopening of this clinic as it forms part of the undertakings made by our Honourable MEC and the provincial government to strengthen the delivery of quality health services to the people of the North West. The refurbishment of this clinic is a clear example of our commitment to partnerships that can deliver quality healthcare.

This part of our work to comply with the ideal clinic's status in preparation of the implementation of the National Health Insurance. We stay committed to ensure that government provides quality healthcare services to our people. This we do not only as part of implementing our manifesto priorities but it's also about ensuring universal access to healthcare leading to an improved health profile of our nation. I thank you Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Matshe. Honourable Members, does any Member wish to respond? None. The next Member is Honourable Lehari.

HON. LEHARI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to welcome the release of 2024/2025 third quarter crime statistics which indicate progress in fighting crime during the said period. The progress registered during this period which included the hectic festive season is in line with our delivery priorities, continued investment in personnel, police vehicles and in police stations to ensure responsiveness and continued contact with communities.

We therefore welcome the decrease of over 1 100 cases less than for the corresponding period of the previous year which translates into 3.9% decrease of criminal activities in our province. The ANC further welcomes the decrease in 2.5% on the contact crimes, 10.5% decrease on property related crimes, 2.2% on other serious crimes category and a further decrease of 146 rape cases less than the previous reporting period which is a decrease of 14.3%.

The decrease in the sexual offences including rape must assist in the effort of confronting the scourge of dehumanising women and children. We welcome the success that have been registered in the arrest of people involved in serious crime. We believe that the registered increase, convictions and sentence of serious crime predict well for crime fighting objectives.

These crime statistics also show that our police service remains alert in the detection of crime. We commend the men and women in blue for these positive strides they have made in ensuring they push back the frontiers of crime in this regard. Fighting crime remains one of the ANC's top priorities. Efforts and creative interventions must be intensified and consolidated to escalate our battle against crime. We call on all our communities to take a stand on abuses of substances that include liquor and drugs and to exercise restraint in all illegal protest and strikes.

We applaud the combined effort of the criminal justice cluster for its commitment to fight crime under difficult conditions and threats. We also acknowledge the role of community policing forums duped the community in blue for its role in reporting as well as keeping our communities safe and appeal for collaboration and partnership for united action against crime across all our communities. Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Lehari. Does any Member wish to respond? None. Honourable Members, we have exhausted the 30 minutes allocated in terms of

the rules. However, I will use my discretion and allow Honourable Bogatsu to be the last Member to present her motion so that I'm not accused of partisan but in terms of all parties that are represented in the Legislature have spoken.

HON. BOGATSU: Thank you very much DS. DS, I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to convey a belated birthday message for our CIC and the President of the EFF Sello Julius Malema. DS, the life story and influence of CIC Julius Sello Malema is one that is commonly known in the current political arena of South Africa.

His story as a young black boy raised in a reality laced with poverty and ambition similar to that of many black South Africans today. His curiosity and ambition opened the door for him to become a revolutionary against curated socio-economic conditions that continue to hold our people captive. DS, the book of wisdom in the Holy Bible teaches us that a man is known by his deeds.

True to his nature, the CIC chose to celebrate his 44th birthday last week Monday, the 03rd March 2025 with the Thembisa Child Welfare Society to whom he donated 200 000 for the purpose of assisting the society with providing care and support to the children they care for. He also expressed that the donation serves as a token of appreciation to the society staff for the work they do.

It is act of this nature that attests to the character of Julius Malema himself. Despite the image the media paint to portray of him. As the EFF in North West, we wish to celebrate our CIC for being a fearless leader who's always ready to go into spaces many would rather ignore. We celebrate him for being the voice of the voiceless, for putting the disregarded masses of South Africa first and for laying his life down to realise his vision for economic freedom.

May the Lord continue to strengthen him and clear his path of all that rises against him achieving his great mission he has been tasked with. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Bogatsu. Does any Member wish to respond to the statement? Thank you, Honourable Members. Are there any notices of motions? Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House at its next sitting debate the persistent water supply crisis facing communities throughout the North West Province. I so move.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Steyl. Before we come to that, we were supposed to ask if the House adopt the motions without notice. Does the House adopt?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. So Honourable Steyl was the only Member who raised a hand. The notice of motion will be put on the order paper for a debate as per the Legislature programme. Secretary you may read the next order.

DR MBEDZI: ORDER NO. 3 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS AS PER RULE 130

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does any Member wish to make a statement? Honourable Oliphant, Honourable Rosho, Honourable Sonakile, Honourable Dikolomela, Honourable Wallhorn, Honourable KHUNOU, Honourable Van Huyssteen, Honourable Tsholo, Honourable Makgokgowa, Honourable Steenkamp, Honourable Sonti, Honourable Matshe, Honourable Steyl, Honourable Bogatsu. We've got a long list of Members here but the rules will also be applied. I must say from the onset. The first Member is Honourable Oliphant. You've got three minutes.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement denouncing the allegations made against our healthcare centres in the North West in respect of shortages of cancer medication in our facilities.

As the ANC we stand here today to reassure our patients and community members that we have a stable supply of medication and other pharmaceutical services despite ongoing challenges facing our hospitals and clinics. It's important to note that pharmaceutical services in the North West Province were placed under internal intervention during November 2023 following the system crash of stock inventory management system at the provincial medicines depo.

Since then changes have been made in the provincial pharmaceutical management with the aim of improving pharmaceutical service delivery and overall medicine availability. Process related to procurement of medicine have been upgraded and improved to ensure that there is an increase in meeting the growing demand in public healthcare in the province.

Medicine availability in pharmacies in the North West is currently monitored through manual processes that from product data reports as extracted from stock inventory management systems. As things stand, the average total medicine availability in 31 of our public sector pharmacies in the province stands at 85.12% against a target that was set of 80% of medicine availability.

This shows that medicine availability in the province has improved since the intervention plan in 2023. In respect of the alleged unavailability of cancer medication, procurement is made through the national contracts supply and delivery of oncology and immunological agents to the Department of Health. Over the past few months, the department has experienced challenges in terms of inconsistent supply of a limited number of cancer medication.

The contract suppliers for the type of medication used is a preferred choice for the treatment of breast cancer have reported supply constraints to the National Department of Health. Following the constraints, a secular was issued to all health departments explaining how treatment should be adjusted and which alternatives should be used.

As the ANC, we welcome the initiative taken by the National Department of Health to embark on a process of obtaining quotations for alternative supplies of cancer treatment to ensure that we

prevent any disruptions to the regular intake of medication of our patients. Currently patients are receiving tamoxifen as the third alternate for management of breast cancer.

The only challenge identified was that many patients did not want the alternate treatment due to the side effects they reported to experience when using tamoxifen. We take note that there is enough stock of tamoxifen in our pharmacies and can confirm ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining.

HON. OLIPHANT: That the alterations made from one medicine to another has been implemented through serious consultation with specialists and made in the best interests of our patients. As a province we are not isolated from challenges facing medicine supply challenges in South Africa following centralised procurement.

The North West Province is not immune to the delays in shipping of medicines from different countries as well as production problems. These challenges are also compounded by trade restrictions, conflict in international policy changes that can disrupt medicine value supply chain ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Your time is up.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thank you Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does any Member wish to respond? None. Oh, Honourable Van Huyssteen. You've got one minute.

HON. VAN HUYSTEEN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Speaker, the statistics presented by Honourable Oliphant it is noted. It is also noted that in order to obtain those statistics, reference is made to only 31 pharmacies at the various healthcare facilities in this province.

It is also noted that the great concerns that he has emphasised already that manual systems are being utilised and with a vast area covered in this province, the challenges with any manual system needs to be noted and acknowledged. And as the DA, we agree there are big problems when it comes to medication monitoring in this province and ensuring that patients get the healthcare that they do deserve.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Honourable Chair, it must be stated on record that it's not manual. It's electronic. The distribution and monitoring of medicines, it's electronic and Honourable Member had indicated that in a case where your medication would not be available because of non-availability in the country because of distribution, then you have a replacement medication. The Member must stick to that. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sonakile! Honourable Sonakile, may you please have order.

HON. BABUILE: Order Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You rising on a point of order?

HON. BABUILE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

HON. BABUILE: Thanks Deputy Speaker. The Member, Honourable Sambatha, is out of order to respond to the response. He was supposed to respond to the statement not to the response. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order noted Honourable Members. May we proceed. The next Member is Honourable Sonakile. No Honourable Rosho, sorry. Honourable Rosho. Sonakile o tlaa tla #[you will come]# after Honourable Rosho.

HON. ROSHO: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the African National Congress table a statement joining the people of Namibia, the continent and the global community in paying tribute and mourning the passing of Sam Nujoma a towering giant of Africa's liberation struggle. President Nujoma who led Namibia to independence from apartheid South Africa in 1990 and served as the country's first democratic president for 15 years has died at the age of 95.

He dedicated his life to the liberation of his people, spending nearly 30 years in exile as the leader of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) before triumphantly returning to lead his nation into a new era of freedom and self-determination. President Nujoma was one of the last of a remarkable generation of African leaders alongside Comrade Nelson Mandela, Comrade Kenneth Kaunda, Comrade Samora Machel, Comrade Julius Nyerere, Comrade Robert Mugabe, who fought for the liberation for their countries and the continent of Africa from colonial and oppressive white minority rule.

His charismatic leadership and positive fiery spirit made him a symbol of hope and resilience for generations of Namibians. To the people of Namibia, President Nujoma will forever be remembered as the father of the nation, a fearless freedom fighter, and a unifying force in Namibia's struggle for freedom. His legacy will live in the hearts and minds of all who continue to strive for united Africa.

In his honour, we call on Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO to continue the fight for the total liberation of Namibia and Africa as a continent. The ANC lowers its flag and expresses its deepest condolences to President Nujoma's family, the government of Namibia, the people of Namibia and the SWAPO party. I so move and may his soul rest in peace.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Rosho. Does any Member wish to respond? None. Thank you. Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I rise to table this on behalf of the DA and make a Member statement on the urgent need to address the recurring infrastructure failures in the North West Province particularly in response to heavy rainfall. Noting that the North West experiences seasonal heavy rainfall annually yet the government continues to react as though it's unprepared.

(2) Recent heavy rains have once again exposed the province's inadequate stormwater management with severe flooding in Mahikeng particularly along Nelson Mandela Drive despite recent refurbishments. (3) Areas such as Taung remain vulnerable due to the lack of functional water catchment systems leading to preventable destruction and loss. (4) The failure to maintain and upgrade stormwater drainage systems continues to exacerbate flooding causing infrastructure damage, road hazards and risks to residents.

Further noting that proven infrastructure solutions exist such as SDS and the sponge city model which have successfully mitigated flooding in other parts of the world. Regular maintenance of stormwater drainage system along with proactive planning and investment would prevent recurring damage and financial waste. (3) Community involvement and education on water management can contribute significantly to sustainable flood prevention.

The DA therefore calls on the North West Provincial Government to conduct an urgent review of existing stormwater drainage infrastructure across the province, to develop and implement a proactive flood management strategy including the adoption of sustainable drainage solutions, to prioritise the maintenance and upgrading of critical infrastructure to prevent future flooding.

(4) To engage communities in localised water management initiatives and awareness programmes. The time for reactive governance is over. We must act now to protect our infrastructure, our economy and most importantly our residents. I so move.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining. Does any Member wish to respond to the statement? Honourable Oliphant, you've got one minute.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thank you Deputy Chairperson. Deputy Chairperson, infrastructure in the country after 30 years remains a priority of the government of the African National Congress. Whilst we have to admit that inclement weather which is unpredictable and the changes in the weather has affected both infrastructure and the communities adversely, the country is looking at sustainable means and so is our municipalities as to how you will deal with changes in weather patterns but Deputy Speaker we must never forget that this is a government that has gotten expanding or a growing community at the level of municipalities.

And therefore, you have a competition in infrastructure between maintenance and expending on infrastructure networks. I think it is common cause Deputy Speaker that as communities develop, so is the infrastructure developing and with the resource constraints that we have, the municipalities and the provincial government is doing the best as to what it can. It's unfortunate that we are not all rain queens and we can't predict what the weather patterns will be.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member, thank you. The next Member is Honourable Dikolomela.

HON. DIKOLOMELA: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise on behalf of the EFF, Economic Freedom Fighters today, to table a member statement and to bring to the attention of this House and the people of this province the deplorable state of service delivery in the North West Province with particular reference to the recent protest by the residents of Zeerust.

The frustrations of our people are justified and their grievances are a direct result of a government that has failed them for over 30 years. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the residents of Zeerust like many other communities across the province have endured years of neglect, corruption and incompetence from the ruling government. Their decision to embark on a strike was not one made out of recklessness but out of desperation.

They have been left with no choice but to take to the streets to demand their most basic human rights: Access to water, proper sanitation, roads, electricity and housing. These are not luxuries but necessity that any government that cares for its people should provide. Zeerust is just one example of the broader crisis that affects the entire North West Province.

From Mahikeng to Rustenburg, from Taung to Brits, our communities are suffering from collapsed infrastructure, lack of clean water, potholes, ... [INAUDIBLE] ... roads, sewage spills and unreliable electricity. It is unacceptable that in 2025 communities still have to march and protest for basic services that should have been delivered decades ago.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is important to note that these issues are not new. They have persisted under the rule of a government that has prioritised self-enrichment over the needs of the people. For more than 31 years, the ruling party has promised change ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining.

HON. DIKOLOMELA: Ao! #[Oh]# Yet all we see in worsening poverty, increased unemployment and the continuous failure to implement sustainable service delivery programmes. This government has failed to uphold its constitutional obligation to provide service to our people and its incompetence is now being met with rightful resistance from communities that refuse to suffer in silence. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the recent ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Your time is up. Does any Member wish to respond to the statement?

HON. DIKOLOMELA: Okay. For furthermore ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No there is no furthermore. Honourable Morweng.

HON. MORWENG: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. On Thursday, the progressive Premier of this province was at Zeerust. He committed to the people of Zeerust that there'll be water on Saturday. Indeed, Deputy Speaker, there was water in the area of Zeerust. The people of Zeerust ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we have order Honourable Members! Honourable Bogatsu, Honourable Babuile, Honourable Sonakile, please!

HON. MORWENG: The Premier went to address the people of Zeerust, committed that on Saturday there'll be water. Indeed, Deputy Speaker, on Saturday there was water in the area of Welbedacht and all the affected areas. And with regards to the corruption that the Member is alleging with regards to what is transpiring in Zeerust, the Member is crying at the wrong funeral. I think he must approach the nearest police station and open the charges. And as the MEC responsible for police oversight, I will assist ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members! Honourable Morweng, you've got five seconds remaining. Honourable Members, can we have order!

HON. MORWENG: And as the MEC responsible for police oversight, I will assist to make sure that those who are responsible for that heinous crime of corruption which affects the taxpayers, then they will be brought to book. Stop crying at the wrong. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Van Huyssteen.

HON. VAN HUYSTEEN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, we welcome the statement made by the Honourable Member. When leadership is in touch with what is happening on the ground, we get motions such as the one brought by Honourable Steyl this very morning. It is progressive to see where leaders such as Honourable Steyl has brought a motion for us to formally debate the water issue not just in Zeerust but in this entire province.

We welcome that. We welcome no more empty promises and we welcome robust debates to find a way forward as this House and to legislate in line with our mandate. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. The next Member is Honourable Wallhorn.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to raise the following leading into the North West budget speech which will be looking for guidance from the national budget speech. The DA has raised the issues before us previously. The provincial fiscus is facing a 4% budget deficit which it wants to fill by borrowing money from sources that have as yet not been disclosed.

There have to be alternative solutions. South Africa is currently at the bottom 20% of economies worldwide with a GDP of 0.7 to 1.5. The 0.7 is North West. According to Investec, GDP growth can be boosted to 3% in the North West Province if we attract investment in infrastructure and we support small business growth to develop in the underperforming and underdeveloped communities.

The DA's Dr Mark Berg presented the six priorities that are geared at getting the economy growing and delivering jobs. These six priorities include the following: (1) Cut unnecessary government expenditure through a 33% reduction in travel and catering expenditure across all

departments. Honourable Speaker, I hope the Premier realises that this includes his beloved Thuntsa Lerole Reloaded Programme and launch a comprehensive audit of all ghost employees across all departments.

(2) A concrete pro-business growth measures by fast tracking logistics and trade reforms. (3) A comprehensive expenditure review by Provincial Treasury on all provincial departments to allow the reallocation of funds to essential public services. The reallocation of budget as provincial departments underspend on their budgets through identified inefficiencies.

To find ways to fund the legally mandated commitments such as the provincial public sector wage increase without negatively impacting the current tax burden faced by residents and to review the last nine months of outdated expenditure through a deep dive investigation by Provincial Treasury. (4) Increase revenue by selling underutilised state-owned land and properties.

(5) Protecting essential services and the most vulnerable by ensuring that critical services remain fully operational. This will include no cuts to positions that ensure critical services are running smoothly especially healthcare, education, environmental protection and many others. The North West Province has a huge mineral and environmental conservation ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining Honourable Member.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you. That should be tapped into legally to generate the jobs and livelihoods that our citizens deserve. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Does any member wish to respond? Honourable Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. It's a concern that a Member serving in the portfolio committee of premier and finance does not know that the

province does not have borrowing powers. And in his statement, he's suggesting that we want to borrow as a Provincial Department and I don't know where does the Member get that because we have not even presented the budget as yet.

And some of the issues that he's presenting, it's issues that we have reported and provided progress on the work done and all government departments are confirming employees. Even myself I was confirmed as an employee on an annual basis. And the Thuntsa Lerole we have had a discussion. So a Member has raised a number of issues that actually all of them can be debated but I want us to dismiss this statement because it's unfounded and I'm not sure what the basis is and what informs this statement because there's never been any suggestion from our side that we want to borrow. Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Oliphant.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thanks Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I must agree. A privilege is a problem when you have always had access to services for all of your life and you want to deny ordinary citizens of the North West access to good quality services. All service delivery initiatives, all service delivery efforts in government are essential services.

From teaching and learning to nurses in hospitals, to library services that are provided, all of them are essential services but the DA has a significant challenge Deputy Speaker in that they want to keep those at the top of the food chain to remain at the top of the food chain and they don't want anybody to come up.

In terms of Thuntsa Lerole, Deputy Speaker, we have had this debate before. Thuntsa Lerole is an accelerated service delivery programme. This has been dealt with even at the level of the portfolio committee. We understand that our people need services, they need it now and therefore there's acceleration on the part of government.

In relation to investment, we have already had deliberations and seen plans of government to dealing with investment initiatives and how to enhance those so that you can quickly turn around

the situation of jobs which all of us know are a challenge in terms of our province. The last issue Deputy Speaker ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute is up Honourable Oliphant.

HON. OLIPHANT: Is that we do have a revenue strategy from government. Thanks.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your one minute is up. Thank you, Honourable Members. The next Member is Honourable Khunou.

HON. KHUNOU: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of the ANC to table a statement extending our heartfelt congratulations to the esteemed women leaders who were recognised and honoured by the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) at the recent AU Summit of 2025 in Addis Ababa. These awards celebrate the remarkable contribution of pioneering women in politics whose leadership has strengthened governance, peace and development across the continent.

Among the distinguished honourees are Dr Monique Nsanzabagangwa, former Ethiopian President Zahle-Work Zewde, former Mauritian President Dr Ameenah Fakim-Gurib, former Central African Republic President Mme Catherine Samba-Panza, former Liberian President Dr Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and our very own Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma who served as the first female Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

As a movement committed to gender equality and women's empowerment, the ANC is particularly proud to see Dr Dlamini Zuma among those recognised. Her visionary leadership at the AU Commission, championing Agenda 2063, advancing women's representation and strengthening continental unity remains an inspiration.

The ANC also acknowledges the role of AWLN Co-chairs Mme#[Madam]# Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Mme #[Madam]# Bineta Diop in advancing the women's leadership agenda and

ensuring that the voices of women remain central to Africa's development trajectory. The ANC reaffirms its commitment to the advancement of women in leadership and governance as envisioned in its policies and the Freedom Charter's call for equality.

We celebrate these women as trailblazers who have shattered barriers and paved the way for future generations. Their recognition at the AU Summit is a testament to the growing influence of African women in shaping the continent's future. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Khunou. Does any Member wish to respond to the statement? None. The next Member is Honourable Van Huyssteen.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Alliance notes with great concern the ongoing legacy of non-compliance and maladministration in the North West Department of Social Development. Despite the appointment of a new MEC Honourable Susanna Dantjie who has joined us today, there is little sign of change or revitalisation in this department. It remains business as usual or more accurately, a lack of any business at all.

For years, this department has shown little to no regard for the sectoral funding policy for social development when it comes to the funding of non-profit organisations. Despite repeated calls by myself and the poorest of the poor in North West, the MEC and the department remains unchanged. This department has a duty to reduce the administrative burden on NPOs ensuring that much-needed developmental, social services can reach vulnerable communities efficiently yet Honourable Deputy Speaker, there's not even a whisper of progress in this regard.

Today I stand here to give voice to the frustrations of the Martie Du Plessis Service Centre in Vryburg. For 22 years, they have received the same funding. No increase to account for inflation or rising costs and now in the 24/25 financial year, they received no payment at all despite being approved for funding. No explanation, no reasons, simply silence from the department.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is not just a number on a budget sheet. This is food not reaching the elderly. This is care being taken away from our most vulnerable and why?

Presumably because someone in the department under the MEC's supervision simply did not have the time to sign a document to release that particular payment. This is not just administrative inefficiency. This is negligence and it is unacceptable.

Now following the example set by one of the greatest leaders in our South African political history Helen Suzman where just as a note she stood as the sole voice against apartheid before democracy was even on the horizon in South Africa. For 13 years she was the sole Member in parliament opposing apartheid from 1961 to 1974. Now she said: "Go see for yourself."

Honourable Deputy Speaker, that is exactly what this portfolio committee on health and social development in the Legislature did. And the statement that I just made regarding the maladministration was confirmed during the portfolio's oversight visit.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining.

HON. VAN HUYSTEEN: I speak today for the workers and the beneficiaries of Marti Du Plessis who have lost hope. They are uncertain whether they will receive funding in future. I speak for the elderly residents who are being abandoned by this department, left without answers, left without dignity. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the people of this province deserve better. The people in this province deserve a DA government that cares. The DA will not allow this injustice to go unchallenged. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Does any Member wish to respond? Honourable Dantjie.

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. I really want to request the Honourable Member that if there's any maladministration and corruption in the Social Development, you know what you must do. You must go to the police and open a case.

And all these issues that you are raising of the NPO's, we have presented before the portfolio committee and you are deliberately, Honourable Member, bringing this here because unfortunately your focus is for the chosen few. Our focus as the department is for everybody and we have said to the portfolio committee the challenges of NPO's is non-compliance.

Social Development like any other department is audited by Auditor General. Non-compliance will never be tolerated. Any NPO that does not comply, I want to put it on record, they will never receive any funding. They must comply and any other NPO that is not complying after a very long time that we have tried to help, will be deregistered. That is the programme of the national.

All those NPO's will be deregistered. There is no way that we can keep on giving people money that are paying for things that are not even meant for what they are supposed to do. Fortunately, as the MEC, I was able to meet all NPO's, all four districts, I did that programme myself. I engaged all of them. I know what you are talking about.

And you are fully aware who are those NPO's that you are talking for. Unfortunately, we are not going to be bullied as the department. We are going to do the right thing.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Your time is up. The next Member is Honourable Tsholo.

HON. OLIPHANT: Deputy Chair, my hand was up. Deputy Chair, my hand was up.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Oliphant.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thank you very much Deputy Chair. Perhaps you did not see me but I do have a right to respond to the statement which by its very nature tells you on which side of the fence the Democratic Alliance is sitting. Not once in the statement, Deputy Speaker, was there any indication of the majority of the people of this province.

It was Marti and Marti is sitting there with a particular skin colour and we don't know who Marti is looking after. The majority of the people of this province are black and those are the people that should be looked after in terms of funding for their NPO's and we commend the Department of Social Development because Marti has been benefitting for 22 years of the 30 years of democracy.

We want to see the Department of Social Development continue doing what they are doing and that is change the structure and the shape of the NPO's whom they are funding. The DA will continuously cry Deputy Speaker ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SONAKILE: Order Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Oliphant.

HON. OLIPHANT: Because Trump is pinching them and the Social Development Department must pinch them some more.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Oliphant there's a point of order.

HON. SONAKILE: Deputy Speaker, in terms of Rule 74, I want to raise a point of order. The statement by the Member is very racist. Marti is a South African. There is no way that we can sit in parliament and have a Member discriminating on people because of their certain skin colour that he is referring to. That statement is racist and must be dealt with properly.

I think you must make a ruling on that statement particularly. It does not mean that if a person is of a certain skin colour they must not benefit from any social relief or any social programmes of government. So that statement is really out of order. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Oliphant, your time was up anyway. Let me make a ruling on the ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DANTJIE: Who is Marti, Sonakile?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dantjie, can we please have order! Honourable Marti, Honourable Sonakile, can we please have order. Honourable Members, I want to urge Members that as we engage let us not bring any statements that seek to degrade any South African irrespective of their colour because we are a parliament of the people of the North West as a whole. Having said that, I want to call the next Member which is Honourable Tsholo. You've got three minutes.

HON. TSHOLO: Hebanna, ha e le nna e a buiwa. #[Jeez! If it's me they say it]# Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Allow me to make a statement on behalf of uMkhonto weSizwe with regard to the statement on America's President Donald Trump's executive order to cut all financial aid to South Africa. As uMkhonto weSizwe, Honourable Deputy Speaker, we have taken note of America's President Donald Trump's executive order stopping all financial aid to South Africa as America disapproved the South African land reform policy and due to misinformation spread by the AfriForum about South Africa abroad.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, uMkhonto weSizwe Party has taken steps to open a criminal case against AfriForum for peddling incorrect and misleading information against the Republic of South Africa so that these can be held to account for their actions. Honourable Deputy Speaker, uMkhonto weSizwe Party strongly condemns the treasonous actions of the AfriForum for deliberately lobbying for foreign international powers to act against the sovereignty and the economic interest of South Africa.

At the same time Honourable Deputy Speaker, uMkhonto weSizwe applauds its President General Jacob Zuma for his vision and foresight to conceptualise and influence the formation of BRICS to minimise overreliance to the western powers. America's action, Honourable Deputy

Speaker, is indirectly teaching the majority dispossessed Africans that they must unite more than ever for the advancement of the total economic emancipation of Africans and as well as to ...
[INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining.

HON. TSHOLO: Ensure that all natural resources and the raw materials therefore are no longer exported offshore but all are maximally utilised in Africa to banish hunger, poverty, unemployment, inequalities and hopelessness. In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the MKP therefore calls all Africans and all progressive forces in the North West Platinum Province to take lessons and to see the urgent need of uniting and consolidating for the total economic emancipation of South Africa and the whole Africa at large, wake up call for all of us ...
[INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time up, thank you.

HON. TSHOLO: Across political line.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does any Member wish to respond to the statement? Don't be tempted you must raise your hand. Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you Deputy Speaker. For record, uMkhonto weSizwe is the glorious liberation army of the African National Congress. So for purposes of records, anything that says uMkhonto weSizwe and it ends there. It must be expunged from records because there's no party registered in this House called uMkhonto weSizwe. There's uMkhonto weSizwe Party, MKP. So any reference to uMkhonto weSizwe and ending must be expunged.

Though I'm saying that, good that the Member is now calling on how South Africans must begin to see who AfriForum is and who are their friends who have the same arguments and are same visitors to the same United States administration. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you Honourable Tsholo. Honourable Tsholo did say uMkhonto weSizwe Party. Okay, let's leave it at that. We now going to call on Honourable Makgokgowa.

HON. MAKGOKGOWA: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement applauding the North West University for their Xcel Programme. We welcome this programme offered by our university because it will ignite a spark of hope in many of our youth that have lost their ambition to have a successful career in the engineering industry of South Africa.

Many aspiring engineers, the disappointment of not qualifying for admission can feel overwhelming and failing to meet the requirements in key subjects such as mathematics and physical sciences can dash the hopes of many of our children who aspire to become either mechanical, electrical or civil engineers. Those determined to pursue their dreams will now have an opportunity to through the North West University Xcel Programme.

On the 10th of February 2025, the faculty of engineering welcomed the new cohorts of the Xcel Programme. Xcel enables students to repeat Grade 11 and 12 with a focus on rebuilding their school-based assessment portfolios which are crucial for final matric evaluations. After completing the programme, students re-write the national senior certificate exams in mathematics and physical sciences under the Department of Basic Education's supervision.

With improved results, students can qualify to study engineering or other disciplines. In one-year, full time Xcel Programme covers core education in mathematics and physical sciences alongside higher education modules in academic literacy and development. In addition, students gain valuable skills through courses in computer-aided design and programming.

One recent Xcel Programme success story worth noting is Tobias Brits, a 2020 Xcel Programme student who was awarded first place for the Best Final Year Project in Mechatronics at the 2024 Annual Final Year Project Day of the School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering. Tobias did not meet the minimum Grade 12 requirements for entry into the engineering programme. However, after retaking Grade 12 through the Xcel Programme, he went to complete his Bachelor of Engineering in four years with exemplary results ultimately earning top recognition for his outstanding project.

We will continue to produce talented and creative young professionals through our NSFAS programme that continues to build the bridge between the fortunate poverty-stricken members of our community and offer them the opportunity to be included. Those who are left in the margins of poverty will be given the same opportunities to participate in the economy and formulate solutions for our societal ills. The ANC government will leave no child behind. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Makgokgowa. Does any Member wish to respond to the statement? None. Honourable Steenkamp. You've got three minutes.

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to thank the hard-working women and men of the North West Umbrella Fire Protection Association and its affiliates for their unwavering dedication to fighting the devastating veld fires in our province. Their efforts despite severe resources constraints have saved lives, livelihoods and infrastructure.

However, a report by the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has highlighted the unprecedented devastation caused by veld fires in 2024 where more than 424 000 hectares of land have been reduced to ash, costing the province over three billion in economic losses. Farmers have lost their crops and livestock. Businesses have been crippled and communities have been displaced.

This is not just an environmental crisis. It is a food security emergency in the making yet despite this the provincial government and local municipalities continue to fail our frontline fire services,

the very people responsible for the disaster response. Municipal fire departments are unfunded, understaffed and poorly managed. We have fire trucks gathering dust instead of fighting fires, fire stations without water and communities forced to fend for themselves as flames consume their land.

The DA calls on this provincial government, the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management to take immediate action, to fully equip and fund fire protection associations and municipal fire services to prevent further destruction, provide emergency financial relief and support to affected farmers ensuring they can rebuild their operations and sustain food production and security, fast track infrastructure repairs and re-establish grazing lands to prevent further economic losses in the agricultural sector, implement and coordinate provincial fire prevention strategies ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining Honourable Member.

HON. STEENKAMP: That includes better early warning systems and disaster preparedness to protect farmers and rural communities. Honourable Deputy Speaker, fires may be natural but the failure to respond effectively is human made. Farmers who are the backbone of our rural economy and food supply deserve better than empty promises. The provincial government must act now before more livelihoods are destroyed with winter coming.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Does any Member wish to respond? Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, it might have been better if the Member would have recognised at least the fact that the constraints from provincial governments and municipalities has to do with the prescriptions of the National Veld and Fire Act on the basis of how it defines the role to be predominantly that of fire prevention associations which are the

ones she says we must strengthen yet the function is rested with them in terms of the law and that government is only expected to intervene where there's possibility.

And in this instance, she's correct in terms of the devastation of the veld fires in our province and one component of this matter again should have been sent to her Minister, it's the basis of the failures for the declaration of disasters consistent across all provinces and non-declarations of the reasons why some are not declared so that provincial governments ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you MEC Madoda Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Member is Honourable ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Apologies Deputy Speaker. I would also like to respond to the statement as we allow two Members to respond to a statement.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, but if you want to respond you must raise your hand. Yes, you may rise.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I welcome the statement made by Honourable Steenkamp. I welcome the insight that she has shown in realising that district municipalities under the disaster management function act as fire protection associations.

Realising that FPA's are directly interlinked with government and that there's no distinction between the two. I thank Honourable Steenkamp that she's part of this portfolio and that she will guide the Honourable MEC to also attain this insight and that she will act as the proverbial

firebreak preventing the ANC fire from eating up the rest of this province. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. The next Member is Honourable Sonti.

HON. SONTI: ... [INAUDIBLE] ... I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters today to table a member statement and bring to the attention of this House and the people of the province the deplorable state of our roads. The ongoing deterioration of our road infrastructure is a clear reflection of government's failure, corruption and a lack of accountability.

The people of North West deserve better than roads that results instead of functionally transportation routes. Deputy Speaker, it is deeply concerning that roads in key areas such as Potchefstroom, Mafikeng, Rustenburg and Klerksdorp continue to suffer from potholes, uneven surfaces and years of neglect.

The most shocking example is the road between Ventersdorp and Derby. Driving on this road feels like long-lasting, endless, bumpy ride as the uneven and broken surface makes it nearly impossible for motorists to travel safely. This is not just inconvenient. It is a serious risk to the lives of those who depend on this road daily. What makes this situation even more shocking is that this very road was supposedly fixed just last year after the national and provincial elections. How does a newly repaired road already resemble one that has been left unattended for decades?

This is a clear sign of the government is failing its people by allowing substandard work to be done with taxpayer's money. Honourable Deputy Speaker, during the State of the Province Address, SOPA, the Premier spoke about the billions of Rands allocated to infrastructure development and road maintenance yet the reality on the ground tells a different story. These billions are not reaching the people. Instead they are ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining Honourable Member.

HON. SONTI: Being wasted on the contractors who use cheap materials and fail to deliver quality work. Where these billions going? Who is benefitting from these funds if not people who rely on these roads every day. The continued poor quality of roadwork in this province exposes the deep-rooted corruption within the government procurement processes. Politically connected individuals and companies continue to receive contracts for road repairs and maintenance only to do substandard work that collapses within months. The blatant looting of public funds must come ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your three minutes is over. Thank you. Does any Member wish to respond to the statement? Thank you. The next Member is Honourable Matshe. Members I'm looking at the watch there so if you've got issues as you speak, I'm looking at the time. You may start Honourable Matshe.

HON. MATSHE: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement extending our best wishes to the Muslim community across the world during this sacred month of Ramadan. As millions embark on the days of fasting, we recognise the deep spiritual significance of this holy period, a time of devotion, reflection and self-discipline.

Ramadan is not only a month of fasting from dawn to dusk but also a time of renewal, compassion and service to others. It teaches the values of patience, humility, sacrifice, strengthening one's faith and commitment to humanity. In a world facing many challenges, the discipline of Ramadan reminds us of the power of perseverance, unity and the importance of uplifting those in need.

The African National Congress appreciates the contribution of the Muslim Community to the less fortunate. As families and communities gather for prayer and Iftar we stand in solidarity with all who are observing this sacred month. May this period of Ramadan bring peace, blessings and strength to all who partake in this divine activity. I thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Matshe. Does any Member wish to respond? I was talking about the three minutes rule Honourable Babuile not what you're thinking about. Does any Member wish to respond? None. The next Member is Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker and today I'm raising an issue that's very close to my heart. So maybe we listen carefully. On Friday last week Deputy Speaker, I conducted an oversight inspection at Rebone Lesedi Primary School in Koster where 1 244 learners are enrolled. Mme ke bona lefifi fela.#[But I only see darkness.]#

The school was granted access in 2017 but it is alleged that the school has not yet been handed over officially. Ceilings are falling in, roofs are leaking, the gutters are falling off and the school does not have a school hall. The toilets are insufficient with only four seated toilets for boys in a school where almost 600 learners are boys.

Many of these toilets are blocked and dysfunctional with the urinals placed far too high for boy children to use comfortably. Urine and raw sewage seep out of blocked drains and the smell is unbearable. The school has a multipurpose centre, a computer lab, a science laboratory and a library but none of these are operational. There are no books in the library, no science equipment in the science lab, no computers, no Wi-Fi.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the kitchen where food is supposed to be prepared is unhygienic to the extent where even the raw sewage seeps out from the drains while the food handlers are preparing meals. Despite these problems, I found that the teaching staff were welcoming, that they are dedicated to teaching and that in all classes despite these difficulties, learning is taking place at Rebone Lesedi to educate our young minds and our future leaders of this province.

I request and it's a pity that my MEC for Education is not here but I request that we intervene at Rebone Lesedi Primary School so that re tlaa bona lesedi gape #[we will see the light again]#. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Steyl. Does any Member wish to respond to the statement? None. The next Member is Honourable Bogatsu.

HON. BOGATSU: Thank you very much DS. DS, I hereby rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to table a member statement and bring to the attention of this august House the unsettling conditions of infrastructure of Mmabatho Police Station. DS, police stations as part of South African Police Services play a unique and incomparable role in society.

Not only do they serve as the official grounds within crime is prevented, combated and investigated but it is also place of refuge and safety for the community within the jurisdiction and a place of employment for the members of SAPS stationed therein. With this important framework, it becomes appalling to witness the extent to which the provincial government has allowed this facility to deteriorate and the conditions both the community and staff of Mmabatho Police Station are left to stomach.

DS, at Sunday the 09th March 2025, the door at the entrance of Mmabatho Police Station is shattered and allegedly has been since last year. Staff confirmed that requisitions have been made repeatedly to have it fixed with no success. Windows are jammed meaning that they cannot open and they are piled up with dust and spider webs including that they have not been checked or cleaned in a very long time. The paint on the walls at the front desk and the receptions are peeling off.

The air conditioner is dysfunctional. The chairs used by staff and reserved for community members in the waiting areas are broken. Filing cabinets are falling apart. These are but a few examples of the extent of the dilapidation and might be dismissed as regular wear and tear but the condition of what is meant to be a healthy employment environment and a safe haven is beyond natural deterioration. It has reached a point of pure negligence and disgrace. It is infuriating to think that our government has not even considered the many dangers and health risks an environment of that nature exposes in occupations to.

Mafikeng has been experiencing very inconsistent weather conditions which include heavy rains and strong winds. Imagine not having protection against that at work. Imagine being on duty and not having protection against insects and having asthma and sinus flare up because of thick

layers of dust that you know will not be cleared up anytime soon. Imagine visiting the police station and needing to stand for extended periods of time because sitting on the chair means you could break your back.

DS, this is the reality at Mmabatho Police Station. As a solution, the EFF submits that all cleaning and maintenance staff be insourced at all police stations in North West including Mmabatho Police Station and that they be equipped with the necessary materials and tools to perform their duties diligently and consistently without any delays. We submit ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining Honourable Member.

HON. BOGATSU: We submit that the internal requisition processes at the police stations be reviewed and updated so as to speedily respond to concerns raised regarding the fixing or replacing of infrastructural equipment and furniture that are essential to the reverse of the space. Lastly, we submit that regular oversight visits and inspections be conducted at ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Thank you, Honourable Member.

HON. BOGATSU: Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does any Member wish to respond to the statement? None. We have exhausted the list. Secretary may you read the next order.

DR MBEDZI: ORDER NO. 4 ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, reports have been tabled through the ATC and referred to the relevant committees for scrutiny and further processing. Secretary may you read the next order.

DR MBEDZI: ORDER NO. 5 PROCEEDINGS ON BILLS

5.1 North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2024

Second and Third Reading

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will now call on the chairperson for the premier and finance, Honourable Oliphant, to table the committee report on the North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2024, and move for the adoption. Honourable Oliphant. Ten minutes.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Honourable Premier, Honourable Members, good morning. Deputy Speaker, I have the single task of tabling the committee report in respect of the Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill. Deputy Speaker, Honourable Maine, the bill referred the North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill 2024 to the portfolio committee on premier and finance for consideration and reporting.

The portfolio committee received a presentation from the Provincial Treasury on the North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill 2024 at a virtual meeting held on the 06th of March 2025. In its meeting of the portfolio committee, the committee deliberated as follows after the presentation of the North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill 2024.

The committee raised a concern on how the Department of Human Settlements will manage additional budget given the challenges of capacity within the department. The committee also

sought clarity about the conditions of the grant and wanted to establish whether it would be used for new developments or to address accruals.

A concern was raised that the Department of Human Settlements is indebted. The committee enquired as to whether this additional appropriation is intended to settle outstanding debts with service providers. The committee also sought clarity on whether there is a plan in place by the Provincial Treasury to monitor how this additional funding would be utilised.

Deputy Speaker, we can confirm that we have received responses from the Provincial Treasury in terms of interventions and mechanisms that the department has put into place to ensure that the Provincial Department of Human Settlements is able to adequately spend the money within the required time frame. The department has also confirmed to the committee that they are satisfied themselves in terms of the processes put into place by the Department of Human Settlements in being able to ensure they spend the money but also in ensuring that they have done due diligence with the respective department.

The 150 million Rand allocated to the Department of Human Settlements for the informal settlements upgrading partnership grant is guaranteed to be spent. It will address the challenges that the department is facing including issues of accrual that will ultimately allow or afford human settlement activities to continue as many of us would know that a number of contractors have left site because of challenges experienced by the department in relation to payment of these service providers.

So the 150 million Rand allocated to the Department of Human Settlements would be utilised fruitfully in terms of ensuring that the people of the North West can derive services from the department in terms of its mandate. In this respect Deputy Speaker, the committee recommends that the North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill 2024 be adopted by this House. I thank you Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Oliphant. Does the House adopt the committee report of the North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable ... [INTERRUPTION] ... Honourable Steenkamp.

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I rise on Rule 91(1) and would like to request; the Democratic Alliance would like to request to make a declaration please.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rule 91(1). You can make the declaration.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I rise on Rule 91, Declaration of Vote about the North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill 2024. As the DA we have decided to support the Second Appropriation Bill because we believe that due diligence was done on national government level before the decision was made to add the amount of 150 million onto the budget of the Department of Human Settlements.

The DA reiterates and agrees that there is a huge housing backlog in the province and that all efforts must be made to enable new units to be built or completed. We respectfully request extraordinary due diligence, care and transparency on how this money is spent in relation to the accruals the department has accumulated over time as well as the roll overs seen at the end of each financial year. This due diligence will have to be inter-portfolio, inter-departmental between the various portfolios and departments. I so declare. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Declaration is noted. Thank you, Honourable Members. The committee report is now adopted. Honourable Members, I invoke Rule 252, Sub-section 2 to allow the House to consider the principle and detail of the bill and for the bill to be read for the second time. Does the House concur?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Secretary may you read the bill for the second time.

DR MBEDZI: This bill shall be called the North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill 2024

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will now read the roll call in terms of Rule 245 to determine the quorum. Honourable Babuile?

HON. BABUILE: Present.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Bogatsu?

HON. BOGATSU: Ke teng #[I am present.]# DS.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Botswe? Honourable Dabampe? Honourable Dantjie?

HON. DANTJIE: Ke teng Motlatsammusakgotla. #[I am present Deputy Speaker.]#

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dial? Honourable Dikolomela?

HON. DIAL: Ke teng Mmusakgotla. #[I am present Speaker.]#

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dial?

HON. DIAL: I'm present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Honourable Dikolomela?

HON. DIKOLOMELA: Present.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Groenewald? Honourable Khunou?

HON. KHUNOU: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Lehari? Honourable Lenkopane?

HON. LENKOPANE: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Magagane?

HON. MAGAGANE: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Makgokgowa?

HON. MAKGOKGOWA: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mangope? Honourable Matshe?

HON. MATSHE: Ke teng Motlatsammusakgotla. #[I am present Deputy Speaker.]#

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Modise?

HON. MODISE: Ke teng Motlatsammusakgotla. #[I am present Deputy Speaker.]#

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moema? Honourable Mohono? Honourable Mokgosi?

HON. MOKGOSI: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. MOHONO: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mohono present. Honourable Mokua? Honourable Molapisi?

HON. MOLAPISI: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Morweng?

HON. MORWENG: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mosenogi?

HON. MOSENOGI: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Motsumi? Honourable Oliphant?

HON. OLIPHANT: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Rosho?

HON. ROSHO: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sambatha?

HON. SAMBATHA: ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Enkosi #[Thank you#] Honourable Sebegoe? Honourable Sonakile?

HON. SONAKILE: Present DS.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sonti ... [INAUDIBLE] ...? Honourable Steenkamp?

HON. STEENKAMP: I'm present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl?

HON. STEYL: Ke teng #[I am present]# Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ke a leboga #[Thank you]#. Honourable Tlhapi? Honourable Tsholo?

HON. TSHOLO: Teenwordig Agbare Spreker. # [Present Honourable Speaker] #

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Baie dankie. Honourable Huyssteen? Okay. Can you please use the next mic for the record? # [Thank you] #

HON. HUYSSTEEN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I'm in the House. It is Honourable Van Huyssteen. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Wallhorn?

HON. WALLHORN: Teenwordig Speaker, dankie. # [Present Speaker, thank you] #

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Williams?

HON. SONTI: Sorry ... [INAUDIBLE] ... I'm here.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Mma #[Mrs]# Sonti?

HON. SONTI: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

HON. SONTI: Thank you ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright. And I'm present. Honourable Members, I have satisfied myself that we have majority of Members in the House to consider the bill in accordance with Rule 245 Sub-section 1 of the Standing Rules. The House will now adopt the bill clause; Honourable Babuile.

HON. BABUILE: Thanks Deputy Speaker. I rise on a point of order. And I want to state the following that this sitting it is not hybrid. This sitting is physical and all Members of the Legislature are expected to be inside this chamber in line with the programme of the Legislature. Even as whippy, even programming, we have never been taken into confidence about Members who'll join on hybrid but leave the rest. The link to the sitting was never shared with anyone.

As whips of parties, some of our Members could have joined the sitting if we'd be told that this sitting would be hybrid. They didn't join because that information was never shared with us. And I want to call, we're not opposed to hybrid but how things are done is wrong. We must be taken into consideration. We must be briefed about certain things. We must not see things happening here otherwise tomorrow you're going to say we are problems when we are not a problem. Yourself as presiding, you do things without informing us. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Babuile. The point that you have raised has been noted and will be referred to the next Presiding Officer and whippy meeting to address that particular matter. Honourable Members, can we have order! Please Honourable Bogatsu! Honourable Sonakile, can we please have order!

Honourable Members, I have satisfied myself that we have majority of Members in the House to consider the bill in accordance with Rule 245 Sub-section 1 of the Standing Rules. The House will now adopt the bill clause by clause. Clause 1?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clause 2?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. MOKUA: Elizabeth Mokuu agrees.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mokuu, please don't disrupt the House. When I was doing the roll call, you did not indicate that you are present.

HON. MOKUA: Apologies Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: And you are not registered as present because you did not indicate that you are present. Clause 2? Clause 2?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clause 3?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clause 4?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clause 5?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clause 6?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clause 7?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clause 8?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clause 9?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I will now call on the MEC for Finance to give a third reading speech if she deems it necessary and move for the adoption of the bill. Honourable Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Members and the chairperson of the portfolio committee, we have noted the report of the portfolio committee. The second and third reading of the 2024/2025 Second Adjustment Budget Bill provides the department and the province with an opportunity to reduce the anticipated accruals based on the positive performance including improved expenditure trend by the department in the current financial year.

All indications are that the province will spend all its allocation including the funds availed through the second adjustment budget as at the end of February 2025 based on the preliminary numbers of the unadjusted budget of 54 billion. Expenditure amount to 49.199 billion or 90.88%.

The balance of five million will be spent in the last month. The amount of 150 million received by the Department of Human Settlements for informal settlements upgrading partnership grant allocation will now increase the ISUPG budget from 357 million to 507 million for the current financial year as per the second adjustment budget.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we have noted the concerns that have been raised by the portfolio committee and we wish to indicate that following our engagement with the portfolio committee, we engaged also the MEC of Human Settlements on the concerns that have been raised and the MEC is committed to ensuring that all matters that have been raised by the portfolio committee is going to be addressed.

Importantly, we will also assist in ensuring that all departments spend more effectively to fulfil their mandates while addressing concerns raised by the various committees. In doing so, Honourable Members, must also recognise the great improvement recorded by many departments including Human Settlements in spending their conditional grants including their infrastructure budget.

With this performance, we are quite certain that this positive trajectory will be sustained in the 2025/2026. On behalf of the Executive Council, we express our appreciation to the Members of the Legislature in particular the portfolio committee of finance, premier and the Chair for the swift processing of this bill. Importantly, we also appreciate the committee for encouraging us to do more with less and in so doing, encouraging that service delivery programmes of government are achieved for benefit of the people of the province. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Mosenogi. Does the House concur that the bill be read for the third time?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Secretary, may your read the bill for the third time.

DR MBEDZI: This bill shall be called **The North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Act No.2 of 2025.**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Act No. 02 of 2025 will be submitted to the Premier for assent. Secretary may you read the next order please.

DR MBEDZI: ORDER NO. 6 DEBATE ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION

6.1 The transfer of function of scholar transport from the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management to the Department of Education in its entirety

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, during the sitting of the 01st August 2024, Honourable Steyl tabled a notice of a motion for the House to debate the transfer of the function of scholar transport from the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management to the Department of Education in its entirety. I will now call on Honourable Steyl to lead the debate. Honourable Steyl, you've got five minutes.

HON. STEENKAMP: Honourable Deputy Speaker before Honourable Steyl starts, I had my hand up please. I'd like to rise on a point of order.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. What is your point of order? And what?

HON. STEENKAMP: Pardon?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you may proceed.

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I rise on a point of order because the speaker's list of this debate was only circulated to all Members and whips this morning. In normal circumstances I would have taken this to the whippery but I'm left with no other choice.

The time allocation of the debates, we understand how it is allocated when it's normal debates but when someone brings a notice of a motion which are then debated, there should be time allocated for the person to at least open the debate in a proper fashion. There's no way that you can have a conducive debate if you have five minutes to put your case forward.

This is not anything political. It is just something from our side to say but if we want to really take the business of this House seriously, the person opening a debate, sponsoring the debate needs to have more time to at least be able to quote policies and put something proper forward otherwise this exercise will become a tick box exercise for this Legislature. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Steenkamp, you say that you are rising on a point of order in terms of time allocation. I see the hand of the Chief Whip is up. I would want to make a ruling on that.

HON. ROSHO: Speaker, I hear what Honourable Steenkamp is saying but we can recall that in the Whips Forum we all are aware of the allocated minutes for all parties in terms of proportional representation. That's how it's done. So I just wanted to clear that. So I assumed that that's the understanding but we apologise if they did not receive the speaker's list on time. I know that we had given them to presiding and we were told that it would be loaded also on the system. Thanks, Honourable Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Honourable Members; Honourable Tsholo what are you rising on?

HON. TSHOLO: Chair I'm rising on the point that they are meeting as whippy like it is being alluded to. Some of us we don't know who is representing us. For instance, I raised this particular matter early this morning to say that the time allocation it is not going to be justifiable and we are not going to do justice to the debate.

Whoever is representing my good self as the Member of uMkhonto weSizwe Party in this particular Legislature is not representing my interests at heart because it can't be that we are being given five minutes, three minutes, on a case of the debate like this where we should make justifiable cases being presented before this particular House so that we take informed and correct decisions.

Who allocated this time? And if indeed some of our political parties agreed to this particular time allocations, they are not representing us fairly well in these particular sittings. May I kindly with due regard Honourable Chair that it be noted and whoever is representing me, a tswe ke i-represente #[should get out so I can represent myself]# so that we are able to raise things like this.

This is not an ordinary debate Honourable Deputy Speaker. It can't be correct that we are being told about how time allocation is being done. It is not an ordinary debate. It is an extraordinary debate where we are going to take decisions on the future of certain activities where some of the employees will be affected in this particular regard and the budget will be affected.

We need to raise issues very sharply looking at most of the things. Should I go and say as uMkhonto weSizwe I therefore support or reject? It is not fair enough. Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. The ruling on this matter is as follows: That a debate in the House is a debate. A debate in the House is a debate. It remains a debate whether extraordinary or not, it's a debate in the House. And the other ruling is that the whippy, this matter of time allocation is then have to be processed thoroughly through the whippy, Chief Whip of the House, because Honourable Members you have agreed in terms of

your proportional representation in the House in the whippers in terms of how are you going to allocate time to political parties.

So it can't change because we are dealing with this debate. A debate in the House is a debate. So that is the ruling. I will now call on Honourable Steyl to lead the debate. Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Noting your ruling on the matter, can I put it on record that the matter be referred to Rules Committee. Actually, it's not something that should go to Whips Forum. It must go to rules so that it can be discussed because it has an impact on the way the Legislature is supposed to function. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, you see once the Presiding Officer has made a ruling, this appetite of us wanting to talk after we have ruled; no, no, can I be allowed to speak. Now the ruling I have made Honourable Members is not going to change unfortunately. We are going to proceed with the debate in line with how we are represented proportionally and the time that is allocated here for Members of different political parties to participate.

I therefore now call on Honourable Steyl to lead the debate. And I have noted Honourable Sonakile that this matter must go to the Rules Committee, yes. Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wanted to call you out of order but you have corrected your good self. I'm therefore seconding that this particular matter be referred to the Rules Committee. Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But I have said that already. Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: I am sitting in the Rules Committee. A ska mpotsa gore # [He should not ask me whether] # am I sitting?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you must talk to me.

HON. TSHOLO: I am a member, substantive member of the Rules Committee. Therefore, I'm having powers to speak on this particular matter as an interested political party representing ...
[INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo! Honourable Tsholo may you please take your seat. The debate will proceed and I will now call on Honourable Steyl to lead the debate, Honourable Members.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Deputy Speaker. The DA proposed this debate to put the child learner at the centre of education. North West children are being denied their basic right to access quality education due to a poorly implemented scholar transport system. Occasionally, we read media reports of how school children are put at risk by an ineffective and unsafe scholar transport system.

Last year, four learners in September were injured when a bus tyre burst near Vryburg. And in July last year we heard of three learners in Mahikeng who fearing for their lives jumped out of a moving bus a short distance from the school because the driver was driving recklessly and was apparently drunk. Sadly, from that incident one learner died from injuries sustained.

In February last year, 51 learners were injured and 21 hospitalised after the steering wheel of a bus came off. The driver jumped out of the bus saving himself, leaving the learners in an unattended moving vehicle. The list of these tragic accidents is long. By the Department of Transport Management's own admission, there are problems with the appointment of contractors coupled with ineffective monitoring, abandoned routes and even disputed billing.

There's also no answer from the Department of Transport how the current scholar transport contracts were awarded for a period of five years despite the PFMA allowing only for three-year

contracts. From the companies appointed to transport school children, these include general dealers, construction companies, air conditioning companies, trading companies and even one company called syndicate.

And that Honourable Deputy Speaker, sums it up nicely, a syndicate. We have water tanker syndicates, we have construction mafia syndicates. Now we also have a scholar transport syndicate. And these companies abuse the government's inefficiencies in order to loot the fiscus placing lives and livelihoods in danger.

The Department of Education identified that there are 59 261 learners requiring transport to school. However, the Department of Transport Management can only service 50 216 learners. That leaves more than 9 000 school children in North West outside of the scholar transport system. It's no wonder the school drop out rate is so high.

Deputy Speaker, transport is funded through the equitable share. And as we all know, the fiscal pressures on government, leads to competing funding priorities. Sometimes government cut funding from programmes where it really should not. Scholar transport should ideally be funded through a conditional grant so that every learner who needs safe transport to school receives it.

It is therefore our submission that the MEC for Education Honourable Motsumi should work with Minister of Basic Education Siviwe Gwarube, the National Department of Education, National Treasury and the Provincial Treasury to craft a comprehensive national scholar transport policy that seeks its funding through a conditional grant. Then we know that the money we receive is calculated based on the needs identified and that that 9 000 learners in the North West who are currently outside of the scholar transport system receives the services they need.

It is important that the entire education outcome value chain is managed by the Department of Education. This is not a political grandstanding. Transport Management should focus on improving transport networks specifically the quality of roads and the building of ...
[INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: One-minute remaining Honourable Members.

HON. STEYL: Integrated transport network.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: One-minute left.

HON. STEYL: While also ensuring traffic law compliance and road worthiness. It is our position that the Department of Education through school district structures down to school level would be better placed to effectively manage and monitor school transport. Who better knows the challenges of school children than the school principal and the teachers at a school?

Let us break down the silos that prevent putting the child first in education. Today we can start making sure that the Department of Education takes on the scholar transport function towards an improved education outcome in North West. I thank you Deputy Speaker.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you Honourable Member. Now I'll call the second speaker, Honourable Morweng. Eleven minutes Honourable Member.

HON. MORWENG: Thank you very much Chair of Chairs, Honourable Modise. Let me also greet the Deputy Speaker of the Legislature Honourable Maine, greet the Chief Whip of the African National Congress, the majority party Honourable Rosho, fellow Members of the Executive, Members of the Legislature, different leaders of political parties present here today. A moment please Speaker.

HON. MEMBER: Arrest. Arrest. Arrest. O stuck-ile.#[He is stuck.]#

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Member.

HON. STEYL: COC?

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Okay please hold Honourable Morweng. Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: COC ke kopa tshwarelo hle. Ke kopa metsi. #[Pardon me. I am asking for water.]#

HON. MORWENG: I'm ready Speaker.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Hello?

HON. STEYL: Ee ke kopa metsi. Ke tlhoka metsi fela. #[Yes I am asking for water. I only need some water.]#

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Okay. At least. Honourable Morweng, can you start.

HON. MORWENG: Thank you very much Speaker. Honourable Speaker, as you had already contextualised the debate in your preamble, may I say that the matter appears easy at a glance but a little bit more complex when you look deeper into it. The matter at hand is to debate whether it will serve the province better if the function of the scholar transport could be transferred from the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management to the sister Department of Education.

The subject of this debate reminds me of an ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius whose words still resonate today. He once said and I quote: "Everything has a beauty but not everyone sees it." The man who is often considered the paragon of the Chinese intellectuals also reminds us that,

“it does not matter how slowly you go, so long as you do not stop.” He furthermore says: “When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don’t adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.”

These quotes above encapsulate the debate today succinctly. This is because, Honourable Speaker, not everyone sees where we come from with this scholar transport and where we are today. They see only the system faltered. And in spite of all the challenges experienced Speaker, we never stopped though at times it appeared we were moving slowly.

It is because when it became obvious that the intended objective of the provision of scholar transport may be hindered by challenges experienced, we did not adjust the goals but adjust the action steps. May I remind this august House that as of the beginning of 2024, we appointed 446 learner transport operators on a five-year contract which will run until January 2029.

This previous contract was challenged at Mafikeng High Court and the verdict issued by the court in December 2019 guided that the contract be re-advertised. However, to ensure that the learners are not hamstrung by the court order, the department was ordered to issue a month to month contract to the operators who were given service level agreements. The court further ordered that the new contract be advertised as of April 2020 with the successful bidders issued with service level agreements in November 2020 to begin operation in January 2021.

Before the department could comply with this court order, there was a COVID-19 pandemic which forced the restriction which we all know about. As a result, there were delays which culminated in the contract being finalised only late in 2023. As part of the process employed by the department to ensure that all loopholes are closed, the evaluation and appointment of successful bidders was based on the following criteria: Vehicle ownership, fleet management, experience in provision of passenger transport, bank rating letter.

The process included the verification of buses in all districts of the province. The process was done on the second week of December ’23 and the first week of January 2024. The intended objective of this process were to ensure that (1) The appointed service providers have the necessary capacity to provide learner transport in line with the contract, and, (2) that the vehicles that will be used to transport learners meet the basic minimum road and safety standard.

As had been widely reported, there has since been mirage of challenges experienced. Some of these challenges include the use of vehicles by some service providers which are not compliant

with the service level agreement. Another challenge are the use of unroadworthy vehicles, the vehicles not registered in the province, overloading inconsistencies in transportation of learners and the submission of payment claims.

This last part also had led to the payments of the service providers. This is because the department like all other departments has an internal verification process to ensure that indeed money requested are in line with the service rendered. And I must hasten, Deputy Speaker, to point out that during the verification process referred to earlier, some operators came with hired roadworthy vehicles but thereafter resorted to using vehicles which have defects.

Challenges are not limited to what I've just referred to but are much more. Some of the operators do not even have the buses but instead have external contracts with other people who do have buses. These operators would thereafter renege on agreements they have with bus owners by not paying them. On the part of the department, let me once more emphasise that indeed there had been some of the factors that led to this delay include: limited budget, some operators who increase the number of learner's trips, some of the operators who omit routes, some of the operators who lengthen or shorten an existing route, some operators who alter number of locations of authorised stops.

In terms of the service level agreement, the contravention are followed by penalties instituted by the department to ensure compliance with the service level agreement. The department has the following remedial action implementable immediately where there are contravention: The buses are subjected to roadworthy tests, the operators must arrange alternative transport for learners whenever reasons they are unable to transport them.

The department has late last year finalised the panel of operators who will be at the back and call for the department to at a short notice should a need arise. When the department arrange alternative transport, we recover the costs from an operator. The department can also terminate the contract as we have on several occasions on contravening operators if an operator consistently fail to observe the specification. This is also done if an operator has put the safety of learners at risk. We acknowledge that however as much as this is a problem it will also require additional 79 million Rand to deal with.

Some of the challenges that the department had to attend, Honourable Members, includes what appears to be a well thought deceitful activities. The department is investigating submission of invoices with fraudulent school camps and forging the signature of the school principal. As part of the mitigation, the department is in the process of implementing an electronic monitoring system which will provide the real time tracking and monitoring of the vehicle movements.

Honourable Chair of Chairs, we are also establishing a manual tracking system while working on electronic invoice tracking system. This will assist the department in the long term to track submission of invoices and payment stages per operator and therefore expedite the conclusion of payment processes.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, it was important to give this House this background so that we ponder which way to go. Whichever way it is, we should remember that it had not been an easy ride from the beginning. As we formulate the decision, as we process our thoughts whatever decision we take, we should not simply swell around the discomfort without properly diagnosing the real problem.

Whatever decision we take, it must ensure that challenges are resolved and that the risks are not transferred. We must be bold in taking decisions but our ... [INAUDIBLE] ... must not be for the sake of making a decision. In the words of President Nelson Mandela and I quote: "I learnt that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not the one who does not feel afraid but the man who conquers that fear."

Let us not debate this matter with fear that where the surface is currently residing is a problem and moving it is an antidote. Changing your child's name to Einstein will not automatically transform him or her to a mathematical genius. Dealing with the problem the child has with ... [INAUDIBLE] ... will ensure that he or she performs better. There's no magic in emotional decision-making.

Never judge a person until you walk a mile in his shoes, so says an Indian proverb. This proverb encourages us to always see the world from the point of view of others not only from a ... [INAUDIBLE] ... observation ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: While you wrap up Honourable Member.

HON. MORWENG: May I conclude Speaker and Honourable Premier by reminding the House of the profound words in the book James 1 verse 19 which says, I quote: “Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to show anger. For the anger of man does not produce a righteousness of man.” Monna wa etsho #[My man]# Honourable Steyl, lepotlapotla le ja podi. Iketle ka lobelo. Ke a leboga.#[...hurrying will result in bad endings. Stop the rush. Thank you.]#

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you Honourable Morweng. Honourable Moema, ten minutes.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, party leader of the EFF caucus led by Commissar Shakes Botswe and your leadership collective led by Commissar Papiki Babuile, Honourable Speaker Dr Desbo Mohono in absentia, Deputy Speaker Collen Maine, yourself COC, fellow Members of the North West Provincial Legislature, Members of the organising committee of the North West Provincial Legislature and the residents of Bokonebophirima #[North West]#, good morning.

Honourable Speaker, South Africa is a country with an undeniable history of racial segregation in education. The Bantu education denied black people access to the same educational opportunities and resources enjoyed by the white South Africans. And this found expression in the notion of existence of separate Bantu society and Bantu economy. Sadly, more than three decades into our democracy, the most vulnerable children in the North West Province continue to be at the receiving end of inequality.

Honourable Speaker, to name a few Senthaga Primary School was since established in 1995 in the farmstead of Wolmaransstad in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District. Learners of Senthaga are subjected to traveling to and from school on a daily basis with buses that are not roadworthy because their parents have long migrated from the farms to Wolmaransstad and the North West Provincial Government has failed to build new schools to accommodate them. In the school in

question, learners and educators have no access to toilets, water, electricity, safety and security for many years.

Honourable Speaker, similarly, Maheelo Primary School in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, Jerry Mahura Secondary School in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, and Thuka Primary School in Dr Kenneth Kaunda and many other farm schools in the province. The Department of Education pays Rands to individual white owned farms yet school transport and school infrastructure are in horrific conditions.

This corroborates the Economic Freedom Fighters long held contention in its non-negotiable pillar that we must expropriate the land without compensation for equal distribution and in use. Honourable Speaker, we are relaying these stories to the House because we want to have a deepened debate about the two departments in question.

Honourable Speaker, today's debate on notice of motion for the transfer of the function of scholar transport from the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management to the Department of Education emanates from a heartfelt demand by the residents of the North West Province for a credible and dependable scholar transport for the learners across the province.

Today Speaker, the department tasked with allocating the scarce resources of our learners and to the best interest of our people is using the function of scholar transport for self-enrichment of individuals. All this is evidence in the complete lack of interest in the actual safety, reliability and efficiency of our scholar transport.

The majority of these buses are unroadworthy, unreliable, unbranded, always overloaded and late. Sadly, service providers enjoy impunity for sale but bus operators are never paid on time. A practical case is the community aspect of the department. NTI is substantially paralysed. Employees have been waiting for their outstanding salaries and benefits with no response.

Employees of NTI they drove all the way from Moretele, where I come from, it's one part of the North West Province. During the time of December, they spent their December holidays, the 25th of December. They even commenced their year in a protest not far away from us here in the North West Legislature. Those people are men and women. They have to feed children. Some are even widows.

Honourable Speaker, those of you who know how to drive a bus will know that before it can accelerate, there are a few things that should happen. First you have to get into the bus, place the key in the ignition, switch it on, start the engine and wait for it to warm up. Once the engine is warm, you then apply all gears accordingly. So you place gear 1, then gear 2 right up to the last gear. Only then you can realistically accelerate.

For those of you who do not know how to drive a bus, I invite you to instead think of a bicycle. Imagine that before you can realistically accelerate on a bicycle, you need to first take off, be on a consistent speed, then increase the speed accordingly but Speaker let us focus on the bus metaphor for now and specifically on the gears that have to be chronologically engaged before the bus can accelerate.

Apply this metaphor directly to COSATMA, allow me to put it to you that the department's vehicle has not only failed to engage gear 1 but the bus is off and the engine is cold. What I'm saying is that we have no business even talking about operating scholar transport when the vehicle that was supposed to accelerate is off, let alone on gear 1.

Honourable Speaker, when we demand answers from Department of Education, they always exonerate themselves from the responsibility because they do not have such a function. Therefore, we agree Honourable Steyl that we must then agree that we must move the function from Department of COSATMA to Department of Education.

Honourable Speaker, we want the same benefits of your Laerskool and Hoërskool # [Primary School and High School] # who have the function of scholar transport within their own school. We want to see our own children not traveling with the school buses that are dependable that also belongs to the schools. Honourable Speaker, we wish to make it known that the EFF has declared 2025 as a year of picket lines. We will be on the ground in demand of functional, effective, responsible and sensitive learner centred scholar transport.

Honourable Speaker, maybe the MEC is not aware of the situation. So these are the pictures of the buses. When we are saying the engine is off, this is what we are talking about. These are tyres Honourable Speaker of the buses we are referring to. These are the license disc, Honourable Speaker, and this is in 2025. So hence we are saying these people are still enjoying impunity.

These buses are not somewhere where they cannot be found. They are somewhere in schools. You can go right now. We have been engaged in oversight. We have seen all these things. Any resident of the North West who do not believe this, they can engage in this exercise themselves and see what we are talking about. This is the last picture. These are the seats the children are expected to sit in, to and from schools.

Honourable Speaker, you know the MEC comes here, he makes perfect excuses about COVID-19. Let's remind the same MEC that during COVID-19 the same department is the one that procures donkey carts, kariki tsa ditonki #[donkey carts]# instead of while other progressive provinces and countries are thinking of bullet trains. Here in the province, here at home, we are still procuring donkey carts. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Moema. Now I'll call Honourable MEC Madoda Sambatha. MEC, 11 minutes.

HON. SAMBATHA: Chair, thank you very much Honourable Chair of Chairs. Well Chair of Chairs, the debate yone #[itself]# it's necessary but the reasons used for motivation are a component of what you can't accept. In reality, Members of the Provincial Legislature, these people who are responsible for laws in the province, ourselves, conclude that when a car has a type of tyre that must be fixed by Education.

So when a car is not roadworthy it must be fixed by Education. They literally are discouraging a necessary debate that we must be listening to but also there are others who are dreaming of scholar transport not real scholar transport but a provincialized scholar transport owned by government that they must be parked in schools like the Hoërskools .# [High School] # Those ones are owned by those schools. That's the difference. It's not a privatised system of scholar transport.

When people who are expected to vote for Expropriation Act, they refused but the ANC proceeded and passed a law. They still are dreaming of an Expropriation Act that is coming. I'm

sure it will be the second one that one. We have an Act. If you want them to be expropriated with or without compensation, it's there in the Act. So it can be engaged.

Now Honourable Chair of Chairs, Honourable Premier and Honourable Members. Now I feel for Honourable Sonakile. I don't want to read when I'm sitting there and conclude that but what I'm reading is true but it's becoming truer on each day. This matter originally came from an ANC Lekgotla in 2023, this matter. Honourable Sonakile then, placed the matter on the debate. He later withdrew.

Honourable Sonakile now is the Chair of the same committee. Someone else is bringing it. I suspect they want to remove the power of Honourable Sonakile, Honourable Chair of the Portfolio Committee. They want to remove you. Now ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable MEC, let me allow Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Chair of Chairs. In terms of Rule 74, point of order. The member is lying.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: In terms of 7?

HON. SONAKILE: Seventy-four.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Seventy-four.

HON. SONAKILE: The Member is lying and he's using my name to lie. I would want the Member in the next sitting to bring records of when I brought this matter to the Legislature. The only debate that I once tabled was on jobs and it was last year that I withdrew later. I've never tabled anything on scholar transport for debate and withdrew it. So that is a lie.

And I'm not scared of anything. There is no one who is threatening me in the DA or anywhere. So I'm cruising nicely where I'm sitting and following this debate that is even speaking to the committee that I'm chairing without me even participating on it. So I'm sitting nicely and following as they speak amongst themselves. Thank you.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Sonakile!

HON. SAMBATHA: Can I proceed Chair?

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Sonakile! The words that you use, lie, it's unparliamentary. It's unparliamentary. Can you withdraw that word? Please!

HON. SONAKILE: Okay Chair of Chairs. Maybe because you are making a ruling on what you think I said. It's fine. It's untruth but then I'm still standing by that point and I want you to make a ruling on it as well that the Member must bring that proof that I once tabled a motion because it's a lie. I've never tabled a motion on scholar transport. Thanks.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Sonakile!

HON. SONAKILE: It's untruth.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: The words. The words.

HON. SAMBATHA: It's good that you say it's untruth.

HON. SONAKILE: Ee mare ke maaka. #[Yes. But it is lies.]#

HON. SAMBATHA: It's good that. Untruth is at least reasonable.

HON. SONAKILE: Bubuxoki, le Member iyaxoka and ixoka ngam, nge gama lam #[It is a lie, this Member is lying and he is lying in my name]#

HON. SAMBATHA: Untruth is reasonable at least.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much. You may sit. You may continue Honourable MEC.

HON. SAMBATHA: Chair, untruth is reasonable and accepted. Untruth is reasonable and accepted. I'm not proceeding?

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable MEC, can you continue with your debate.

HON. SAMBATHA: Okay, thank you very much Chair of Chairs. Now this matter, the Honourable Member who was the proposer says ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. STEENKAMP: Sorry MEC but Honourable COC, you have to make a ruling. Sorry. Yes, there was a matter that was raised and you made a ruling onto what Honourable Sonakile was saying as to lie or untruth but you never made a ruling as to the issue that he stood up on his point of order.

HON. SAMBATHA: But there is no need for a ruling when he says he's in charge over you. There's no need for ruling on that. He's confirming that he's in power. It's a fact. It's a fact. Now Chair when ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable MEC! Honourable MEC! Honourable Steenkamp asked me to make a ruling. I make a ruling to say I will consult the Hansard for previous debate to check whether Honourable Sonakile did table the debate. Thank you. Can you continue Honourable MEC?

HON. SAMBATHA: Honourable Chair of Chairs, as the matter was raised by the ANC and the matter was referred to EXCO. The decision of EXCO was that this matter indeed needs attention and the way it should be resolved is as follows, that (1) there should be a research and a benchmarking on the basis that there's two characters in all provinces.

There are provinces where the function is in Transport. There are provinces where the function is in Education. And therefore, that needed to be studied on both grounds so that when we then take a decision as an Executive Council, it is informed by which best option suited to have the function. So the matter was raised in 2023 by the ANC.

The ANC's Provincial Executive Government is dealing with the matter on those three grounds. That look to benchmarking and look on both the ones that is under Transport, the ones that is under Education. Having done that, on development of an alternative placement of the function, you then use what would be best for your provincial operation as government.

As EXCO took that decision, the provincial executive committee which is EXCO then said to both departments in spite of the fact that there's still an investigation and a research, keep on attending to service delivery challenges arising on both, service delivery challenges from education on the basis of the necessity of scholars to be early in school, service delivery challenges on transport on the basis of the challenges of either quality non-compliance of

transport so that you do not compromise service delivery on grounds that you are waiting for a formal decision to be made as to where finally scholar transport must be made.

The issue that we must therefore be interested in today's debate is the fact that the proposer says this matter must be resolved with the Basic Education Minister. This is the component that is political. The reason it would have never been said in 2023 by the same Members it's because at the time the Basic Education Minister was an ANC Minister. That's the difference. So changing of government functionality, can't be on the basis of who is the Minister today.

I'm only safe only because the Minister of Agriculture is the DA, a leader of the party. So they will not say anything from agriculture must be taken to that Minister because already it rests with the Minister and I have no problem because I understand how government functions but it also creates an impression that matters of structuring government must be looked at purely when a Minister comes from a party.

This function must be attended as per what EXCO says so that when we decide, we decide for something that is going to be permanent. We decide for something that we know it will be a solution to the challenges we are having otherwise arguing on political grounds without facts is not going to help like Honourable Members were saying here tyres are tied off. Having no tyres of a bus does not mean Education must fix Transport. It's still a function of Transport. Ga two #[It is said]# no others their certificates have expired. It's not the responsibility of Education too, it's the responsibility of Transport.

So Honourable Members as I had said, that the debate, yes it must not be rejected but we must have proper ways of reasoning of where should this function finally reside. We must not decide before we do the research as said and we do benchmarking so that the final decision does not then change because of a political change at a given time. It must be a solution to the challenges faced by scholar transport.

Cabral was not lying when he was saying we must not tell lies and claim easy victories. Education is not going to fix tyres of buses. Tyres of buses, the matter of law enforcement and that rests with transport. Once you do that, you are complicating decision-making. You want us to decide purely on your feelings of the day otherwise if all buses of scholar transport were

compliant, if all buses of scholar transport had correct tyres, you will see no reasons for the function to be shifted for Transport.

That's why we are saying that element of benchmarking, research and then deciding on the basis of a formal and a final approach as to where the function must reside should be the one that we are following. Thank you very much Chair of Chairs.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you Honourable MEC. Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Chair of Chairs. And it is very much interesting to notice that a communist of note is economic with the truth when debating this particular matter.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Tsholo, you have only three minutes.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Chair of Chairs. The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management has been reckless and grossly negligent in the appointment, management, performance and monitoring of scholar transport services in the North West Province. The likelihood of the department improvement in this particular area looks very much minimal.

Concerns were received from the users of services as well as the Education Department about the performance of service providers and these were discussed with the department in many meetings which were held with the department. There has been instances where service providers did not provide buses according to the specifications but provided lesser number of buses.

Honourable Chair of Chairs, I'm going to skip some of the things and go straight where it matters. The Provincial Public Accounts Committee has received an audit report of the provincial internal audit on learner transport tender dated 15 September 2023. The peer report

punches serious holes or showed recklessness by COSATMA in the evaluation, adjudication, and the award of this particular multi-million tender of learner transport.

The peer highlighted the following irregularities, Honourable Chair of Chairs, and they picked up with the tender as follows: (1) The provincial internal audit has made a finding that the multi-million scholar transport tender is non-compliant with Treasury instruction note (I) of 2023/24 and that the bid was not reviewed as it progressed in various stages.

Secondly, Honourable Chair of Chairs, the provincial internal audit found that there were bidders who did not score the required 70% functionality requirements but were finally awarded. (4) Provincial internal audit found that there were other bidders who were given more than five routes ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: As you wrap up Honourable Member.

HON. TSHOLO: Contrary to the bid specifications. The evaluation report does not show how the award was done as it appears to be the spreadsheet Honourable Chair of Chairs. Ha ke tla kwa bokhutlong, go gontsi #[As I conclude, there is a lot]# Honourable Chair that's why I was quiring on the issue. If the community safety transport is failing to manage the scholar transport function, we do not have any option but to benchmark with Limpopo Education Department which is managing scholar transport in terms of the National Learner Transport Policy of 2015.

There will be nothing that will prevent the provincial government to transfer the learner transport function to the North West Education Department if COSATMA is dismally failing because there are National Learner Transport Policies that govern this particular issues and we are not going to fold our arms Honourable Chair of Chairs and speak as if ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Tsholo, your time is up.

HON. TSHOLO: Things are.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Tsholo, your time is up.

HON. TSHOLO: Lona, lo a chair-a lona? #[You, are you chairing?]/#

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: I will call Honourable Groenewald on a virtual platform. Honourable Groenewald, three minutes. ... [INTERRUPTION] ... Honourable Groenewald, three minutes.

HON. BABUILE: Order Chair of Chairs. Order.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: It means Honourable Groenewald ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. BABUILE: Order.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Okay. What is the point of order?

HON. BABUILE: Re tlile go nna le mathata #[We are going to have problems]/# today because we have adopted rules for hybrid and amongst the rules we have adopted is that all Members who are debating they must be here physically. So today we are too clumsy.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Babuile. Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Chair of Chairs. I think the matter of attendance has been addressed when the Deputy Speaker was chairing this particular session and this particular issue of virtual platform was not even discussed and we are not going to accept anybody through the virtual platform to participate in this particular debate Chair. Thank you very much.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Member. Unfortunately, Honourable Groenewald is not responding. Now I'll call Honourable Mangope, three minutes also again. Honourable Mangope is not on the platform. Now I'll call Honourable KHUNOU. Your time is 11 minutes Honourable Member.

HON. KHUNOU: Thank you very much COC. Honourable Speaker Dr Desbo Mohono, Honourable Premier, the Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial Legislature, ladies and gentlemen. Honourable COC I was really looking forward to this debate this morning but I have been disappointed like I have been disappointed previously.

This debate has been nothing more than another round of political opportunism. The debate is informed by the fact that we have a DA Minister as Minister of Basic Education. This has been another round of political lamentations. This has been another round, COC, of political sophistry of the highest order. The fact of the matter, COC, is that the ANC government is aware of all of these challenges of scholar transport.

The ANC government is hard at work to find a lasting solution. We do not need opportunistically motions which will not offer a solution in resolving this very complex matter. Honourable Speaker, today's debate takes place during a tumultuous period in our constitutional democracy. It takes place at a time when forces opposed to the imperative of redressing the legacy of colonialism and apartheid are becoming louder and bolder.

Honourable Steyl talked about a syndicate. This is exactly what we have at play. A syndicate of people who are determined to undermine our constitutional democracy. These forces continue to

undermine the sovereignty of our country and seem to believe that if they do not get their way in protecting the rights of the privileged minority, pressure will be exerted from Washington to punish the South African Government and its people.

It was not only shocking but incredulous to hear the CEO of AfriForum comparing the campaign to discredit our country to that which was waged by the ANC against apartheid government. What the likes of AfriForum and their political masters conveniently forget is that apartheid was declared a crime against humanity. What these forces conveniently forget, is that we are still dealing with the legacy of the evil Native Land Act. We are still dealing with the legacy of Group Areas Act which was designed to keep black people as far as possible from urban and developed centres, far from accessing decent schools and education.

The fact that we are still discussing scholar transport means we are still dealing with the legacy of the Bantu Education Act of 1953. This Act entrenched racial segregation in our schools till 1994. For almost 40 years of its implementation, the apartheid regime ensured that for every 100 Rand that was spent on a white child, only 10 Rand was spent on a black child. It is atrocious that the beneficiaries of this evil system are now crying victim against any form of effort to address this abominable past.

While white farmer's children had school buses collecting them from farm gates to well resourced schools, the education of the majority that constitute the historically marginalised continue to be hampered by the long distance learners have to travel to schools. According to the 2013 National Household Travel Survey, published by the Statistics South Africa, of the 17.4 million learners who attended educational institutions, about 11 million walked all the way.

The right to education is an integral of South Africa's constitutional rights which cannot be realised without adequate scholar transport. Not having safe and reliable transport to schools, has a detrimental effect on the learner's access to education. Many learners who do not have transport do not finish school. The majority of our people who are poor and beneficiaries of scholar transport are still burdened by daily threats to their safety as well as security.

Transport costs for most families that earn ... [INAUDIBLE] ... or are unemployed remain a national crisis. A compassionate and caring ANC government provides scholar transport to over 50 000 learners that are being transported to 341 schools across the province at a cost of 450

million in the previous financial year. Even the doomsayers in this House cannot deny this programme and many other poverty alleviation initiatives by the ANC government which have positively impacted and contributed towards reducing learner dropout.

The ANC remains committed to the dictum in the Freedom Charter that the doors of learning shall be opened to all. In this regard, we will never abandon the poor. Funding for no-fee schools and scholar transport will always be a top priority. We will however not compromise on an effective, efficient learner transport system that is characterised by zero tolerance towards corruption.

Road traffic law enforcement must eliminate unroadworthy vehicles that are endangering the lives of learners and other road users. Drivers without valid driver's licenses should be nowhere near buses transporting learners to schools. We will insist on accountability and effective monitoring by both departments to root out maleficence until the provincial government completes benchmarking, comprehensive research and does due diligence that will inform the best way forward not opportunistically motions.

In response to this plight, the ANC's 55th National Conference resolved that learner transport must be provided to all learners who qualify and should prioritise learners with special educational needs. This democratic ANC government has recognised the importance of shortening the distance travelled by learners to schools by way of providing them with transport services. In this regard, our focus has been on those residing in remote rural areas who must travel long distances to access schools safely and on time.

We are confident that the interventions planned that have been put in place by COSATMA and the Department of Education will in the interim assist with the regulation and compliance for accountability and hold service providers to the highest standard of compliance. Localisation must not be undermined through the participation of external players as this undermines the provincial government's objective of ensuring empowerment which will result in job creation and economic growth.

Checks and balances that are supported by unannounced site inspections must ensure that the rot does not creep back into the system through fronting. Schools must play their part and be held accountable for unreported discrepancies and inconsistencies. Verification of kilometres

travelled, eliminating non-performance must precede processing of payments. Technology provides various options that can be utilised to circumvent manipulation and the human element. We are thus encouraged by the proposed electronic monitoring system.

Effective monitoring and evaluation, regular inspections must be permanent features and standard operating procedures of an effective system. The implementation of this programme cannot happen in isolation but within the planning and management parameters of the transport system in line with the provision of a National Land Transport Act.

We acknowledge that solutions are not simplistic but complex and will require thorough consultation and our collective wisdom affording the Executive Council opportunity to benchmark as well as exercise due diligence before presenting its revised policy position that will outline modalities, funding models as well as expansion of public transport to under serviced communities in the Dr KK District and the role of NTI must be addressed.

Wherever the function will be finally located it must inspire public confidence while delivering the best for all learners and be characterised by integrity. Proper institutional arrangements such as MOU's between two sector departments need to be put in place and adhered to, to ensure proper coordination ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: While you are wrapping up Honourable Member. Wrap up.

HON. KHUNOU: Of the programme. The need identification function, however, should be integrated into the school's system as currently is and the data supplied to the implementing departments for planning and implementation. Let us allow this process to run its course in order to produce an informed decision.

In the final analysis, we wish to state that the programme must remain profoundly pro-poor, pro-education, pro-rural and pro-inclusion in orientation because of its rich for poor and distant communities that have difficulty to access public ordinary schools. Together with other government interventions such as no-fee schools and the school nutrition programme, it has a

strong redistribution effect to improve the day to day experience of children and adolescents in education and in their lives in general. Thank you.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Member, KHUNOU. This concludes the debate of today. Honourable Members, thank you very much. You are reminded; oh, Honourable Steyl. My apology. Three minutes.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Modulasetulo #[Chairperson]#. Thank you to all the Honourable Members that participated into this debate. It's a pity that my intention bringing this motion was to consider the transfer of the function of scholar transport from one department to the Department of Education and it deteriorated in a political mudslinging match.

It is unfortunate because at the end of the day, it is the child who depends on this transport that is being denied his/her education. They arrive late, if they arrive. When they are in accidents, they are injured. Some of them have lost their lives. MEC Morweng your response and participation here, it's just a speech of excuses and justifications and eintlik wena, a re #[you, he says]# we are trying. That's all you are saying. We've heard those things in front of the committee which is why we brought this motion .# [Actually]#

MEC Sambatha, I thought you had some wisdom. You said that you know how government works. I don't know if you knew maybe you should go and help in other departments but the things is with scholar transport there's a national inter-departmental committee headed by the Ministry Basic Education and the Ministry Transport at a national level.

It's not me who appointed the Minister of Basic Education. It was ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Cyril Ramaphosa. It is the President who appoints and disappoints Ministers. It was not a political mudslinging here. I thought MEC Sambatha you are an intellectual giant and we can engage at a level that makes logical sense but I am disappointed unfortunately. We were not there in your ANC Lekgotla where you discussed these things and I was not here in 2023 and also from 2023 up to now, the ANC did not bring this motion to the House. So eintlik ha ke na mantswe to answer you on that one.# [Actually I have no words] #

We are concerned here about the child in buses. Honourable Moema showed pictures here of what it looks like. Every week when I drive from Potchefstroom to Mahikeng, I see buses broken down next to the road.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: As you wrap up Honourable Member.

HON. STEYL: Honourable Members, let us focus, putting education first, empowering children first. Let's forget about all the other political nonsense that we sometimes cloud our debate. The focus here was let's transfer this function from Transport. Let's move it to Education. Let's consider, let's benchmark. It's Free State, Western Cape, Limpopo, Northern Cape, all of these provinces, it is implemented by the Department of Education.

And if you heard my motion, it says engage at a national level with Provincial Treasury, National Treasury. We want a conditional grant, we want it properly managed within the Department of Education. It's not because I like one MEC more than another MEC or because of one department or because I'm serving on this committee. It's about children who need to go to school. Let's empower our children. Let's support them. Let's make sure they arrive at school on time. Thank you very much.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Steyl, thank you very much. Thank you very much Honourable Members. Members, you are reminded that we have a session with Public Protector in the chamber. So the session will start in the next 10 minutes. You are all requested to remain here. Yes, even the virtual ones. This concludes our debate. The sitting is adjourned until the 18 March 2025.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 12:13!

[Sitting No. 05-2025] Second Session, Seventh Legislature

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we will now observe a moment of silent prayer or meditation.

HOUSE: Observing a moment of silence.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You may be seated. Secretary, may you read the next order please.

MR SEBOPELA: ORDER NO. 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SITTINGS

2.1 Minutes of the 04th March 2025

2.2 Minutes of the 06th March 2025

2.3 Minutes of the 11th March 2025

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, the minutes have been presented. Do we adopt the minutes?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Baie dankie #[Thank you very much]#. Secretary may you please read the next order.

MR SEBOPELA: ORDER NO. 3 ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, reports have been tabled through the ATC and referred to the relevant committees for scrutiny and further processing. Secretary may you please read the next order.

MR SEBOPELA: ORDER NO. 4 DEBATE ON COMMEMORATIONS

4.1 Debate on Human Rights Day

4.2 Debate on Tuberculosis Day

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, Human Rights Day is a national day commemorated annually on the 21st of March to remind South Africans about the sacrifices that

accompany the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa. I will now call on Honourable Sambatha to lead the debate.

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. To the Speaker of the Provincial Legislature Dr Mohono, Deputy Speaker as chairing the session Honourable Collen Maine, Honourable Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi, Members of the Executive Council, Honourable Members of the North West Provincial Legislature, honourable leaders of the political parties in the House, ladies and gentlemen.

I rise before the august House to deliberate on a matter of universal significance which has historical and contemporal inferences here at home, South Africa and that is human rights. The international Human Rights Day is celebrated annually around the world on the 10th of December every year. The date was chosen to honour the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the 10th of December 1948.

However, here at home, South Africa, we chose the celebrate the commemoration of Human Rights Day on the 21st of March each year which is a significance with the link with 21st March 1960 and at the events of Sharpeville. On that day, 69 people died and 108 were wounded when police fired on a peaceful crowd that had gathered into protest against pass laws.

So on this important and historic honour, we honour human rights in the activities throughout the country, all over the world. We stood up against some of the worst oppression regimes in the world and demanded that human rights are basically and fundamental rights that should be afforded to every living soul.

On Human Rights Day, we pay tribute to many of freedom fighters including the likes of Tata Nelson Mandela, Helen Suzman, Mama Winnie Madikizela Mandela, Mama Albertina Sisulu. The list is endless but it is important to mention that these struggle icons have left a lasting legacy upon which all of us are to build a non-sexist, non-racial, and equal society that does not discriminate others but affords the basic and fundamental human rights to all the citizens of our country.

The solid foundation laid by our forefathers has resulted with today's generation being able to inherit a country with a constitutional democracy which enshrines human rights in its Bill of Rights ensuring equality, dignity and freedom for all citizens which also acknowledges the need for the limitations of these rights.

Today, Deputy Speaker, we can pride ourselves of having the Bill of Rights, Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic which has become a cornerstone of South Africa's democracy affirming the right of all people and democratic values. Our country's democracy is therefore built on human dignity and the achievement of equality.

The advancement of human rights and freedom, non-racialism, non-sexism, and the superminis of the Constitution. We can also applaud ourselves for having established human rights institutions and watchdog bodies that hold accountable on all issues with human rights connotations. The South African Human Rights Commission is one of such institutions which monitors human rights, handles complaints and can refer cases. That's why last week we had a hearing led by Human Rights on possible violation of learner rights by either Education or COSATMA.

Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chief Whip, at any given time as parliamentarians and leaders of society, we are held accountable on key human rights issues like the extent to which we ensure equality, dignity, protect the right to life, enhance freedom and security and uphold social and economic rights in the delivery of services to our people.

We are faced with serious socio-economic challenges that inhibit individual human rights while we have registered significant progress since the dawn of democracy. We are still battling to address the historic disparities that persist today particularly in social and economic rights and with challenges in addressing inequality, crime and violence against women and children especially girls.

While we continue to push back the frontiers of poverty, we realise that some of our citizens especially those in historical disadvantaged areas still have to deal with the level of poverty that significantly undermines human rights by limiting access to basic necessities and opportunities hindering economic, social and political participation and increasing vulnerability of rights to violation.

However, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the African National Congress government has progressively rolled out a massive integrated service delivery programme to address all aspects of human life that have influence on human rights. Effectively, our government has continued to address poverty through a multi-pronged approach including social grants, social wage initiatives, job creation and investment in education and infrastructure.

On a broad scale, our government has adopted 14 priority outcomes which cover the following areas identified in National Development Plan and government's electoral mandate based on the ANC manifesto, Chief Whip. They are education, health, safety and security, economic growth and employment, skills development, infrastructure, rural development, human settlements, local government, environment, international relations, public sector, social protection, nation building and social cohesion. By implementing these priority outcomes, government has addressed many human rights issues.

Deputy Speaker, as we continue to build a country that respects human rights we can be proud to stand with other oppressed people of the world like oppressed people of Palestine today. Today millions of people face oppression globally including those displaced by conflicts, marginalised by ethnicity and religious groups, women and people with disabilities often experiencing discrimination and limited access to resources and opportunity. Let us stand together to protect and advance human rights here at home and globally. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sambatha. The next speaker is Honourable Bogatsu.

HON. BOGATSU: Thank you very much DS. DS let me greet the EFF as led by Commissar Shakes Botswe, fellow Members of the Provincial Legislature and distinguished guests if there are any, *bagaetsho dumelang* #[greetings my people]#. I rise to speak on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters in the North West.

Today as we commemorate Human Rights Day, we are reminded of the tragic event of March 21, 1960 in Sharpeville where 69 innocent lives were massacred and 180 people were wounded

by the bullets of the apartheid regime. The Sharpeville Massacre was a defining moment in our country's struggle for liberation as it exposed the brutality of the state and injustices suffered by black South Africans under apartheid laws.

Those who died in Sharpeville did so in pursuit of freedom, dignity and human rights yet 30 years after the fall of apartheid, the question remains: Have the people of North West truly attained the freedom and protection of human rights they fought for? DS, the painful reality is that the rights of our people continue to be trampled upon by the very government that claims to be their liberator.

Chapter 2 of the Constitution of South Africa which contains Bill of Rights outlines the human rights that every South African citizen is entitled to. Those include the right of human dignity, access to sufficient water and access to healthcare services. As a branch of government in South Africa, the Executive of North West is required to uphold these rights and ensure that they are upheld in the province. DS this is not the case for the people of North West ... [INTERRUPTION] ... The ongoing failures in service delivery ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Bogatsu. Who's the Member who's rising on a point of order? Can you please not disrupt us Members who are online! Please proceed Honourable Bogatsu.

HON. BOGATSU: Being mischievous. DS, this is not the case for the people of North West. The ongoing failures in service delivery is resulting in communities engaging in service delivery protests. It is reported that North West is leading in terms of protest actions. The province is burning due to communities trying to get attention of the government.

The recent cruel incident of human dignity infringement and brutality was during the Zeerust peaceful protest where the community was protesting for the failure of government to supply them with clean water. However, the response of government was to subject our grannies to rubber bullets. This was very sad to watch.

Honourable DS, one of the most glaring violations of human rights in the province is the failure of the scholar transport system. It is a disgrace that in 2025 children in rural areas still walk dangerous distances to school because the government has failed to provide reliable and safe transport. Buses are breaking down with learners aboard. Their right to access education is infringed when there are heavy rains as the buses are unable to reach learners.

Let us remind the House of some of the challenges that the North West citizens are subjected to. Taps are dry DS. Ha o tsena mo makeišeneng a rona moo go a nkgga ka gore di-toilet ga di kgone go phulega, ga go na metsi. #[When you go to our townships it is smelling there because the toilets cannot be flushed, there is no water.]# Informal settlements continue to grow without any hand of government providing basic services to these communities.

Government housing projects still remain incomplete. This is still after the South African Human Rights Commission in the province launched an investigative report on the 13th November 2024 on the investigation it conducted on the incomplete RDP houses in North West after receiving numerous complaints from residents.

Roads are riddled with potholes making traveling life threatening experience for motorists. Road infrastructure in Tlhabane Township is a complete mess. Ga go sa na ditsela kwa #[There are no more roads in]# Tlhabane, DS, ke mesima #[it is holes]#. Grade 12 learners at Rauwane Sepeng High School in Tlhabane are squashed in mobile classrooms after their classroom block was completely destroyed by fire. Ne go le botlhoko thata go ba bona le ka #[It was painful seeing them in]# January, DS, ba ntse ka fa tlase ga ditlhare, bana bao ba le ka fa ditlase ga fa tlase ga ditlhare.#[sitting under the trees, those children in classes under the trees.]#

DS, how can we claim to celebrate Human Rights Day when our people are still struggling with the most basic necessities? The legacy of apartheid was supposed to be dismantled yet the people of North West continue to suffer under the ANC-led government that has replaced one form of oppression with another, this time through corruption, incompetence and negligence.

Honourable DS, the fight for human rights is far from over. The spirit of Sharpeville must live on in our continued struggle for justice, equality and dignity. The EFF will not rest until every resident of North West enjoys the full rights that so many fought and died for. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. The next Member is Honourable Steenkamp. Honourable Sambatha, can we have order!

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I want to begin today with a story, a story of a young woman named Bontle. Bontle grew up in one of our rural villages in North West raised by a single mother who worked tirelessly to provide for her and her sister. Despite the struggles, Bontle excelled at school. Determined to change her family's circumstances, she believed in the promises of our democracy, the promise that if she worked hard, she would have a future filled with opportunity.

She did everything right. She studied late into the night even though it was mostly by candlelight. She slept cold and wet when the weather turned for the worst because her roof leaked because it was rusted and her blankets got wet because she couldn't afford a proper bed. She walked kilometres and kilometres to school because her nearest school was too far and the transport was unreliable and dangerously unroadworthy but today she secured a university scholarship and she earned her degree but today she sits at home in the same dilapidated home, unemployed, hopeless and disillusioned.

Bontle is only one of thousands of young people in the North West who have lost faith in the government that was supposed to uplift them. The painful reality is that for many South Africans, human rights still remain a distant dream rather than a lived reality. Honourable Deputy Speaker, how can we talk about human rights when the unemployment rate in our province is the highest in the country?

Where is the dignity in waking up day after day desperately searching for a job that does not exist? Where is the justice for graduates who sacrificed years of their lives studying only to sit at home with no real prospects? Our economy is stagnant and there is no plan to turn it around. We hear grand speeches, ... [INTERRUPTION] ... we see glossy policy documents but there is no action, only empty promises ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Steenkamp, can you please hold on. Secretary may you please mute these people online. You may proceed Honourable Steenkamp.

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Without economic growth, we cannot create jobs, without jobs our people will remain trapped in poverty and dependent on government handouts. While ordinary citizens struggle, officials in this province go months without salaries due to mismanagement and sheer lack of political will.

Look at Ditsobotla. The residents in Ditsobotla face the daily nightmare of no water and no electricity and municipal employees go without salaries. Let's talk about the Parks and Tourism Board, about their employees. Dedicated women and men had to go on strike because they did not receive their salaries on time. How can we talk about human rights when employees are being robbed of their livelihoods by a government that simply does not care?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the heart of our crisis in North West is corruption. Money meant for service delivery disappear into the pockets of the politically connected. The looting never stops and no one is ever held accountable. Millions are spent on projects that only exist on paper. Tenderpreneurs thrive while communities suffer. We see this every day. Municipalities under administration, unfinished projects, ghost workers and a government more interested in self-enrichment rather than service delivery.

And then to make matters worse, we see the window dressings at its best. Leaders who claim to be champions of human rights fail to provide the most basic of them: clean water, sanitation, education, healthcare, jobs. Leaders who pose for pictures at community events pretending to care while behind closed doors, they continue to fail the very people they swore an oath to serve.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, how can we claim to respect human rights when there are still communities in the North West who have never had running water, when people are forced to drink from dirty rivers while millions of Rands that were meant to be spent on water projects go down the drain, when sewerage runs through our streets where children walk to school and play, when basic healthcare can't even be provided and clinics lack the most basic lifesaving medication, when roads are undrivable and infrastructure crumbles, when farms get burnt to the ground with no help from government yet they must put food on our tables, when livestock gets

stolen daily and the police cannot tell us why those stats keep climbing, when women get raped and abused and treated like second hand citizens?

Over the past two years, the Human Rights Commission has conducted three investigative enquiries in our province exposing the government's failure to uphold constitutional values and rights. These enquiries have shed light on the inadequate school infrastructure, government's inability to deliver houses and the deplorable state of scholar transport. The commission's findings have been damning, revealing a consistent pattern of neglect and disregard for citizen's rights.

Human Rights Day is not just a day for speeches. It is a day to reflect on whether we as leaders are honouring the sacrifices of those who fought for our democracy. It is a day to ask ourselves the tough questions: Are we serving the people or are we serving ourselves? Are we creating opportunities or are we crushing hope? Are we standing against corruption or are we just enabling it?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the people of North West do not need more words and empty promises. They need action. They need jobs. They need clean water. They need accountability. They need a government that delivers not one that steals from them. They need a government that can be trusted and be counted on.

Today I call on this provincial government to stop failing our people, to stop playing political games while our communities suffer, to stop making excuses for incompetence and corruption. Start governing with integrity, urgency and responsibility. If we truly want to honour the legacy of those who fought for our democracy, for our freedom, we must start by upholding the rights of every single citizen not in ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining Honourable Member.

HON. STEENKAMP: Not in speeches but in real tangible action. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The next speaker is Honourable Oliphant.

HON. OLIPHANT: Honourable Deputy Speaker Collen Mokone Maine, the Honourable Premier Lazarus Mokgosi, Honourable Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Honourable Speaker, the late archbishop Desmond Tutu, a true anti-apartheid and human rights activist, freedom fighter and patriot reminds us that and I quote: “It means a great deal to those who are oppressed to know that they are not alone. Never let anyone tell you that what you are doing is insignificant.”

Human Rights Day calls on us to reflect on South Africa’s journey from a painful past of racism, segregation and oppression to a constitutional democracy founded on principles of human dignity, equality, social justice and human rights. The words of the Arch compel us to honour the resilience and unity of our forebearers who put their lives on the line to fight for our freedom, liberating us from the shackles of slavery and inhumane living conditions that were imposed on black South Africans during the apartheid era.

What we achieved after the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960 on the 21st of March, a day we presently commemorate as Human Rights Day is a mark in history that all South Africans must never forget. The removal of apartheid pass laws meant that all South Africans would enjoy equal human rights. We would be granted the freedom of travel without restrictions and that pass laws, permits and all other laws restricting these freedoms would be abolished granting each South African the right to freedom of movement enshrined in our Constitution.

The pre-1994 period was a legacy of injustices. South Africa was a country deeply divided by racial discrimination, economic and political exclusion. The majority of the population particularly black South Africans were denied fundamental human rights. The system administered land dispossessions, forced removals, segregated education, restricted movement and limited access to healthcare.

Socio-economic rights were a privilege reserved for the minority of white South Africans while the majority of African people were confined to realities of poverty, unemployment, state sponsored violence and the continued deliberate violation of basic human rights. The adoption of the Freedom Charter in 1955 signified significant progress because it united South Africa’s

progressive forces. Blacks, coloureds, whites and Indian people came together to proclaim the future of South Africa that they wanted and called for a new social order.

The adoption of the world's most progressive Constitution in 1996 which was formulated on the propositions of the Freedom Charter enshrined a Bill of Rights guaranteeing socio-economic rights to all, providing access to housing, healthcare, education, food, water and social security. Democratic institutions such as the Constitutional Court, the South African Human Rights Commission and the Public Protector were established to promote, protect the culture of human rights.

Landmark legislation including Water Services Act and the South African Schools Act were introduced to redress past injustices. As much as the implementation of these policies encouraged both successes and challenges, the government remains resolute in assisting our people to confront social challenges of poverty, inequality and racial discrimination.

While the legacies of inherited infrastructure backlog still affect some of our communities such as Zeerust, Makolokwe, Tswelelang and Tamasikwa, the ANC government has significantly reduced the backlog through service delivery interventions, 82.4% of households in the country now have access to piped water and no longer walk kilometres to access water or drink from streams and rivers with their livestock.

We have restored human rights and the dignity of our people because 83.3% of households now have access to improved sanitation including flushing toilets and pit toilets with ventilation pipes. We do however acknowledge that despite these milestones, aging infrastructure and illegal water connections causing water leakages and interrupted water provisions still pose a challenge that must be addressed speedily.

We cannot let the water tankering mafia run the government budget dry because of overreliance. Water and sewage treatment plants are also prioritised for upgrade and maintenance so that they are fully functional to protect our environment and the people from exposure to harmful toxins. In upholding our people's right to clean and portable water, we are encouraged by the establishment of the interdepartmental water task team and the resolve to strengthen water boards.

This will strengthen monitoring to ensure quality service delivery leaving none of our communities behind. We are confident that the establishment of professionally managed, ring fenced utilities for water services as well as the National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency will unlock much greater investment in water projects for the benefit of our communities and restore our people's dignity.

The South African Schools Act formulated over the foundation of inclusivity, democracy and equal access marked a significant shift in the approach to education post 1994 dismantling the disparities of the apartheid era education system. The objective of the BELA Act is to deepen transformation, enhance governance and management of schools in order to improve quality public education while also upholding equity in languages of instruction.

The ANC government has in pursuit of the vision of the Freedom Charter built integrated schools offering education to all young South Africans irrespective of race, ethnicity and gender. I hope the Democratic Alliance has noted that. To further deepen our culture of social justice and human rights, the compassionate and caring ANC government is implementing the National Schools Nutrition Programme for poverty-stricken children to eat twice a day at school.

Scholar transport is also provided to alleviate the plight of children that have to walk many kilometres to school due to a legacy of apartheid spatial planning. As the ANC, we continue to strive to complete access to education rights even in the midst of inherited backlogs that still define disparity in the sector. The expansion of the National Schools Nutrition Programme to provide breakfast, lunch and feeding to 750 000 learners at a cost of 690 million even during school holidays attests to our commitment to protect our children from poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

We wish to reiterate that after the resolution of its current challenges, the scholar transport programme will remain profoundly pro-poor, pro-education, pro-rural and pro-inclusion in orientation because of its reach into poor and distant communities that have difficult access to public ordinary schools. We are committed that none of our children will be left behind. No longer is it only a Model C school in urban areas that will be privileged with access to transportation to the systems of education.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, we truly come a long way in building a culture of human rights through the progressive policies we formulated and implemented. We continue to deepen transformation and promote the culture of human rights and further encourage economic investment and development as we continue building on the right to participate in the economy ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining

HON. OLIPHANT: One right our people were only prescribed in before 1994. We should not come to this platform Deputy Speaker and speak about stories of a Bontle in whose steps we have never walked or speak about stories of an education system we have never gone through. The ANC remains the only progressive government. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, Honourable Oliphant. The next speaker is Honourable Groenewald.

HON. GROENEWALD: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Section 24 in the Bill of Rights is explicit by saying everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing and to have their environment protected for the benefit of the present and future use through reasonable legislative and other measures that prevent pollution and ecological degradation.

The NEMA Act is clear that an environment's harmful practices must be prioritised like that of poverty and previously disadvantaged communities by the state putting environmental priority right next to all the ANC's priorities although you never hear the ANC speak of this. One can ask why, why wouldn't the ANC also use the environment as a propaganda like they do their other priorities? The answer is easy because they can't as they failed everyone's basic right to a safe environment ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

There is not one municipality that don't have waste water running freely to natural resources effecting the cost of cleaning drinking water that in return is expensive to the poorest of the poor communities. Honourable Deputy Speaker, environmental racism exists where a type of inequality where people in communities of colour and other low-income communities face disproportionate risk of exposure to pollution and related health conditions.

Ecological apartheid exists where there is a form of racism leading to a negative environmental outcome. These practices of the ANC municipality's approach that we are firstly corrupt and will afterwards look at human rights is the root of this evil. I am here today to tell the ANC that they are creating an environmental apartheid through the ecological racism by not prioritising the environment in their endeavours to create a better life for all.

The destruction of the environment is far worse than apartheid where future generations of Africa will experience famine and shortage of portable water. You as the ANC will be remembered as the organisation that did not care for their people and it will be written up in the future history books that you committed an act of crime against humanity. The future will see you ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining Honourable Member.

HON. GROENEWALD: By walking over the basic human rights and clean environment. Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Groenewald. Honourable Tsholo, three minutes.

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me bring you greetings from uMkhonto weSizwe President General Gedleyihlekisa Jacob Zuma from the bundus of Nkandla. As we are commemorating the Human Rights Day as uMkhonto weSizwe Party, we recall the historic

woman uprising by the rural women against the pass laws in Lehurutshe near Zeerust in 1957. The contribution that has been made by the rural masses of our population particularly women still need to be acknowledged and celebrated to this particular end.

In 1957 in Gopane, Honourable Deputy Speaker, only eight women out of this particular population of 4 000 purchased pass books from the pass book mobile unit. Similarly, in Dinokana, only 76 out of the population of 4 000 women purchased the pass book. In Lekgophung, Honourable Speaker, women instructed the chief to be absent when the mobile pass unit comes to their village, and the chief complied to that particular effect.

In Motswedi, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the unit had to come three times without issuing a single pass book despite the chief's instruction. Women in Gopane organised a march against the pass laws. The aim was to join other women marches from all over the country at the Union Buildings. Unfortunately, these women did not reach their destination as they were intercepted by the apartheid regime, brutally assaulted and some of them paid the ultimate price.

We remember the rural uprisings that took place under the leadership of various dikgosi who were brave to stand against the hardships of the apartheid regime. Honourable Deputy Speaker, these particular women were fighting for equality. These women were fighting for the injustices, these women were fighting for basic education, these women were fighting for the better healthcare services in our facilities across, these women were fighting for mere basic services like water where we are encountering challenges around the area of Lehurutshe where we are coming from some of us.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, uMkhonto weSizwe would like to remind all the South Africans that Human Rights Day and month is an opportunity not only to reflect on ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining Honourable Member.

HON. TSHOLO: But also, to advance the human rights enshrined in the Freedom Charter which majority of South Africans have not yet attained to date amongst them to share in the

wealth of the country, the rights of all citizens to maximally share in the profits made from our mines and all natural resources of our country, the right to decent employment, housing and education. Go setse eng? #[What is left?]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up Honourable Member.

HON. TSHOLO: Serious?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up. Can you please leave the podium!

HON. TSHOLO: Ke a leboga. #[Thank you.]# Honourable MEC you are under siege with your department. You must behave COSATMA MEC.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo, can you please leave the stadium. Please! Thank you, Honourable Member. The next speaker is Honourable Makgokgowa.

HON. MAKGOKGOWA: Honourable Deputy Speaker Collen Maine, Honourable Speaker Dr Desbo Mohono, Honourable Premier Lazarus Mokgosi, Members of the Executive Council, Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the late Secretary General of the United Nations and African intellectual giant Kofi Annan's instructive plea when he said: "Let us continue to work together to develop and nurture in future generations a culture of human rights to promote freedom, security and peace in all nations," is still relevant today particularly in the light of heightened global tensions and geopolitics and bullying.

As we commemorate Human Rights Day under the theme: Deepening a Culture of Social Justice and Human Rights, the ANC maintains that human rights are standards inherent to all human

beings. The African Charter adopted in 1981 endorsed human rights recognising the protection of the dignity of our people as it acknowledges the intrinsic value of each individual regardless of their race, gender, culture and social class.

When we talk about social justice, we must reminisce and recall the past events that changed the political landscape of our country from an apartheid government to a democratic state. We cannot talk about human rights and forget to acknowledge the relentless fight that our people fought for their rights and freedoms we enjoy today. We cannot talk about human rights if we don't remind ourselves of the atrocities, brutal killings and pain our people suffered at the hands of colonial masters and the apartheid which declared as a crime against humanity by the United Nations in 1973.

We dare not forget that America, Portugal and the apartheid South Africa regime voted against the resolution when 91 countries voted in favour. It saw nothing wrong that unarmed 69 victims of the Sharpeville Massacre shooting who were protesting against unjust pass laws were mowed down in cold blood. Today, however, they did not die in vain but died for us to enjoy the freedoms we enjoy today. In their memory we need to entrench the culture of human rights and redress inherited past imbalances that were created by white supremacists that continue to advocate for exclusion and protection of the infamous 1913 Land Act that justifies land dispossession.

These supporters of anti-transformation emboldened by extremists who have no regard for multilateral institutions and human rights in South Africa, Palestine and everywhere across the globe now have allies who have brought into their false narrative of imagined white genocide. As the ANC, we have nonetheless state determined to address the past inequalities with legislation we have passed since the dawn of freedom to ensure that we overcome institutionalised racial segregation and discrimination that still haunts our people to this day.

The Freedom Charter declaration proclaimed our aspirations of the kind of South Africa we wanted. To date still finds expression in our unwavering commitment towards achieving a united, non-racial, non-sexist, prosperous and democratic society. The dignity of our people will not be restored as long as they remain landless, unemployed and without hope for the future.

Providing sustainable work opportunities is our highest priority as highlighted in the ANC manifesto, the January 8 Statement. We are committed to reduce 52% youth unemployment by creating more jobs that will alleviate our people from poverty and economic exclusion but give them the dignity they deserve to be economically active and self-reliant.

Ensuring financial support for historical redress has been a priority of the government. Since 1994 the government has allocated a significant portion of the national budget to social services. In defending the gains of democracy, we must be proud of our health sector. Today South Africa offers free healthcare services to poverty-stricken communities.

Pregnant women get free access to antenatal care. People living with chronic diseases illnesses such as TB, HIV receive chronic medication and people facing life threatening medical challenges like cancer, kidney failure are able to access free dignified and quality oncology and renal replacement therapy.

We are determined to build better and quality healthcare facilities, better service for our ambulance to ensure swift emergency responses and stay resolute in our conference resolution to provide access to universal quality and dignified healthcare. Our vision to achieve universal healthcare for our people is now possible. The NHI will bring opportunity to make a break with inequalities and inefficiency that have long characterised our approach to the health of our people.

We are first to acknowledge that informal settlements and inadequate housing remain a serious challenge hence call on government to ensure we deliver on our manifesto priorities of building more houses, unblocking blocked housing projects through the social housing regulatory authority and provide basic services to all.

The RDP programme has benefitted millions of previously disadvantaged communities offering them an opportunity of home ownership and improved living conditions previously denied to them by successive regime. We must however applaud the access to housing rights from previously living in mud houses and back shacks which were part of the first type of housing black people built in urban areas and over three million subsidy houses have been delivered since 1994.

Challenges in sustaining the human rights culture while South Africa has made commendable progress, still hinders the realisation of human rights and social justice. The scourge of gender-based violence and hate crime against people of the LGBTQ+ community remains as a great concern in our province. The continued increase in the death toll of victims of abuse and discriminatory violence against gays and lesbians must come to an end.

We cannot lose our women and children to cruel and selfish individuals that need serious psychological assistance. Our progressive policies on gender-based violence and discriminatory violence against the LGBTQ communities has been instrumental in protecting their human rights as dignities of our most valuable people.

As the ANC we have shown our commitment to human rights by opening shelters for victims of gender-based violence such as the Thuthuzela and Khusela Centres offered psychological assistance through victim recovery programmes and ensured that our police stations and staff offer a victim friendly environment. South Africa was the first country to constitutionally prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and we are a country amongst the nations that allows same sex marriage, celebrate pride month and advocate for protecting of equal rights of the LGBTQ+ community.

As I conclude, we call on government to make the sex offender register public and see to the successful establishment of a fully functional and properly resourced National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Act which will be a national structure to oversee a coordinated response to GBVF.

As we reflect on our journey, we reaffirm our commitment to building a South Africa where no one is left behind. We must deepen the culture of human rights by holding leaders accountable, ensuring fair economic opportunities and foster the spirit of social justice and ubuntu. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Makgokgowa. Honourable Sambatha, five minutes.

HON. SAMBATHA: Let's leave that song. Some people are still under investigation but we know keng socialism but let's leave the song for now to save some of our colleague MPL's from possibilities of being charged for singing. Yes. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think that we must agree by constitutionalising human rights as part of the bill of the rights, that then became the conviction by the African National Congress government even at an earlier age of our 30 years of democracy that you needed to make them constitutional because human beings do not think alike.

And making them constitutional was on the basis that you set up a standard. Whoever breaks, even if it is the government you voted for, even if it is an organisation that has made them to be constitutional, you still take that to the commission, Human Rights Commission, so that there's an independent adjudication on behalf of those who feel that their human rights have been violated. That's one element that the African National Congress must be credited for including by all those that are in the opposition because it also protected their rights.

The ANC is the most caring organisation in the South African democracy today. It cares even for people who do not vote for it because it sees them as human beings. That's the first thing so when they are broken Honourable Steenkamp, yes, it's true Human Rights Commission must stand up and stand up even against government. That's the principle we live on. We don't have to hide where there are elements of violation including the past commission that we said the Human Rights commission conducted a commission on scholar transport. That's what it's meant for.

The Human Rights Commission is not meant to be an appendage of government. It's meant to function as a Section 9 Institution of the Constitution. That's the first principle. That there would be violations there and there, yes, it's true. Some of these violations are as a result of how our economy functions.

Let me give you few. Today poverty still has colour, it's black. Today, poverty still has gender, it's dominantly women. So it's not a deliberate creation of the state or government. It's what is happening on the basis of the challenges we are facing in the economy and that we must not run away and say because majority of women are poor therefore the state is abusing them. We must fight in ensuring that we don't back off on that regard.

Even today land disparities in our country still tell reality. Majority of those who own land are white but because we're from the African National Congress, the most caring organisation that said in 1955, 70 years ago that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white. We were not forced. We knew what we meant 70 years ago and we are still committed to that even today.

Now the issues that we must then deal with is that the state must do its part in ensuring that its delivery obligations are not then becoming the reasons for people to feel non-recognition of their human rights. That's true Honourable Groenewald, including on what you were arguing about on environment. It must not be deliberate because it's unconstitutional if we do that but challenges we are facing, some of them are as a result of the declining financial availability.

For instance, yesterday, the most caring organisation when you were sleeping at 12 midnight was debating possibilities of establishing a road agency in the province, 12 'o clock midnight, most caring. You were all sleeping, dreaming. We were not sleeping, we were not sleeping, looking onto solutions to the frustrations we have on road infrastructure in our province. As a result of that, we had resolved that we will support them to start a road agency. It is on the basis of looking to challenges and adjusting elements of implementation and response. That's what we are saying.

Now lastly Chair, again as a most caring organisation, the African National Congress, as I stand here on its behalf, we want to send condolences to the family of Kgosi Mangope, Honourable Mangope and family and children particularly for them to have lost their mother who was one of the activists culturally in the province and the contribution she has made as an individual but the contribution she has made on behalf of the family.

Honourable Mangope is not alone. The African National Congress and all Members of the Legislature including EFF, DA and Freedom Front Plus and ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Mkhonto, we are with him during this grieving time. Thank you very much Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sambatha. Honourable Members, TB Day is observed globally on the 24th of March each year. The day is designed to build public

awareness and amplifies the urgency of ending the global epidemic of TB. I will now call on Honourable Lehari to lead the debate.

As he ascends the podium, I want to bring to the attention of the Members that this debate is scheduled for 60 minutes, Chief Whip. The time is now one minutes past 10. For those who are accusing us of not giving them the time that is allocated to them, we would look at that time clock together. Honourable Lehari, you've got 10 minutes.

HON. LEHARI: Okay. Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Legislature Honourable Collen Maine, Leader of Government Business Honourable Viola Motsumi, Honourable Members of the Executive Council, Honourable Members of the North West the Provincial Legislature, baagi botlhe ba porofense eno ya Bokonebophirima #[all the people of this province of the North West]#, ladies and gentlemen, dumelang #[greetings.]#

I'm pleased to announce to this august House that I speak today at a time that we have a massive improving TB programme implementation in the North West Province. Yes, it is also my pleasure to announce that North West Province is on good path and on course to win the war against TB. Central to war against this epidemic is the successful information, communication, education and campaigns, IEC, to build TB competent communities.

Deputy Speaker and the House, we must create enablers to prevent TB infection spread as ... [INAUDIBLE] ... TB policy on TB infection/prevention. South Africa's national policy for TB prevention focuses on multi-prolonged approach including infection control, early diagnosis and treatment and interventions for people living with HIV. It is aiming at reduction of TB transmissions and achieve a TB-free South Africa by 2032.

Deputy Speaker and the House, the tuberculosis pandemic has had its grips worldwide since the first evidence of the diseases was discovered in humans over a century ago. Today and according to the latest statistics, in 2023, an estimated 10.8 million people fell in with TB worldwide, marking a slight increase from 2022 and a return to the 2018 TB incidents rate according to the World Health Organisation, WHO.

Yes, the world picture is concerning and that is why we need to step up our diagnosis, detection, treatment and preventative measures. As a province, we continue to build on our historical success. You will remember that we are the first province in the country to cure an extreme drug-resistant TB, XDR-TB at our centre of excellence Klerksdorp Tshepong, XDR-TB Unit. Following our success and getting more patients cured at Klerksdorp Tshepong, we later decentralised to Taung where many patients have since been cured.

Commemoration of World TB Day 2025: Honourable Deputy Speaker and the House, the North West Province will this year commemorate World TB Day at the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District in the JB Marks Local Municipality on the 20 March 2025, which is Thursday. This commemoration is a call to action for all of us to come together, join hands and raise awareness to implement preventative measures and ensure early diagnosis while strengthening effective treatment, promote access to care by ensuring universal access to quality healthcare services including psycho-social support, advocate for research and innovation for the development of new vaccines, diagnosis tools and treatment to end TB as well as strengthening partnerships that we have with collaborative approach through partnerships among governments, health organisations, civil society and the private sector to pull resources and expertise.

The 2025 World TB Day theme announcement is: Yes, We Can End TB. Commit, Invest, Deliver. Deputy Speaker, we have six years left to end TB. The theme emphasises the importance of sustained commitment, financial investment and the effective delivery of interventions critical to the TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care. The Provincial Council on AIDS is in the forefront and continues to assist us with coordination and pulling resources not only for HIV and AIDS but for TB as well.

Current TB status in the province: Deputy Speaker and the House, while there was an increase in 2023 there is now a decline of TB patients notified in 2022 and 2024. The Bojanala and Dr Kenneth Kaunda District continue to have high TB burden compared to other two district due to mining activities around them. This is due to ... [INAUDIBLE] ... to silicosis, ex-mine workers, from mine and socio-economic challenges of informal settlements in and around them.

TB treatment success in the North West Province is an achievement. Deputy Speaker, TB treatment success rate in our province has improved from 76% in 2020 to 83% in 2022. Improvement is evident in all four districts across the province performing above 80%. Dr

Kenneth Kaunda District is one TB priority district and will be hosting the 2025 The World TB Day commemoration.

Furthermore, all drug susceptible tuberculosis deaths have declined from 10% in 2020 to 7% in 2022. The decline is marked in all four districts. We are implementing TB urine tests to fast track early case detection. We are also embarking on community awareness to encourage early health seeking behaviour and adherence to treatment. We are pleased to report that all TB laws to follow up has decreased from 9% in 2020 to 5% in 2022 respectively. The decline is also realised in all the four districts.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we continue to emphasise treatment adherence counselling and treatment support through available support system, e.g. community health worker programme, family members and available community structures. The MDR-TB treatment success rate remain at 68% provincially between 2020 and 2022.

Provincial TB Programme Challenges: The department is experiencing challenges which include the following: Late reporting of patients at health facilities and as such report while criminally ill and mostly die within the two months of treatment initiation, relocation of patients without informing the health facilities for provision of referral letter in order to promote continuity of care, socio-economic factors hampering treatment adherence, food security, clean water and sanitation, improper shelter without ventilation.

Provincial Interventions: Deputy Speaker and the House, moving forward, our focus will be on accelerated case finding, testing and linkage to care. We will implement a strong communication and media strategy to drive advocacy, communication and social mobilisation around TB, HIV and non-communicable diseases.

We continue to strengthen partnership with government, civil society, business sectors and other stakeholders, increase financing to scale up diagnosis, prevention and treatment as well as research and development of new tools in also important to TB and HIV management, finding TB clients who have been lost to follow up and linking them back to care as part of the Welcome Back Campaign remains a top priority.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining Honourable Lehari.

HON. LEHARI: Deputy Speaker, thank you. Furthermore, we continue to scale up ... [INAUDIBLE] ... at community level in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda through global fund support. As part of improving treatment adherence by patients, the department has introduced six months drug resistant treatment regimen compared to nine to 12 months treatment regimen previously.

Key message: We need you as parliamentarians to be bold and to be determined to end TB and encourage TB and HIV testing. Leadership at all levels should continue to take the forefront in ending TB. We need multi-sectoral collaboration and civil participation in order to end the scourge of TB.

Now we send this clear message: TB is preventable. TB is curable. Let us all join hands together. This message refers to Provincial TB Caucus, Provincial Council ... [INAUDIBLE] ... civil society, traditional health practitioners, mining and private sector. In conclusion, Deputy Speaker and the House, I truly believe that we are winning the fight against TB and our data proves that we are in the right direction.

We see this positive path because of a number of factors including a strong political will and support at all levels from our leaders, community engagement ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Your time is actually up. Thank you very much. Thank you Honourable Lehari.

HON. LEHARI: Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Botswe.

HON. BOTSWA: Deputy Speaker, Honourable Deputy Speaker, World TB Day as celebrated on the 24th of March annually is aimed at raising awareness of tuberculosis around the world. TB is considered to be one of the most infectious diseases that cause many deaths globally to date.

The HIV Virus is one of the key drivers of the TB infection. In some African countries, up to 70% people living with TB have an HIV core infection. South Africa as a low-income country has a low life expectancy rate and reports of the high TB statistics globally. TB death in South Africa has repeatedly increased from 1997 and peaked in 2006 with 76 881 deaths recorded.

Since then, the number decreased significantly in 2016 to 29 399 but then increased again to 54 000 in 2022 and 56 000 in 2023. The World Health Organisation released a report wherein it provided further detail regarding the 56 000 TB death reported in 2023. According to the report, 31 000 of the dead were people who were living with HIV and 25 000 were people who were not living with HIV.

In the report, the WHO estimates that 270 000 people fell ill with TB in South Africa in 2023, 13 000 of which had contracted drug-resistant form of TB. This means that the form of TB they contracted contained bacteria that is less sensitive to the medication used to treat TB making the medication less effective. Recent statistics suggest that while South Africa is on track in meeting its target to reduce TB incidents from 2015 to 2025 we are still far behind reducing TB death. The estimates indicate that by 2023 we had reduced the number of deaths by only 16%.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, TB remains a significant health threat in the North West with the province facing challenges that include poor community transmission control, lack of active patient education and challenge in managing drug resistant. Other challenges including the more famous decision stock out of TB treatment which recorded to have been the case at 17 facilities across the province in June of 2021 alone.

In operational managers under the Department of Health in the North West confirmed this medicine stock out of TB medication continue to increase and has become worse under the current MEC. An important aspect that is regularly overlooked with TB patients is the importance of the care and support they need. Therefore, the family living with TB patients must be well educated on the disease and know how to care for the loved ones.

In the North West Province, it has been found that families had very little knowledge of TB which has been associated with community health nurse not being committed to patient education. This has caused for many TB patients who were initially sent home for treatment to be admitted into hospital as a result of their infection worsening.

In 2022, the North West Department of Health reported that TB had caused 9% of the death in the province which is very high compared to the 5% target outlined in Direct Observed Treatment Strategy. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the DOT strategy which was introduced by the World Health Organisation as a cost-effective way of averting TB infection and the death has repeatedly been unsuccessful in the North West Province due to the lack of communication between nurses and patients. It is further reported that the DOT health education was of a lower quality as TB patients are often given medication without the necessary information and how to take it. This has resulted in reduced TB care rates and frequent re-hospitalisation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the recent study conducted by the Professor Nazir Ismail from the Wits University and Professor Harry Moultrie from the National Institute of Communicable Disease found that TB patients who have sufficient money to travel to health facilities in order to receive their treatment on time and who receive counselling throughout the time of their diagnosis are more likely to survive, plays into the context of North West with its high unemployment rate, money is scarce and stretched out to its maximum capacity without having accommodated transport and food for TB patients who will leave their houses at 5AM to reach their nearest clinics and wait to be assisted until late.

This is the reality of TB in the province. No matter how beautiful the MEC and the Department of Health seeks to dress it up, our people are not informed as they should be. Community healthcare facilities do not have sufficient medicine for TB treatment. Community healthcare practitioners are not committed to beating TB and this is allowing TB to claim more lives than it should.

As the EFF, we recommend that the MEC Lehari and the Department of Health allocate more funds towards conducting research on TB in the North West Province in order to further familiarise themselves with the genetic of TB in the North West climate and how it can be best combated. We further recommend that specialised hospitals be built in the province for TB

patients to reduce the burden on the current hospitals and create an environment of specialised care for patients.

Lastly, we plead with the MEC to take stern action against the TB through increased TB awareness programmes. The provision of existence of TB education programmes in the province and by ensuring that the community transmission rate are reduced significantly.

Lastly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity as the EFF go tshidisa ba ga Kgosi Mangope, baagi ba Bokonebophirima le Bahurutshe. Re re a mowa wa ga mme wa rona o robale ka kagiso. Re a leboga #[to give condolences to Kgosi Mangope's family, the people of the North West and Bahurutshe. We say may the soul of our mother rest in peace. Thank you.]#

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Botswe. The next speaker is Honourable Van Huyssteen. The time now is 10:20. You've got eight minutes because I'm accused of taking time from certain Members.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Another cold morning, another wounded cough, another bloody tissue, another early lift to the clinic, another crowded waiting room, another lost patient file, another vital check, another tick on the clinic card, another month's supply of medicine if there's any, another lift home until next month, another visit.

This is the reality of many TB and chronic patients in our province of North West. Yes, there are challenges. Yes, there is room for growth but only by acknowledging these challenges can we take healthcare forward in North West. As we commemorate TB Month and anticipate World TB Day on the 24th of March, we reflect on our progress in fighting TB in North West, where we have fallen short and where we must improve.

Now from the start, we must understand TB and HIV are inseparable from one another. HIV weakens the immune system making individuals highly susceptible to TB. TB is painful, TB is highly communicable and it affects largely HIV patients and the elderly. It does not discriminate

Honourable Oliphant. Universal suffrage becomes us all. If we hope to control TB in our province, we must prioritise managing HIV.

The district health programme grant in the Department of Health's budget is intended to develop and implement effective responses to both HIV and TB yet this portion of the budget faces the greatest strain it has seen in 20 years. If the department does not act decisively, 2025 will look far too much like 2004 when we first launched our HIV treatment programme.

Over the past 20 years, partnerships have brought foreign funding and NGO support to relieve pressure on our healthcare system. Now in 2025, we face the withdrawal of US funding through PEPFAR. Do not let politicians downplay this. They may argue that PEPFAR only contributed 17% to our national HIV funding but this figure ignores completely the expertise and infrastructure that will be lost.

With PEPFAR funding gone, donor-funded health facilities, clinics and NGO's have shut down or reduced operations. Government clinics have lost social workers, clinical associates, nurses and HIV counsellors. The exact staffing impact in the North West remains unclear but it will be significant. I suspect no formal report has come from the Office of Honourable Lehari because he himself fears the truth.

Take Lay Counsellors as an example. The US funded 1 931 of them in South Africa. In North West we have 1 175 such Lay Counsellors. Now these professionals, what they do in our facilities, they test people for HIV, they support those who test positive, they follow up on patients who lapse on ARV treatment. Now Honourable Lehari, how many Lay Counsellors will be lost and what is your plan to address this gap?

PEPFAR also funded nearly half of all data capturers in South Africa, 2 669 in total. These individuals are critical for record keeping and managing patient records. Without them, the department will be unable to track the HIV crisis accurately. These individuals were employed by NGO's funded with PEPFAR funds meaning on their salary slip it might not say PEPFAR but that's where the funding came from. To prevent massive disruptions to HIV programmes, the North West Department of Health must take action to directly fund the NGO's that provided these essential services.

If losing PEPFAR funding wasn't enough, a major TB research programme worth up to 200 million dollars has been cut. Smart for TB, a project supporting critical TB trials has been terminated. It worked with local partners to improve TB testing, explore shorter treatment regimens and enhance vaccine preparedness. One of its projects ready to launch before the funds were cut, aimed to improve TB contact tracing, a crucial component in controlling this very disease.

Now Professor Francois Venter, a leading HIV researcher at WITS University has warned and I quote: "South Africa faces its worst health crisis in 20 years, worse than COVID, one that will overshadow diabetes as a major killer while pouring petrol on a dwindling TB fire but it is preventable if our government steps up urgently."

Now US funding supported HIV care through a competitive, focused and rigorously monitored programme in four key areas. That's active case finding, tracing patients lost to care, viral population programmes reaching communities such as sex workers, individual LGBTQ+ individuals, people who use drugs and victims of gender-based violence. And fourthly, it also looked at health system support which dealt with the managing of medicine supply chains, laboratories and information systems.

Now what happens now? The first sign of disaster will be a drop in new HIV treatment initiations. Then we will see an increase in TB hospitalisations exacerbated by untreated AIDS. By year end, patients who have fallen off ARV treatment will have weakened immune systems making them even more vulnerable to contract TB. The department will struggle to intervene at all because it will lack the data to recognise the crisis because as already mentioned, among the staff lost to the system are the very data capturers who need to track this information.

Honourable Lehari, you are entering a storm and you don't even know it. An expected reply from yourself or fellow ruling party members would be to say, statements were made by myself to win quick political points. Now this is a standard reply from the ruling party and I anticipate this but any such statement in this House today dismissing hard facts as attempts at quick political wins was written in your comfy chair at home yesterday already. It is a cheap and poor attempt at a get out of jail free card.

The residents of North West deserve strong leadership amidst a brewing storm. Honourable Speaker, and I hope Honourable Lehari is listening, a sensible emergency plan must include emergency funding for existing programmes, a phased plan to retain lost positions and make them sustainable over two years, holding the department accountable for HIV treatment metrics, integrating patient data across laboratory, pharmacy and radiology systems, recognising that some key functions and clinics may need to operate outside of the Department of Health.

Another cold morning, another wounded cough, another bloody tissue, another early lift to the clinic, another crowded waiting room, another lost patient file, another vital check, another tick on the clinic card, another month's supply of medicine if there's any, another lift home until the next election. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Van Huyssteen. Honourable Williams.

HON. WILLIAMS: Mmusakgotla dumela.#[Greetings, Speaker]# Members of the Provincial Legislature in the North West, the Premier Mokgosi in absentia, Mme Mohono, baeng ba rona ba ba tlotlegang #[our esteemed guests]#, ladies and gentlemen. Honourable Speaker, before I read my speech I want to just say one word. TB and HIV/AIDS and STI is preventable and we can really overcome it but you see it becomes very difficult for the government to present a budget to the House and Members of the opposition all of them reject the same budget that they raise issues here and say they must be prevented by government.

I wanted to just pass that one so that as and when we speak, we are able to also note our actions. Maybe just maybe, we can change for the people that we claim to be representing. Honourable Speaker, as we commemorate the World Tuberculosis Day, let us be motivated by the words of our global icon and founding father of our democracy President Nelson Mandela, as he said: "The greatest glory in living, lies not in never failing ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Williams, there's a hand from Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, is Honourable Williams prepared to take a question?

HON. WILLIAMS: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Tsholo knows where to find me. Here we are debating. “The greatest glory in living, lies not in never failing but in rising every time we fall.” Today we celebrate the TB Day under the theme: Yes, We Can End TB. Commit, Invest and Deliver. At the centre of the messages from the opposition party is exactly that but as to whether the budget will be adopted by them, led by them, it’s another story.

World TB Day is commemorated every year on the 24th of March because it remains a formidable global health challenge disproportionately affecting many of our most vulnerable and impoverished individuals of our society. Tissues as it has been mentioned by Honourable Huyssteen, they come mainly from black people. Blood comes mainly from black impoverished poor people, farmworkers to be exact.

As it stands, South Africa faces an even heightened surge of TB infection placing us amongst countries recording high rates of new TB infections and TB related deaths. We also commemorate this day to raise awareness, debunk stigma around HIV/AIDS, TB and STI to ensure that we reinforce our commitment to ending the TB epidemic globally by 2023. It is alarming that SA TB prevalence survey positioned our country as one of the high TB burdened countries experiencing high infection rates of TB, TB/HIV and multi-drug resistant TB.

As a province, we need to relook at our clinic performance in mitigating TB infections. The North West state of health fourth edition report from Ritshidze forces us to monitor our TB infections control policies. Unfortunately, no clinics in the North West was awarded the green status for being able to control TB infections, Honourable Lehari, instead we had eight facilities that scored yellow statuses whilst more than 60 scored red. It means something must be done as government to improve or change the current status.

Our health department need to do better and build on foundation laid during the pilot phase of the National Health Insurance. We need to ensure that our people are given necessary medical attention to ensure that we also play our part in mitigating the spread of this pandemic in the

country. We must enforce stricter measures to monitor and control our performance by confronting our staff and medicine shortages head-on.

This calls on us to strengthen our fight against this disease and ensure that we implement robust and sustainable efforts to control and ultimately end new TB infections and related deaths by 2030. The cure of an extreme drug resistant TB at the centre of excellence, Klerksdorp Tshepong Unit marks a milestone that we are proud as a leading province in this regard.

We applaud the successful information, communication, education and campaigns to build TB competent communities. Improvement on drug susceptible TB from 76% in 2020 to 83% of improvement in 2022 is also commendable. As the North West Province, we need to focus on ensuring that we implore new medical advancement and the National Strategic Plan to see to it that we are in par with other provinces in dealing with the TB.

Whilst acknowledging the importance of community involvement, I stand here today to emphasise the imperative need to include technological innovation in our North West TB control strategic objective. For a start, we must ensure that our clinics are able to provide rapid testing to actively catch new infections immediately and provide prompt healthcare responses. Technologies like molecular test need to be made more accessible to our clinics especially in the rural areas as the first phase of contact with our people so that we can get them tested, diagnosed and swiftly tested.

The emergence of drug resistant TB poses a significant threat to the livelihoods of our communities. As a province, we must invest in research as well as analysis in taking direction from the United Nations high level meetings reports on TB. The challenge we face in our communities is higher particularly in the district of Dr KK. It is statistically stated that men are the ones with the higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS, TB and STI even though women are leading in the infection rate.

We are aware that men do not like to go to clinic to get tested and treated which trickles down to the increased TB infections in women and children. Men need to change their attitude to access healthcare services because they too need to get tested for these diseases. This deliberate action by men will help us to curb the transmission and the increase of TB infections.

As we continue being innovative, we must be able to ensure that our province has access to digital health solutions. We must stick with times and ensure that we use technology to our advantage especially when we are fighting a disease that is killing millions of our people daily. We must use social and behavioural change and communication framework to guide us in this regard through promotion of a much-needed knowledge about TB preventative measures that people can practice and stimulate community engagement about challenges faced by our country because of tuberculosis.

We need to employ mobile health electronic adherence and monitoring apps so that we can improve access to care, enhanced treatment, adherence and facilitate digital awareness. The challenge of multi-drug resistant TB needs all platforms to be utilised to raise a much-needed awareness in this current challenge we face. Multi-drug resistant TB is fundamentally caused by the issues of people not completing their medication. This phenomenon is also seen in the increase of antibiotic resistant when testing STI's such as gonorrhoea.

When people don't complete their medication as prescribed, it is evident that the body will start to build resistance to that medication. This means that medication given no longer works effectively to treat and cure illnesses. We must use technology to call on our people to the table and remind them that finishing your course ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining Honourable Member.

HON. WILLIAMS: Of antibiotic; Honourable Deputy?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining Honourable Member.

HON. WILLIAMS: Jesus! We must use technology to call our people to the table and remind them that finishing your course of antibiotics and TB medication will save many lives and

prevent the high increase of many treatment resistant illnesses such as TB and gonorrhoea. Thank you very much Honourable DS.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Williams.

HON. WILLIAMS: Ska la tlhola lo re botsa dipotso bagaetsho.#[You must no longer ask us questions my people.]#

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Groenewald.

HON. GROENEWALD: Thank you Deputy Speaker. The scourge of tuberculosis is a major cause of death in our section in North West has been around for decades. Various programmes and initiatives were launched over the years to combat these fateful diseases. However, the rate of infection and fatalities didn't decrease. The North West Province still has the highest rate of infection and deaths per capita in South Africa.

So Honourable Williams that is why we do not support the budget. It is because you cannot implement those programmes. A recent report published in the Health Systems Trust shows that North West still has the highest mortality rate because of TB in the country with a rate of more than 19 cases per 100 000 of the population. A special concern in the fact that the study showed that less than half of the people diagnosed with TB even started treatment for the disease.

North West therefore has the lowest success rate of all provinces in successful treatment of these patients in the combating of the disease. Various factors have been identified for this poor performance such as poor communication between nurses and patients to ensure correct and ongoing treatment, low quality of health education regarding the proper and regular use of medication by patients leading to reduced cure rates, a very low percentage of diagnosed TB cases that starts treatment, poor community transmission control and so we can go on.

These factors were already identified in early 2012 or earlier. In the meantime, the North West Department of Health seems to have failed to get to the root of the problem and divisive and sustainable solution in the fight against the scourge of TB. This situation is un-turnable and a plight on not only the health department but on the whole North West Provincial Government.

It is high time that the government raised to the occasion, focus and implement the obvious solution to protect its communities throughout the North West. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Groenewald. Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to respond to my learned Honourable friend Honourable Williams. I will not be doing justice to the masses of our community out there and the opposition parties in this particular Legislature of North West. When as opposition parties we are rejecting budget, we are rejecting budgets objectively so, not maliciously so, because there are key critical departments, core departments that are supposed to be seen implementing for that particular matter but with the little that they are receiving from Finance nor Treasury, there will be no service delivery and there will be no implementation.

Therefore, when we speak in this particular platform, we must speak contextualising statements done by the opposition parties not in a very malicious form without putting context to that particular that. Radam Deputy Speaker, the 24th March every year marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch astounded ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. WILLIAMS: Order Chair.

HON. TSHOLO: The scientific community ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Tsholo! Honourable Tsholo, there's a point of order. Honourable Tsholo! There's a point of order.

HON. WILLIAM: Can the Honourable Member address you properly. You are not Radam and can the House be respected.

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. WILLIAMS: Thank you Chair.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo, can you withdraw that thing called Radam. There's no Radam here.

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you withdraw it!

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. WILLIAMS: Can the Member withdraw Radam?

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, withdrawn.

HON. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

HON. TSHOLO: Mme lefoko lone ga le boe, monwana ga o supile. #[Spoken words cannot be taken back, when the finger is pointing]# Deputy Speaker, tuberculosis is the second and the Siamese twins' killer worldwide due to its infectious agent. South Africa as we are talking here, TB is a potentially serious infectious disease that mainly affects the lungs. According to the research conducted by the South African National Aids Council, South Africa is one of the 30th high burden TB, HIV and multi-drug resistant TB countries, contributing almost to 87% of the estimated global TB burden.

South Africa is said to be one of these particular eight countries accounting for the two thirds of the global TB burden alone and accounts for 3.3% of global TB cases. The North West Province, Honourable Deputy Speaker, faces ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining.

HON. TSHOLO: Specific challenges in the fight against tuberculosis due to mining activities and a higher number of informal settlements which results in overcrowding and unfavourable living conditions which exposes people to health hazards. We must all exercise responsibility in the eradication of tuberculosis. Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker and my Honourable learned Member, Honourable Williams.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Please take your seat. I would urge the Secretary to consider part of the education we must receive as Members of the Legislature, just language. There's no such a thing as Radam in English but we understand where we come from. The Honourable Magagane.

HON. MAGAGANE: Is it on? Okay, alright. Honourable Deputy Speaker Mokone Maine, Honourable Speaker Dr Desbo Mohono, Honourable Premier Kagiso Mokgosi, Leader of Government Business Honourable Viola Motsumi, Honourable Members of the Executive

Council, fellow Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me start with the words that was sent by Thabo Pelesane, a social activist and a TB survivor, and he wanted me to convey this message: TB is curable, stigma is bad for patients to recover fully. Patients must take the entire treatment to recover fully. I almost lost my right lung due to internal bleeding after leaving treatment before full recovery. I learnt the hard way.

Honourable Members, while TB remains a global health challenge, let us use our spirit of determination to overcome this illness and end the urge of TB as a public health threat by 2030. The importance of community driven TB solutions must form part of our government policies if we are to achieve the vision and aspirations of the national strategic plan against TB. We all need to have all our hands on deck.

In South Africa alone, TB rates within the mining workforce are estimated at 2 000 to 3 000 per 100 000 which is four times than the aggregate infection rate of the general populous. As a province highly reliant on mining for economic activity and employment opportunities, the infection rate has a direct implication on our current and future fortunes as a province. The increase and exposure in the mining industry says to us something needs to change.

In 2024, the mining council declared a significant decline in TB prevalence and beating their sector targets to reduce TB in the mining sector. That being said, the truth of the matter is that 89% of mineworkers have latent TB infections. Main contributing factors to this are exposure to silica dust, crowded living and working conditions, inadequate ventilation, high incidents of sclerosis and HIV and TB core infection, which we are all aware of.

You know there's a Zulu saying that says isibindi siyaphilisa, isbindi siyabulala #[bravery can make you or kill you]# . In a mining province like the North West, umgodi uyaphilisa, umgodi uyabulala. #[mining can make you or kill you]# Dear Deputy Speaker, as a province, the burden remains alarming and deeply rooted in social determinants of health and mining sector. We must acknowledge that TB is not merely a medical condition but a disease of poverty, inequality and neglect.

Overcrowded housing due to informal settlements, as we know in mining towns, usually mine workers take the out of living payments which then they end up in informal settlements. And also, furthermore, food insecurity, limited access to clean water in a form contribute to weaken the immune system making individuals more susceptible to infections. Local communities must be empowered to take ownership for the fight against TB by reaffirming their commitment to breaking through this health hazard.

As we commemorate World TB Day, we stand at a critical juncture as a country and as a province, and we need to say that we need to end TB today and this can only be done through investment, commitment and actually deploring all the work that needs to be done. While medical advances have proved us that powerful tools can be done to combat TB, the fight is far from over.

We encourage our government play a big role in investing in more effective, efficient medication options such as the Direct Observed Treatment Strategy to save lives of our people. DOTS will guide us the most effective way to treat and cure TB. Implementation of key policy documents such as STOP TB Strategy will lead us to advance our ability to fight TB and achieve our set targets to zero infections and TB related deaths in the North West.

The milestones that the province have achieved to reduce mortality rates as well as breakthrough in registering successful interventions have placed us second to none in fighting TB. And yes, we can end TB through investment, investing in our people. In a way it's the only way to turn the tide. As alluded by the MEC, we all need to be involved.

Yes we acknowledge that there has been a cut in USAID and PEPFAR, but over the past few years, we've been looking at capacitating community health workers to ensure that we are not solely reliant on donor funding and these individuals have actually been absorbed into the health sector. Therefore, even though there is a cut we do have the human resources to continue to fight the surge of TB in our country and in our province.

We need to appreciate these frontline heroes and heroines as they bridge between the healthcare services and vulnerable populations. They understand the unique challenges faced by our communities and can provide culturally sensitive information, support and linkages to care. Honourable Priscilla Williams mentioned that we know that in dealing with the surge of TB,

there are some cultural issues such as men not being open to testing and this actually has an impact on the effectiveness of our treatment campaign.

They also ensure that our people get swift medical assistance, complete their medication, something that Thabo Pelesane is actually encouraging and other TB survivors like himself. And the success that we have achieved so far can largely be attributed to their active involvement in the programme. Donor funding is not active involvement in the programme in our communities.

We are encouraged by TB audit mortality audits confirming that drug susceptible TB associated with laws to follow up decline from 9% in 2020 to 5% in 2022. According to Dr Mpulo Antela, what we need to bear in mind is that despite advances in drug resistant TB diagnosis, treatment and service delivery individuals with DR-TB often face significant and psychological challenges due to limited resources. These challenges can hinder retention and care, undermining the progress made in DR-TB management.

Therefore, continuous investment and addressing socio-economic challenges is the deciding factor in continuous management and the end of TB. Strengthening community-based screening is critical and we need to be able to bring medical services closer to our communities especially those on the margins of poverty, living in villages far from clinics and medical facilities. We must reach all people in our four districts as we will increase early detection and prevent further transmission.

As we tackle the root causes of TB, we must invest in poverty reduction programmes, improving housing conditions and ensuring food security to mitigate against opportunistic diseases such as TB. The compassionate and caring ANC government needs to ensure that it addresses the social challenges facing our people and intensify delivery of its informal housing eradication programme to give effect to injunction of the Freedom Charter that there shall be housing and security and comfort.

We must continue to provide food security interventions to the vulnerable citizens of our communities through our social development, household and nutrition security programme to combat hunger, malnutrition so that our people are able to build strong immune system that will help them combat the surge of TB.

The only way we'll be able to win the fight against TB and decrease infections and TB-related deaths is if we unite in action to combat stigma and discrimination. TB urine tests that are also conducted as part of the strategy to reduce TB deaths are also welcome interventions. These two twin phenomena degrade social capital, deprive people with TB of their rights and respect of others ultimately, they can also contribute to claustrophobic cost where people with TB are pushed out of their homes, communities and jobs losing their security support system and means of an income.

An effective approach must therefore be to protect everyone's rights as a cornerstone of patient-centred care in line with human rights culture enshrined in our constitutional values. We need to ensure that patients receive medication and complete it to avoid multi-resistant TB which is very hard to treat and life threatening, intensify advocacy education and we must, fellow Honourable Members, target DR KK as the epicentre of TB in our province.

Also, we also need employers to be on board and be supportive and not discriminative. We need to create safe spaces where people feel comfortable seeking help without further judgements. We need to continue to raise awareness about TB and knowledge about being able to get TB without being infected with HIV/AIDS. Although there is a core infection, having TB does not mean that you are HIV positive.

We also need to provide and strengthen awareness and advocacy campaigns through the revamped TB caucus in the North West Provincial Legislature which is led by the Deputy Speaker. Unfortunately, the work that has been done by the TB caucus was disrupted yesterday but we have been going across the length and breadth of our province spreading information, advocacy and ensuring that the work is done by the TB caucus.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the business sector also has a major role to play in ensuring that we mobilise funds and resources for a winnable war against TB. Patriotism to our country and nation building must be at the fore of intervention particularly when we find ourselves being attacked for ubuntu bethu #[our humanity]#.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, as the ANC we'll stay resolute to the ANC 55th conference resolutions and manifesto priorities and continue to provide merit-based healthcare

services to our most disadvantaged communities in line with the objectives to achieve universal access to dignified and quality health insurance services.

All of us, Honourable Members, all of us, our communities in the North West have a responsibility to move beyond rhetoric as well as opportunistic political expediency and embrace the bottom up approach that prioritises the voices and needs of our people and affect the vulnerable communities. Only then, only then can we turn the tide against TB, save lives and ensure that we attain a province free from the shackles of tuberculosis. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Magagane. Honourable Lehari, five minutes.

HON. LEHARI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. I fully concur with Honourable Williams and Honourable Magagane. I will focus on tried but not tested question from Honourable Botswe, Honourable Groenewald and Honourable Van Huyssteen.

As we close this important debate about our lives and health, I wish to clarify the House that the fight against TB cannot be won by government alone. It requires all of us to make concerted and coordinated efforts to add positive impetus on the government and world policy posture that seeks to defeat TB.

Now on health treatment in North West or awareness, Honourable Botswe, the department in partnership with global fund conduct periodic outreach through mobile services to reach people in remote areas. We also utilise our ward-based outreach teams as part of awareness. Ke a bona o robetse #[I see you are sleeping]# Mr Botswe.

Now on awareness again, Honourable Botswe, the department approach to tackle stigma associated with TB involves implementing multi-level interventions that includes health, education and awareness, psychosocial support focusing on TB survivors, healthcare workers and the general public while also promoting empathy and mutual respect.

On medicine again, the three Honourables, the PHUTA project is implemented and it involves tracing of patients. Tracers are sent out to track and recover patients back into treatment. At the

same time, they will receive medicines. Health education about the dangers of TB treatment interruption is also done.

Honourable Groenewald, to extend your question, the department administers probiotics for children under five years to protect them from infection as they are the most vulnerable to contract the infections. On medicine, again just to extend my answer, TB medicine has consistently remained above 80% in the province. We can therefore confidently say that we have adequate TB medicine. Our target is 75, we are more than 80 so don't worry, we are there. No crisis. Don't create crisis when it's not there.

On increasing fund, which I agree with Honourable Williams about not adopting the budget, the TB is largely funded through the conditional grant. We ensure equitable distribution of funding based on the disease burden across the four districts. Some funding is located within good and service budget. So we are doing well there.

On waiting for long or long queues for our people, Honourable Botswe, all TB patients presenting at a health facility at any given time are assisted through fast lanes. This is to help avoiding their interaction with non-infected patients. Any case of alleged ill-treatment is addressed through internal complaints management system.

Just in passing on USAID, Honourable Huyssteen, the TB programme is supported through global fund which is not affected by the USA executive order. Lastly, on South Africa and other countries or world, Honourable Tsholo, we have good progressive policies that demonstrate the extent to which health problems facing our people have been identified, realised, analysed and appreciated. It is the eventual outcome of lasting impact that must be used to assess our performance.

We must not accuse each other based on nothing. We must engage each other at the final moment. We have set targets and deadlines and our work should be appraised at the appropriate times. All of your views colleagues, Members, and inputs will be translated into action and result for the defeat of TB. Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC Lehari. This then bring us to the end of the debate. Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity on behalf of all of us in the Legislature to send our heartfelt condolences to the Mangope family. Honourable Sambatha already did that but now I'm formalising it on behalf of the House.

Let me also take this opportunity, Honourable Members, to remind you that we are busy with processing and reviewing the Standing Rules and all Members who did not submit their inputs are reminded to do so as they are due for finalisation. Members are also encouraged to submit inputs on the Members Enabling Facility Policy and the Members Bursary Policy to allow the committee to finalise by the end of the quarter. Honourable Members, I also want to bring to your attention that we are only using one timer in the House that is there in front of the Presiding Officer and whenever there are Members, Members are debating, we are looking at that time. We will not stop any Member before his or her allocated time ends. At our discretion and as Presiding Officer, we may add not subtract time to Members on the podium. The sitting is adjourned until the 19th of March 2025 for the tabling of the Provincial Budget. The sitting is adjourned Members.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 11:04!

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we will now observe a moment of silent prayer and meditation.

HOUSE: Observing a moment of silence.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, can we remain standing? Honourable Members, I have learned about the passing on of Mme Mangope this past weekend. We were planning to visit the family today but unfortunately, they have indicated that they are not available due to the preparations that are underway for the funeral. Members are therefore encouraged to attend the funeral. I will therefore request the House to observe a moment of silence for passing of Mme Mangope.

HOUSE: Observing a moment of silence.

HON. SPEAKER: May her soul rest in peace. You can take your seat now. Secretary, you may read the next order.

SECRETARY: PROCEEDINGS ON BILLS

Provincial Budget Speech

North West Appropriation Bill 2025

Introduction and First Reading

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I will now call on the MEC for Finance, Honourable Mosenogi, to table, introduce and give the first reading speech of the North Appropriation Bill. Honourable Mosenogi you have 40 minutes.

HON. MOSENOGI: Ke a leboga Mmusakgotla Dr Desbo Mohono, Motlatsammusakgotla Ntate Motlotlegi Collen Maine, Motlotlegi Tonakgolo wa Bokonebophirima Ntate Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi, Semesegolo sa Ntlo ya rona ya Kokoanotheomolao ya Bokonebophirima Motlotlegi Rosho, Batlotlegi botlhe ba Ntlo e ya Kokoanotheomolao ya Porofense ya Bokonebophirima, Maloko otlhe a Komitikhuduthamaga a Puso ya Bokonebophirima, Modulasetulo wa Ntlo ya Dikgosi Kgosi Thari Maotwe wa Bobedi, Executive Mayors and Mayors, Members of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Finance, Bahumagadi ba rona, baithuti ba rona ba ditheo tse di farologaneng, North West University, Taletso Technical College including learners from Batswana Commercial School, comrades and friends, ladies and gentlemen, bagaetsho, dumelang.

English Translation Follows:

[Thank you Honourable Speaker Dr Desbo Mohono, Deputy Speaker Honourable Mr Collen Maine, Honourable Premier of the North West Mr Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi, Chief Whip of the North West Provincial Legislature Honourable Rosho, Members of the North West Provincial Legislature, Members of the Executive Committee in the North West Government, Chairperson

of the House of Traditional Leaders Kgosi Thari Maotwe II, Executive Mayors and Mayors, Members of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Finance, Our Queen mothers, students from various institutions, North West University, Taletso Technical College including learners from Batswana Commercial School, comrades and friends, ladies and gentlemen, greetings.]

Honourable Speaker, let me take this moment to thank you for affording me the opportunity to stand before this House to present the 2025/2026 Provincial Budget Speech. We express our gratitude for accommodating us considering the postponement of the tabling of the National Budget which was finally tabled by Minister Godongwana on the 12th of March 2025 as committed by the National Executive. The current domestic and global geo-political development by all indication suggests we leave in interesting times and "making a change is a choice not a chance," this was said by a wise man.

Honourable Speaker, on Friday 21st of March 2025, the country will be observing Human Rights, I am calling on all of us to pause and reflect on Chapter two of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 which is the Bill of Rights. This call is specifically to us as public representative and servants alike, in our respective responsibilities in all the organs of state, are we doing enough to guarantee our people the right; are we fulfilling the promise of the democratic constitution?

The President Cyril Ramaphosa in his State of the Province Address reminded us that this year will mark 70 years since the adoption of the Freedom Charter which is a cornerstone of our democratic Constitution at the Congress of the People in Kliptown. The President further said that the Freedom Charter sets out vision that continues to guide us as we work to build a nation we all envisage. Government of National Unity is not unique in South Africa, in 1994 that is how government was constituted and in subsequent administration the Executive was constituted by more than one political party including some Portfolio Committees in the National Assembly were led by different political parties either than the majority party. Most importantly the 1955

Congress of the People saw South Africans uniting regardless of gender, race and political affiliation to define a vision of the South Africa they want.

Premier Lazarus Mokgosi reminded us that this year would have marked 100 years of the birth of Mama Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti. Mama Ruth was dedicated to the pursuit of a right to education of an African child. She believed in the liberation of an African child through education, an advocate of justice and equality. We work in the footsteps of giants, she has laid the foundation and it is up to us as the current generation to dare not fail her. The achievements we have registered in the last 30 years of democracy we must sustain them, acknowledge challenges, be responsive and people centred in our service delivery approach.

Honourable Speaker, under the leadership of the African National Congress, we remain committed to ensuring a better life for all. The African National Congress continues to strive toward creating a society that is united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa. Through this budget, we take another step toward realizing this vision and fulfilling the promise of a brighter future for all.

The 2025/2026 budget proposal that we are tabling today are not mere abstract numbers but are intended to address the lived realities of millions, the silent struggles of our youth and the deferred dreams of generations who placed their faith in this democracy. Honourable Speaker this budget we wish to demonstrate our commitment to fiscal prudence, economic revitalisation, and sustainable development. It is not about making easy choices, but the right ones—choices that will lay the foundation for a thriving economy, a vibrant democracy and a province in which every individual can prosper.

Honourable Speaker, in 2004, the economy grew only at 0.6% as per the Statistics South Africa Gross Domestic Product report. Minister Godongwana, during his delivery of the 2025 Budget Speech, indicated that over the medium term, GDP growth is projected to average 1.8%. The

anticipated recovery is expected to be driven and supported by improved investor confidence, stable electricity supply, low interest rates and decline risk premium.

Real economic growth is forecasted to increase to 1.9% in 2025. Unemployment remains a concern with the recent Quarterly Labour Stats Survey showing that South Africa recorded a rate of 31.9% in the fourth quarter of 2024 while North West Province recorded 41.3% in the same period. Unemployment in the province remains high compared to the national average.

In our endeavour to reduce unemployment, the province is partnering with the Department of Labour on interventions to create jobs. The partnership is meant to address the challenges in the province and is expected to create more than 24 000 job opportunities for young people in the province.

It is worth noting that there is an improvement in advancing development of the North West population. Human Development Index increased to 0.63 in 2023 from 0.61 in 2022. That translates to an improvement in life expectancy, literacy level and decent standard of living. The Gini efficiency in 2014 was at 0.63 and decreased to 0.60 in 2023. This indicates that the gap between high-income and low-income earners within our province is reducing.

Honourable Speaker, the journey to improve municipal audit outcomes has been long and characterised by adverse audit opinions and disclaimers. I wish to report to this House the progress in the overall audit outcomes in the province which has shown consistent improvement over the past three financial years. The number of municipalities achieving a qualified audit opinion increased from nine to 13 in the 2023 financial year, while disclaimers were reduced from nine to three.

As we acknowledge this progress, we must reiterate the concern that when we met with the Auditor General reflected on qualified audit opinion and it's characterised as a weak environment and that leaders in municipalities that have qualified opinion need to change their

attitude and focus on aggressive oversight and holding the administration accountable in order for us to improve this audit outcome.

And a challenge was posed to us as the Executive together with the Speaker that as they listen to the State of the Province Address, it will be a concern that our support to municipalities will go to these municipalities that are characterised as weak environments given the qualified audit outcome, that we must take resources of the state to institutions that are well-governed in terms of performance, in terms of accountability and transparency and that are working towards improved audit outcomes.

We should not as Speakers of different municipalities, as mayors, as chief whips and the overall oversight body not tolerate stagnation. These positive developments, Honourable Speaker, of improved audit opinion, reflect the effectiveness of the Provincial Treasury's support and our commitment to strengthening financial governance and transformation in municipalities.

To sustain the improved audit opinion, the province working together with the municipalities will implement measures to increase the number of unqualified audit opinions and address all outstanding disclaimers and adverse findings. These measures are meant to ensure that a significant number of municipalities with qualified audit opinions move to unqualified.

And as a result, we have targeted Bojanala Platinum, Dr Kenneth Kaunda District as well as Moretele Local Municipality to be amongst municipalities that in the next audit cycle should receive a clean audit opinion. Honourable Speaker, the support provided by Provincial Treasury as mandated by Section 154 of the Constitution of South Africa to support municipalities to address the historic unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, has strengthened the capacity of Municipal Public Accounts Committees and other council oversight structures. The support has enabled some municipalities to write off R5.5 billion of the legacy UIFW.

The Provincial Treasury remains committed to supporting municipalities in implementing strategies to reduce UIFW. We further call on all municipal council to address the challenges as it relates to the functioning of council oversight committees as it will go a long way in addressing UIFW amongst other challenges. The stability and functionality of councils has also improved. Regular council meetings, adherence to calendars and the implementation of critical compliance resolutions are notable achievements.

There are municipalities that still has challenges and it is important that all political parties cooperate to ensure the smooth functioning of councils and recommit to the "Call to Action" by the Auditor General for all the role-players in the accountability ecosystem, particularly those with direct control over service delivery, should work deliberately and with urgency towards a culture of performance, accountability, transparency and institutional integrity.

Honourable Speaker, the provincial audit outcomes for the financial year which ended 31st March 2024 show improvement. Eleven Provincial Departments and the Legislature received unqualified audit opinions, with the Provincial Treasury, Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation and North West Provincial Legislature receiving a clean audit opinion.

Honourable Speaker, public entities' audit outcomes remained unchanged from the previous years. Three entities namely Kgama Wildlife, Agribank, Youth Enterprise Services received unqualified audit opinion with no material findings. Three entities received unqualified audit opinions, while six received qualified opinions.

Through the efforts of the Provincial Treasury, as part of the support to entities, the North West Transport Investment Group has been able to submit the Annual Financial Statements for 2019/2020 financial year which have been outstanding for the past four years. The remaining outstanding financial statements are currently being prepared by the entity under the guidance of Provincial Treasury and such statements will only be submitted post finalisation of the audit for the 2019/20 financial year.

The strategic training interventions have been implemented across departments and public entities as per Section 18 (2) (e) of the Public Finance Management Act. These interventions include training of all bid committees, officials drafting specifications and internal control personnel. These efforts aim to enhance procurement and compliance and link expenditure to critical service delivery needs.

Honourable Speaker, through the Performance Based Initiative System funding, the Provincial Treasury assisted the Departments of Health and Education to acquire an additional 169.5 million to improve healthcare services and student learner outcomes in the province.

Of the allocated amount, the Department of Health received 76.4 million to the department's allocation while the Department of Education received 93.1 million.

Honourable Speaker, the fiscal constraints and weak economic outlook have indeed created an exceptionally challenging environment for the compiling of the 2025 MTEF budget. These budget preparations required difficult choices and strategic prioritization to balance competing needs within limited resources. Despite economic challenges, the 2025 budget reaffirms our commitment to the priorities of the seventh administration which are to drive inclusive growth and job creation, reduce poverty and tackle high cost of living and build a capable, ethical and developmental state.

Honourable Speaker, the budget proposals that are being tabled today are aimed at responding to the Medium-Term Development Plan which is at the centre of planning for the government. The budget allocated for 2025 financial year is 55.7 billion which is geared towards addressing the priorities of government as set out above.

The provincial budget allocation grows to 56.3 billion in 2026/2027 and 58.3 billion in the last year of the 2025 MTEF. This translates to a cumulative allocation of 170.4 billion over the 2025 MTEF which is available at the disposal of government for efforts to address the socio-economic challenges faced by our citizens in the province.

The Provincial Budget constraints comprises transfers from National Government made up of Provincial Equitable Share and Conditional Grants. The Provincial Equitable Share allocation amounts to 44.7 billion in 2025/2026, 46.1 billion in the 2026/27 and 47.6.5 billion in 2027/2028. The equitable share has been negatively affected by a 3.6 billion reduction over the 2025 MTEF because of the implementation of the adjustments due to the impact of data updates to the formula.

Honourable Speaker, included in the allocations is an amount of 320 million in 2025/2026, 340.1 million in 2026/2027 and 351.9 million in 2027/2028 to fund the one percent shortfall emanating from the salary increase settlement between labour and government. Furthermore, an amount of 81.4 million has been allocated for 2025/2026 for continuation of the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative for the Teacher Assistants Programme which will be implemented by the Department of Education.

The conditional grants allocation amounts to 9.5 billion in 2025/2026 financial year and 17.8 billion in the last two-outer years of the MTEF, which were subjected to reprioritisation by the National transferring departments.

The Provincial Own Revenue amounts to 1.3 billion 2025/26, increases to 1.4 billion in 2026/27 and 1.5 billion in 2027/2028, reflecting an average growth of 4.5% over the MTEF. The province is making provision for a contingency reserve of 50 million in 2025/2026, 55 million in 2026/27 and 60 million in 2027/28 aimed at providing emergency relief for disaster response, recovery, and mitigation at the provincial level. These funds will be held in the Provincial Revenue Fund

and departments can access them with costed implementation plans that will be subjected to evaluation.

Honourable Speaker, in his State of the Province Address, Honourable Lazarus Mokgosi, Premier of the North West Province stated that SOPA sets the tone for the implementation of the Medium-Term Development Plan. Therefore, 2024 budget supports the SOPA injunctions which will be outlined in detail when Members of the Executive Council table their respective budget vote speeches in this House.

Honourable Speaker, consistent with our commitment to address the infrastructure challenges, we are investing 6.6 billion in 2025/2026 financial year and we are intensifying our efforts to improve efficiency and accountability in terms of infrastructure management.

Through the allocation, it is anticipated that about 5.5 temporary job opportunities will be created in various construction projects implemented by departments in the province.

Honourable Speaker, allocations for departments and Provincial Legislature are as follows:

The Provincial Legislature receives 522.8 million to enable Legislature to conduct oversight effectively and efficiently over the Executive and to promote good governance.

The Governance Cluster which contributes to the priority of building a capable and ethical state consisting of Office of the Premier, Provincial Treasury and Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs as well as The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management.

The Office of the Premier is allocated 519.4 million which is meant to facilitate integrated governance, planning and accelerated service delivery in the North West Province. Of this allocation, an amount of 80 million is earmarked for Information Communication Technology and 30 million for the Victor Sefora Scheme in line with the SOPA injunctions which allocation

is meant to increase over the MTEF. For the 2025 calendar year, 150 learners would benefit from this bursary scheme.

The Department of Community Safety and Transport is allocated an amount of 2.4 billion to promote community and road safety, exercise civilian oversight of police and coordinate transport services. Included in this allocation, an amount of 140 million is set aside for scholar transport to ensure that all eligible learners receive transport to their designated schools.

This allocation is also meant to facilitate efforts by government to combat crime and corruption. As part of this allocation is an amount of 749.7 million meant for the commuter bus subsidy. The department will continue with renovations at the Pilanesberg and George Dick Montshioa Airport with allocations of 35 million over the MTEF and 10 million in the first year, respectively.

The Provincial Treasury's allocation is at 695.1 million to assist the department in providing leadership in the management of public resources. The departmental allocation includes an amount of 100 million for the Provincial Development Fund which is meant to be utilised as leverage for the private sector to partner with government for the implementation of the economic infrastructure projects.

The Province through the Premiers Infrastructure Coordinating Council has the Infrastructure Project Pipeline of a number of projects which require funding in partnership with the private sector. We are making a call to private sector that development is a collective responsibility and that we should be partners together with communities towards a future we deserve. As we celebrate the bottom-line and economic growth, our people too must grow, translating to improved living conditions, developed towns, villages and cities; where they too are active in the development and growth of the province.

To enable the Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs to monitor and support local government and institutions of Traditional Leadership, the department receives 681.8 million. Included in the allocation is 12 million for intervention at municipalities through capacity building and 60 million which will be used to extend support to municipalities and Traditional Authorities.

To support Traditional Authorities, an amount of 147 million will be allocated as part of our Traditional Institutional Administration programme budget. Honourable Speaker, as part of the additional responsibilities that arise out of the drive by the province to support building a capable, ethical and developmental state, we shall ensure that the following are also implemented as part of the proposals being made:

Fast-tracking of the filling of vacant and funded posts remains a priority for this province and that function will be jointly led by Provincial Treasury and Office of the Premier. As part of our efforts to tighten the Supply Chain Management processes linked to the award of bids, the Provincial Treasury will ensure that all major bids will be subjected to vetting in collaboration with the State Security Agency.

Honourable Speaker, in our efforts to promote open and transparent tender processes, the province will publish information of all bidders and all tenders awarded to various service providers on the website. To address the Information Communication Technology challenges in the province, an amount of 80 million is earmarked for improved in terms of our service delivery provision together with the Office of the Premier. Revenue efforts for both municipalities and the province will be intensified.

The own revenue portion is instrumental in assisting the government to fund some of the activities that are related to the provision of service delivery. To this end, the province needs to progressively work on increasing the own revenue budget as a proportion of our provincial budget to 5% as opposed to 3% of the current own revenue budget.

Honourable Speaker, the Economic Cluster which comprises of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism; Department of Public Works and Roads as well as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, receives 6.4 billion as part of these budget proposals. Through this allocation, the departments will drive inclusive growth and job creation.

The Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Tourism provides small business enterprises with business development support services and enhance growth and acceleration, including access to markets, product development, skills development, thematical months celebrations and events.

To support this mandate, the department is allocated 1.013 billion. Within this allocation an amount of 38.2 million to North West Development Corporation, 232 million to North West Parks and Tourism Board, 79.7 million for the North West Gambling Board. The allocation of the budget to these entities plays a crucial role in job creation. Tourism, for example, is labour intensive and provides a wide range of job opportunities, from hospitality and tour guiding to management and administration. By investing in these entities, the government will ensure that these jobs benefit local communities, particularly in areas where there is high unemployment rate.

Honourable Speaker, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has been allocated 1.2 billion in 2025/2026 financial year. Included in this allocation is Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme Grant allocation of about 127.2 million to support black subsistence and distressed commercial farmers to improve access to formal and institutional markets.

Included in this allocation is 10 million for food security programmes and another 10 million for the Agri-Hub projects which is meant to facilitate additional funding from the Land Bank. We believe that sustainable economic practices will create sustainable employment opportunities that benefit both the environment and local communities.

The Department of Public Works and Roads is allocated 4.2 billion in 2025/2026 and 7.2 billion over the MTEF to deliver and maintain quality infrastructure for sustainable growth and development in the province. This allocation is inclusive of 80 million allocated for yellow fleet, 201 million for construction of Welisizwe Rural Bridges and 258.7 million for rural roads.

Honourable Speaker, as part of our efforts to grow the economy of the province and to create jobs through unlocking the manufacturing sector potential, efforts are well underway to drive industrialisation through the process of using government expenditure as a lever. The programme will focus on growing the manufacturing sector by identification of the most procured goods by departments across the province with the aim of having the value-added activities taking place locally.

Through this programme coupled together with the contractor development initiative, government aims to give impetus to the drive on localisation, employment and development of small businesses. The contractor development programme will not only be limited to the Department of Public Works and Roads, but also relevant departments will be expected to conform and support this initiative.

With the implementation of these flagship programmes, the province aims to unlock economic opportunities in areas where none existed before. The provincial government will also intensify its efforts towards the implementation and sustainability of Expanded Public Works Programme as part of the package geared towards growing the economy and creating jobs.

An amount of 181.4 million has been added for Presidential Youth Employment Initiative. This initiative will enhance skills development, entrepreneurship for the youth, giving them tools they need to succeed and contribute to the economic growth. The budget allocations within this economic cluster represent a holistic approach to achieving inclusive growth.

Through strategic investments in small businesses, agriculture, tourism, and public infrastructure, the government is laying the foundation for long-term economic sustainability and prosperity. The focus on empowering marginalized communities, women and youth ensures that the growth achieved will be shared across all levels of society, creating an equitable and self-sustaining economy.

A budget of about 44.4 billion is allocated to the social cluster departments to enable sector departments to contribute to the reduction of poverty and to tackle the high cost of living in line with the MTDP priorities. Within this cluster, the Department of Health is allocated 17 billion to render accessible, equitable and client orientated healthcare services.

The major contributors to the growth of the departmental allocation is the five-year increase on Health Facility Revitalisation Grant and the National Tertiary Services Grant by 76.4 million and 94 million respectively. This will enable the department to continue to build new and refurbish old clinics. Notwithstanding the withdrawal of the United States Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief by the US government as part of our broader USAID donor funding, the allocation to the department includes a conditional grant allocation of 1.5 billion for 2025/2026 (4.9 billion over the MTEF), which is geared towards ensuring the uninterrupted rollout of HIV/AIDS programme.

Delivery of houses in the province remains our key priority. The heavy rains we have experienced in the past few months may increase housing backlog due to flooding that occurred that has compromised the integrity of some of the existing dwellings. In response to these challenges, the Department of Human Settlements has planned to service 5 403 sites and build 3 555 housing units in the new financial year.

Resultantly, the Department of Human Settlements is allocated 1.8 billion in the first year of the 25 MTEF. Included in this amount is 1.3 billion for Human Settlements Development Grant and the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant allocation of 254 million.

The allocation for the Department of Education in 2025/2026 financial year amounts to 22.8 billion. Included in this amount is 115.8 million, as an increase in conditional grants allocation, of which 93.1 million relates to Education Infrastructure Grant and 12.053 million to National School Nutrition Programme Grant of which takes the total allocation to 693.6 million.

Through this initiative, 3 000 youth will be employed as educator assistants and administration assistants at schools and in other categories at district offices. Through National School Nutrition Programme, 751 847 learners in 1 319 schools will be provided with nutritious meals to enhance the culture of teaching and learning.

Honourable Speaker, in our endeavour to ensure that sports, arts and culture activities are accessible to all in the province, the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation is allocated an amount of 776.063 million. Among others, this allocation is made as part of the departmental commitment to capacitate and develop 530 arts and culture practitioners. The department will continue to support 155 structures in the creative and cultural industries, 79 cultural and creative industry platforms are to be created or organised and will also implement 120 community conversations or dialogue programmes.

An amount of 1.8 billion is allocated to the Department of Social Development in 2025/2026. Included in the departments' allocation is an amount of 225 million for Non-Governmental Organisations. This is to allow the department to render welfare services to the communities, including services to people with disabilities as well as for implementing social behaviour programmes.

Honourable Speaker, the second objective of the reduction of poverty and tackling high cost of living ties in squarely with the mandate of the social cluster departments and remains the responsibility of all departments. In support of this objective, the budget commitment in total to this effort consolidated from all departments within social sector amounts to 44.4 billion.

The budget makes an allocation for the social development centres that are driving poverty reduction initiatives. The province will ensure that food security efforts by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development are harnessed and to this end, an allocation of 10 million has been made available.

Honourable Speaker, efforts to expand and ensure that our healthcare services are accessible in areas that previously had no healthcare facilities will be enhanced to ensure services reach the most vulnerable in our communities. The province will continue to work with all stakeholders inclusive of all traditional and municipal councils in addressing water challenges in the province.

The Provincial Government will continue to support municipalities to regularly update its indigent register which are key in identifying individuals and households that require government support. The province will ensure internet connectivity in all public buildings especially those in remote areas such as libraries; healthcare centres; schools and social development centres which remain key service delivery points of government which should or will be accessible to the public. This access will translate in our people having access to information and can promote or unlock access to economic opportunities.

The donor funding drive will be aggressively pursued in line with the EXCO decision. The fund will be raised in partnership with private sector to support social sector initiatives. Honourable Speaker, given the challenges experienced by our public entities, the Provincial Treasury has commenced with the financial viability assessment project focusing on public entities.

A pilot is currently being run for the North West Development Corporation and its subsidiaries. The project aims to identify financial weaknesses with a view of developing concrete implementable turnaround strategies. The project is expected to be completed in June 2025. Provincial Internal Audit will continue to ensure the institutionalisation of combined assurance in all departments. This coordinated approach will involve management, internal auditors and external assurance providers.

Honourable Speaker, for the 2025/2026 financial year, the Provincial Treasury will have a heightened focus on enhancing planning, monitoring, and execution of infrastructure projects. A critical part of this effort will be ensuring the consistency and reliability of information in infrastructure plans, including the User Asset Management Plan, the Infrastructure Programme Management Plan and the Infrastructure Reporting Model. These planning tools are essential for aligning infrastructure investments with service delivery needs.

Honourable Speaker, the National Treasury is currently leading the process of the development of regulations towards the implementation of the Public Procurement Act of 2024. Upon implementation, this Act will be a good catalyst in the transformation of society using public procurement as a strategic enabler.

Once the Public Procurement Act is implemented, all provincial organs of state will be expected to, not only procure in accordance with this regulation, but also review their procurement policies, including their preferential procurement strategies. This will allow public procurement to be used to stimulate economic growth and development in particular geographical areas as defined in the act.

The Act will further allow for set-asides, pre-qualification and use of sub-contractors as a condition of a bid to transform society and conduct procurement in a manner that inter alia promotes innovation, sustainable development and the environmental rights.

Honourable Speaker, the budget proposals being tabled before you form a blueprint for a new era of inclusive growth and transformation. They acknowledge the constraints we face, yet they are unapologetic in their ambition to break the chains of economic stagnation and social despair. In the words of Thomas Sankara: “Everything that man can imagine, he is capable of creating.”

Today, we reaffirm our belief that a North West Province free from poverty, inequality and corruption is not an impossible dream, but an achievable reality. Working together, with clear purpose and unwavering resolve we can transform this vision into reality. However, this vision will only materialise if we stand united across political divides, beyond ideological differences driven by a singular purpose: To build a province that works for all its people.

This moment requires us to act decisively, to govern with integrity and to ensure that every policy, every Rand spent, and every program implemented serves the greater good of our people. Let us move forward as one people, determined to leave no one behind.

I therefore wish to express my gratitude to the people of the province for a motion of confidence once more by voting the African National Congress to continue with the transformation and developmental agenda. The ANC in the province under the leadership of its Provincial Chairperson Dumile Maloyi remains committed to a better life for all and we believe it is within reach.

I therefore, Honourable Speaker, table The Appropriation Bill, 2025, The Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure; the 2025 Budget; and the Socio-Economic Revenue Outlook, Honourable Speaker. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable MEC, MEC Mosenogi. Thank you. Thank you. Honourable Members, thank you. The Bill stands referred to Portfolio Committee on Premier and Finance for scrutiny and further processes.

I wish to appreciate and acknowledge the presence of our learners from our institutions. This is the trend that we are going to follow every time we have a sitting because we believe that these young minds must have a better understanding what is government and how should government be run because they are our future.

So every time in the sitting we'll have learners from TVET, from the university and those in schools MEC who are doing the relevant subjects toward what the MEC is doing. That's the

trend that we have adopted. I further want to thank and appreciate bommadikgosi le bomma dikgosana, ba rona [our queens.]

Yesterday in the opening of the house, Magosi [the traditional leaders] committed that because they continue with the programme, bommadikgosi [the queens] will join us. Bommaarona re a leboga. Bommangwana ba ba tshwarang thipa ka fa bogaleng [Thank you our queens, for protecting us], you are welcome. I finally want to thank and appreciate all the guests that are here.

I'm aware that our municipalities are here because it's important. This budget also speaks to them. Thank you very much for joining us. And also thank ordinary members of the community who decided to come and listen to what is offered to this province going forward and everybody who is here. And you members of the media, make sure you report correctly the good thing that this government is doing.

And finally thank Honourable Members in the sitting. The sitting stand adjourned until the 25th of March 2025 for MEC's oral response to questions on that day. Thank you very much.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 09:50!