



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

NORTH WEST PROVINCE

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

TUESDAY 25 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. You may be seated. Thank you, Members. Secretary, you may read the next order.

SECRETARY: ITEM NO. 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SITTINGS

2.1 Minutes of the 18th of March 2025

2.2 Minutes of the 19th March 2025

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I put before the House the minutes of the 18th March 2025 for adoption. Does the House agree?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Members, I also put before the House the minutes of the 19th March 2025 for adoption. Does the House adopt the minutes?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Members, the minutes are adopted. Secretary, you may now read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 3 MOTIONS AS PER RULE 101

2.1 Motions Without Notice Rule 106

2.2 Notice of Motions as per Rule 107

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, is there any motion without notice? I'm looking for my pen. Okay. I want to identify you one by one. Honourable Sonakile, Honourable Dikolomela, Honourable Motsumi, Honourable Molapisi, Honourable Moema, Honourable Dantjie, Honourable Steyl, Honourable Mokua, Honourable Khonou, Honourable Wallhorn, Honourable Chief Whip. In that order Honourable Members.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Speaker. Speaker, I rise to move without notice that this House notes with concern the armed robbery that took place on the 23rd of March 2025 at the Logabeng Disability Centre in Taung where more than eight unidentified armed men reportedly dressed in police uniforms threatened security officers and staff before stealing laptops, USB's and mobile phones.

To further note that the centre houses vulnerable members of society including the elderly and persons with disabilities and operates solely on donations without any significant sums of money. That the House acknowledges the distress and fear caused by this crime among residents and care givers despite no physical injuries being reported.

The DA condemns in the strongest possible terms this heinous act particularly as it occurred just days after South Africa commemorated Human Rights Day, a time meant to reaffirm the nation's commitment to human dignity and security. The DA commends the North West Department of Social Development for its swift response including engaging with the project manager and deploying social workers to support affected individuals.

We call upon the South African Police to expedite their investigation and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice without delay. We encourage any members of the public with relevant information to come forward and assist law enforcement in their efforts. The DA reaffirms this House's commitment to the protection of vulnerable communities and the eradication of crime in all its forms. I so move.

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

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. We concur with the Democratic Alliance and indeed the main challenge is because our people are afraid to talk. They're afraid to share information on what they know with our police. At the end of the day, our police and the justice system are blamed. So, we echo the same call from the Democratic Alliance that our people

must come out and share information in terms of the events with our police services and the justice system so that the perpetrators must be brought to book. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Dantjie. Thank you. Honourable Dikolomela.

HON. DIKOLOMELA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I hereby rise on behalf of the EFF in North West to congratulate the EFF for successfully hosting the Sharpeville Commemoration Rally at Dlomo Dam this past Friday, 21st March 2025.

Honourable Speaker, to be clear the commemoration was not a celebration of Human Rights Day but a remembrance of those who died at the hands of the apartheid regime on the same day in 1960. The sacrifice that was made on the soil of Sharpeville is one that must never be forgotten. Lives were laid down so we can live in a South Africa that is equal, a South Africa that values and respects the lives of all its citizens.

As the EFF, 65 years later, we still take it upon ourselves to stand up and acknowledge the cost of our democracy and give gratitude to those who were brave enough to fight an oppressive system with a better future in mind. Honourable Speaker, the commemoration rally was a great success due to the multitude of community members, fighters and elders and young ones who came out to celebrate with us.

We acknowledge and appreciate each and everyone of them including those who were logged into our virtual platforms to share this day with us. The EFF remains resolute in honouring our past as a foundation for our future. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Dikolomela. Does any Member wish to respond? Thank you. Honourable Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to congratulate Dr Patrice Motsepe on his unopposed re-election as President of the Confederation of African Football for a second term. President Motsepe's re-election as CAF President comes after his first term successfully created an investment in developing growing football in Africa as well as building partnerships and sponsorships with potential partners.

These significant efforts improved efficiency and professionalism of CAF competitions and staff. Dr Motsepe also ensured the implementation and adherence of governance and auditing global best practices by organisations and developed grew women's football. He further through his leadership strengthened the partnership with FIFA and other continental governing bodies.

Honourable Speaker, we believe his visionary leadership will continue to elevate African football on the continent and global stage. The African National Congress wishes Dr Motsepe continued success as he champions the growth and development of sports across the continent. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much MEC. Does any Member wish to respond? Thank you. Honourable Molapisi.

HON. MOLAPISI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of the ANC to move a motion without notice commending the good work of the South African Police Service in the province for confiscating the illicit cigarettes worth 4.5 million during an operation in Brits this past week.

The three suspects were arrested as a result of the take down operation. The operation was led by the National Counterfeit Goods Unit with support from the Crime Intelligence and the South African Revenue Service while primary focus on combating illicit mining, these members also targeted other criminal activities within the province. During the week-long operation in the province, three Bangladesh nationals were also arrested for contravening the Immigration Act.

The ANC supports the work of the police service in dismantling the illegal trade of counterfeit and illicit goods which pose a risk to consumers, harm legitimate business and undermine the country's economy. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Molapisi. Does any Member wish to respond? Thank you. Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you very much Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I hereby rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to table a motion without notice and share with the residents of the North West Province and this august House the progressive submission the black working-class youth and student activist of the EFF has made regarding students' debt in South Africa.

Honourable Speaker, on the 24th of November 2024, the EFF wrote to the Speaker of the National Assembly to inform her of our intention to submit a Private Member's Bill regarding the cancelation of student debt. Since then, the draft bill has been submitted and gazetted on page 57 of Government Gazette No. 51299 of the 28th February 2025.

The Student Debt Relief Bill which was initiated by Commissar Sihle Lonzi is intended to address the student debt crisis that has left more than 300 000 young South Africans unable to graduate and be conferred with their respective qualifications due to their inability to settle their debt with institutions of higher learning.

This intervention will help break the crisis of unemployment and poverty in our society by unclamping this large number of young adults from the grips of debt held against them by the tertiary education institutions and granting them the ability to advance their personal and professional lives. The EFF has been at the forefront of the fight for free, quality and decolonised education.

This bill is a step in that direction. Therefore, we call on all interested and affected stakeholders to engage in the public consultation by making written submissions and making sure that this bill is as comprehensive as possible. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to move a motion without notice congratulating Dr Anna Mokgokong on her confirmation as the North West Councillor for a second term. The announcement was made during an event held in Potchefstroom on the 12th March 2025.

Dr Mokgokong ended her first term on the 21st November 2024. She is the core founder and Executive Chairperson of Community Investment Holdings, a 100% black-owned company that was established in 1995. Dr Mokgokong is a true social activist who has made immense contributions to the transformation of the companies on whose boards she served.

In addition, Madam Speaker, to contributing her extensive business knowledge and acumen to the North West University, she served on boards of several Johannesburg Stock Exchange listed companies and as President of the South African Women Entrepreneur Network (SAWEN), a former President of the International Women's Forum of South Africa, Dr Mokgokong was inducted in 1998 into women entrepreneurs of the world.

Over the years, she has received numerous accolades, the latest from the African Women in Business, the AWIB and the Regenesys Business School which presented her with the Prestigious Outstanding Leadership Award during the inaugural AWIB Conference Awards ceremony that was held in August 2024.

The ANC applauds the election of Dr Mokgokong as the councillor and express its appreciation for the sterling continued role she played within the North West University and the community academia in general. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

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

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Eish#[ey]# the speaker is not speaking. #[is not working]#

HON. SPEAKER: I'm not what?

HON. STEYL: No, this one Speaker. Dumela Mmusakgotla [Good morning, Speaker]. I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move without notice that this House notes that the Western Cape won the Interprovincial SASSA Primary School Athletics Championship for the second year in a row. Also notes that the tournament was held in Germiston, Gauteng, from 20 to 22 March 2025, acknowledges this achievement and the hard work and commitment towards the academic and athletic development of school children by the Western Cape Department of Education supported by the Western Cape Department for Cultural Affairs and Sport.

Congratulates all learners who participated in this tournament. Further congratulates all Western Cape learners who won 88 medals in total, obtaining 41 gold, 24 silver and 23 bronze medals. Acknowledges the financial support extended to learner athletes by the Western Cape Department of Education to fully participate in this tournament and recognises the efforts by the Western Cape Provincial Government to support and develop both academic and athletic excellence. I so move.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Steyl. Does any Member wish to respond? Honourable Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Speaker. As much as Western Cape Government must be appreciated, I think one must also take this opportunity to appreciate North West Government as we are all aware that as the province, we obtained position three regardless of the challenges that we are confronted with. As we all know that this particular province actually is one of the provinces that is predominantly rural compared to Western Cape but regardless we made it to position three.

So, it is very important for Honourable Members before they can appreciate even other provinces, they must start with their province so that they show that they pride themselves with the province of the North West. So, mine is to indicate gore province ya rona le rona kwa diatletiking tse di

neng di tshwaretswe kwa, e tswile No. 3 [that our province obtained position 3 at the athletics that were held there], as the North West and our government in North West must also be appreciated for that. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you Honourable Motsumi. Thank you. Honourable Sambatha, you speak through me. Honourable Mokuu.

HON. MOKUA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to move a motion without notice commending the arrest of senior Bojanala District officials on charges of fraudulent payments of invoices made to service providers amounting to 25 million spanning the period December 2018 and May 2019.

The five were arrested on 17 March following an intensive investigation by the Hawks senior official commercial crime investigations and tactical operations management section. Investigation revealed that payments for alleged service rendered were paid into the bank account of the service provider that was not on the database.

Further probe into the matter uncovered that the payments were later transferred from the service provider's account into the personal account of three municipal employees including the CFO, the secretary to the municipal manager and a municipal councillor. It further alleged that the three non-municipal employees and the entities also received funds from the service provider's bank account.

The suspects appeared on multiple counts of fraud, money laundering and corruption before the Rustenburg Magistrate's Court on Tuesday, 18 March 2025. The former municipal manager and two service providers linked to the fraudulent activities remain at large. Honourable Speaker, as the ANC we welcome the arrest of the suspects and call for speedy trial to the accused so that justice can be seen to be done.

It is our humble submission that corruption remains the enemy No. 1 to our people as it diverts funds and resources meant to benefit the local poplin which makes some people rich and some needing essential delivery of service in turmoil. Corruption has manifested itself to be a stumbling

block to South Africa's continuous socio-economic growth prospects particularly for the majority of our people who continue to remain marginalised in terms of service delivery mandates from the local government. Thank you very much Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Mokuu. Does any Member wish to respond? Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you very much Speaker. As the Democratic Alliance, we want to applaud the Member for that good motion and say that we join in as well to welcome the arrest. Just something Speaker for the record because the Member was making a motion just so that the public can know.

The Member is saying that its former MM, service providers and a councillor. I think it must be placed on record that it's the whip of the ANC so that the public can get it clear. It's not just a councillor. Former whip or current, it's immaterial but it is that of the ANC. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. Honourable Khonou. Or you still want to respond Honourable?

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, in supporting ... [INTERRUPTION] ... Can I be protected?

HON. SPEAKER: You are out of order Honourable Tsholo. You are protected Honourable Member.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. In supporting the motion made by Honourable Member, it shows that the African National Congress is very serious about corruption

and it shows that we will do that and we continue doing that irrespective of the position, the title, ANC will always fight corruption Honourable Speaker. And re a bontsha gore re tlike go lwantshana le bogudu jo bo leng teng mo porofenseng le national. Ke a leboga. [We will fight the corruption in our province and also nationally. Thank you.]

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: Speaker, I'm not going to be long. Mine is also to appreciate also the good work done by our provincial government in arresting those particular thieves but it must be noted that that particular former whip who happens to be the former whip of the African National Congress, he is not even a member of the African National Congress. He has joined another new party in Bojanala ya [named] Rustenburg political party. So, e a bontsha gore indeed as the African National Congress ga re tlo go allowa magodu mo governmenteng ya rona. Ke a leboga. [This shows that as the ANC we will not allow thieves in our government. Thank you.]

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Khunou, okay. Honourable Wallhorn. Honourable Tsholo. Honourable Members! Honourable Motsumi! Lo tla ya go dula kwa ntle [you will go and sit outside]. Honourable Wallhorn.

HON. WALLHORN: Speaker, thank you. Honourable Speaker, I rise for the DA and I move that this House commends the swift intelligence-led operation by the Potchefstroom public order police and the provincial anti-gang and drug team which on 17th March 25 intercepted a suspicious vehicle in Chris Hani Section, Kanana, arresting two subjects and recovering a 9 mm pistol with its serial number filed off, a magazine loaded with nine rounds, 41 additional rounds of 9 mm ammunition.

We acknowledge that further investigation led to a second raid on a property in the same area. Officers discovered two additional unlicensed firearms, two magazines, 13 loose rounds of ammunition. Applauds the arrest of a Lesotho national and his accomplice demonstrating the

critical role of cross border collaboration in preventing organised crime. Recognises the exemplary leadership of Acting Provincial Commissioner Major General Patrick Asaneng whose strategic coordination ensured this decisive blow against illegal arms trafficking.

Urges the law enforcement to intensify operations against firearms syndicates whose trade fuels gang violence, armed robberies and community terror. We demand that the NPA fast tracks prosecution to secure maximum sentences sending a clear message that gun running will not be tolerated. Calls on the SAPS and border control to strengthen inspections at ports of entry to stem the flood of illegal weapons into our provinces.

The ANC double standards need to be further exposed that is the ANC government cut POP Unit funding by 84 million Rand in 2023 yet expect applause when overstretched police officers perform the miracles as described above. This operation proves that intelligence-driven policies save lives. The DA stands with the officers who risked their lives to disarm criminals and restore safety.

Honourable Speaker, we're beyond polite congratulations, every illegal gun seized is a crime prevented but every gun still on the street is government's unforgivable betrayal. I so move.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Wallhorn. Does any Member wish to respond?
Honourable Nathan Oliphant.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Speaker, while we welcome the excellent work done by the SAPS, we also want to indicate that this is not an apartheid-style approach by the democratic South Africa. We've turned the corner. We also acknowledge the difficulties in budget constraints, but we must also remind those who seem to highlight the failures of government that we are also going to come to those who have stolen land in JB Marks, those who have deliberately falsified their evaluation of properties. The same South African Police Services will come for them and the same parties that come with fabricated reports must come with correct reports to this House. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Oliphant. Honourable Dantjie.

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. As we also want to appreciate the good work done by our police, it must also be noted that the government is doing a lot. The silencing of the gun it's an international agreement between countries especially the United Nations. And South Africa is also part of those gatherings.

So, there's no way that South Africa can be part of the international institutions and at the same time we are saying it's not doing enough. So, South Africa is in fact part of those processes of silencing the guns and we fully agree as the South African government that silencing the gun will take us a long way internationally not only South Africa. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Dantjie. Honourable Chief Whip.

HON. ROSHO: Tla ke go leboge Mmusakgotla [Let me thank you, Speaker]. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to move a motion without notice applauding the good initiative and the collaborative work of both the National Department of Employment and Labour and the North West Provincial Government in rolling out 24 000 jobs for young people to be implemented through the Labour Activation Plan Programme.

The LAP initiative is funded by the Unemployment Insurance Fund aiming to enhance employability, enable entrepreneurship and preserve jobs through skills training, enterprise development and other various intervention measures. Young people will be trained in various fields such as engineering, agriculture and artisanal work in preparation for job market and consequently placed at various industries.

The ANC welcomes the initiatives aimed at rolling this massive programme, empowering young people by training them in various fields that prepares them for the job market. I so move.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Chief Whip. Does any Member wish to respond? Thank you, Honourable Members. Are there any motions without notice that are still there? Honourable Tlhapi.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to commend law enforcement for the successful swift arrest of undocumented foreign nationals involved in illegal mining. The 11 suspects from Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique were arrested during the ongoing Vala Umgodi Operations. Nine of the 11 were in an operation in Ramochana near Boitekong outside Rustenburg and the two at Tlhatlhaganyane outside Mogwase Village in the Sun City policing precinct whereas a 36-year-old South African man was fined a mere 1 500 for contravening Immigration Act by employing undocumented foreign nationals. The effects of organised crime in our province cannot be overemphasised. Its effects are felt socially and economically in the province. It creates economic instability, community fear and risk to personal wellbeing and safety.

The African National Congress commends the South African Police for its concerted efforts to fight crime and create safer communities across the province. This operation must be extended to other areas and more arrests must be made. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Tlhapi. Anyone wish to respond? Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Speaker and while we can appreciate that efforts are underway to curb the scourge of illegal mining. We have to be mindful that mineral resources is a national competency and it is unfortunate that 30 years into our democracy there's not been a single mine closing certificate issued to disused and abandoned mines in the country as a result of the failure by the Department of Mineral Resources to execute its mandate.

If we want to end illegal mining, the situation is complex. Government must take its responsibility and hold these abandoned mines and mining companies accountable, to close those mines, to rehabilitate the environmental degradation that communities suffer under as a result of these

abandoned mines and the responsibility. Now we are dealing with a symptom but the root cause is an ultimate failure to uphold the legislative and constitutional provisions surrounding mining. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Madam Speaker, we must continuously thank the African National Congress government to take a resolution to have a dedicated programme on mine closures. Honourable Members must not confuse the ownerless and derelict mines with current mines. Ownerless and derelict mines apply only to those mines that would have been operational before 2002 when MPRDA was enacted as law.

From that time to date, all mines are expected to comply. It is only on those that owners were lost in the process before the Act became in action. So it is not true that this is because of the current. By the way, it is because of the past because it is both apartheid and colonialism that had allowed mineral exploitation without control by government. It's only in 2002 that the Act was passed by the African National Congress. We must thank the ANC.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Tsholo, you are the last one.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I would like to stand on behalf of uMkhonto weSizwe Party to make a motion without notice in order to congratulate Mzwandile Simon Biko from Ward 1 Saldanha Bay Municipality in Western Cape Province for winning the by-elections as MKP ward councillor.

I hereby rise on behalf of uMkhonto weSizwe Party to congratulate this particular person, Honourable Speaker, after the MKP won the ward during the by-elections held last Wednesday on the 19th March 2025. The MKP has produced a political surprise in the Western Cape by winning a ward for the first time in that particular province.

Honourable Speaker, in the ward elections, communities want to elect people they know from their localities, people who are trustworthy with good track record in that particular community and further community development and as well as taking the people's work on daily basis to the higher heights more than anything else, Honourable Speaker.

The MKP congratulates Mzwandile Simon Biko for having proven that he is the people based by winning the by-elections of this ward and where there was heavy contestation and the MKP wishes him strength in the service of that particular ward. As the MKP Honourable Speaker, while we are celebrating his victory, we support our councillors in translating this win into organisational support where they live.

MKP Party looks forward with great enthusiasm to the upcoming 2026 local government elections in the country. I so move Honourable Speaker. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Tsholo. Does any Member wish to respond? Honourable Oliphant. Honourable Van Huyssteen.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thanks Speaker. Ha ba na go le bona mo North West [They won't last longer in the North West]. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Van Huyssteen.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, the motion without notice by the Honourable Member is duly noted and it is also noted that this was previously an ANC ward in the Western Cape which they have now lost. And it is very interesting to note this trend already starting in the by-elections in the run up to LGE 2026. Thank you, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. Does the House adopt these motions?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. Thank you. Thank you very much. Are there any notice of motions? Thank you very much. Secretary you may read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 4 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS AS PER RULE 130

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Secretary. Does any Member wish to make a statement? Can I identify hands? Honourable Sebegoe, Honourable Makgokgowa, Honourable Van Huyssteen, Honourable Sonti, Honourable Tsholo, Honourable Khonou, Honourable Dial, Honourable Oliphant, Honourable Moema, Honourable Wallhorn, Honourable Sonakile, Honourable Dikolomela, Honourable Steyl, Honourable Chief Whip. In that order, Honourable Sebegoe.

HON. SEBEGOE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement joining the South African Development Communities, Africa and African Diaspora in celebrating the 37th commemoration of the battle of Cuito Cuanavale. The event is commemorated annually on the 23rd of March.

This pivotal battle fought in Southern Angola between 1987 and 1988 played a key role in Namibia's independence, dismantling apartheid and shaping the region's path to democracy, leaving a lasting legacy that honours the sacrifices made in the fight for freedom. Cuito Cuanavale was a critical turning point in the struggle against apartheid. From November 1987 to March 1988, the South African armed forces repeatedly tried and failed to capture Cuito Cuanavale in Southern Africa.

The battle has attained legendary status. It is considered a debacle of apartheid, a defeat of South African armed forces that altered the balance of power in the region and heralded the demise of racist rule in South Africa. This historic battle decisively thwarted Pretoria's objective of

establishing regional hegemony, a strategy which was vital to defending and preserving apartheid directly led to the independence of Namibia and accelerated the dismantling of apartheid.

The battle is often referred to as African Stalingrad of apartheid. Cuba's contribution was crucial as it provided essential reinforcements, material and planning. On the southern soil, the Department of Military Veterans in partnership with Freedom Park celebrated the event on Sunday the 24th of March 2025 with a wreath laying ceremony and a public lecture on the historic significance of the day.

Honourable Speaker, as the ANC we join forces with the region and the continent in commemorating the day as a political milestone in that the battle represented a mortal blow to the apartheid South Africa and in its insurgence, which resulted in military reversal in Angola. The battle of Cuito Cuanavale further ended South Africa's dream of establishing hegemony over all Southern African a means by which to extent the life a racist regime. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Anyone wish to respond? Thank you. Members, who make statements, know that statements is three minutes and to respond is one minute. I'm keeping time. Honourable Makgokgowa.

HON. MAKGOKGOWA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement congratulating Impala Platinum Rustenburg for developing 12 female miners through the Impala Miner Development Programme that succeeded in earning the coveted status of Platinum Miner.

Launched in 2020, the Miner Development Programme provides structured high-quality training and support to those miners aiming to reach their highest potential. Participants work to meet consistent and rigorous safety and production standards. Candidates can only achieve platinum miner status once these results are achieved and sustained over time.

Among the new platinum miners is Flora Ndluli, the first woman to earn this title at Impala's 20 Shaft. Flora's journey in mining spans her 18 years with Impala Rustenburg, progressing from a store issuer to a winch operator before becoming a miner in 2013. This brings to 14 the total

number of female platinum miners at Impala Western Limb Operation, underscoring these trailblazing women's dedication and skill and our commitment to improving gender inclusivity.

The ANC wishes to congratulate these 12 exceptional women on their outstanding achievement. We are proud to celebrate them and hope to see many more women earning this status in the future. The initiative of the Impala Mine Rustenburg Development Programme showcased the work put forth by the ANC government in capacitating women and ensuring that women participate in the economy by equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the workforce as well as the job market. I thank you.

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

HON. SAMBATHA: Again, Madam Speaker, we must thank the ANC. It was the law of the apartheid that prescribed no women should be allowed to be employed to work underground until the ANC took over and the law was changed only in 2002. These women who are getting in the mining industry are not getting benefits from the grace of the Lord. They are getting benefits on the basis of a prescribed law deliberately by the African National Congress unless if we keep quite people will forget that by law they were not allowed. It had to be law of a caring government of the African National Congress for them to be allowed.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Your one minute is over. Honourable Van Huyssteen.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. The Democratic Alliance notes with great concern that only 43% of SASSA recipients in the North West Province who rely on the SASSA gold card have successfully switched to the new Postbank black card. This was confirmed by SASSA this 43% during the portfolio committee for Health and Social Development meeting held on Tuesday the 18th of March 2025.

Despite the intended enhancement of security features, the implementation of the Postbank black card transition has been a logistical disaster. The deadline was repeatedly extended until it was finally set for the 20th of March just last week. However, despite this final deadline, thousands of beneficiaries remain without access to their grant money.

Honourable Speaker, the North West Province was severely under-resourced for this transition with only 11 service points designated across the entire province. Bojanala District seven service points, Dr KK one service point, Dr Ruth one service point and Ngaka Modiri two service points. These numbers are totally insufficient.

Residents in rural villages like Tshidilamolomo under the chieftaincy of Kgosi Lekoko must travel 103 kilometres over rough gravel roads to reach their service points. In Shupingstad, beneficiaries must travel 118 kilometres to Zeerust. In Bray, beneficiaries must travel an incredible 295 kilometres to Taung which is their district service point, an impossible journey for the elderly, disabled and the financially vulnerable.

The Dr Ruth District covers 43 700 square kilometres more than double the size of the Gauteng Province yet it is served by just one service point in Taung. This failure in planning is unacceptable. I've personally travelled these roads, and I've seen first hand the enormous burden placed on social grant beneficiaries. Many simply cannot reach these service points.

I personally enquired in mid-February about the availability of mobile units to these rural beneficiaries. SASSA only responded on the 18th of March that this responsibility falls on Postbank meaning they admit to not having the manpower for such outreach efforts.

HON. SPEAKER: Your three minutes.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: This neglect is a direct failure of governance and coordination. We call on the Provincial Government to intervene immediately Speaker, ensure additional service points and deploy mobile units to assist our most vulnerable citizens. Anything less is an abandonment of duty and a violation of the rights of grants recipients. I thank you Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Member wish to respond? Honourable Dantjie. One minute.

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Firstly, we must acknowledge Honourable Member and that is the honest truth that we know that the responsibility that you think is for SASSA is not SASSA. It's Post Office. And we must all appreciate the role played by SASSA in intervening and I don't think we must penalise them or be too harsh them for trying to help our people.

The SASSA in the North West they did a lot of work in making sure that our beneficiaries don't struggle. So, we also want to acknowledge Madam Speaker, the challenges experienced by our people from Post Offices. We know that in the North West most of the Post Offices are closed and we know that indeed service points were not enough but the intervention by SASSA made it very helpful for our people. And it must also be noted that there's nothing more our people will not get ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Is it a point of order? Sorry, sorry because I saw a hand.

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. There's nothing such that our people that did not change their cards will suffer the consequences. Our people still have that opportunity to receive their funding. The money is still there. The only challenge there, it's not even a challenge, it's that the money that is in that card ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: One minute gone.

HON. DANTJIE: They cannot access it through that card but they must go direct to Post Offices. They are still able to access their grants. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The one minute is done. The one minute is done. Honourable Sonti. Honourable Sonti, your three minutes.

HON. SONTI: Thank you Madam Speaker. I hereby rise on behalf of the EFF to table a member statement using this opportunity to once again raise awareness on the scourge of femicide in North West with specific reference to the incident which occurred in Montshiwa Location this past weekend. It is reported that a 44-year-old man allegedly assaulted and killed his 35-year-old girlfriend in the early hours of Saturday morning at her home. The man has since been apprehended and the community responded by burning the man's house.

Honourable Speaker, though we do not condone the community taking the law into their own hands, the frustration experienced as the result of the ease of with which men are able to kill women lately is understandable. Every other day news is broken about a woman who was killed by her partner so such so that has become a norm and that is scariest part.

Our justice system, those entrusted with community safety, our government, all have such are relaxed approach to femicide. That it sends a message of endorsing the behaviour. If it were different, we wouldn't be seeing as much of it as we are at the moment. The value of the human life has been reduced to zero and the cost at which taking such human life comes has been significantly reduced too. That is another failure of government.

The very government who has become so desensitized to the threats and challenges their constituents live under. As the EFF we strongly condemn gender-based violence and femicide in our society. We condemn the minimal effort our government puts in place to stop this parasite that keeps stealing our girls, women, mothers and daughters from us. We condemn the men who believe it's okay to lay their hands on a woman and end their lives for any reason whatsoever.

Honourable Speaker, it is our plea today that all stakeholders of the executive work together and take a firm standing in the fight against GBVF in North West. We plead that more funding be allocated and used towards enhancing public awareness and education on GBVF prevention and combating. We plead that specialised well-equipped, trained and supportive units be established and maintained within the SAPS and Social Development in order to efficiently respond to GBVF cases encompassing victims, families and all who are affected by it.

Lastly, we plead that this not be treated as another opportunity for those responsible to give their ingenuine and defensive responses. All this requires is for the relevant stakeholders to go back to the drawing board and strategize on how they could do better in future. I thank you Madam Speaker.

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

HON. DANTJIE: Indeed, Honourable Madam Speaker. We want to note the statement by the Member and agree with most of the sentiments she said because gender-based violence affects all of us across all party lines but I also want to state that there's a good working relationship with the Department of Arrest, Arrest in making sure that we are dealing with the situation.

And as the Department, we are also in the process of putting some systems in place. I'll talk more about it during the budget vote including the appointment of the gender-based violence coordinators so that our people can be able to access assistance at the local level and cases, there's an intervention of those cases immediately and able to liaise with the police and the justice system. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I will rise on behalf of uMkhonto weSizwe Party to make a statement on the President Ibrahim Traore's exemplary leadership and influence on the African continent to be self-reliant and reduce foreign dependency.

Madam Speaker, the President Ibrahim Traore, the interim President of Burkina Faso is being recognised in Africa as Africa's most charismatic leader on 2024 following a comprehensive analysis of his leadership style, political achievements and ability to inspire and give millions of hopeless citizens the hope they need and his influence on African leaders to reduce Africa's foreign

independence and to promote local production and consumption in African counties by maximally utilising the natural resources Africa has.

At just 35 years, Honourable Speaker, President Traore exemplifies a new wave of African leadership marked by authenticity, pragmatism and a deep connection with people leading a nation amidst immense challenges. He has emerged as a symbol of resilience, sovereignty and hope for the continent. Traore's tenure Honourable Speaker, is characterised by a practical focus on immediate challenges at hand and actions aimed at eradicating poverty, hunger, unemployment and inequalities.

What sets Traore apart is his strong ability to establish a genuine connection with ordinary citizens unlike many political leaders who remain distant from the realities on the ground. He frequently visits local communities, listens to their concerns and participates in grass roots initiatives. Madam Speaker, one of the defining moments of 2024 was his visit to Kaya, a region heavily affected by insurgency. Addressing a crowd, Traore declared: "The strength of Burkina Faso lies in its people. We cannot wait for the solutions from outsiders. Our survival and prosperity depend on our unity and courage."

Such statements Honourable Speaker, have resonated deeply with the Burkina Faso youth who make up more than 60% of the population and this has solidified his image as a leader who genuinely represents their aspirations. Ibrahim Traore took bold steps, Honourable Speaker, and radically transformed agriculture and food security and drastically also reduced hunger and poverty in Burkina Faso in just three years of his tenure.

Traore launched a nationwide agricultural programme benefitting 200 000 small holder farmers leading to a 15% increase in serial production reducing resilience in food imports and boosting rural incomes. He supplied ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Your three minutes is gone.

HON. TSHOLO: Communities with working tools like tractors, work and the land. In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I would ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Three minutes gone. Honourable Tsholo!

HON. TSHOLO: The strength of North West people lies in its people.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo!

HON. TSHOLO: We cannot wait for the solutions outside.

HON. SPEAKER: Three minutes gone. Thank you. Any Member wish to respond? Honourable Matshe.

HON. MATSHE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I'm happy. I'm really happy that MK Party is learning something. At least President Traore didn't have to call in a family from India to come and take over their economy. I'm happy that President Traore didn't collapse the state institutions. I'm happy that something is being learned and it's a good statement that we will support. It's something that all of us should learn how to run a country. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Khonou. Honourable Khonou. Order Honourable Tsholo. Honourable Tsholo! Honourable Khonou, your three minutes.

HON. KHONOU: Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement welcoming the combined sentencing of 40 years imprisonment for stock theft. On the 13th of March 2025, two accused persons were sentenced by the Mogwase Magistrate's Court for

stock theft related offenses. These crimes were committed between the period of February 2022 and April 2023 in Manamakhoteng Village near Mogwase.

The reporting of the crime was made during the incident as the accused Isaac Mariri and Tshidi Mpete stole five cattle at Lesobeng cattle post near Lesetlheng Village. The ensuing investigation including the execution of the search and seizure warrant, led to the discovery of five cattle carcasses at Mpete's residence in Moruleng Village on 9 April 2022. Through the investigation, the police further recovered the Band Saw Machine which was stolen at a butchery in Moruleng in November 2021.

The accused who were arrested in Moruleng and later released on bail were finally sentenced. Mariri was sentenced to three years imprisonment alternatively a fine of 60 000 for possession of suspected stolen goods. He was also given ten-year imprisonment alternatively a fine of 240 000 for failing to furnish identification documents while disposing of the stock. The sentence was later suspended for five years on condition that the accused compensates the complainant by paying an amount of 80 000 which was to be payable in batches.

Mpete was instructed to pay 10 000 on the 13th of March 2025 and thereafter start monthly instalments of 5 000 with effect from the 1st of April 2025 until the 1st of May 2026. He was found not guilty on the count of housebreaking; however, he was sentenced to five years imprisonment for failing to furnish identification documents while disposing of the stock or produce. Alternatively, he was directed to pay a fine of 17 000 which will also be payable in batches.

Both accused were instructed to pay the victim 20 000 on the 13th of March 2025 then monthly instalments of 10 000 from the 1st of April 2025 until the 1st of April 2030. As the ANC we applaud Warrant Officer Agnes Mediwane, the state prosecutor Advocate Kamogelo Moselakgomo and stakeholders for securing convictions for stock theft related offenses which are as we know are at quite a high level in our province.

We remain dedicated to our manifesto priority to take a comprehensive approach to fighting crime and corruption through the integrated violence and crime prevention strategy. We are certain that working together with our people and all our stakeholders will ensure that we keep our streets and our people and our homes in general safe. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Members, as we speak, we are requested to speak straight into the mic because the public cannot hear us clearly. So let's make sure we speak direct to the mic. Honourable Dial; any Member who wish to respond? Thank you. Honourable Dial.

HON. DIAL: Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to condemn the murder of a 35-year-old woman and the subsequent burning of a house belonging to the suspected murderer in Montshiwa. It is alleged that a 44-year-old ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Dial! I think that statement was presented by Honourable Sonti unless I'm misled.

HON. DIAL: Yes, it was Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay. So, you can't repeat it.

HON. DIAL: Okay, thank you. Thank you Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much. Honourable Oliphant, your three minutes.

HON. OLIPHANT: Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a motion without notice congratulating Professor Mashudu Tshifularo for the world's first ever successful ear transplant operation to cure deafness. This South African doctor and his team successfully pioneered a transplant of a patient's middle ear using 3-D technology to cure his deafness making it the world's first operation to cure deafness. The first patient to receive ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. STEYL: Order.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Oliphant, there is an order. Let's hear the order.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I'm just checking, we've concluded the business for motions without notice. We're now at member statements. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. STEYL: The Honourable Oliphant is moving a motion without notice and we've already adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: We apologise.

HON. OLIPHANT: My apologies Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON. OLIPHANT: I'm tabling a statement. Thank you very much the correction is noted. Thanks. The first patient to receive the transplant was 35-year-old man who suffered loss of hearing as a result of a car accident that damaged his inner ear. The operation was performed by Professor Mashudu Tshifularo and his team from the University of Pretoria's faculty of health at the Steve Biko Academic Hospital in Pretoria on the 13th of March 2025.

Using 3-D technology, he was able to recreate the bones namely the hammer, the anvil, the stirrup and the ossicles that make up the inner ear thus replacing the damaged bones. By replacing only the ossicles that aren't functioning properly, the procedure carried significantly less risk than known prosthesis and their associated surgical procedures. The medical team used titanium for the procedure which is biocompatible and an endoscope to the replacement which was quick with minimal scarring.

The surgery was successfully completed in one and a half hours owing to the severity of the injury. The patient was set to get their hearing back immediately. The best part about the surgery is that it will be available to patients of all ages from new-borns to the elderly. It is stories like Professor Tshifularo's achievements, a Tintswalo, that give the term black excellence its true meaning.

In the year 2000, Professor Mashudu was not the only black but also the youngest ENT Professor in South Africa. Today he holds high education accolades and has embarked on the first successful discovery to help deaf patients hear. As the African National Congress, we salute Professor Mashudu who is an otorhinolaryngologist, an ENT, a doctor specialising in disease that affects the head, ears, nose as well as the throat and the neck at Mediclinic Pretoria.

He has been able to achieve the world's first inventions to successfully reconstruct middle ear implants using 3-D printed bones at the University of Pretoria and the Steve Biko Academic Hospital, a public hospital. Born in Venda, Professor Mashudu is a reflection of what dedication and hard work can do. We must take pride in our black excellence and teach our children through such significant examples that they can achieve anything they put their time and minds to.

As the African National Congress, we stand proud of how far we've come in ensuring that our country is not left behind as the world shifts into the fourth industrial revolution. Our access to 3-D technology allows us to do things beyond our own imagination. As the ANC we join the call for sponsors and private business by our health minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi to provide financial backing for 3-D technology ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Your three minutes is gone.

HON. OLIPHANT: To make it accessible to our medical community. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any Member wish to respond? Thank you. Honourable Moema, your three minutes.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to table a member statement and address a pressing issue that continues to plague our communities to pervasive and destructive influence of drug syndicates operating within our province.

Honourable Speaker, while we acknowledge and commend the recent efforts by our law enforcement agencies in apprehending individuals involved in drug related activities. It is imperative to recognise that these arrests though significant represent only a fraction of a much larger and more complex problem. The masterminds of these illicit operations remain largely untouched perpetuating a circle of destruction that undermines the very social fabric espoused in our Constitution.

Honourable Speaker, at the beginning of this month, we have witnessed a noticeable success in the fight against drug trafficking. A well-coordinated operation led to the arrest of a couple in Wilgeboom, Potchefstroom where a substantial amount of illegal ammunition and an advanced hydroponic dagga lab were discovered.

Honourable Speaker, while these operations and arrests are commendable and demonstrate the dedication of the law enforcement agencies, they often target the lower echelons of the drug trade, the street level dealers and couriers. The true masterminds, the kingpins who orchestrate these extensive networks continue to operate with impunity. Their continued existence poses a significant threat to the safety, health and wellbeing of our communities.

These syndicates are not merely criminal enterprises, they are deep entrenched networks that exploit socio-economic vulnerabilities, corrupt institutions and perpetuate violence and ...
[INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Is that an order? Honourable Moema! There is an order. Honourable Tlhapi.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Statements by its nature in this House are not debatable but listening to Honourable Moema, Honourable Speaker, e re pateletsa gore re debate because o bua gore mapodisa a lata dilower levels, ga a late bomangmang [his statement entails debatable aspects because he says the police target or arrest drug dealers operating at lower level whereas they overlook the masterminds or kingpins]. So, I think it is debatable and I think it is not the statement that must be read in your House. Thanks.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Moema, do you agree that the statement be converted to debate?

HON. MOEMA: No Speaker, it's a statement but also in terms of the Rules, Speaker, maybe the Member must check her rules. Of late we can also debate the statements. We can even present debatable statements.

HON. SPEAKER: You agree that we can convert it to debate?

HON. MOEMA: No, I'm saying I can conclude it.

HON. SPEAKER: Chief Whip?

HON. MOEMA: I'm in order.

HON. ROSHO: Thanks Speaker. The statement is on par. It's fine Speaker because it is a statement. Thanks.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay.

HON. MOEMA: Kante Tlhapi tshwanetse ba go inducte gaka? [Tlhapi, how many times must they induct you?] We thought you've been long here but we must; Honourable Speaker ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Moema, may you continue.

HON. MOEMA: Honourable Speaker, the impact of these drug syndicates on our society is multi-faceted. They destroy community trust in law enforcement and the justice system leading to a culture of fear and silence. Our youth are particularly vulnerable often lured into these networks with promises of quick wealth only to find themselves trapped in circles of crime and substance abuse.

Economically, the proliferation of drug activities hampers development by deterring investment and diverting resources towards combating crime rather than fostering growth. Honourable Speaker, as the EFF, we demand the criminal justice system together with the Department of Public Safety and South African Police Services to employ a more strategic and comprehensive approach required to dismantle these syndicates effectively. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Member wish to respond? Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Wallhorn.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance on the following member statement. The DA stands before this House today to condemn in the strongest possible terms the industrial scale and plunder of public resources exposed in the Auditor General's damning report on Moses Kotane Local Municipality.

The findings are nothing short of scandalous, 1.362 billion in irregular expenditure during the 23/24 financial year, 152 million squandered on fruitless and wasteful expenditure, a 13% increase from the previous year's 134 million. Unauthorised expenditure ballooning from 209 million to 292 million revealing a municipality in total free fall.

This is not mismanagement Honourable Speaker. This is the wholesale looting of public resources while residents suffer crumbling services. That 1.5 billion could have fixed roads, upgraded water infrastructure and delivered real change to the people of Moses Kotane. Instead it has vanished into the void of corruption and incompetence.

Let us be unequivocal. These are not victimless crimes. Every Rand stolen from those coffers is a clinic not built, a road not repaired and a family left without water. The perpetrators from complicit officials to absent oversight bodies have blood on their hands. Their actions have sentenced an entire community to decay. The DA demands more than the ANC's ceremonial handwringing and lip service.

We insist on: (1) The immediate suspension of all officials implicated in these irregularities. (2) A full forensic investigation with criminal referrals where appropriate. (3) Personal accountability from the municipal manager and mayor for this dereliction of duty. (4) Criminal charges against every individual who approved, facilitated or even concealed this looting. (5) Immediate dissolution of the municipal finance committee for gross dereliction of duty. (6) A special tribunal to claw back every cent from those who profited starting with the salaries and pensions of those implicated.

If this House fails to act, it becomes an accomplice. The people of Moses Kotane will not forget who stood by while their future was auctioned off. The people of Moses Kotane deserve better than this betrayal of their trust. The situation is no better in Moretele, Matlosana or Ditsobotla to name but three municipalities. The DA will continue fighting to restore clean government and deliver the services our citizens are owed. I thank you.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Honourable Wallhorn. Does anybody wish to respond? Thank you. Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Honourable Speaker, the DA strongly opposes Minister Aaron Motsoaledi's decision to ban cannabis-based foodstuffs due to the negative public policy implications and the significant economic harm this decision could inflict on South Africa's growing hemp and cannabis industries. The global hemp seed market valued at over USD five billion in 2023 is expected to double by 2032 with the food and beverage sector driving much of the growth.

Many countries including the US, Canada and China have integrated hemp into their food industries and South Africa should do the same. South Africa's hemp industry is vibrant with over 1 400 licensed cultivation businesses and 400 SMME's all creating jobs and contributing to the local economy. The ban, however, risks stifling growth in this sector.

The DA calls on President Cyril Ramaphosa to reverse this damaging regulation which disregards public consultation and the voices of businesses and health experts. Instead of imposing restrictions, the government should support the hemp industry which has the potential to boost jobs, improve public health and drive sustainable economic development.

The ban on cannabis-based foodstuffs smacks of the same reckless disregard for sound policy, stifling an industry that could significantly contribute to the economic security of the country. The Minister's actions also reflect a disturbing trend of ignoring alternative perspectives and solutions. Despite the voices of businesses, farmers and health experts calling for a rational approach to cannabis regulation, the Minister stubbornly insists of pursuing policies that disregard both evidence and the public good.

The DA is concerned by the process that led to this ban. Minister Motsoaledi has bypassed the required public consultation process, relying on a dubious claim that the regulations were needed without delay. By stifling this industry with an arbitrary and ill-considered ban, Minister Motsoaledi is undermining an important economic sector. Rather than imposing harmful restrictions the government should be fostering growth and providing regulatory clarity for the cannabis and hemp industries. I so move.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sonakile. Does any Member wish to respond to the statement? Thank you. Honourable Dikolomela.

HON. DIKOLOMELA: Okay, thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise before this House on behalf of the EFF, Economic Freedom Fighters, with a deep sense of urgency and responsibility to table a member statement and address the ongoing and shameful failure of this government to provide basic and essential services to the people of North West.

Honourable Speaker, our communities, our people and our province is suffering due to a systematic and deliberate neglect by those entrusted with governance. Nowhere is this failure more evident than in the village of Tamasikwa in Taung where residents are denied their fundamental right to access clean and drinkable water.

The people of Tamasikwa like many across our province, Honourable Speaker, wake up each day to an unrelenting struggle for survival, a struggle not caused by natural disaster or war but by the inefficiency, corruption and lack of will by those who in power. Water is life. It is a fundamental human right enshrined in our constitution, yet this government has failed to ensure that the people of Tamasikwa have access to clean, drinking water.

Honourable Speaker, this failure is not an isolated incident but a reflection of widespread crisis that affects the entire North West Province from Mafikeng to Klerksdorp, from Rustenburg to Zeerust, our people are forced to endure a government that has normalised suffering. The crisis of water supply, electricity shortages, failing road infrastructure and shortage of healthcare facilities are all symptoms of a broken system that continues to fail the poor and marginalised.

Communities are left to make a plan for themselves while those in positions of power continue to loot public resources meant for service delivery. Honourable Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters refuse to accept the injustice. We refuse to stand by while our people's dignity is strapped away by government that has neither the vision nor the willingness to govern in the interest of the people. That is why we declare this year as the year of the picket lines.

We will not be silenced. We will not be ignored. We will mobilise. We will organise and we'll lead the charge against this continued neglect. Honourable Speaker, the EFF has been and will

continue to be at the forefront for pickets, protests and marches demanding service delivery across different regions, subregions, and municipalities. We are taking the fight to the doorsteps of those who continue to deny our people basic services.

We'll ensure that every corrupt official, every failed administrator and every government department that has failed to deliver ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Your three minutes is gone.

HON. DIKOLOMELA: Is held accountable.

HON. SPEAKER: Your three minutes is done.

HON. DIKOLOMELA: Is done? Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Dikolomela. Any Member wish to respond? Honourable Nathan Oliphant.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Indeed, that was a painful three minutes to listen to the continued complaints of an organisation, Madam Speaker, that participates in democratic processes in municipalities. What we must begin to tell people is that the Economic Freedom Fighters is the very same political party that refuses to adopt budgets in local government. It's the very same political party that refuses to adopt budgets that must transform the lives of people on a daily basis.

HON. MOEMA: Order Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: There is an order. You were left with five seconds. That order must be within that five seconds.

HON. MOEMA: Yes. Thanks Speaker. I was just saying can the Member focus within the context of the statement. We are not dealing with budget adoptions. We are dealing with the facts on the ground. People do not have services. Communities do not have water. Let's deal with that. Thanks Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Moema. The one minute is done also. No! It was done within those time. Thank you very much. Honourable Smuts.

HON. MATSHE: Thanks, Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to make a member statement. I'm correct Honourable Steyl this time and really welcome the first launch of the cyber lab in Ngaka Modiri Molema at Setumo High School here in Majemantsho.

On the 20th of March, the Deputy Minister and the Executive Mayor, Honourable Mondli Gungubele and the Executive Mayor of Mahikeng, they formally donated 40 laptops to Setumo Secondary School in Majemantsho. During this activity, the Deputy Minister further inaugurated a cyber lap at the school which will also offer additional resources and assist learners in effectively navigating the digital landscape.

The launch of this initiative is strategically designed to enhance online learning capabilities for learners with particular focus on supporting Grade 12 learners in their application to higher education institutions. These resources will benefit and empower the learners of Setumo Secondary School ultimately fostering their educational development and future opportunities.

The Department in collaboration with Education in the North West has truly produced positive results because we now bear witness to the proactive efforts of the State Information Technology

Agency (SITA). Honourable Speaker, SITA has also demonstrated its commitment to socio-environmental development goals but also ensuring that they empower our communities.

The ANC would like to applaud the work done by SITA but also applaud the work that the Department of Digital Technologies as well as Education they are doing to ensure that quality education and training is achieved. We will continue to ensure that we stay committed to our 55th conference resolution as well as our manifesto for the current term to implement our STI digital plan which will ensure that science, technology and innovation becomes our priority and really our communities begin to feel it. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Matshe. Any Member wish to respond? Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you very much Speaker. Let us join in as the Democratic Alliance to welcome that donation that was made to Setumo Secondary. I wish to put it that Honourable Mondli Gungubele was acting on the instruction of Minister Solly Malatsi. So, things are really happening in that department.

It shows that when you put young people into power this is what happens because the collaboration also includes the Department of Education that is headed by Minister Siviwe Gwarube as well as provincially by MEC Motsumi. So young people are at the forefront, and this shows that they are not mincing their words and showing by deeds that indeed we must never forget rural schools and rural communities. So, we support the statement. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Yesterday I met with the Deputy Minister of Finance in Pretoria, Mr Ashor Sarupen, to brief him in detail about recent developments in Ditsobotla as well as matters touching other municipalities in the province. Honourable Speaker,

Ditsobotla today is exactly where the municipality found itself before it was dissolved under Section 139(1)(c) in 2022 and then we saw President Cyril Ramaphosa visit Itsoseng on the eve of the elections, the by-elections on 14 December where he promised that the troubles for this municipality would be a thing of the past.

Sadly, three years later, the situation for all residents in Itsoseng, Lichtenburg, Coligny, Biesiesvlei and Boikhutso has deteriorated to the extent that they suffer unbearable misery due to a collapse in water and electricity supply. Small businesses in Ditsobotla are at risk of closing their doors like many before them while big companies are considering disinvestment to follow the same route Clover did in 2021 when it shut its facility there.

I raised these concerns with Deputy Minister Sarupen and I read to him some of the countless pleas that residents send on to us. One mother lamented the fact that her children were begging for a home cooked meal because it has been weeks since she was able to prepare one for them. And when a child no longer wants to eat a happy meal or a takeaway and begs his mother for a home cooked meal, you must know that there is a problem.

Honourable Speaker, to date, the petition calling on the national government to intervene under Section 139(7) has received more than 3 000 signatures and everyday more and more residents are signing that petition. Treasury also issued a directive to withhold the equitable share to several municipalities in North West but specifically Ditsobotla being amongst them.

Now Speaker, the municipality has not been able to pay its salaries for the last two months. Today is pay day, there's no money. Considering the collapsed state of Ditsobotla, one wonders why there is forever a fight amongst factions, ANC factions, to who wants to be the mayor and who wants to be the speaker and who should be the municipal manager. One wonders why there is such an appetite to be a mayor in a municipality that is bankrupt. The only reason for this is to pursue with aggression to maintain politically established patronage networks.

My meeting with Deputy Minister Sarupen was encouraging. He undertook to take the pleas of residents to his colleagues in cabinet and we appreciate his efforts. And for my part, I remain committed to the people of Ditsobotla and will continue to pursue every mechanism at my disposal ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Is that an order?

HON. STEYL: For an intervention to stabilise governance and deliver services. Thank you, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Members. Order members! Remember to respond to a statement is one minute. So, as you raise four hands, you must know you only have got one minute. So I will give the MEC responsible for COGHSTA and MEC Motsumi to share one minute.

HON. MOLAPISI: Thanks very much Honourable Speaker. We welcome the concern raised by the Member. The provincial government has developed a very comprehensive intervention plan in Ditsobotla. We agree Chair that we would need to bring stability in that area. So, there's no need to be running to some people with no powers to be raising issues because I think the DA what they should do is to bring their part in cooperating and ensure that there is no instability in that municipality but we are on course. There is only one mayor. We have confirmed that. So very soon we hope that there will be stability in Ditsobotla. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Twenty-four seconds left for you.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Mine is just to ...
[INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Order Members!

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Mine is just to indicate that indeed what Honourable Steyl is raising is a concern to all of us. And as the African National

Congress, we have tried our level best to bring stability in that particular municipality hence at one particular point we even engaged the DA. We were in coalition with the DA. After realising that they failed to attend councils, now we are at coalition with EFF ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. STEYL: Point of order. Point of order.

HON. MOTSUMI: And we believe and are hopeful that indeed there's going to stability in that particular municipality.

HON. SPEAKER: That minute is done Honourable MEC.

HON. STEYL: Point of order Speaker.

HON. MOTSUMI: Through the leadership of the ANC and the EFF in Ditsobotla. Thank you very much.

HON. SONAKILE: We are mazwi. Mazwi is us.

HON. STEYL: Honourable Speaker! Honourable Speaker, we mustn't tell lies here. We were never in coalition ko Ditsobotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl!

HON. STEYL: Ska bua maaka [Do not tell lies].

HON. SPEAKER: Sit down.

HON. OLIPHANT: The only lies are that the deputy is a member of cabinet.

HON. SPEAKER: Order Members! Order Members! Order! Honourable Chief Whip.

HON. ROSHO: Thanks very much Madam Speaker. Maybe Speaker just note that one minute is for each Member if in terms of the rules. I was trying to navigate WhatsApp quickly to you. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement to join the people of South Africa in commemorating Human Rights Day, a solemn occasion that reminds us of the sacrifices made in the struggle for freedom, dignity and equality.

The 21st of March marks the tragic events of the 1960s when the apartheid regime mercilessly gunned down 69 unarmed protestors in Sharpeville for standing up against the oppressive pass laws. Their bravery along with the courage of countless others paved the way for the democratic South Africa we live in today. We honour their memory and recommit ourselves to advancing the human rights they fought and died for.

This year as we mark the 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter we are reminded that the vision of just and equal society is not new but it was proclaimed by the people of South Africa in 1955 when our people declared that, I quote: “South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white.” This declaration found expression in our democratic Constitution which enshrines the rights and freedoms of every person ensuring that never again shall any South African suffer discrimination, oppression or exclusion.

As the ANC, we remain steadfast in upholding the values of the Freedom Charter and the Constitution as the foundation of our freedom and the guiding principle of our governance. We must resist any divisive narratives that seeks to pit communities against each other or falsely claim that any group is oppressed in our democratic South Africa. The ANC reaffirms its unwavering

commitment to human rights, transformation and nation building, ensuring that all people regardless of race, gender, or background enjoy the freedoms and opportunities guaranteed by our hard-won democracy.

Let us work together to build South Africa where the rights of all are protected, the dignity of all is respected and the future of all is secured. We must continue deepening our culture of social justice and human rights in our present generation and many more generations to come. I so move Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Chief Whip. Does any Member wish to respond? Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Speaker. We support the statement in principle, but we already debated that issue last week. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you. The issue that the Chief Whip raised that each Member is three minutes for the statement and one minute for debate, I've been generous with time because we need to debate a statement; it shouldn't exceed five minutes. So that's why I was strict on the one minute because I know I was generous on time on Members, but it says the statements should be within five minutes. Thank you very much.

HON. MOEMA: Speaker?

HON. SPEAKER: There's no need to debate or question. I was just reading Rule 130.

HON. MOEMA: It's clarity.

HON. SPEAKER: It's Rule 130.

HON. MOEMA: I was asking if we're reading from same Rule 130 because paragraph 2 of it, it says each Member has maximum of one minute.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. MOEMA: And then in total we have five minutes to participate in responses. The Chief Whip was speaking to what you earlier raised.

HON. SPEAKER: Ntate [Mr] Moema, can you sit down. Ntate [Mr] Moema can you sit down!

HON. MOEMA: Okay Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: I think I've explained myself what I've been doing. So, let's leave it at that. Secretary, can you read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 5 ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, reports have been tabled through the ATC and referred to the relevant committee for scrutiny and further processing. Committee reports with recommendations are also tabled through the ATC. Does the House adopt the committee recommendations as the House resolutions?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Does the House agree?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Colleagues it's important that you should be vocal on adopting resolutions because they come back to us. We adopt them and we expect response on the resolutions of the House. So, it's important that I must know that all Members are agreeing to adopt those resolutions. Thank you, Honourable Members. Committee recommendations are now adopted as House resolutions. Secretary, may you please read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 6 MEC'S ORAL RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I want to draw the attention of the House to the following Rules: Rule 143 subsection 1 which stipulates that the time allocated for questions for oral reply is 60 minutes and Rule 142(2) which states that the discussion on any particular question may not exceed 15 minutes. It is necessary that we be strict on time so that we are all able to deal with more questions.

I have further noted that there is more and more non-compliance with the Standing Rules when formulations of questions are done. Some of the questions that are on the question paper deals with various subject matters. Some of the questions deal with matters of statistical nature and some of the questions have many subdivisions. I therefore take this opportunity to request Members to familiarise themselves with the Standing Rules. It is not desirable that we refuse to accept your questions because we will be compromising oversight and we may appear to be protecting the Executive Council.

However, continuing to transact on questions that are not in line with the Standing Rules will be creating a wrong precedence. In the next few weeks, we will organise a training for all officials including support staff to parties who are responsible for processing of formulation of questions so that we may arrest the problem, and it will be important that all the relevant people must attend the training.

On this score, I want to confirm that Questions No. 15 and Question No. 16 of Honourable Williams and Honourable Van Huyssteen has been withdrawn and the affected Members have been consulted accordingly. I will now move to the question paper. The Question 1 is posed by Honourable Oliphant to MEC responsible for Provincial Treasury. Honourable Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. In terms of our responses, we are indicating that total service providers it's around 1 665 service providers based on 9 913 invoices amounting to 1.1 billion and we have submitted a table that breaks down the one billion per department. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Mosenogi. Honourable Oliphant, do you have a follow-up question?

HON. OLIPHANT: Yes, thanks Speaker. Speaker, we're concerned about the level of non-payment of invoices to businesses in the North West and the impact that that has on SMME's in particular often even leading to them foreclosing their businesses. The question therefore to the Honourable MEC is what measures the Treasury proposes to deal decisively with the anomalies to ensure total compliance and mandatory disciplinary action in respect of payments to service providers.

HON. SPEAKER: Any other Member who wish to make a follow-up question before the MEC responds? None. MEC.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you Honourable Speaker. This is related to the accruals that most Portfolio Committees will be aware of that we've been raising as a concern from different departments and we have also indicated on our side that we have enforced a process where expenditure must be based on the cash flow that is available because we are running a cash-based budget. And as a result, departments are compelled to submit plans in line with the budget and that they should not overcommit but to redress this outstanding amount.

In the coming financial year, we are in terms of our discussion with departments, we have agreed that they should first prioritise and not overcommit on new projects without settling the accruals first. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC.

HON. MOSENOGI: And lastly in terms of, sorry Honourable Speaker. Lastly in terms of consequence management, obviously we are making a plea that all the relevant executive authorities and accounting officers should take the necessary steps and if there's an area where there's a transgression, the relevant accounting officer needs to take action and obviously follow the necessary processes that are related thereof but we are making a plea to all executive authorities and accounting officers to manage tightly their finances. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much. We now go to Question 2 because I don't see any further discussion; you still want to take a bite on the question? Okay Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: No Speaker. I thought on the question of consequence management maybe it was going to be detailed to say if an official is actually found to be guilty for say they are then maybe going to be the ones paying that money and so forth and so on because it can't be that

department is the one that incurs some of these monies as a result of delayed payments and so forth. So, I just hear that there will be necessary steps, but what those necessary steps are. It's just a vague response. Thanks Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: MEC, you want to respond or you'll respond when you do your budget speech or in future but if you want to respond, you can.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I think Members of the Legislature in their respective Portfolio Committees they can ask accounting officers to indicate what are they doing in terms of taking action in terms of not overcommitting the state. So, we are not in a position even to respond directly ourselves but it's the relevant accounting officers.

We have put measures in place ourselves to ensure that we have sessions both at the level of CFO's, at the level of accounting officers including briefing EXCO in terms of our cash flow management and measures that we are putting in place but what is left is for Members to request reports from accounting officers in different portfolios. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Can we now go to Question 2? Question 2 is posed by Honourable Wallhorn to the MEC responsible for Provincial Treasury. Honourable Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you Honourable Speaker. We have tabled a budget on the 19th and we did not table a deficit budget. And we want to also indicate even in this current financial year that is ending, departments will not overspend because as we said, we are managing a cash budget and departments must spend in line with what is available from a cash point of view. And the issue of (b) where the funds to make up the shortfall in the current; because there's no deficit so we don't provide for a shortfall. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Wallhorn, do you have a follow-up question?

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Speaker, yes. In terms of the questions, I've asked, the accruals, how negatively will they affect the expected budget? Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC.

HON. MOSENOGI: Honourable Speaker, as we indicated that we are running a cash-based budget system. So, departments within their own programme, they need to ensure that they address within their available budget. They need to address accruals and not overcommit and make sure that in the new financial year; they are able to settle accruals and spend on new projects without taking up any other new project that is not funded for. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Any Member who would wish to engage on the question? Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Thanks Speaker. I'm following this question paper unless if Question (c) of the questions raised by Honourable Wallhorn is one of those that you said they were disqualified but if not so, I think it's a very important where the MEC is being asked how is she going to cover up for the 4.5% revenue loss because as a province we are facing a budget cut. So, it's a very important question that how is she now going to recover the 4.5%. Thanks Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker and Honourable Member. Remember during the adjustment budget, we adjusted also the revenue after the assessment that we have made that certain departments have not been collecting. So we did an adjustment in terms of revenue but also there are measures that we are putting in place to compel departments and there

was a discussion at an EXCO level where we had an extended EXCO to have an engagement with all accounting officers to clearly indicate the realities in terms of our fiscal framework as a province and that all of us have a responsibility and a duty to look at alternative revenue sources but as things stand, there will not be a shortfall because we are working on the baseline as per the previous financial year and when we make an assessment in the mid-term we then do the adjustment which also adjusts the revenue that we would have projected we are going to collect at that period. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you MEC. We'll now move to Question 3 posed by Honourable Dial to MEC responsible for Health. MEC Mokuia standing in for MEC Lehari. Can you respond.

HON. MOKUA: Okay thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Indeed, the questions were as follows: How many operations were conducted across health facilities in the province? I think it suffices to say that 23 279 operations were successfully done across health facilities in the whole province.

And No. (b) says: Which institution delivered the most operations and why? On this particular question, the response from the Department of Health says: Klerksdorp KT Complex as it is known in the province is the one that has performed many operations because in the main, they are a referral hospital.

What is the overall cost of these lifesaving operations in budgetary terms and hours that were involved? I think on this one, this one will talk to the budget that we are still to pass to see that we can't afford not to allow the budgets to pass because of the following, that the following was the expenditure in the current financial year 133 457 212 000.44 that was spent in these particular operations and the time spent is 42 827.3 hours that has spent for the successful operations that were performed. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Honourable Dial, do you have a follow-up question? Honourable Dial.

HON. DIAL: Thank you Honourable Speaker and to the MEC. I think we must indicate to the department and the MEC or the standing MEC that we commend the work done by the department in trying to ensure that this department and the entities it oversees successfully carry out these operations to these patients and these operations are needing seriously and high technical medical assistance and in line with commitment ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Dial! Honourable Dial, speak directly to the mic please.

HON. DIAL: Okay, I apologise Honourable Speaker. So as the ANC we commending the work done by the department and the hospitals in line with what the MEC has mentioned but just in further enquiry Honourable Speaker, we just want to check what are some of the measures that are put in place to ensure that the waiting lists in terms of these operations are properly managed? Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Is that a follow-up on the question or is it a new question?

HON. DIAL: It is a follow-up Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay. Honourable Mokuu.

HON. MOKUA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. And I think I appreciate the question however it must be stated that as we all know that different hospitals, they work with appointments. So, I don't think the waiting period is a matter of a challenge currently in the province hence I said when I responded to the number of operations performed to say all these operations were

performed on time and without fail. So, I think the question of time is something that is not an issue currently. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Any Member wish to engage? Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Speaker, I want to do a follow-up question however I'm not sure if the MEC because she's acting would be, but I think she is equal to the challenge. I want to find out MEC, what is the backlog of operations in the province and how many of the operations that you mentioned in total that were conducted across facilities were not successful and led to civil cases being initiated against the department. Thank you, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: MEC.

HON. MOKUA: Thank you very much. I think the Honourable Member is correct the responses in that particular regard will be submitted in writing. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Honourable MEC Dantjie.

HON. DANTJIE: My apologies Madam Speaker but I also wanted to say in fact Honourable Sonakile is also out of order because in terms of the rules ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: MEC can you speak to the mic.

HON. DANTJIE: Askies #[sorry]# No, I'm saying Honourable Sonakile is also out of order because I think even if it was the relevant MEC the matter of statistics is not the matter that the MEC's will always have. Normally in terms of the Rules, any matter that needs statistics is not oral, it's written. That is what the Rules are saying. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, if there's nobody who still wants to engage on this question, can we now migrate to Question 4 posed by Honourable Dial to the MEC responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development. Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Madam Speaker, the first question by the Honourable Member, the Chair of the Portfolio Committee was based on whether the department is assisting farmers to produce food throughout the province and if it does not assist, it must say why, if it assists it must tell the steps. The first issue Madam Speaker that we want to raise is the fact that food production has not collapsed.

That's the component that we want to raise first so that when we're dealing with assistance of farmers to produce and then that production is accessible and then issues of prices. It has not collapsed because the current food insecurity is not because there are not foodstuffs in the shelves. It's because the prices in shelves are not accessible by a certain category of our people on the basis of either unemployment, inequality and poverty.

So, that's the first statement but the department as usual in an ANC administration which is inherently an administration of the people by the people will always have a programme dedicated to assist those that need assistance to pick them up and at a particular time, they would then grow. So, the department does have as Member has asked a programme to assist farmers throughout the province and in actual fact it's throughout the country including in Western Cape because it's a part of the country. It's assisted by the national government in that instance.

Now when we looking to statistics, in the SADC region, we are considered to be one of those regions that are best poised for production of food on the basis of soil qualities that we have as a province. That too is exploited by the province on the basis of allocations from Treasury that we

would then get so that that status of being the best, it's not only claimed to be best and exploitation of soil and plantations, it's not done.

Now the contradiction the Member and the Honourable House must look to and this is an interesting one that, (1) In the country we are considered as No. 3 in all the provinces, No. 3 on provinces where agricultural investments are guaranteed to pay back to the investors. We are No. 3. The contradiction though is that we're No. 3 on investors receiving back their investment but we're No. 2 from the last on provinces which are food insecure which means money goes to investments, the majority still live in poor state irrespective of their contributions to realisations those investments.

Again, an ANC caring government has a policy now that when we're doing with funding options especially Honourable Members under blended finance, it must no longer be an issue of an investment and government keeps quiet. It's now a requirement that those funded under blended finance would then have a responsibility to ensure a share to the employees a farmer is helped with so that this component of empowering the ones who are working the soil is done with greater impetus in that instance.

So going further Madam Speaker, is that this programme is then linked to a programme of the national government with a provincial adoption and of course they must celebrate mos. That's a GNU ministry. Akere? [right?] You are happy. He's your leader. Okay. Agriculture and agro-processing master plan. Now the steps that we take, they are then helped through a CASP which is a conditional grant nationally.

And in each year towards the end, there's an advert which requests farmers in each province including the Western Cape one, in each province. Request them to then apply and request formally what assistance would they prefer from their national government then all farmers provincially do that as they've done in our case. So, the next advert would be this year for 2026, otherwise for this financial year, it was last year. We're expecting that list to be coming back from the approval.

And that money is used for technical and advisory services, for training, capacity building, marketing and business development as well as agricultural training institutions like the colleges and some component of disaster management in cases disasters are not declared. That's what we

have. If you look to 2024/2025 financial year, the department is allocated 200 million for this programme and subsequently appropriated budget for 2025, 185 million.

And I must say on this thing, it's not a contradiction to the budget speech, the 185 but a problem raised on the basis of communication. Instead of National Treasury communicating the North West number, they swapped North West and Northern Cape. So, the 127 is for Northern Cape, the 185 is for North West. So between ourselves and Treasury that matter is being managed so that when you finally adopt the budget, North West would not be 127, it would be 185 as corrected through National Treasury. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Honourable Dial, do you have a follow up question?

HON. DIAL: ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Is that an order?

HON. DIAL: ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Tswelala Rra [Proceed Sir].

HON. DIAL: ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. MEC, you want to respond or you accept the comment by the Member?

HON. SAMBATHA: ... [INAUDIBLE] ... It's not a dream. The ANC can't dream. The ANC is a leader of society. ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. SPEAKER: This question, Honourable Members, we are left with three minutes on discussing this question. The follow-up was Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Based on the responses that have been provided by the Honourable MEC, we appreciate the matter of blended funding with its own challenges, but if you check the question it was precisely with the intended taking steps to assist farmers to produce adequate food at an affordable price but when you check there, there is no clear direction that is being made or provided by the Honourable MEC.

You check the issue of CASP, it deals with the infrastructural development. When he talked about the issue of Ilima/Letsema, is the Honourable MEC, can he testify to the fact that the Ilima/Letsema is sufficient enough to assist our poor farmers in this particular province to make means with that particular funds because ke di bits by bits tse e leng gore [they are bits by bits whereby] you can't take this particular farmer somewhere.

I'm citing an example, Honourable Speaker, with regard to the price of cabbage around 40 Rand and we are in a poverty-stricken province with a high level of unemployment. Rona staple food sa rona sa pap le cabbage, ba re sokolang, re ja papa le spinach. Mare ha o kereya spinach bundle ka R30, ke ka moo re reng o tla thusa jang ka diprice tse di ntseng jalo tse e leng gore di affordable go ba tseisa kwa pele. Ke mo utlwile a tlhatlharetse fela. Ke a leboga. [Those who are poverty stricken their staple food is pap and cabbage, and they also eat pap and spinach. But if the spinach bundle is sold for R30, we wonder how the project will be able to come up with affordable prices to help our poor people. Honourable MEC is just beating about the bush. Thank you.]

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Moema. MEC, let them because your time for the discussion is very limited. Honourable Moema, Honourable Steyl, those are the two hands and the MEC will respond.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you Speaker. The question I want to ask might have been responded when maybe the MEC was responding in vernac but because I have less access, I'll have to maybe pose it, maybe we can get a feedback. I just wanted to check. It emanates from your responses; can you say as a department our people do benefit? Do they get dividends of corporate social investment from these investors but, (2) most of the farming areas are faced with a serious rural underdevelopment, can you say there is any role played by those who are participating in agricultural activities in mostly rural underdeveloped communities? Thanks Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I just want to ask; I think the issue here is not about producing affordable food. It's about assisting farmers to access markets in a more sufficient and affordable way. So, what creates the expense to food is the cost of transportation and handling. What is the province doing to limit that cost to improve the infrastructure specifically emerging farmers with access to market both provincially, nationally and internationally?

And then Honourable Speaker, the share scheme that the MEC was referring to was piloted in the Western Cape and we commend the fact that now in the North West we are pursuing the same programme to empower emerging farmers and farmworkers. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: MEC you have one minute to respond to all of them.

HON. SAMBATHA: No Chair, it was not piloted. It was a programme pronounced by an ANC President as a State President. Western Cape as part of South Africa, the one they want to relocate to Europe, benefited as a correct province of South Africa.

HON. STEYL: I'm staying here. I'm not going anywhere.

HON. SAMBATHA: It was not a Western Cape programme. If he stays here, he must stay and tell others not to go. The second one, the Honourable Member was helping the other Honourable Member of MKP ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. STEYL: Point of order. Point of order Speaker. Point of order.

HON. SPEAKER: There is an order. Let's hear the order.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I have two passports. One is a South African passport; one is an official passport. I'm staying. The MEC shouldn't come here to tell people to go. We can go where we want. That thing of where you have to go and what you have to do, die ding e fedile [It is a thing of the past]. It's finished.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay. Order sustained. Thank you.

HON. SAMBATHA: No! No! No!

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC.

HON. SAMBATHA: No Madam Speaker! The reason they are getting sympathy from the United States administration currently was on the basis of a lie on agricultural land. I am not saying he must go. I am saying he must help us get others not go because South Africa belongs to all who live in it black and white, so said Freedom Charter 70 years ago.

Let me go to the MKP question. Like I said and the Honourable Member was answering on this one. Unless these Members want an NEC, who must then take that which is not his responsibility to determine prices on shelves. I said it is not because of the drop of production. It is on the basis of the prices on the shelves. The answer by the Member like I'm saying and it's still covered on the CASP on infrastructure is the prices that get increased on the basis of the cost either of farming and cost of logistics and the province works with relevant farming bodies because it's not our responsibility to determine prices.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay.

HON. SAMBATHA: The last question that was asked by Honourable Fanon from the young communist league.

HON. SPEAKER: No Members, I'm not going to take the order. I'm not going to take the order. Honourable Members, I'm trying to ensure that there is a clarity of mind on the questions asked and the response are adequate but if you go to Rule 143 of our rule book and acquaint yourself with that rule, you will realise that I am more generous than what the rules are saying because ...
[INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SAMBATHA: I think one day you will learn that you have left Agriculture.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC! Honourable MEC, can you finalise because your time is up.

HON. SAMBATHA: Okay. The next one, the next one, withdraw the hand officially. The next one Chair is what was asked by Honourable Fanon. Yes, he's correct, not all who are benefitting

through profits are reinvesting it back, not all. That's why we have some farmers irrespective of the colour taking responsibility to reinvest even on workers.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you MEC.

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, we are quickly migrating to Question 5 posed by Honourable Matshe to the MEC responsible for Community Safety and Transport Management, Honourable LGB.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Speaker. Mine is just to indicate that we did not receive actually the responses from Honourable Morweng but as the LGB, I'll definitely make sure those particular responses find expression in the next sitting or they must be tabled. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Question 6 posed by Honourable Matshe to the MEC responsible for Education. Honourable Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Speaker. Without wasting any time, question posed by Honourable Matshe to the Member of the Executive Council responsible, how many underage learners were pregnant across the school system in the 2024/2025 financial year? Honourable Speaker, I must indicate that as we are all aware that as the department, we are actually divided into four districts.

So according to the report that we received from different districts, one must confirm that from Ngaka Modiri Molema it was confirmed that 15 underage learners were pregnant, Dr Kenneth

Kaunda it was 16, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati 15, and Bojanala which is the biggest district with 23. All in all, the total number registered it's 69 but it must be noted that this particular information it is actually received only from the primary schools not from the secondary schools. We are still busy trying our level best to consolidate the total number inclusive of the secondary schools.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Honourable Smuts Matshe, do you have a follow up question?

HON. MATSHE: Yes, Honourable Speaker. Ke a leboga Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla. Kgang e ya bana ba ba imang ba le kwa tlase ga dingwaga ke tlhobaboroko. E nyeletsa setšhaba sa gaetsho e bile e tima bana bokamoso. Re amogela tiro e lefapha le e dirang mme ka gore batho ba ba senyetsang bana bokamoso ba, ba phela ka mo gare ga setšhaba, re batla go itse gore mo tirong e lo e dirang e Motlotlegi Mokhuduthamaga, a lo na le thulaganyo ya gore le dire mmogo le ditheo tsa setšhaba tse di leng mo dikolong tse di leng mo teng ka gore gongwe ga go ka nna le thulaganyo eo ya tirisanommogo e ka thusa go fokotsa mokgwa o o tlhabisang ditlhong oo wa gore bagolo ba imise bana ba ba kwa tlase ka dingwaga. Ke a leboga Mmusakgotla.

English Translation Follows:

[Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Teenage pregnancy is a serious challenge that destroys our nation and denies our children the bright future. We appreciate the good work that the department is doing but we are very concerned because the people who are impregnating our teenagers and destroying their future are the very same people who live with us in our communities. Therefore, we were wondering if the Honourable MEC may clarify or enlighten the House as to whether the department has programmes that enable them to collaborate with the public entities in the schools so as to help prevent the shameful acts committed by the elders who impregnate our teenagers? Thank you, Speaker.]

HON. SPEAKER: MEC.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Speaker. Mine is just to confirm that as the Department of Education, actually we are binded by the Criminal Law Section 51 Subsection (1)(a)(1)(b) that states that any person who has knowledge that a sexual offence has been committed against a child must report such knowledge immediately to the police officers.

I must indicate the steps that we are undertaking as the Department of Education. First thing, once a case it has been reported, it is before the Department of Education, we are working hand in hand with the Department of Social Development to actually register those particular cases for the purpose of Social Development to assist us as the Department of Education to provide support to those particular victims because they are considered to be victims.

And the other thing is that based on this criminal law, we have to actually register cases with SAPS but I must indicate, Honourable Speaker, that our principals are not actually doing good in terms of that but we are going to try our level best as a department of making sure that we close gaps but I can confirm so far that in Ngaka Modiri Molema there was never been any case reported to SAPS but in terms of Dr Kenneth Kaunda, four cases were reported to SAPS, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati five cases and Bojanala five cases. All in all, 14 cases were reported to SAPS for further interventions.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any Member who wishes to have a bite on the question? Honourable Moema, Honourable Sonakile.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you Speaker. I just wanted to check if Department of Education, do they have any interdepartmental campaigns with departments such as Social Development and your Public Safety to denounce these types of offences particularly concerning learners but (2) I wanted to check that from the stats they've just given us, amongst those, do they have cases where it's actually teachers who have impregnated these young learners in our schools? Lastly, I wanted to check if on cases opened, I think amongst questions that are here on the question paper ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Moema! Honourable Moema! Honourable Members, I've said Rule 143, the whole of it, acclimatise yourselves with it. You can't ask more than two supplementary questions. Thank you. Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Speaker. Speaker, the situation is very concerning that the MEC has just shared with the House. As a follow-up, I want to check with the MEC, when is she going to request a report from all those schools that have not laid charges and maybe challenge the MEC to go and lay the criminal charges herself like we have seen the Premier in Limpopo do. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Speaker. Let me start by responding to Honourable Moema's concerns regarding this particular issue. I must indicate that unfortunately as the Department of Education we don't have capacity in terms of investigating cases as such, but we are still waiting for the reports as I have indicated that some cases were reported to SAPS.

I think now it is the responsibility of Department of Education to do follow-ups in terms of progress registered in terms of those particular cases but one must indicate that in most instances we are still struggling or we are confronted with challenges whereby the victim's parents in most instances they go to the SAPS and also withdraw those particular cases.

And to respond to Honourable Sonakile regarding myself as the MEC opening a case against the teachers or the culprits, I do not capture the question well whether must I take the responsibility actually to go and open cases? Is it against the culprits or is it against the teachers who have not reported or the principal who have not reported? So, I need clarity in terms of that Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Members can we immediately go to Question 7 posed by Honourable Steyl to the MEC responsible for Education. Honourable Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Speaker. The question says, what measures will the department implement to improve the implementation of the national school nutrition programme? Honourable Steyl, I must indicate that as the Department of Education we have tried our level best actually to strengthen monitoring of the programme.

We have trained school principals, administration assistants, SGB's, and food handlers but unfortunately it seems like we are not registering any progress as the Department of Education in terms of issues of compliance hence if you can go back and look at our audit outcomes for the three consecutive financial years, Auditor General forever he's actually complaining about the compliance.

We are being qualified actually in terms of the compliance hence I've taken a decision as the Executive Authority because it is also my responsibility of making sure that compliance find expression because we are talking about the health ya [of] our learners and so on. So I've taken a decision that starting from now on as a Department of Education, we are going to benchmark with your Gauteng, with your KZN, with your Limpopo because there it's where NSNP is being centralised and you go to Gauteng, there was never been a case actually they've received a clean audit even in the last financial year.

So, my thinking as the Executive Authority is to at least if I can start the process of centralising NSNP so that as an accounting officer I am being held accountable because I don't have powers. Section 21 the principals and the SGB's are in charge. So, I think for us to prioritise health ya bana ba rona [our learners' health] let's centralise to check whether will it work for us or not. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl, any follow-up?

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Speaker. There is also a part (b) but on this one the follow-up would be is it's a school nutrition programme MEC and we are talking about nutrition. It's not

an end hunger campaign. I've raised this matter before. The food that is being prepared is very basic, pap and milk, samp and beans with no vegetables and fruit or protein sources.

And I think for young minds what is required is to look at; the safety and the hygiene is very important and I support and I will work with you on that but the issue is we are not fighting hunger, we are trying to educate young minds and they need nutrition especially morogo le difruits le you know, namanyana sometimes [vegetables and fruits, and sometimes meat] you know. That is what is required. I'm asking the implementation on that one, can we take it forward? Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: MEC.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Steyl. Remember I'm the MEC responsible for Education. There is the department relevant which is the Department of Health and we are guided by protocols in terms of diet for our learners, but your issues are being registered. I'll definitely engage with the Department of Health but by the way remember whatever decision that I must take as the MEC of the Department of Education, it must find expression at the level of council of education of ministers.

So I'll definitely take your issue up and also it will go with the issue of budget and so on but mine is to confirm that the food that we are providing to our learners actually is per recommendation from the Department of Health based on the diet that is actually e tshwanetseng bana ba rona [suitable for the learners] and so on but I'll take your matter up. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Member who wish to follow-up, to have a bite on the question? Thank you. Let's move to Question 8 posed by Honourable Magagane to MEC responsible for Arts and Culture, Sports and Recreation. Honourable Tlhapi.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the question was relating to the project that are lacking behind and the project that Honourable Magaane was

requesting to be tabled before your House is library, one in Bodibe and library in Matlosana and library in Ganyesa and Mabeskraal respectively. And there's a sub-question that says what are the reasons behind. The reasons behind this delay of the libraries, Madam Speaker, it was that the planning stages took longer than anticipated because the implementing agent did not have adequate capacity to can assist the department.

And (c), Madam Speaker says: Is there any interventions or plans that we are doing? The implementing agent which is the Department of Public Works, Madam Speaker, has brought in the Independent Development Trust to expedite the project and as indicated above like I indicated Madam Speaker is that due to inadequate capacity hence ne e le delay and this is the intervention that the Department of Public Works is bringing to the department. Thanks.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Member wish to pose a question? Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Speaker, I'm not posing a question. I was just wondering which question was the Honourable MEC responding because these are three clear questions e e neng e re [that one that says]: How much was spent on the construction of libraries which were constructed in the 2024/25 financial year? Which of these projects were completed and which ones are still outstanding? The last one, how many jobs were created during the construction? For the entire period, I've not heard the Honourable MEC responding to the questions that are before us as Honourable Members in this particular House. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC.

HON. TLHAPI: Madam Speaker, I was responding to question posed by Honourable Magagane which talked to which projects are lagging behind. (b) What are the reasons behind the delays and experience and, (c) What are the intervention plans that have been put in place to ensure completion of the delayed projects?

HON. SPEAKER: Can I read the question Honourable MEC. The question posed to you is: How much was spent on the construction of libraries which were constructed in the 24/25 financial year? (b) Which of these projects were completed and which ones are still outstanding? (c) How many jobs were created during this construction? These are the questions posed to you.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you Madam Speaker. Go raya gore nna ke arabile e e kwa godimo ya ga Honourable Magagane [It means I was responding to the first question, posed by Honourable Magagane]. The projects that were; how much was spent on the construction of libraries is the one that Madam Speaker is speaking about? Is that the one?

HON. SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. TLHAPI: Okay. The project under construction 24/25, Madam Speaker, there are two projects which is Wolmaransstad Extension 15 Community Library and the budget allocation for that is nine million and the expenditure as at now is nine million and the second one is Dinokana Community Library. The budget allocation for that library is six million and the expenditure now is close to six million, Madam Speaker, which is 5.9.

And the project in the planning phase of this financial year, Madam Speaker, ke [it is] Matlosana Extension, the Coverdale Boitumelong and Bodibe le Ganyesa. And let me speak to the budget allocation for Matlosana, it's two million and ha re ise re e spende [we have not spent it yet] because we are still planning Madam Speaker. The Coverdale is also 2.2, the Bodibe is 2.1, the Ganyesa is 1.2.

And Madam Speaker, the second question is which of these projects were completed and which ones are still outstanding? The Wolmaransstad Extension 15 Community Library building project was awarded practical completion on the 28 November 2024. The Dinokana Community Library building project was awarded practical completion on 12 March 2025. These two projects, Madam Speaker, re tla bo re di bula mo nakong e e sa fediseng pelo, setse di fedile. Ke diminor works tse

e leng gore ba setse ba deal ka tsona tse re di bitsang disnack list [It is just minor works remaining, so we will soon open these projects, the ones we call snack lists]. And Madibe a Makgabane modular structure was awarded and the completion of this e dirilwe ka [was on] 6 September 2024.

No. 3, the question e Honourable Teme Tsholo a ne a bua ka yone, ke go re [the one mentioned by Honourable Tsholo was] how many jobs were created. Kwa Wolmaransstad Extension 15, library project e kgonne go dira [managed to create] 17 temporary jobs. And then the Dinokana Library building project e kgonne le yone go employ batho ba le 17, ditemporary jobs [also created 17 temporary jobs]. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON.S PEAKER: Honourable Magagane is not here. Anyone who wish to have a bite on the question? Thank you. Let's quickly migrate to Question 9 posed by Honourable Steyl to the MEC responsible for Arts and Culture, Honourable Tlhapi. You have two questions there. Members on your system, everything is there. You can just view it from the system.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Question 9, what are the plans in place to rehabilitate Mmabana Stadium and restore it to full? Madam Speaker, the rehabilitation and restoration of the stadium to ensure full use will require a budget and this will include electrical works and flood lights, the ablution blocks for spectators, the general plumbing works, the media room, the score boards and the renovation at the VIP areas.

The department does not have enough budget to do so Madam Speaker. The comprehensive refurbishment needs a lot of money, but we continue to do routine maintenance. We are busy with the pitch maintenance. We are busy with the minor repairs. We are also busy with the minor renovations at the stadium. We are doing this with a budget of two million allocated through equitable shares.

The stadium is used by a team playing in ABC Motsepe. The province needs to allocate funding for this stadium, Madam Speaker, as we all know gore re batla di-game tse di botlhokwa mo stadium sele. Tota yone Madam Speaker, mo Ntlong ya gago ke lelela mo go yone. Mare the second question ya re a Mmabana Arts Foundation e kile ya conduct its assessment? [we want the

stadium to host very important games. So, Madam Speaker, I am pleading before the House. However, the second question asks if Mmabana Arts Foundation has ever conducted its assessment?] The response is that the current board was trained for two days on ... [INAUDIBLE] ... to this governance framework has not yet been conducted and we are busy doing that Madam Speaker. Thanks.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Where is Honourable Steyl? Okay, can I check is there any Member who wish to have a bite on this question? Okay. Can we go straight to Question 10 posed by Honourable Steenkamp to the MEC responsible for Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation. Honourable Tlhapi.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the question posed by Honourable Steenkamp. No. (a) says: How many projects have been implemented at Lotlamoreng Dam and what was the cost of each project? In 2016/2017, the department was amongst the sector departments that contributed to two million towards building the fence and rehabilitation of Lotlamoreng Dam and Anglo Boer War correctly called the South African War since many black people especially the Barolong perished in that war, the graveyard.

Amongst other departments, Tourism, Agriculture and Land Affairs had the intention to build the statue of Kgosi Montshiwa at the main gate. The estimated budget for the plans was five million that included the development of the architectural plans which were approved and the Department of Tourism was later brought on board to take over the project.

(b) What are the department's current and future plans for the development and utilisation of Lotlamoreng Dam? The construction of 600 metre pavement from the cycle of the recreation site to the cultural site in the 2026/2027 financial year but there is no budget allocated as yet Madam Speaker, I must indicate as department budget is inadequate and it is reduced annually.

The refurbishment of the Credo Mutwa Cultural Village in the 2027/2028 financial year also but there is no budget again allocated as said as the departmental budget is inadequate and is reduced annually as we all know Madam Speaker. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Any Member wish to have a bite on this question? Honourable Sonakile, Honourable Tsholo.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Speaker. MEC, have you ever visited Lotlamoreng Dam ever since the rehabilitation of the wall and fence that was done in 2016/17 because your statement says that Lotlamoreng appears to be functioning well but ke letlotla [it is just ruins] when you go there so I would want to find out from you what plans do you have to ensure that Lotlamoreng is in a good state because at this stage it is not.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. May the Honourable MEC allude to the fact that she mentioned periods almost for 10 years and according to her responses it seems as if the Honourable MEC was responding for future plans based on the questions at hand. The department did not do much in order to ensure that the projects around Lotlamoreng they are finished. They do have plans. The other follow-up Honourable Speaker, I want to ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: No, you can only follow-up one question because you are not the sponsor of the question.

HON. TSHOLO: It's the very same question, whether they do have the business plan with phases as from the financial years that she stipulated, they amount to 10 years. Now they are breaking, bringing reasons of financial constraints and budget cuts. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Indeed, Honourable Sonakile, it's true that Lotlamoreng is not functioning well. Yes, ke feta fale kgapetsakgapetsa [I pass there frequently], Honourable Sonakile. Lotlamoreng, Madam Speaker, all of us we know that ga e mo shape e e tshwanetseng e ka bo e le mo go yone [it is not in the shape and state that it is supposed to be at] as I have already indicated that.

The Department of Tourism, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation in 2016/2017 there was a budget allocated for refurbishment of that Lotlamoreng. Unfortunately, it did not happen but the plans that we have as the Department of Arts and Culture from our side because there's a tourism side, there's an arts and culture to make sure that dilo tsa ga Credo Mutwa di a sireletswa [Credo Mutwa's sites are being preserved], Madam Speaker.

There is a plan, Honourable Tsholo, but unfortunately as I have already indicated, we do not have a budget for that. It means the Department of Tourism and the Department of Arts and Culture must see into their spachenyana [funds] to see whether we can do something but to be quite honest, Madam Speaker, we do not have a budget for Lotlamoreng as department as yet. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. We go to Question 11 posed by Honourable Sonakile to the MEC responsible for Arts and Culture ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Speaker! Apologies Speaker. I just would like to raise on a point of order. It relates to the basically the entire Chapter 9. After the electricity went off, no Members have access to the question paper at all. So, we don't have electronic copies. We don't have hard copies. If we could just be assisted by the House, if the question could be read before the reply because we have no way of following the proceedings at this stage on our devices. Thank you, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Speaker, I rose I said basically the entire Chapter 9 which deals with the structuring of questions for oral reply, that entire chapter, we have no way of knowing how the questions are structured. We have no way of knowing the question that we are dealing with because we cannot see anything on our devices. So, it is just a request that the question be read so that we know where we are in the programme. Thank you, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay. While they are still correcting issue of the system, Honourable MEC, as and when you respond, repeat the questions again because they don't appear anymore on the system. It was not a point of order it was just a humble request. Thank you. Question 11 posed by Honourable Sonakile to the MEC responsible for Arts and Culture, Sports and Recreation. Honourable Tlhapi.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the question raised by Honourable Sonakile ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Speaker?

HON. SPEAKER: Is than an order?

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Speaker, it is not an order per say. May I request that you read the questions because in the system, the system is not working, and we don't have anything in our emails to refer to such questions to avoid ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Okay! Okay Honourable Tsholo. You can sit down. I was just about to announce that we will drop the questions on the Member's group so that it's easy for each Members to go and follow while even the MEC is responding. Secretariat, can you make sure that you quickly post those questions on the Member's because I don't have them on a hard copy myself too. I was relying on the system but please MEC if you have the question with you, start with the question then respond but we will drop it in the WhatsApp group immediately.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the question posed by Honourable Sonakile read as follows: Why is the Rustenburg Recreation Centre not operational and how long has it been in this state? The response says Madam Speaker, the centre was fully operational until COVID 2020 when the provincial decision was taken that all homeless people around the Rustenburg town should be housed there under the Department of Social Development.

The homeless people occupied the centre till the 1st of August 2023 and during their stay, a lot of damage occurred leaving the centre in the state that it is in currently. And the department is prioritising the maintenance. The budget remains a challenge, Madam Speaker. (b) How much is being spent on security guards to guard empty buildings, which companies contracted for this service and what is; Viola wa tima [you switched off the mic].

The response says the building are not empty. The department has a responsibility in terms of Section 38 (1)(d) of the Public Finance Management Act, safeguard assets of the department including protection of any damage to the building and the physical assets. And the amounts spent to date which is the 1st November 2024 to the 28th February 2025 is 662 000 for a total of 10 security guards and eight Grade C officers and two Grade B officers. The name of the company is Diphetogo Cleaning and Services. The duration of contract is three years from the 1st of November 2024 to the 1st of November 2025.

The next question says: What happened to the assets of the centre? In terms of the assets, Madam Speaker, office furniture is still in use at the centre. The beds and televisions were disposed in 2022 due to conditions post hosting the homeless that I've already indicated in Question 1 e e leng gore e ne le batho ba COVID ba ba neng ba nna koo [that Covid 19 patients were quarantened there]. The new beds have been purchased in January 2025 to prepare the centre to operate.

(d) says: How many employees are currently employed at the centre and what are their job titles and where and to whom do they report for duty? The centre has a staff complement of 17 officials currently that reports daily at the centre and there are two vacant posts. They are reporting as follows, Madam Speaker, the centre manager reports to the district director, the senior admin officer reports to the centre manager, the foreman currently vacant reports to the senior admin officer, the senior admin officer for finance reports to the senior admin officer, the admin clerk reports to the senior admin officer, the messenger/driver which is also vacant reports to the centre manager and the four groundsmen reports to the foremen and the nine cleaners report to the admin clerk.

The next question says: What plans does the department have for the centre's future use and rehabilitation? The department is renovating the centre to ensure that it is operational to handle recreation and sports programme. The centre will be used as a host camp for youth and women programmes implemented by the Department of Social Development and Arts and Culture.

Currently the renovation is focused on the swimming pool so that daily visits can also be accepted as part of the revenue collection. Further usage of the communities, the civil societies, faith-based organisations and other groups will be welcomed to maximise the use of the centre including your meetings, Madam Speaker. You can also try and hold your meetings at Recreational Centre.

The next question says: Is there a memorandum of agreement with the municipality regarding the repair of the road leading to the area? If so, please share it with the House and if not, what alternative plans are in place to address the deteriorating conditions of the road? Madam Speaker, there is no memorandum of agreement in place between the department and the municipality for the road as yet.

However, the matter was brought to the attention of the municipality during the recent Thuntsa Lerole meeting and I'm hoping that we will be having that session so that tsela e e tsenang kwa Recreational Centre e ka nna e e botoka ya gore batho ba kgone go tsena kwa go yone. Ke a leboga. [the road leading to the recreational centre can be refurbished so that people can use it to enter there. Thank you.]

HON. SPEAKER: Do you have a follow-up question Honourable Sonakile?

HON. SONAKILE: Yes. Yes Speaker. Thank you, Speaker. My follow-up is as follows: MEC when will the centre start operating again?

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any Member wish to have a bite? I want to take them and you respond at once. Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you Speaker. Mine is in relation to Question (d) of the questions in terms of employment there. So is there any vacancies and if any, how many, and what's the plan in terms of filling those vacancies. Thanks.

HON. SPEAKER: MEC.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much. Honourable Fanon, I have indicated the vacancies that we are having currently at the centre or maybe ga wa utlwa [you did not hear], I can repeat them. We've got a vacancy of the messenger, we have a vacancy of a cleaner, we have a vacancy of a; I think they are four in number tse e leng gore re a di tlhoka kwa [the ones critically needed at the] Recreational Centre.

Honourable Sonakile, we are planning to make the centre be operational very soon. I think in the next financial year e tla be [it will be functional] because if the swimming pool is working at least people can enter the centre and then ba kgone go dirisa [be able to use the] swimming pool for now while re sa ntse re le busy re baakanya [we are still busy fixing] other things in the centre.

I think in the next financial year now Madam Speaker, re tle be re kgona gore centre ya rona re e bule e kgone go bereka gape [we will be able to open the centre to fully function again] because it used to have many meetings that centre. E ne e kgona go direla le porofense revenue [it also used to generate revenue for the province] but we will make sure that we go back to that plan and make sure that the centre is in operation. Thanks.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members, can we go to Question 12 posed by Honourable Magagane to the MEC responsible for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism. LGB.

HON. MOTSUMI: Apologies Speaker. I was supposed to be there. Mine is just to indicate that Honourable Bitsa has actually delegated Honourable Tsotso Tlhapi to respond on her behalf. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Before you come in MEC, it's never done. Honourable Members of the Executive, you must report if you are not in the House that who will represent you. Now I'm putting the LGB on the spotlight. LGB, I think when you go back to the EXCO it must be corrected that the Speaker must be informed like Honourable Lehari did. It can't be I call the LGB to respond and the poor LGB was not even engaged. It's wrong and it must be corrected and it must never happen again. Honourable Tlhapi.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the question posed to Honourable Lenkopane, the first question was: How many companies which were funded by the North West Development Corporation defaulted in repaying the loans during the 2024/2025 financial year? The response says: The NWDC did not disperse any loan from this, Madam Speaker, in this financial year under review and the department have been working on improving the financial model in relation to the best practice and they are busy benchmarking against other development agencies in the country.

The second question was said: What was the cumulative amount of these unpaid loans? Due to the non-disbursement, Madam Speaker, for this financial year, the department do not have any arrears for now. Question 3 says: What were the factors that contributed to this and how did the department deal with these challenges? Madam Speaker, the Seventh Administration is busy looking for

reviving these funds so that it can ensure continued and meaningful support to the SMME's in the North West Province. Thanks Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Member wish to have a bite on this question? Thank you. Can we go to the next question? Question 13, question posed by Honourable Makgokgowa to a Member of the Executive Council responsible for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. Members the system is back. The system is back. Oh, it's only mine that is back. Okay, alright. It will come one by one. Honourable Molapisi.

HON. MOLAPISI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. The question relates to the total number of funded vacancies that still exist at senior management level across the municipalities. The response is that there are about 43 vacancies across our municipalities, that's (a). (b) What intervention plans are in place to assist resolve challenges experienced in this regard?

The response is that the MEC developed a circular in 2023 and circulated it to all 22 municipalities urging them to fill vacant positions. I must say that number of municipalities have moved. That is why we are standing at 43. What we do on a regular basis we do follow-up through our working session with municipalities in accordance with the Municipal Systems Act and the relevant regulations.

We are reporting Honourable Madam Speaker, that the department will continue to support and urge municipalities to fill vacant funded posts. Currently municipalities are busy with the recruitment processes. Others have submitted newspaper adverts for quality assurance to the department. Others have completed shortlisting. Others are conducting reference checks whilst others have conducted interviews.

The department has included the vacancy rate analysis in the annual performance plan indicator description to enable the officials responsible for organisational development to analyse vacancy rate on a regular basis and take appropriate steps in order to support municipalities which are experiencing recruitment challenges and where applicable the MEC will enforce compliance.

I must however Chair indicate that we continue to experience challenges on issues of non-compliance to the regulations which forces the MEC not to support some of the appointments and seek declaratory order by the court. (c) How many disputes have been registered and resolved at which municipalities? The response is: We are not aware of any disputes related to the funded vacant posts at the moment. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Makgokgowa, would you wish to make a follow-up?

HON. MAKGOKGOWA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. MEC I just wanted to ask, I heard you mention that the previous MEC in 2023 released a circular but I just want to know for the backlogs that we have in this regard, as the current MEC, how are you going to intervene or in a sense monitor that they do fill these vacancies within a particular timeframe? Thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC.

HON. MOLAPISI: Thank you Chair. As indicated that what we are doing is to include the vacancy rate analysis in our annual performance indicator what we're also doing is that we are monitoring the process and I must say that of this 43, Honourable Speaker, the number was quite high when we came into the office. It has been reduced because of our efforts in monitoring the process in filling in the vacancies. And I like I said, however, the challenge remains that of complying with the necessary regulations. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Member? Honourable Tsholo, Honourable Moema, Honourable Sonakile.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Is it possible for the Honourable MEC to give us the total number of this particular funded vacancies municipality by municipality so that we are able to have a helicopter view of which municipality is having a high rate of unfilled positions. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you very much Speaker. I wanted to check; do you have any challenges with your recruitment process in terms of getting people with relevant skills and what-what within the province? (2) In terms of this ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: No! You have to ask one question because you are not the sponsor of the question.

HON. MOEMA: Speaker, wa manage? [are you managing?], last time you said I can ask two.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, Rule 143(2)(d) following each of the above supplementary questions, the responsible Member of the Executive will respond for two minutes. The Member who asked the question is permitted to ask two supplementary questions which must be related to her original question on the; so, if you're not the sponsor you can't ask two questions. Thanks. Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Speaker. A follow-up to the MEC. MEC, how many cases by the department are before the courts seeking declaratory orders on rejected appointments and for which municipalities? Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: MEC.

HON. MOLAPISI: Chair with regard to the first question by Honourable Tsholo, I think we will oblige. I think that will be very helpful to give a breakdown of the 43 that we have referred to. So we will do that. Equally so to the question by Honourable Sonakile, we'll do that because they vary. Others are of your accounting officers, municipal managers. Others are your managers directly reporting to the municipal manager. So, I think it would also be important to do that in writing.

The question by Honourable Moema is, do we have challenges in recruiting suitable people? We are not recruiting. The council is the appointing authority so they recruit but we'll help you. Like I said, the problem is not necessarily the qualification but it's compliance with the regulations. Sometimes the recruitment is out of the time frame and that's what we are finding challenges with but the other challenge is that you find people rotating from one municipality to the other municipality. Those would be some of the challenges that we are facing. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. We will go to Question 14 posed by Honourable Steyl to the MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.

HON. MOLAPISI: The question by the Honourable Member is with regard to how many title deeds have been transferred to beneficiaries as per the latest date information available? The total number is 5 872 title deeds that have been transferred. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Steyl, do you want to have a follow-up question?

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Speaker. There's also a part (b) to the question.

HON. SPEAKER: Does the province have a fully funded provincial water management plan? You didn't get it MEC?

HON. MOLAPISI: Question 14, it's a very detailed report Chair that I must look into.

HON. SPEAKER: The first question which is (a) How many title deeds have been transferred to beneficiaries as per the latest date information is available for? (b) Does the province have a fully funded provincial water management plan?

HON. MOLAPISI: No, I did not get that Chair. We'll submit information to the Honourable Member if he doesn't mind but as things stand for now, we don't have that. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Speaker. That is fine. Those 5 872 title deeds, what is the outstanding balance on title deeds to be transferred before the 1st of April, MEC?

HON. SPEAKER: MEC.

HON. MOLAPISI: Had you asked that question, we would have responded to it. We don't have answers now. We'll give you the information as to how many are outstanding. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. It's fine akere [right]? Okay. We'll follow-up on that. Any other Member wish to have a bite? Let's urgently migrate to Question 16 posed by Honourable Van

Huyssteen, oh, this one is the withdrawn one. Let's go straight to Question 17 posed by Honourable Van Huyssteen to a Member of the Executive Council responsible for Social Development. Honourable Dantjie.

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. The response is that to (a) the centre was funded for the first time in 2003/2004. The next one. In terms of sector funding or should I read the question also? Why was there no annual increase awarded to the centre for each consecutive financial year in which the centre was funded? The response is that in terms of Sector Funding Policy 6.3 Subsection (2)(d), the department is required to cover the inflation cost on annual basis however the department has kept funding constant based on availability of funds in terms of budget allocation to the department.

Additionally, both the older persons regulation and social assistance act makes provision that the older persons must contribute towards their care. Furthermore, Section 5.5.1 of the same Sector Funding Policy encourages NPO's to solicit other means of income in which it includes the donation and the charging of fees in trying to intervene in the same challenges in case there are no additional funding from the department.

(c) Why did the centre not receive funding in the 2024/25 financial year? Provide full details. In the 24/25 financial year, the NPO's submitted business plan which was tax non-compliant in terms of central supplier database. Subsequently, the NPO addressed the non-compliance issues and then submitted their business plans on the 24th July 2024 which was after the closing date of approval of business plans. Therefore, late compliance by the NPO had an effect on it being not being funded.

(d) How was this decision not to fund communicated to the centre? Kindly provide a summary of communication sent by the Department for Social Development to the centre in this regard as well as the dates when it was delivered to them. The response is that Madam Speaker, indeed, there was no formal written communication from the department to the NPO and we'll want to apologise for that because indeed it's the requirement of the same policy that we must comply with.

Such will be improved going forward. However, there was a constant communication between the centre and the service provider as part of assisting to comply. So the centre did have information,

the only difference is that it was never communicated in writing but it's not like they did not have information. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much MEC. Honourable Van Huyssteen, do you have a follow-up question?

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you Speaker. Thank you Honourable MEC. The reply is duly noted and it is also noted that this was in a financial period that transcended not only our term but to the sixth administration as well. So my question is that considering that we need to follow the guidance given by the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, we need to act justly in our administrative actions that we take, how will you ensure that provision is made for an appeals process for NPO's as well so that any grievances can be aired out with the department going forward? Thank you, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC.

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you very much Honourable Member. Indeed, it's very important and necessary for that appeal processes and it's also noted in the manual but currently that is what is happening. The system might not be perfect in terms of making sure that the NPO's have access to information to know that they can make appeals, but I can guarantee you that some of the NPO's have made some of their appeals and they were attended to by the acting HOD. And through our roadshows tsa [of] Re thuse re go thuse [help us so that we help you], we are also making sure that we empower our NPO's. Thank you very much Honourable Member.

HON. SPEAKER: Any Member wish to have a bite? Honourable Tsholo. Okay, Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I'm having a question as to whether the department is taking into cognisance the inflation rate while keeping funding stagnant or curbing the funds for years due to a sector policy that has been referred to? Thanks, Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC.

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you very much Honourable Madam Speaker. I think that was the main question from the Honourable Member who asked the question. I've responded to that Honourable Madam Speaker to say in terms of the funding model, yes, that's what it says but unfortunately in terms of the budget constraints, because sometimes we don't have enough budget, we are not able to do that.

And I've also said in addition, the centres and NPO's in terms of the law, they are allowed to fundraise and also can engage the grants beneficiaries to be able to pay at least 90%. I think I've responded to that while responding to the first Honourable Member. So, the issue is the budget constraints we don't have and indeed, the inflation rates and others are considered in terms of the funding model but we don't have any funding to do that. And by the way, the advert is always specific to say based on the availability of funds. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable MEC. The last but one question, Question 18 posed by Honourable Van Huyssteen to Member of the Executive Council responsible for Social Development. Honourable Dantjie, MEC.

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. In terms of Question 18, I will be guided by yourself if I must respond because in terms of your earlier ruling in terms of being compliant in terms of the rules, in my view this question also does not comply. It has more than five items on it but if the Madam Speaker is saying I must respond, I will.

HON. SPEAKER: No. Honourable MEC, I will make a ruling at the end of the questions with regard to this Question 18. Can we go to the last question?

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: The last question is Question; No, no, on your question we will make a ruling on it because of its multiple request on the question. That is why we are going to run a workshop for officials also for the Members of the House so that all of us we are on par in terms of how we pose questions. Last question which is Question No. 19 ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Speaker apologies. Speaker, as the Member who posed that question, I would just like to confirm that I was not contacted by the Secretary in regards to this question but the point raised by the MEC is duly noted. There are indeed six subsections and not five. So just to eliminate the need for a ruling, I'll withdraw the question and submit it for formal written reply. Thank you, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you very much Honourable Member.

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Speaker?

HON. SPEAKER: What is it now?

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Speaker, I'm raising this particular matter because you presented this before the House and you stipulated very clearly that the following questions will be discarded

based on 1, 2, 3, 4. It can't be correct that the Honourable Member MEC was part of the House when you took the decision and when she's supposed to respond to questions, she's raising technical ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo! Honourable Tsholo! You are not the sponsor of the question. May you sit down! You are not the sponsor of the question. Please acclimatise yourself with the rules. You are not the sponsor of the question.

HON. TSHOLO: I was responding to the proceedings.

HON. SPEAKER: The sponsors of the question have duly assisted this House. I'm not taking that and it should never happen Honourable Tsholo. When I call you, please respond to my calling and I'm not going to allow you. I'm going to Question 19 which is the last question. Question 19 posed by Honourable Sebegoe to the Member of the Executive Council responsible for Public Works and Roads. Honourable MEC.

HON. MOKUA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I will respond as follows to the questions raised by Honourable Sebegoe. The questions are: How many bridges were constructed in rural areas during 2024/2025 and I will try to give a brief explanation to the responses that I give. I think without any further ado suffice to say that the bridges that were built in rural areas were two in that particular financial year.

And these particular bridges can be found in Montshiwa Stad and I think these bridges are completed and were also handed over to the communities on the 26th May 2024. To five further information, I think extra two bridges will be built in Masutlhe and Kraaipan in the rural of Rurales, if there is that term. And I think the responsibility to build bridges I think it must be clarified that it remains the responsibility of National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure also with the support of the SANDF as the implementors. The Provincial Department of Public Works and Roads is only the funder.

I think the budget to those bridges as per the question on how much did the bridges cost, suffice to say that 2023/2024 budget allocated for those two bridges was 130 million and 181 million respectively. However, it is important to raise the fact that 115 million was transferred to National for their particular compliance as far as implementation of that, 15 million was kept for the province to pay the local labour and also the yellow fleet as you will all know that the Department of Public Works does not have enough equipment to carry out its own responsibilities but I think that these particular Welisizwe bridges, the cooperation from National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure together with the Provincial Department of Public Works and Roads are working well in this particular regard. Thank you very much Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you MEC. Honourable Sebegoe, do you have a follow-up?

HON. SEBEGOE: Yeah, although I'm covered just to check as to whether there could be some possible delayed projects and how does the department intend to deal with that if there's any.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC.

HON. MOKUA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. As far as the delayed projects, we will all complain about the resources that are not enough to really carry out our responsibilities to the latter but up until now, the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has made an undertaking that they will indeed commence with the construction of extra six bridges. And if ever there are any delays that will be experienced, I think such information will be made available. Thank you very much Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Member wish to have a bite on that question? Thank you very much Honourable Members. We have come to the end of our oral questions. There are questions that were not responded to, we will request that those questions be converted to written response

and they be submitted so that those questions can be tabled in the ATC. And Honourable Members, all Members who could not respond to questions due to expiry of time are requested to submit written responses for tabling by the end of today.

Honourable Dantjie, didn't refuse. I stopped her because of the volume of the question but she was ready to respond but I then decided that it be converted to written response because of a number of issues that need response to but those who didn't respond, by the end of business today, all those questions must be tabled in the Legislature. Does the House concur with the ruling of the Presiding Officer?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Members. Honourable Members, the questions to MEC's for written responses were tabled through the ATC on the 17th March 2025 and are due tomorrow, the 26th of March 2025 in accordance with the Rules. The House should also note that all questions not responded to, I've already explained that. You would know that if you don't respond to your question twice, the third time the question is referred to the Premier. So those questions who were not responded twice, they will be duly referred to the Premier for response. Does the House agree to the ruling?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Members, the sitting is adjourned until the 15th of April for debate on Freedom Day, Workers Day and for the Premier's oral response to questions. This sitting stand adjourned. I thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 12:25!