



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

NORTH WEST PROVINCE

SECOND SESSION, 7TH LEGISLATURE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SITTING 8 OF 2025

TUESDAY, 15 APRIL 2025



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

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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. Secretary, may you read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SITTING

2.1 Minutes of the 25th of March 2025

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Members, I put before this House the minutes of the 25th of March 2025 for adoption. Does the House adopt the minutes?

HOUSE: Yes.

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

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 3 MOTIONS AS PER RULE 101

3.1 Motions Without Notice as per Rule 106

3.2 Notice of Motions as per Rule 107

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Members, any motion without notice? Can I see by show of hands? The whole House. Please bear with me while I'm writing so that I don't miss anybody. Motsumi, I'm done. I'm fine with you. I was saying Motsumi, Sambatha. Yes, I think I've covered everybody. If there is a mistake, I will recognise you. You will alert me. Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you very much Speaker. Speaker, I hereby move without notice that the House notes the significant and commendable progress made in the establishment of the North West University School of Medicine which is set to become a key driver of healthcare training and economic development in the province.

Acknowledges that Phase 1 of the plan has been completed under the leadership of Professor Binu Luke with strong backing from the Department of Health and Higher Education and Training and the Health Professions Council of South Africa. Further notes that the construction schedule to begin in July 2025 with the school expected to open in 2028 and that three new academic buildings will be constructed, one in Potchefstroom and two in Klerksdorp adjacent to Tshepong and Klerksdorp Hospitals.

Recognise the massive potential this development holds for healthcare service delivery, job creation, infrastructure investment and academic excellence in the North West. Welcomes the inclusive training model which will see students learning across JB Marks Municipality, the Klerksdorp/Tshepong Hospital Complex and facilities across the province.

Congratulates Professor Luke and the NWU leadership for their vision and commitment to uplifting medical education and the quality of healthcare in the province. And finally encourages all stakeholders to support this initiative and ensure its timely completion so that the people of the North West especially rural and undeserved communities can benefit from more trained doctors and better healthcare outcomes. I so move.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Sonakile. Does any Member wish to respond on this motion? Honourable Chief Whip.

HON. ROSHO: Thank you Madam Speaker. As the African National Congress, we fully concur with the motion without notice led by the DA of course. This has been a priority of the African National Congress and in the name of Molefi Sefularo, the first MEC for Health in the North West since 1994, this has been the vision. So as the ANC, we are advancing the transformation agenda in the health sector. And we fully concur with our motion as an EXCO resolution of the ANC-led government. I thank you.

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

HON. DIKOLOMELA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I hereby rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to table a motion without notice and join the community of Mahikeng, North West as a whole in mourning the death of the eight-year-old girl who lost her life after buying contaminated snacks from a house in her neighbourhood.

Honourable Speaker, it is reported that the eight year-old girl and her ten year old sister bought snacks from a spaza shop close to their home before going to school this past Friday, 11 April 2025. While at school, around half past nine, both of them started complaining about stomach pains which led to the school staff rushing them to the local clinic where the eight-year-old sadly passed away that very afternoon.

As the EFF, we are deeply saddened by the tragic death of this little girl and sympathise with her family, friends, fellow pupils and teachers and the community at large. We extend our deepest condolences with the understanding that losing someone to death is never easy, especially a little girl as young as this one and so suddenly. We wish all of them comfort and strength during this heavy time. We also wish the ten-year-old sister who is currently still hospitalised a speedy and full recovery. I so move Honourable Speaker. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Dikolomela. Any Member wish to respond? Honourable Motsumi, Honourable Steenkamp.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Speaker. Indeed, re le Lefapha la Thuto re latlhegetswe [as the Department of Education we have lost] and condolences to Podile Primary School for their loss but one must indicate, Honourable Speaker, that we are still waiting for results from investigations. I must also attest before the sitting gore indeed re kgonne go tsaya mazimba a go tweng bana ba a rekile before ba ya kwa sekolong, re emetse gore direresult di tswe [...we managed to take the snack that the children bought before they went to school,we took the snacks for testing and we are waiting for the results.]

Mme re a re diinvestigation e se ka ya nna fela mo issue ya mazimba. After mazimba ao, re tla tswelala go batlisisa gore tota ngwana yo o tlhokafetseng yoo what is the cause ya gore a bo a feleletse a tlhokafetse. Mme ke netefatse before the House-sitting gore the sister, yo o leng mo Grade 5 at least o a kokotlela. O tswile from intensive care, o kwa ICU. So we wish gore le ene e

ka re a ka bona botshelo gore a kgone go re fatlhosa gore tota go diragetseng ka mannete. Re a leboga.

English Translation Follows:

[Let the investigations not be narrowed to the snacks only. After we receive the results for the snacks, we will continue to investigate the cause of death of the young girl. I want to confirm before the House that the little girl's elder sister who is in Grade 5 is recovering. She is out of the ICU. So, we wish that she becomes well so that she can enlighten us about what really happened. Thank you.]

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

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you Honourable Speaker. The DA also sends its condolences to the family and further to that, we want to echo the call for the Department of Health, Department of Economic Development, Department of Education and Department of Community Safety to coordinate efforts to ensure that there is safety near schools and to educate communities on food safety standards. And we further call for an urgent audit of informal vendors operating around the schools, including verification of permits, food handling practices and compliance with health standards. Thank you.

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

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a motion without notice welcoming the allocation of the additional 56 million injection into our healthcare sector to help complete essential work at the BagaMothibi Community Health Centre. Sekhing and Manthe communities in Taung are truly benefitting from the services rendered by the 24-hour BagaMothibi Clinic that caters for over 16 villages around Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati.

With this additional funding to complete many projects in the health department, we believe that much progress will be registered and many communities will be impacted positively as they receive quality healthcare services. The project will cover electrical and ICT networks, mechanical, air conditions and civil works inclusive of water as well as sewer reticulation and pavements. This will be done in all 16 units of the facilities which include maternity out-patients, staff residence, dental, radiology, medical guest area and all other areas.

As the ANC, Madam Speaker, we call on the department to ensure that this budget is used to benefit our community as they enforce accountability and timeous delivery. The ANC conference resolution directed us to ensure that we achieve universal healthcare provision for all South Africans no matter their social class. We will ensure that our people especially those in the most poverty-stricken communities will benefit out of this funding. Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Together we can do more.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much MEC. Any Member wish to respond to the motion? Thank you. Honourable Sonti.

HON. SONTI: Ngibonge Speaker [Thank you Speaker]. Honourable Speaker, I hereby rise on behalf of the EFF to propose a motion without notice to honour a significant achievement by one of South Africa's outstanding athletics. Honourable Speaker, as the EFF we call for this House to recognise with immense pride a remarkable performance of Akani Simbine who sprinted a victory in the 100 metres event at the Botswana Golden Grand Prix in Gaborone finishing with an impressive time of 9.90 seconds.

This achievement not only marks a personal milestone for Simbine but also stands as the fastest 100 metres time recorded globally this year solidifying his place among the world's best sprinters. His accomplishment serves as motivation of aspiring athletes across South Africa demonstrating that with dedication and effort, greatness can be achieved.

Honourable Speaker, this House must acknowledge that Simbine's great victory is not merely a sporting achievement but a source of national pride. It underscores the capacity of South African athletes to excel on the international stage. We urge both the national government and the provincial to enhance investment in sports development ensuring future generations have access to the resources and support needed to emulate the successes of champions like Akani Simbine.

Honourable Speaker, the EFF therefore calls on this House to extend its heartfelt congratulations to Akani Simbine for his ground-breaking accomplishment and wish him ongoing success as he readies himself for upcoming international events including the world championships and the Olympic Games. May his speed and determination continue to motivate the nation. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any Member wish to respond? None. Honourable Magagane.

HON. MAGAGANE: Thank you Speaker, I will speak later. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Oh, it was a statement?

HON. MAGAGANE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable van Huyssteen.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, today I move for this House to note the ongoing crisis in Ward 7 in the Naledi Local Municipality with continuous house break-ins. This is worsened by unoccupied government-owned properties which are overgrown, not secured and create the perfect hideout for criminals.

I further move for this House to note the need for police patrolling in this area where virtually none takes place. The mere visibility of the police presence will hinder criminals from moving and freely stealing without fear. I further move for this House to note the approval for the sale of the vacant municipal stands known as the old swimming pool stands in this ward, this being done through the continuous efforts of the Democratic Alliance ward councillor who has been pushing for this continuously.

This will see economic development being brought to this area and it will ensure greater community safety. Lastly, I move for this House to note the need for intervention by the MEC for COGHSTA Honourable Molapisi and the MEC for DEDECT Honourable Lenkopane to expedite these sale processes through their oversight to bring greater community safety and economic development to this rural municipality. Thank you, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any Member wish to respond? None. Honourable Steenkamp.

HON. STEENKAMP: Honourable Speaker I'm covered. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay, also you. What's happening with the whips today? Honourable Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a motion without notice condemning the tragic and senseless murder of a police constable in Ganyesa. The constable was fatally attacked on the street while walking home shortly after being dropped off from duty.

This heinous act is not just a murder of law enforcement officer, it is an attack on the state and such act must be treated with the seriousness they deserve. Police officers serve as the frontline guardians of law, order and public safety. To target them is to directly undermine the safety and stability of our communities.

The African National Congress calls for justice to be served swiftly and harshly. No mercy should be afforded to people who target and kill members of the police service. The killing of police officer must come to an end because they are the very same people that ensure that we are safe and protected. We must also ensure that our justice system protects their constitutional rights to life.

As the African National Congress, we extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the fallen constable and call on our communities to work with our police and the community in blue that our communities are safe. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Does any Member wish to respond? None. Thank you. Honourable Wallhorn.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to table a motion without notice. The Democratic Alliance asks this House to celebrate the remarkable success and resilience of Kaizer Chiefs Football Club whose recent performances have demonstrated exceptional skill, ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Order Members! Can we allow the Member to present!

HON. WALLHORN: Determination and the true spirit of South African football. Acknowledge the unwavering support of the Amakhosi faithful whose patience and loyalty continue to inspire the team to greater heights. Note, however, with concern the recent struggles and failures of

Mamelodi Sundowns, a team close to the heart of this Honourable Member that despite its resources has faulted under pressure failing to meet expectations when it mattered most. Encourage Sundowns to learn from Kaizer Chiefs, their fighting spirit and humility in both victory and defeat. And call upon all football lovers to appreciate the beauty of the game of football where true giants like Kaizer Chiefs rise while others stumble. I so move.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable. Everybody wants to respond. Okay. Honourable Smuts, Honourable Steyl.

HON. MATSHE: Honourable Speaker, for the first time since last year's election, we've got something that unites us. And this statement must be supported at all costs. So, I stand here to support what Honourable Wallhorn is saying. It's uniting us. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Just a comment, I think that was the most apolitical statement in this House in this term. Yes, and good luck to Amakhosi. Let's see if they can keep that title. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: The last one Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you very much Speaker. Speaker, honestly, I don't know how that statement or motion made it to this House. I'm going to launch an investigation. Immediately after this sitting, I'll be investigating how the whip allowed that motion. Thanks.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Members. Some of us it is chaos at home because of that game. Thank you very much. Honourable Dabampe.

HON. DABAMPE: Thank you very much Speaker. I hereby rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to table this motion without notice with a heavy heart regarding the untimely and brutal passing of Fighter Norman Kubayi who was murdered mercilessly in Juju Valley informal settlement recently.

Fighter Norman Kubayi was allegedly followed to Juju Valley where he was shot to his death by camouflaged private security officer who was armed with an AK-47 rifle firearm after the Polokwane Local Municipality continued to demolish the homes of community members in Juju Valley with the aim of evicting them even after the court ordered that the process be halted.

Honourable Speaker, it pains our heart to see the lives of our committed fighters being reduced to nothing. As an organisation, we are heavy hearted and wish to extend our deepest and sincerest condolences to the family, friends, fellow fighters, constituents and community members of Juju Valley where Fighter Kubayi is from. We extend our condolences to the people's organisation, the Economic Freedom Fighters as a whole.

The loss of one fighter is a loss to the organisation as a whole and to the fight towards economic freedom in our lifetime. Fighter Kubayi was laid to rest this past Saturday 12 April 2025. May his revolutionary soul continue to rest in peace. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Dabampe. Any Member wish to respond? Thank you, none. Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of uMkhonto weSizwe Party to pass a motion without notice congratulating the four Mmabana Arts Foundation Ballet dancers selected to represent the North West Province at the 12th South African International Ballet Competition which will be held in Cape Town, July 2025.

Honourable Speaker, the four ballet dancers are Gaofenngwe Poo, Ratolaone Mogorosi, Tshwanelo Moseki and Orapediseng Tswaile who have been selected to represent this particular province at this particular international ballet competition, like I've indicated, in Cape Town, July 2025. These four capable dancers were selected by the chief executive officer of Mzansi Ballet at the regional competition which was held earlier this year around Rustenburg. These four dancers will be accompanied by their dance tutor in the name of Tshegofatso Mokgobinyane. The South African International Ballet Competition, Honourable Speaker, will be holding its 12th competition since its inception taking place at Arts Cape Theatre in Cape Town from the 28th to the 31st July 2025.

The SAIBC was founded by Dirk Badenhorst in 2008. From 2021 it was decided to run the SAIBC annually. To date, it is recognised as Africa's finest and most established ballet event of its kind that attracts dancers of the highest calibre from across the globe. This year the competition will have three age groups, age 9-12 scholars, 13-16 juniors, 17-22 years senior, featuring both classical ballet and contemporary categories and the recently introduced duets and trios and group categories. This will be the largest ballet competition in Africa.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, as uMkhonto weSizwe Party we would like to wish North West four well in the upcoming competition as this might become a professional career for all of them in future. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Tsholo. Any Member wish to respond? MEC Tlhapi.

HON. TLHAPI: Ke a leboga Mmusakgotla, tla ke leboqe le Honourable Tsholo. Go a bontsha gore Mmabana tlase ga government ya ANC re tlo nna re tshegetsisa talente ya rona. Bana ba ke bana ba rona e bile re leboga le Mme Tshegofatso yo o ba eteletseng kwa pele, ke mmereki wa kwa Mmabana. Ga re hire ditutor ke ene e leng gore o a ba ruta bana ba ba rona mme re tlo nna re supporta bana ba rona jaaka African National Congress. Re a leboga Honourable Tsholo.

English Translation Follows:

[Thank you, Speaker. Let me also thank Honourable Tsholo. It shows that Mmabana under the government of the ANC we will keep on supporting our talent. These are our children and we are grateful of Madam Tshegofatso who is their Tutor, she works for Mmabana. We do not procure Tutors, she is their permanent Dance Teacher and as the African National Congress we will keep on giving them support. Thank you Honourable Tsholo.]

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

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to welcome the sentencing of Mopheme Manama, 34 years, to two life imprisonments and an additional 70 years for double murder, six counts of attempted murder and illegal possession of a firearm.

This landmark sentencing by the Stilfontein Regional Court comes after an ordeal that took place on the midnight of Sunday, 4 September 2022, at a tavern in Kanana where Manama, a Lesotho citizen was reportedly hired to kill a man whom he found at the tavern. Manama then proceeded to open fire and shot him eight times but he survived the ordeal. Furthermore, he also shot seven other people who were sitting outside the tavern, killing two men.

The culprit fled from the scene after the shooting and an investigation commenced by the Anti-Gang Unit. Manama traced a year later on Monday, 25 March 2023. A dedicated investigating

officer at the Anti-Gang Unit, utilized his private vehicle and followed the suspect to Orkney where Manama was stopped and arrested with the help of Orkney Police.

The African National Congress commends the partnership of the police working together with members of the community to ensure that illegal firearms are removed as part of reducing commission of serious and violent crimes. His sentencing serves as a deterrent to perpetrators of these heinous crimes and a strong conviction of our commitment to remove serious and violent crimes in our society.

Criminals have no place in a society led by the African National Congress. The ANC applauds the law enforcement agencies for striving to restore public confidence in the criminal justice system. I thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Any Member wish to respond? Thank you. There's none. Is there any Member I mistakenly left out on motions? Thank you. Does the House adopt these motions?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Members. Are there any notice of motions? Notice? Okay. Honourable Magagane.

HON. MAGAGANE: Honourable Speaker, I give notice in terms of Rule 107, Section 1 of the Standing Rules of the Legislature that I'll move that this House must in honour of autism month and in its next sitting have a debate under the following subject: Commitment to an inclusive national democratic society that promotes and embraces neurodiversity. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Matshe. Okay. Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House at its next sitting debate the national democratic revolution as a barrier to good governance and economic prosperity in contemporary South Africa. I so move.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any other notice? Thank you. The notice of motion will be put on the order paper for debate per the Legislature programme. 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? I will take hands first so that I don't miss anybody. Okay. I don't want to miss anybody. I think I got all of you. If I've missed anybody, I will duly recognise you later. I think I got all of you. If I've missed you, I will include you later. Okay, Honourable Williams.

HON. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement commending the good work of the South African Police Service for a quick and swift arrest of five suspects allegedly on kidnapping incident that happened on the 5th of April in Wolmaransstad.

The members were activated following a kidnapping for a ransom incident reported on Friday night the 4th April. Subsequent negotiation led the team to Welkom, Virginia, in the Free State Province where five suspects were arrested and a male kidnapping victim aged 39 was rescued.

During the arrest the team seized three cell phones including that of the victim and a replica firearm.

The suspects aged 29 and 45 appeared in the Wolmaransstad Magistrate's Court on Monday the 7th of April, facing charges of kidnapping, extortion, aggravated robbery and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. The ANC commends the team of South African Police Service detective for their commitment, dedication and bravery in tracking, arresting and safely rescuing the victim of kidnapping linked to the extortion.

This arrest should send a strong message to heartless criminals that the law enforcement officers will pursue them relentlessly wherever they are and no resources will be spared in making sure that they are removed from society and jailed for their heinous crimes. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Williams. Does any Member wish to respond to the statement? None. Honourable Wallhorn.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to sound the alarm on the financial emergency unfolding in the Moretele Local Municipality and request an urgent intervention by Provincial Treasury. The Auditor General's latest findings paint a very bad picture of systemic failure by management both political and administrative leadership of the municipality.

These include firstly a culture of impunity where the accounting officer and the departmental management teams face no consequences for flouting financial regulations. Secondly, ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. STEYL: When this area undergoes formalisation through the division of stands and servitudes. MEC Mooka now that we have restored electricity supply to SONOP, ...
[INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Your three minutes is done.

HON. STEYL: The Department of Public Works must please initiate this process to get this land transferred to the municipality in Madibeng. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Steyl. Honourable Members, remember statements is for three minutes. Honourable Matshe.

HON. MATSHE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement commending the efforts of the Provincial Department of Social Development for embarking on a programme to remind and encourage non-profit organisations to comply with legislation on grant funding.

The department working with National Lottery Commission, South African Revenue Services, the Provincial Treasury, the National Development Agency as well as the representatives from the National Department of Social Development recently held roadshows at the Rustenburg Civic Centre to sensitise the NPO's on the need to update their registration in line with the legislation governing their existence.

The 'Re Thuse Re go Thuse Campaign' was conceptualised to deal with non-compliance by the NPO's that in itself will ultimately lead to deregistration and non-funding. This will have ripple effects for the organisation as they will not be able to carry out essential services to their constituent

members. During the Bojanala district outreach programme, 5 221 NPO's were deemed compliant whilst 727 have already been deregistered as a result of non-compliance.

As the ANC, we welcome and support the initiative of the department in prioritising this campaign since NPO's in South Africa are important in addressing social ills, promoting community development, contributing to job creation and skills development. Their services are critical to empower the marginalised section of our communities.

They are social watchdogs and service providers that advocate for marginalised groups and also contribute towards creating a more equitable society as they play a key role in social cohesion, community spirit and collaboration. As the African National Congress, we therefore move and support the work of the department. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Any Member wish to respond? Honourable MEC. One minute.

HON. DANTJIE: Ke a leboga Ngaka Mmusakgotla. Ke tseye tšhono e ke leboge le Rre Matshe. Ke dumalane le ene gore re le lefapha re tlile go tswelela ka metseletsele eno mo didikeng tse dingwe tse di saletseng kwa morago. Mme morago ga metseletsele e, ga go kitla go felela foo. Re tlile go tswelela pele re ntse re dirisana mmogo le setšhaba sa rona le diNPO tsa rona mo dikantorong tsa rona tse di mo dimmasepeleng tsa rona ka go farologana ka gore deregistration e ya diNPO tsa rona, fa re ka se e tseele matsapa, tota e a re affecta ba rotlhe. Ke kopa re tshwaragane mmogo re bone gore re a thusana gore re thuse diNPO tsa rona gore di kgone go comply.

English Translation Follows:

[Thank you, Dr Speaker. Let me also thank Mr Matshe. I agree with Mr Matshe that as the Department we should continue with the campaigns and workshops in all the other districts that are not yet covered. After that we will collaborate with the communities and the NPOs in our

different municipalities because the deregistration of the NPOs affect us all. I just want us to unite and work together to ensure that our NPOs comply accordingly.]

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Magagane.

HON. MAGAGANE: Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement noting that persistent heavy rains experienced recently have wreaked havoc across several municipalities in the province leaving a trail of destruction affecting houses and road infrastructure.

Ngaka Modiri Molema District was the hardest hit with at least 153 houses damaged in Ramotshere mostly in Khunotswane, Ratlou, Ditsobotla. In Tswaing, Gakhunwana was besieged by water and mostly because they do not have natural run offs for this water. In Bojanala, Moretele was the hardest hit and Ruth Mompoti all the municipalities, seventy-nine mud houses being completely destroyed by heavy rains and at least 30 people are currently displaced. Most of the damages happened in disaster prone areas exacerbated by materials used in construction of structures especially in informal settlements. And other areas were flooded due to poor storm drainage systems.

While the ANC commends coordination of disaster relief efforts implemented in response, we appeal to the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs and municipalities to relocate communities residing in flood plains or low-lying areas to habitable land as floods causes widespread devastation resulting in loss of life, damage to infrastructure and homes, economic disruptions and displacement of people.

Government at all levels must spare no efforts to ensure that damaged road infrastructure is repaired, the informal settlement eradication programme is fast-tracked to address inherited housing backlog and that unsafe mud houses are eradicated. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Member wish to respond? None. Thank you. Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I hereby rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to table a member statement and voice a deep concern about the state of our provincial roads particularly as we head to the Easter weekend and Good Friday. This is a critical period where many of our people travel long distances to be with their families to attend religious gatherings and to participate in cultural ceremonies.

It is during such times that the dangerous ... [INAUDIBLE] ... of our roads becomes even more pronounced placing the lives of our citizens at great risk. Honourable Speaker, while we acknowledge the North West Department of Transport's recent announcement of a 24/7 safety blitz initiative targeting the flood-prone roads, spiking hotspots and reckless driving, we must be honest and state clearly that this intervention is not enough.

No amount of roadblocks, patrols or public safety campaigns can make up for the poor physical condition of the roads themselves. A blitz cannot fix a pothole, a patrol cannot repair a broken bridge, a roadblock cannot stop bridges to collapse under the weight of 30 years of government neglect. Honourable Speaker, flooding on roads is not a natural disaster, it is a failure of planning and failure of maintenance. Proper drainage is a basic requirement of any facility and sustainable road networks.

Honourable Speaker, it is deeply irresponsible to wait until Easter or any other busy travel period to run emergency campaigns while doing nothing to address the underlying causes of road fatalities. We need the roads to be fixed. We need drainage systems to be built and maintained. We need real investment in infrastructure not seasonal shows of force that disappear once the holidays end.

As the Economic Freedom Fighters, Honourable Speaker, we demand a comprehensive and transparent provincial road rehabilitation programme. This programme must prioritise the resurfacing of all major and minor roads, the rebuilding of flood damaged areas, the installation of modern drainage systems and the regular maintenance of all road infrastructure.

These projects must be awarded to competent service providers who will be held accountable for their work not looters hiding behind black economic empowerment credentials while failing to deliver. Honourable Speaker, we also call for a complete audit of all provincial roads, drainage systems and bridges. The people of North West deserve to know the true extent of the decay and they deserve a detailed plan for how it will be fixed.

We demand urgent action not just for Easter but every day thereafter. We cannot allow more lives to be lost because of government incompetence and negligence. Honourable Speaker, the EFF reminds the ANC-led government that the safety and dignity of our people must always come first. Roads are not a luxury, roads are not a favour from the government. Honourable Speaker, until the roads are properly maintained, until drainage systems are properly installed, until infrastructure is properly managed, the EFF will not cease from making this demand that we must have proper road infrastructure. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any Member wish to respond? Honourable Mokua you must be on your seat. You must be on your seat.

HON. MOKUA: Okay, may I respond Speaker?

HON. SPEAKER: You must be on your seat when you respond. I thought you will quickly run to your seat but clearly you don't understand me. You don't respond in somebody's seat. You will be arrested that you said something on behalf of somebody.

HON. MOKUA: Order. Thank you very much and apologies Honourable Speaker. I think one has to respond to the input made by EFF. I think all of us we acknowledge the status of the roads in the province and all of us can acknowledge that indeed the state is appalling but it must be made known that making a road is not like playing with toys. All that Public Works needs is money and Public Works has got a plan to make sure that we redress the current status of the roads.

And as far as the Welisizwe is concerned, I must then inform the Member that Welisizwe necessarily is the responsibility of National and defence force. Ourselves as the department in the province is to make sure that at least we work together with National and defence force. For now, I think one can just inform the Member that you need to cool down because we are about to have nine bridges that we are going to open by the end of the year.

For now, we are working on four bridges with the support of National and defence force. I hope when I pass the budget the Member will understand that the status of the roads must be changed and we need budget to do that.

HON. SPEAKER: Your minute is gone.

HON. MOKUA: Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Moema, you want to respond. Yes, you know I'm looking at you, I'm surprised what is it that you want to do. Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Steenkamp.

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Once again, the people of Tswaing have been let down by a local government that continues to prove incapable of responsible financial management and basic service delivery. The Tswaing Local Municipality recently tabled a draft budget for the 2025/2026 financial year that is quite frankly the best work of fiction that I've read in a long time and even more scary than Friday the 13th horror film.

It is unfunded, unrealistic and reflects a deep disregard for the law and the residents it is meant to serve. One of the most outrageous issues is the fact that for over a decade prepaid electricity customers have been illegally billed a basic service charge that was never approved by NERSA. The municipality has acknowledged the error yet there is no provision in the budget to refund the 13.6 million Rand it owes to its residents. This is not only unethical it is unlawful.

What is more the municipality is forecasting a dramatic increase in revenue while it continues to give away electricity valued at 25 million Rand every year meanwhile the municipality's own collection rate is sitting at a mere 34%. Billing systems are broken, disputes are ignored, metres go unread, payments do not reflect, illegal charges persist and as if that wasn't enough, Tswaing's 300 million Rand in historic debt including debts to Eskom, SARS, pension fund and medical aid is conveniently left out of the budget.

The reckless financial behaviour resulted in Tswaing being denied its equitable share by National Treasury earlier this year. Speaker, the IDP paints an equally troubling picture, 38 million Rand has been allocated to build only four kilometres of road. Six million Rand was budgeted for toilets at a sports facility that already swallowed 10 million Rand last year and the 10 million Rand built a few stands yet three entire towns of Delareyville, Sannieshof and Ottosdal received a mere 1.75

million in the budget for internal roads which is deteriorating beyond repair by the way and have a direct impact on the drastic decline in economic development and job creation. This is not a service delivery budget. It is a fiscal fantasy and the people of Tswaing deserve better. The DA will continue to hold this municipality accountable and demand urgent intervention from provincial government. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any Member wish to respond? None. Thank you. Honourable Makgokgowa.

HON. MAKGOKGOWA: Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement congratulating the Speaker of the National Assembly Comrade Thoko Didiza on her election as the President of the Africa Group at the 150th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

This prestigious election stands as a testament of her exemplary leadership, dedication to democracy and unwavering commitment to the ideals of peace, development and cooperation on the African continent. As the President of the African Group, Comrade Thoko will play a crucial role in amplifying the voices of African nations, addressing pressing issues such as economic development, climate change, gender equality and equitable economic growth amongst other issues. We are hopeful that her leadership will inspire fellow parliamentarians across the continent and reshape the narrative of representation of women in politics. Comrade Thoko embodies the spirit of the ANC's ongoing commitment to gender equality, empowering women and fostering their participation in all facets of society.

The ANC is proud of Comrade Thoko's achievement and confident that she will continue to champion the interests of Africa on the global scale ensuring that our continent's aspirations are prioritised in international discussions. We believe that her leadership will facilitate greater collaboration between African nations and promote innovative solutions to the myriad of

challenges we face as Africa. We look forward to her effective leadership and positive impact she will have in harmonising the voices of African group within the IPU. May she continue to lead with integrity, wisdom and a firm commitment to the principles of democracy and unity. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Makgokgowa. Any Member wish to respond? None. Honourable Van Steenhuis.

HON. VAN HUYSSSTEEN: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I as Honourable Henrietta Van Huyssteen rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to table the following member statement on the Duff Scott Hospital in Stilfontein. Honourable Speaker, there are jobs to be created in this province. There are resources to be extracted in this province. There are businesses to be created and grown in this province. There is beauty to be explored in this province, and you better believe it, there is a potential for a good life to be lived in this province.

All of this potential will remain to be if there's no accountable government to bring it to fruition. This is a realisation that is dawning on our province and the nation as a whole unlike the sun which rises in the east, this dawn started in the west, the Western Cape to be specific. From there, it spread across our land and intensified its strength, and it has reached the Kalahari.

This dawn is the realisation that the African National Congress is no longer the party to lead us to the fruition of our province's potential and that the only party who can truly deliver is the Democratic Alliance. Where the DA governs, we ensure that an environment is created where businesses can flourish and people can earn an income with dignity. Stable jobs are created under DA governance not only the dishing out of EPWP contracts to comrades with a Thunsa Lerole cherry on top.

Businesses that apply for licensing are assured of due diligence knowing that under DA-run governments, just administration will take place to ensure economic growth. You don't need to look far for proof; you don't need to go the Western Cape for proof. Just here in the DA-run Midvaal Municipality, just over 300 kilometres from where we are sitting today, Soufflet Malt is investing two billion Rand to build a new malting facility. That is right Honourable Speaker, a billion Rand with a B. This is to name only a few investors flocking to this town because of its well-run stable governance.

For you the residents of North West, I believe this is something that everybody would like to see happening in their towns yet here in North West, the picture is much different. Endless boardroom talks, factional infighting and politicised administration hinder any growth. You don't need to look far for an example of this failure. In the town of Stilfontein, 188 kilometres from where we are sitting today, you will find the Duff Scott Hospital.

The existing administration has been unable to finalise the hospital license application for over 10 years. The application was brought in 2014 yet it is still not finalised. A fully equipped hospital still waiting to open its doors, medical staff sitting unemployed at home, the local rental market being stifled, the small grocer not reaping the benefits of the influx of staff, the taxi driver losing out on potential passengers, the gogo [grandma]selling snacks still struggling to make enough money for the basics. The consequences of these failures reach deep. None are spared.

HON. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: The people of this province deserve to be authors of their own future and we call on the Department of Health, Honourable Speaker, to finalise the Duff Scott Hospital application ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your three minutes is up.

HON. VAN HUYSTEEN: To see economic growth in Stilfontein. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Members I don't want to be harsh on you but time yourself. You have three minutes for a statement. Thank you very much Honourable. Any Member wish to respond? One-minute, Honourable Nathan Oliphant.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thank you very much Speaker. We were not late. I don't know where they get that. Speaker, Duff Scott Hospital is a private hospital. The ANC government has got responsibility towards the ordinary citizens of the North West and our interest is in public infrastructure. You can go to the very same Matlosana Municipality, you've got Klerksdorp Hospital, you've got Tshepong Hospital. You even have a medical campus coming up now. So, the DA must not come with their personal private interests and come and bring it to this House. Our interest is the people, those who are marginalised and cannot afford it not Duff Scott, a private hospital. She must get her facts together.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much. Honourable Dabampe. Oh, you want to respond? Okay, Honourable Moema, one minute.

HON. MOEMA: No Speaker I just want to make it known here that you shouldn't come here and claim easy victories and tell lies to our people. The DA has this selective governing, all the time when it comes to their failure, they want to say no where they're governing, they're doing quite well and so forth. They forget that they are part of the government of the day. They're part of the GNU. When it comes to other issues, DA is governing well. The government of the day is failing, and they are part of that leadership collective in this government of national unity. Thanks, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you. Order Members. Order Members! Honourable Dabampe.

HON. DABAMPE: Thank you very much Speaker. I hereby rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom fighters to table a member statement registering our discontentment regarding the high levels of child rapes and sexual assault that occur to children who are in the care of the Department of Education. For many years the safety of children in our schools has been compromised with little to no intervention from the government of the day to make our schools a place of refuge for children. Recently, almost weekly, news is brought to light of children being sexually assaulted on school premises. A Grade 3 learner was raped by a security guard at a Primary School in Soweto. In the same year, two pupils were sexually assaulted by a teacher at a Primary School here in Bokonebophirima [North West]. A two-year-old girl was found to be a victim of rape that occurred at a day care in KZN.

Crime statistics indicate that over 61 sexual offenses were reported having occurred on school premises in 2023 alone. This figure is certainly growing overtime yet neither the Department of Education, the Department of Community Safety or the Premier has done anything to even acknowledge this plight that is currently ploughing our communities. Perhaps just because you don't make headlines it is viewed as something that is affecting other parts of the country to the exclusion of Bokonebophirima [North West] but the reality is that it is not. North West is just as riddled with cases of sexual assault of pupils in schools as any other province.

Honourable Speaker, on the 27th of August 2024 the EFF presented a motion in the National Assembly mandating the relevant Portfolio Committee to provide a report regarding sexual assault of pupils in schools which has still not seen the light of the day to date. In a recent sitting, the violent, Mike Tyson wannabe MEC was requested to provide a report of pregnancy rates in schools

and was unable to do so showing how this generation of what was previously the leadership of youth has no interest in anything.

Honourable Speaker, it is on this basis that as the EFF, we call upon the MEC of Education to provide this august House with detailed report regarding the number of support staff and teachers in the Department of Education in North West with criminal records, which crimes the criminal records are for, and whether this information of their criminal records was declared before their appointment. We further request that the department put in place a vetting system to vet all personnel linked to the Department of Education including ECD's. We cannot continue with business as usual while we have a crisis of this magnitude on our hands. It is time for this government to wake up. I thank you Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Dabampe. Any Member wish to respond? Honourable MEC.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. As the Department of Education, let us agree that as Honourable Members in this House that our schools' safety especially when it comes to our learners and teachers it must be a priority. That is why Honourable Speaker, two weeks back I interacted with your Portfolio Committee where Honourable Dabampe is part of that particular Portfolio Committee where I indicated and emphasised the safety of both our learners and educators.

He was at the forefront actually of disputing what I have raised in terms of safety of our learners. Re simolola jang re bua ka [How can we emphasize] safety of our learners whereas the very same Honourable Dabampe can budge in any school at any given point, at the same time be re re bana ba rona ba safe [we claim that our learners are safe]. Any stranger poses a danger to our learners. So, it must go back to the Portfolio Committee of making sure that they prioritise the safety ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. BOTSWE: Honourable Speaker.

HON. MOTSUMI: Of both our learners and our educators. So, it can't be correct that the Honourable Member ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: MEC! MEC, there is a hand.

HON. BOTSWE: Honourable Speaker, MEC cannot call an Honourable Member a stranger. Can you please call Honourable MEC to order because of now Honourable Members have the right to do oversight at any time. They don't need the permission from the MEC to go and do their own oversight. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. MOTSUMI: Honourable Speaker, I still maintain in our schools, our schools are run by our principals.

HON. SPEAKER: MEC! MEC! Have you called Honourable Member a stranger?

HON. MOTSUMI: Honourable Speaker, I did indicate that in our schools there are policies.

HON. SPEAKER: No, no.

HON. MOTSUMI: If you're an Honourable Member, ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: MEC!

HON. MOTSUMI: Let me respond Honourable Speaker ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: No MEC, no! No, no I didn't hear MEC calling a stranger. I'm just asking have you called a Member a stranger?

HON. MOTSUMI: No Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay. I will listen to the Hansard to get clarity further on that. You can continue.

HON. MOTSUMI: Any person who enters any school without any permit or without identification, as the Department of Education, we'll consider that particular Member as a stranger. Let's agree that we have to make sure that safety of our learners and principals are our priority.

HON. SPEAKER: Your one minute is ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. MOTSUMI: So Honourable Member must be an example. If re re [we say that] we are serious about safety of our learners ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: MEC!

HON. MOTSUMI: It must start with him when it comes to safety of our learners. So, I must emphasise Honourable Speaker that there has never been a point ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: MEC, your one minute is over. Thank you. Thank you. Honourable Bogatsu, you want to respond? Order Members, Order!

HON. BOGATSU: Yes Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Order. Honourable Bogatsu.

HON. BOGATSU: Speaker, I want to indicate that part of responsibilities of Members in this House is conducting oversight. Whether that oversight e etsiwa go itsiwe kwa institution eo [is being done and the institution is aware thereof] ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Member, are you responding to the statement?

HON. BOGATSU: Or go sa itsiwe but se se salang ke gore [or an unannounced oversight, but the fact remains that] part of our ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. MOTSUMI: On a point of order Speaker! On a point of order Speaker!

HON. BOGATSU: So Honourable Dabampe was doing ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Bogatsu! ... [INTERRUPTION] ... Please take your seat. ... [INTERRUPTION] ... Honourable Bogatsu, please take your seat.

HON. BOGATSU: Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: You must respond to the statement not to the Member who respond to the statement. Honourable Tsholo, you want to respond to the statement or you want to respond to the MEC so that I call you to order already. No response to the MEC but respond to the statement made by Honourable Dabampe. Order, Order Members! Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I'm having a question.

HON. SPEAKER: To who?

HON. TSHOLO: Is it allowed Honourable Speaker for Honourable MEC's ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, a question to who? Honourable Tsholo, a question to who?

HON. TSHOLO: To respond to Portfolio Committee issues and we don't have rights to respond.

HON. SPEAKER: No! No! Honourable Tsholo, we are on statements Honourable Members. Maybe let me advise. We are on statements and when you respond, you don't respond to another Member. You respond to the statement raised even if you are not happy with what a Member who

responded to the statement said, you can't respond to that Member. You must respond to the statement. Honourable Sonakile you are next.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you very much Speaker. Mare ha ke responde mos nna Botswe [Botswe, I am not responding]. Speaker, the DA strongly opposes the proposed amendments by the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA), which seek to disarm private security officers, a reckless move that endangers both the protectors and the public. Under these new regulations, private security will be stripped of essential tools like tasers and certain firearms. We now face a scenario where zama-zamas with AK-47's and robbers with knives will be met by security guards limited to 9mm pistols or less. This is madness.

Private security supports our overstretched SAPS and plays a vital role in keeping homes, businesses and communities safe. With over 500 000 jobs at stake, these proposals are not just a threat to safety, they are a direct attack on livelihoods. We don't need to disarm honest officers. We need to enforce the laws that already exist to deal with rogue elements.

The DA has launched a national petition to stop these dangerous regulations. I urge every South African to sign it and email their objections to regulations@psira.co.za before the 25th of April 2025. Speaker, the people who protect us need our protection now. The DA will fight this with everything we've got. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Sonakile. Any Member wish to respond? None. Honourable Tsholo. Oh, you want to respond?

HON. BOTSWE: I wanted to respond Honourable Speaker. You know Honourable Speaker, this thing ya DA ena [of the DA] to come and complain whereas ke part ya GNU [they are part of the GNU] must come to an end.

HON. SPEAKER: Order Honourable Botswe. Are you... order Honourable Botswe! Please respond to the statement made by a Member not to DA. Please! Honourable Tsholo, you are next.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I stand or I rise on behalf of uMkhonto weSizwe Party to make a statement in condemnation of acts of rape committed in Ipelegeng, Schweizer-Reneke and subsequent three months delays by the law enforcement to arrest the perpetrators of heinous acts.

Madam Speaker, as uMkhonto weSizwe, we condemn the acts of rape in Ipelegeng township, Schweizer-Reneke, done by the two males aged 56 and 59, mekoubere nogal [elderly citizens], to a helpless and defenceless year-old minor girl in December 2024. The suspects were arrested, Honourable Speaker, after three months of the case being reported at Ipelegeng Police Station and appeared in Schweizer-Reneke on Thursday the 10th of April 2025 for bail application.

In this particular regard, Honourable Speaker, Walter Leoto, aged 56, has been granted bail of 1 000 and the state opposed the bail application of Mr Andries Mgaolwane aged 59 years old. The case has been postponed to the 12th of May 2025 to enable the law enforcement to gather more evidence.

Madam Speaker, the alleged crime took place at the township of Ipelegeng. Despite charges being laid at Ipelegeng Police Station in December 2024, no arrests were made until the Friday 4th April 2025 after three months of delays. The three months turnaround delay by the law enforcement, Honourable Speaker, shows the existing lack of support to victims of rape and children.

uMkhonto weSizwe Party expresses magnificent shock over the three months delays in making arrests given the serious nature of this particular crime. Women and children in these particular

streets of Schweizer-Reneke, Honourable Speaker, were not safe because of the two demonic individuals who were roaming free on the street.

As uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Honourable Speaker, we would like to urge the law enforcement agencies to be sensitive to the rape cases and violations of children's rights, to give adequate support to victims of rape, to improve their lead times in dealing with such serious crimes which results in trauma to victims and to intensify the fight against gender-based and child crimes through investigations and tracing operations in the North West Province.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, looking at the moral degeneration across the country with this particular regard, as uMkhonto weSizwe Party, we are appealing to the religious organisations to continuously pray for these acts of devilish, immoral, heinous, barbaric conduct amongst our society targeting minors for that particular matter with a common denominator of seven years Honourable Speaker. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Tsholo. Any Member wish to respond?

HON. TSHOLO: You know makgakga one ga nkitla be ke a letlelela gore ga a lebala shower ga go ne go rile eng? [I will not tolerate any disrespect, what do you mean by not forgetting to shower?]

HON. SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Tsholo, this is my House. You are going to sit down.

HON. TSHOLO: Mo kgalemele. O simolotse ka Honourable Dabampe [Please put the Member in order, she started with Honourable Dabampe]. It will end there, not here.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo! Honourable Tsholo! You don't do that. You don't do that in the House, please, you don't. It must never happen again. Any Member wish to respond? Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Thanks, Honourable Speaker. As the EFF, we also wish to make it known that indeed we are concerned about the scourge of gender-based violence, femicide and infanticide. And also, we are concerned that it takes so much time for the police to can start apprehending those who are alleged to have committed such heinous crimes. And as the EFF, we are going to continue supporting the family, friends and the community of Schweizer-Reneke on this suffering they are going through. And we are going to support all the initiatives which seek to give justice to that family even throughout the court proceedings, we will be part as the EFF and give all forms of support morally and otherwise. Thanks Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any other Member wish to respond? None. Thank you. Honourable Chief Whip.

HON. ROSHO: Tla ke go leboge Mmusakgotla [let me thank you Speaker]. The African National Congress commemorates the indelible legacy of one of our foremost freedom fighters, Mme [Madam] Charlotte Makgomo Mannye-Maxeke, born on the 7th April 1871. As we reflect on her profound contributions to the struggle for justice, equality, and the empowerment of women, we are reminded of the relentless spirit that defined her life and work.

Mme [Madam] Charlotte was a trailblazer in every sense of the word. She was not only the first African woman to graduate from a South African university, but also a pioneer in the political and social movements of her time. She co-founded the Bantu Women's League in 1918, an organisation that laid the groundwork for the ANC Women's League and the broader participation of women in the liberation struggle. It was through her leadership that many women of her time

were inspired to rise, not only challenging patriarchy but also shaping the course of the liberation movement.

Her leadership went beyond the formal structures of the ANC, embodying an ethos of integrity, honesty, and selflessness. She was one of the few women in the early years of the ANC and her activism led to the recruitment of men who later became presidents of the ANC, demonstrating her influence in shaping the movement. Yet, despite these milestones, she was constrained by the gendered limitations of the time, knowing that women were not full members of the ANC at its inception.

As we celebrate her legacy today, we must confront the systemic failures and imbalances that persist in our society. We are called to reflect on our culture of human rights, to acknowledge the incomplete journey we are still on and to muster the fortitude to correct the mistakes of the past. Charlotte Maxeke's call, I quote, "leave no one behind," is as relevant today as it was in her time. Her vision was not only one of the liberation but of unity, of collective progress, and of true equality, principles the ANC will continue to uphold in every facet of society.

Maxeke's life was one of struggle, but also one of vision and hope. Her contributions to the liberation movement are often downplayed, yet they are central to the fight for human rights and equality in South Africa. We must honour her by telling her story authentically, ensuring that the history of women's participation in our struggle is never erased or minimized. In this, we must commit ourselves to building a future that embraces her legacy, a future where the battle against gender-based violence, inequality, and poverty is fought with the same vigour as her generation fought for freedom.

The ANC draws inspiration from her courage, her ability to unite people and her unyielding commitment to justice. As we stand today, we remember that we are the beneficiaries of her tireless work. Let us carry forward her torch, ensuring that the sacrifices made by her and countless others

continue to guide us in our quest for a truly free and fair South Africa for all. Long live the undying spirit of Charlotte Maxeke Long live! I so move Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Chief Whip. Any Member wish to respond? Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Speaker. The DA joins in honouring the memory and bravery of Charlotte Maxeke. Indeed, a towering figure in South African history. Her courage in the face of injustice laid the foundation for generations of women to rise and lead. Charlotte Maxeke fought for real transformation not slogans. If the ANC truly wants to honour her, it must build a South Africa she dreamed of, one led by ethical leadership free of patronage and injustice. Speaker, the DA rejects the hypocrisy of involving her name while the government of the ANC continues to fail the very same values that she fought for of dignity, equality and justice. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Any other Member wish to respond? Thank you very much. Is there any Member that I mistakenly didn't see? Members order! Is there any Member that I mistakenly left out on statements? Did I leave you out? Did I leave you out?

HON. BOTSWE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay, your statement. Your statement.

HON. BOTSWE: Honourable Speaker, please man call this man to order. Please.

HON. SPEAKER: Sit down. Sit down. Secretary, may 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 committees for scrutiny and further processing. Committee reports with recommendations were also tabled through the ATC. Does the House adopt the committee recommendations as the House resolutions?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The committee recommendations are now adopted as House resolutions. Secretary you may please read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 6 DEBATE ON FREEDOM DAY

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, Freedom Day is celebrated annually on April 27th to commemorate the country's first democratic election in 1994 which marked the end of apartheid. I will now call on Honourable Tlhapi to lead the debate. Honourable Tlhapi, you have 10 minutes.

HON. TLHAPI: Madam Speaker, ke tlhomphile Ntlo ya gago Mme Desbo Mohono [Madam Desbo Mohono, I humble myself before your august House], Deputy Speaker Ntate [Mr] Collen Maine, Chief Whip Mme [Madam] Motlalepula Rosho le [and] Deputy Chief Whip Mme [Madam] Karabo Magagane, Honourable Premier in absentia and my colleagues Members of the Executive Council, Members of Legislature, leaders of political parties and civil society formations, bagaetsho ba rona, baeng ba ga Speaker ba ba leng teng, South Aôfrica, dumelang [fellow citizens,

the Speaker's guests present here, South Africa, greetings], good morning, goeiemôre, molweni, kgotsong, ndi matsheloni.#[greetings]#

Madam Speaker, we gathered here today to celebrate 31 years of democratic South Africa. Like a polished and cut diamond, we are a nation chiselled out of the rock brought from the belly of the earth. We are a nation which has gone through decades of exploitation, racial oppression, different forms of injustices, human suffering and almost complete obliteration.

In 1994, the resilience of our liberation struggle stalwarts and all South Africans who stood united in resistance and resilience overcame a minority system built in division. We are a nation which broke away from a longest colonial and apartheid past. Difficult as it was, we have survived and emerged to lead this nation into prosperity. We salute, remember and stand in honour of our liberation struggle warriors who made sacrifices and selfless contribution in the fight against, ne ke ithaya ke re ke Speaker, ntse ke le sure [All along I have been thinking you are the Speaker]. Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Ne ke ithaya ke re ke tloga ke tshwarwa e se kgale [I thought I will be charged very soon].

Madam Speaker, we salute, remember and stand in honour of our liberation struggle warriors who made sacrifices and selfless contribution in the fight against a bitter and unjust colonial and apartheid system to bring to birth the new era of hope and prosperity for our nation. The vision of our gallant leaders was to have a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa. It's a vision that must not only be enshrined in our Constitution as its basic fundamental principles, but must be acquired in a practical sense, in order to realize a state that is ethically ideal.

Honourable Speaker, our theme for this year's Freedom Day Celebration is: "United in resilience for the defence of our freedom and democracy." I want to make three arguments in relation to this year's Freedom Day theme. The first argument is that our history serves as proof that unity is resilience and can defeat any oppressive regime.

Madam Speaker, while the role of our liberation struggle leaders was essential to the realization and the success of our freedom, in a sense that our Freedom Fighters took bold actions in advancing the cause of the struggle by leading in the frontlines. They also played an important role in organizing the people and directing their efforts towards the goal of unseating a repressive apartheid regime.

The dawn of our democracy and freedom was also successful due to the unity of the people of South Africa. Despite the differences in social class, religion and political ideology. The people of South Africa were able to come together to fight against their common enemy, which was the apartheid regime. It is through unity in action of the South Africans, that the apartheid regime was overcome and unseated.

A new government based on the principles of Equality, Human Rights, Constitutional Supremacy, non-racialism and non-sexism, universal adult suffrage as well as the regular elections and multiparty democracy was established in 1994. Unity in resilience is what turned the impossible into the democratic reality we defend today: The Government of National Unity in action by different political parties in advancing and defending our democratic values.

The second argument I want to bring forth, Madam Speaker, is that democracy stands a chance of survival only when we stand together collectively to defend threats. South Africans should stand united and actively defend our democracy against threats, such as corruption, inequality and erosion of the law. It requires more than just voting, it demands vigilance, public participation, and a shared commitment to justice and accountability.

In defending our democracy against threats, South Africans must be informed through reliable news sources to avoid misinformation and propaganda. Amongst others, South Africans must exercise their right to choose a political party of their choice that must lead government through

voting. A culture of respect and dialogue must be built through consideration of the descending views.

Madam Speaker, the last argument I want to deposit in relation to the 2025 Freedom Day Celebration theme is that institutions alone cannot defend democracy, people must be resilient. The idea that "institutions alone cannot defend democracy" emphasizes a need for participatory democracy and societal resilience in safeguarding our democratic values. While strong institutions are essential for maintaining the rule of law and protecting the rights, they can be undermined if citizens become complacent or disengaged.

A demonstration that our democracy lives will be when people exercise their right to vote in elections or engage in peaceful picketing as regulated by Section 17 of our Constitution and the Regulation of Gatherings Act 205 of 1993. Madam Speaker, our theme for this year's Freedom Day Celebration is: "United in resilience for the defence of our freedom and democracy." We are once more reminded that we all have the task of nation building and reconciliation.

Therefore, we should never allow any force to take us back and reverse the gains of our freedom and democracy. As we celebrate this significant milestone, it is important for us to acknowledge that the path traversed from 1994 to date has been characterized by triumphs, progress and setbacks. This should serve as an indication that 30 years alone is not enough to erode the legacy of Apartheid and Colonialism that lasted for over 30 decades.

Madam Speaker, through the years we have worked tirelessly to ensure that the lives of our people become better. Let me pause to take a snap shot of some of the milestones which has been registered since 1994: In 2002, 85% of households in the North West Province had access to drinking water above national average of 84%. Through a concerted effort this improved to 87% in 2020.

Since 2002 to 2021 there was a consistent increase in the percentage of households that benefitted from the improved sanitation. This means that 19 years period there was an increase of 23% of households with access to improved sanitation in the North West Province. A percentage drop of 72% of households with access to improved sanitation was however experienced in 2022.

In 2022, Madam Speaker, the percentage of households connected to the main electricity supply in the province was 83.5% which is a 150% increase for the 20-year period. A total of 401 407 children accessed registered ECD centres from 2005 to date. The matric results improved from 70% in 1994 to 86.1% in 2023. The matric results have shown the highest peak at 87% in 2013.

Since the inception of the "no fee school policy," 88% of the total learner population benefitted against the national norm of 68% and all schools in quintile 1-3 benefitted from the no-fee policy. And from 2020 and 2021, a total of 725 196 learners benefitted and 733 705 in 2022. This implies there is a consistent improvement in access and literacy levels in our education facilities. For the period under review, Madam Speaker, in Bojanala District, 12 school infrastructures were completed, 9 in Ngaka Modiri Molema, 4 in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, and 3 in Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

Before 1994 there were only 43 libraries in North West: Bojanala had 8, Dr KK 18, Dr RSM 10 and Ngaka Modiri Molema, 7. After 1994, a total of 94 libraries were constructed, of which 21 were built during 2019 and 2024. This achievement demonstrates our commitment to inculcating a culture of reading and writing in the province and to address the structural barriers that could be ascribed to the legacy of the apartheid.

Government allocated a total of 872 bursaries to beneficiaries from 2016 to 2023. Madam Speaker, access to higher learning has increased drastically due to the provision of bursaries through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme. Government has created skills development platform for youth in an attempt to increase job opportunities over the years since 1994.

We have expanded access to Post School Education Training & Skill Development opportunities. And Madam Speaker, 1 967 farmers were trained on the Agricultural Skills Development Programme on an informal & formal training through Kgora Farmer Training Centre which is accredited programme and internal capacity.

In Potchefstroom and Taung Colleges of Agriculture together with the Kgora Farmer Training Centres, we assisted in capacity building and providing skills to existing farmers through the formal and informal training, 1 680 practitioners capacitated in the arts and culture sector, thousands of basic nursing students have graduated, and 472 medical students has also, Madam Speaker, graduated.

Prior to 1994, healthcare in the North West Province was fragmented. The people of the North West Province received hospital services in 37 hospitals in Bophuthatswana, the then Western Transvaal and the Cape of Good Hope Province. The greatest milestone in the new dispensation was the amalgamation of these fragmented health institutions into one unified healthcare system for the province.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable MEC, one-minute remaining.

HON. TLHAPI: The following programmes were introduced as interventions to fight against HIV&AIDS, namely the Voluntary Counselling and Treatment, the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and the ARV treatment. To continue improving the life expectancy, amongst the major interventions the province continued to provide HIV & AIDS treatment and the intensification of the non-communicable disease prevention and the management initiatives.

Due to these interventions, the HIV positivity declined from 2,1% to 1,8%. And HIV decreased also from 27% to 26.9%. In 2008, Madam Speaker, less than 50 000 clients were on ARV treatment. That improved to above 370 000 in 2023, a total of 14 803 caregivers providing services to children, ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time is up Honourable MEC.

HON. TLHAPI: Youth and ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time is up. Ten minutes.

HON. TLHAPI: My time is up? Ke sa ntse ke re ko lo gotlha jaana [I still wanted to tell you more].

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Bogatsu. You've got 10 minutes. It is 10:36, 10:46.

HON. BOGATSU: Thank you very much DS. DS let me firstly greet the mighty EFF led by Honourable Commissar Shakes Botswe. Ke kopa protection. Ke kopa protection [may I please be protected].

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are protected Honourable Member. You may proceed.

HON. BOGATSU: Thank you DS.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we have order Honourable Members!

HON. BOGATSU: Honourable DS, on the 27th April 1994, for the first time South Africans voted in a free and fair elections which opened a way to a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and

prosperous South Africa, based on the principles of equality, dignity and respect for Human Rights. The Economic Freedom Fighters identifies the milestone of overcoming political white monopoly rule and dominance.

Taking it slightly back to the 27th of April in 1994, it is a known fact that our country was gripped by emotional scenes of multitudes of the youth, the elderly, women and people with disabilities who braced the weather and travelled long distances from villages across the country to cast their votes in the first democratic elections ever in our country. In this past 30 years, fundamental rights of our people are not close to being met, yet the ANC-led government is reiterating partnerships and growth. Ha re itse di ko kae [we don't know where they are?]. Honourable DS, the dramatic change in government ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. MOEMA: Order Speaker!

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There's a point of order.

HON. MOEMA: You know this thing has been going on. I'm rising on Rule 53. It says that Members may not converse aloud during a debate and Honourable Oliphant is busy disturbing the Member on the podium because the Member is raising legitimate issues. Their MEC could not finish her own speech. Now they want to interrupt us so that we don't finish. Our people want to hear us! Our people want to hear us! No please Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can we have order! The order is sustained. Members may you please not converse aloud.

HON. BOGATSU: Thank you Honourable Moema for providing leadership. Thank you. The dramatic change in government resulted in the removal of a minority government designed to serve

a selective few members of our population, to a government based on the will of the people, and however, the EFF stands today as the only political party that bears the interests of the poor, the landless, the jobless and the historically marginalized communities of South Africa.

Honourable DS, the Government in power is not designed to cater the interests of the poor, landless and jobless masses of our people who need to be liberated economically. The EFF continues to mobilise for our people to obtain economic emancipation by creating jobs that will sustain their livelihoods instead of taking from the coffers. There is clearly no need to celebrate Freedom Day in the province until we witness the elderly being excluded ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can we please have order.

HON. BOGATSU: From paying electricity and water bills. Le tlo mpha metsotso ya ka [you will give me my minutes]. Majority of villages such as Mabaalstad, Phalane, Moubane ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Bogatsu! Honourable Bogatsu!

HON. BOTSWE: Honourable Speaker! Honourable Speaker!

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can we please have order. Please. What is the point of order Honourable Bogatsu? On which order are you rising on Honourable Botswe?

HON. BOTSWE: ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No please don't waste our time.

HON. BOGATSU: Re a leboga Rre Botswe [thank you Mr Botswe] for giving direction.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please proceed Honourable Bogatsu.

HON. BOGATSU: North West have no taps for clean running water in their yards especially those supplied by Municipalities. Shamefully, the destitute elders of Hammanskraal in Madibeng Local Municipality have to carry water over long distances from communal taps to their respective homes.

DS, let's take a look at the Municipal area of Moses Kotane when speaking on the issues of down-and-out roads. The road in Mahobiskraal has been having potholes for years while it remains the only road that leads to nearby Villages like Mabeskraal, Bapong and other villages nearby. DS, the Chief wa ko Pitsedisulejang le ene a ka attesta gore tsela ya kwa Pitsedisulejang ga e tsamaege especially ge pula e nele. Dikgang di rile di a reporta, ga go na sepe se se etsagalang [The Chief of Pitsedisulejang can attest that their road is very bad and during the rainy season it becomes worse. The media has reported this but still nothing is being done]. So, we've been hearing that news over and over again and there's no change.

It is without a doubt Honourable Speaker that the North West Province is in a permanent state of decay and deterioration. Our people continue to be subjects of inequality within the province and objects of poor service delivery which infringes their right to human dignity and their right to social equality.

The EFF after doing inventory check discovered that the Municipal budget of Kgetleng Local Municipality does not have any room to hire qualified workers who remain unemployed to date. This is when they should be hitting the ground running to source partnership and growth for our people to be hired.

DS, there is only one old age home for the elderly in Kgetleng Local Municipality which is unfavourably situated in town to serve the white elites. The whole Kgetleng area remain without a single centre to accommodate black elders that need to be cared for. It is horrifying that in this lifetime of 30 years into democracy our people are subjected to long queues just to obtain mere tank water for basic usage. The freedom that the ANC-led government is celebrating and the freedom desired by our people of North West is not in sync.

DS, there can never be any other freedom except for the freedom of land and jobs where all major economic activities such as agriculture and mining are nationalized especially in the Bojanala District. It is in this regard that the Economic Freedom Fighters rejects the celebration of the Freedom Day on the account of the poor quality of life and lack of service delivery that our people are subjected to.

As I conclude DS, I want to remind this House that part of the roles and responsibilities of Members of this House is to play oversight over the Executive and government departments. Now we want to condemn and strongly condemn the act of the MEC that wanted to intimidate the Member of this House when conducting oversight in a certain school.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can we please have order!

HON. BOGATSU: I'm still on Freedom Day. So, you cannot take away the freedom of this Honourable Members to go and conduct oversight. So, I'm condemning you Honourable MEC that you must not deny this particular Member his right to conduct oversight. This includes even in schools, we are going to do it and do it diligently. So Honourable Dabampe, you are free to go to any school and conduct oversight. Do not be intimidated by anyone. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Bogatsu. Honourable Sonakile, you've got eight minutes. It's 10:45. At 10:53, your eight minutes will be ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. SONAKILE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, there's a silence that lives in every township of this province. It's the silence of empty taps. It's the silence of hospitals without medication, the silence of stomachs that have not known food in days. It's the silence of promises broken, hopes betrayed and freedom deferred.

Today as we commemorate Freedom Day, we must ask ourselves a dangerous question, the kind that makes the powerful uncomfortable: "Is this the freedom our parents fought for?" because 31 years ago, millions stood in queues, barefoot, exhausted, some weeping to cast a vote that was meant to set them free. But what happens when the very system meant to liberate you becomes the same system that oppresses you, just wearing a different colour of t-shirt?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, today we stand on the shoulders of giants. Thirty-one years ago, South Africa buried the apartheid regime and gave birth to a new democratic country; a democracy where all South Africans were promised dignity, equality and the right to a better life. On the eve of 23 April 1994, the old flag, a symbol of repression, oppression, and brutality was lowered for the final time. And just past midnight, the flag of a democratic South Africa was raised. The promise was clear: "Never, never and never again," as Nelson Mandela said, "shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another."

But today, I must ask this: Is South Africa truly free or is freedom only written in ink, not reality? This year's theme is an important one: United in resilience for the defence of our freedom and democracy. Because what good, Deputy Speaker, is a vote every five years if our people remain voiceless between elections? What good is a constitution when it is ignored by those meant to uphold it? What good is freedom when, in this very province, the North West, our people are still

imprisoned by poverty, corruption, unemployment, and gangster governance? Let's tell the truth, this ANC government has betrayed the promise of 1994.

How free are we when in Ditsobotla, the municipality collapsed under political chaos and residents have been reduced to spectators in their own community with no water and no hope? In Mahikeng, our once-proud capital is a ghost town. Buildings are crumbling, roads disintegrating and raw sewage is flowing past roads.

In Ramotshere, young people are sitting at home, 62% of youth in the North West are unemployed, abandoned by a government that is more interested in cadre deployment than job creation? I thought this is where you will make jobs because I'm stating the facts that you cannot ignore. How free are we ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Oliphant, can we please have order! You may proceed.

HON. SONAKILE: Okay. How free are we when pensioners in Logageng still walk kilometres to fetch dirty water with wheelbarrows, while millions are looted through tender fraud? How free are we when communities like Jouberton are flooded year in and year out because the ANC government would rather blame the rain than build proper infrastructure?

How free are we, really, when in Boitekong children are raped in the very communities that are meant to protect them? What GNU do you have in the province? Members must start being real to the realities. What GNU? How free are we when children in Boitekong are raped in the very communities meant to protect them? When women can't walk down the street or wear a mini skirt without being harassed, catcalled, or humiliated? When taxi ranks and schools, places that should be safe have become hunting grounds for predators?

This is not the freedom we were promised. A truly free society protects its most vulnerable. Until our daughters can walk without fear and our children can grow without trauma, we cannot claim to be truly free. How free are we when residents of Makhubung in Mmabatho have been without electricity connection for more than eight years and the municipality pleads no funds as an excuse for this abuse? This is not freedom. This is betrayal.

The vision of a democratic South Africa, President Ramaphosa once admitted, has been blurred, not by fate, not by bad luck, but by State Capture, ANC corruption and a government that has failed its people. The DA is saying enough is enough. We will not celebrate empty freedom. We will fight for real freedom. Freedom backed by delivery, dignity, and a government that works.

I guess this speech is really hitting hard now that I'm being sabotaged by sounds that I don't know where they come from. Members can make all the noise in the world but where the DA governs, we govern clean, we govern efficiently and we govern with heart. In the Western Cape, 83% of people have access to dignified sanitation. In Cape Town, refuse is collected, roads are maintained and law enforcement works. Here in the North West, wait for it, wait for it, wait for it.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order Honourable Members!

HON. SONAKILE: Here in the North West, no municipality is functioning optimally. The DA's Freedom Charter for the North West is clear:

- Clean governance, no cadre corruption, we will fight for forensic audits, prosecutions, and lifestyle audits of all senior officials.
- Jobs and dignity: by cutting red tape, supporting small businesses, and getting local economies growing.
- Basic services: water, sanitation, housing, electricity. Not as a favour, but as a right.

You know Honourable Oliphant, when you drove here this morning, you passed a sinkhole where you live and then you come here and you want to make noise and want to grandstand. You must face the truth. You must face the truth and start speaking for the people who voted for you and stop coming to the House and acting as if all is well.

Let us not forget the struggle heroes who gave their lives for freedom. But let us honour them not by words, but with action. Let us rebuild the dream that was betrayed. The Freedom Day, we recommit ourselves to the real freedom. Freedom you can feel and freedom you can live. The DA is ready. We will rescue North West ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can you please have order!

HON. SONAKILE: We will rebuild South Africa. And we will finish the work that 1994 began. Let freedom reign not just in speeches, but in every street, every school, every home, and every heart. Ke a leboga [Thank you].

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, Honourable Botswe! Honourable Botswe, can you please have order! Honourable Members, I would want to request you to help us to run the House properly and stop howling at each other. I would now like to call on Honourable; you see it's very nice you rise on Rule 53 when it suits you but the same person who rose on the same rule; no, no, wait. I will now want to call on Honourable Williams. You've got eight minutes. It's 10:53, at 11:01, you're done.

HON. WILLIAMS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, good morning. May I please ask for your protection. I'm told I'm not dressed properly. Maybe there is a particular way of dressing. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to agree with Honourable Sonakile that it is true it becomes very useless and a futile exercise for South Africans to be told of a pie in the sky that was removed by the same South Africans 30 or so years ago.

It is true to be sold something that the same people that are selling you had the opportunity to change the status quo but did something that made society to abhor them. It is funny that the same chameleon today is selling people something that doesn't exist in the pretext of we will provide a better solution to what you have now. I'm not saying we are perfect as the ANC. I'm just saying we are the best they have now because those that are being made to wear the t-shirts, the development ends at t-shirts only, by the way blue t-shirts. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I'll await your protection.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can you please have order!

HON. WILLIAMS: Can I continue Honourable Deputy Speaker?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed. You are protected Honourable Williams.

HON. WILLIAMS: Yes, I'm trying to protect my minutes that are being stolen by; you see... Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Speaker Dr Mohono, Honourable Premier in absentia Honourable Mokgosi, Honourable Members of the Executive Council and the Provincial Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

As we gather here today on this important day, we remember the powerful words of our beloved former President, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who said: "To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." Today, Freedom Day reminds us not only of our past, but of our duty to protect and deepen the democracy that so many fought for.

We remember those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom like Vuyisile Mini, Solomon Mahlangu, Ruth First, Steve Biko, Ahmed Timol, The Cradock Four, Matthew Goniwe, Ford Calata, Sparrow Mkhonto, and Sicelo Mhlauli. We honour the victims of Sharpeville, Langa, Boipatong and Winterveldt massacres and all those who stood fearlessly in the face of oppression. It is through their courage, their sacrifice, that today we stand free in a constitutional democracy.

Since 1994, South Africa has come a long way. The ANC-led government has delivered over five million houses, providing shelter to 20 million citizens, provided water to over 88% of rural households and sanitation to more than 80%, brought electricity to 94% of our homes, supported 28 million people through social grants especially the vulnerable, enabled eight million children to attend no-fee schools and expanded tertiary education support, upgrading over 1 600 health facilities, including 700 clinics and 18 hospitals.

We are also laying a foundation for Universal Health Coverage through the NHI. These are not just numbers. They are lives changed, they are communities uplifted and dreams made possible but Honourable Members, freedom must also mean freedom from violence especially violence against women and children.

Government must continue to act: Strengthening laws, supporting survivors through Thuthuzela Care Centres, improving conviction rates for gender-based violence, and working to establish the National Register for Sex Offenders because that is very important while protecting the rights of those that are affected. We say: Enough is enough. No child, no woman, no person with a disability should suffer in silence.

Our Constitution remains our foundation, a document that enshrines human rights, equality, and justice. Through the separation of powers, independent institutions and checks and balances, we have built a democratic system rooted in accountability and dignity. South Africa is also a proud signatory of the global human rights treaties and our Constitution meets and exceeds their requirements.

Yet we know there can be no true freedom while poverty, inequality and unemployment continue to hold back millions. As we move towards the 31 years of democracy, we need to recommit ourselves to active citizenship, better service delivery, and inclusive economic growth. That's why programmes like Labour Activation Programme, targeting 24 000 youth jobs in our province are so critical.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as we celebrate this Freedom Day, let us honour the legacy of our heroes not just with words but with action. Let us deepen a culture of social justice and human rights. Let us build communities of dignity, compassion, and accountability. Let us ensure that the freedom we inherited, becomes the freedom our children can and will thrive in. Let us never forget: Never again shall humanity be taken from any South African. I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Williams. Honourable Groenewald, you've got three minutes. It's 11:01, 11:04 you done.

HON. GROENEWALD: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Today as we mark Freedom Day, it is time to speak honestly about the state of our country. Freedom Day was meant to celebrate our transition to democracy, an era that promised equal rights, respect and dignity for all. However, nearly 30 years later, we face a sobering reality. Our freedom remains incomplete, grave injustices continue yet government after government fails to address them.

The Freedom Front Plus firmly upholds the ideals of democracy. We support a South Africa where each citizen can live without fear. Fear of losing property through ill-conceived land grabs, fear of violent crime in our streets and farms, and fear of being excluded from opportunities because of race-based policies. These issues aren't tribal footnotes; they erode the freedoms we supposedly gained in 1994.

Affirmative action and specific versions of black economic empowerment may have been designed to correct historical imbalances but they have instead created new injustices. Genuine redress should not come at the expense of limiting the rights of other groups. If we genuinely believe in equality before the law, we cannot tolerate the policies that discriminate against any South African regardless of their background.

We must reject government's overreach that stifles growth, undermines merit and drives our brightest minds and skills out of the country. True freedom also requires unwavering respect for cultural and linguistic rights. Instead many of our minority communities, Afrikaners included, feel ignored as if our identity and language are somehow less valid. Self-determination is not a radical idea but an international principle enshrined in human rights charters worldwide.

We demand a government that acknowledges the right of all cultural groups and foster a social fabric where diversity is celebrated not suppressed but it is not just about minority rights but about fairness and justice for every South African. The failure to curb rampant corruption and crime has robbed many of the chance to enjoy a fear-free life.

Failing infrastructure, from rolling blackouts to crumbling roads erodes business confidence and hampers development. How can we meaningfully talk about freedom when people are denied the basic service that uphold human dignity and enable opportunity. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. I bring you greetings from the uMkhonto weSizwe Party the national high command and from the President, General of uMkhonto weSizwe President-General Jacob Zuma. Deputy Speaker, the 27th of April 1994 is a

day when South Africa attained political freedom, but not economic freedom, it is not yet Uhuru! And that is an undisputable fact that nobody can stand before it.

The uMkhonto weSizwe Party pays tribute to Oliver Reginald Tambo and to all South Africans, all ordinary men and women of our country who contributed in various ways to the attainment of political freedom and helped move this particular country forward towards a free and democratic South Africa. We shall never forget, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the solidarity, the sacrifices and selfless support that we have received from our brothers and sisters in Africa in particular and from freedom loving nations outside of Africa including within South Africa the likes of Solomon Mahlangu.

When he died and he said: “My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom but we should not forget that we did not attain this particular political freedom whilst we are lacking behind in as far as economic freedom is concerned. And he further said: ‘Tell my people that I love them and they must continue to fight.’ And with that, we will continue to fight.

Deputy Speaker, Freedom Day did not come as a result of the goodwill of the leaders of the Apartheid regime. It was a product of resistance by the leaders of the great nations of Africans such as Shaka Zulu, Sekhukhune, Hintsa and Moshoeshe and many more of our traditional leaders and many communities in rural areas and townships. It was a product of the blood of the martyrs like Solomon Mahlangu, Steve Biko, Onkgopotse Tiro and many unsung heroes and heroines, students of that particular times.

And Deputy Speaker, Freedom Day should be remembered as the first step towards the liberation of our people. We must deliberate on victories while also reflecting on its particular shortcomings. When we are talking about the freedom, we are simply referring, Honourable Speaker, to the North-West Province which is very much rich in mines and vast agricultural land but our Province is rated the highest in terms of unemployment at 52.8% as half of the population is not working.

In this particular regard, half of the population of the North-West Province which is unemployed cannot celebrate Freedom Day without jobs, on hunger stomachs. Raw materials are being transported from North-West to outside the Province thus weakening prospects of manufacturing and job creation. South Africa is still under ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

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

HON. TSHOLO: Neo colonial rule and the black majority are still excluded ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

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

HON. TSHOLO: Up?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, three minutes.

HON. TSHOLO: No, go na le minute. Ke rekotile mos nna. [I still have a minute, I recorded.]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up. It's 11:07.

HON. TSHOLO: Ke na le minute e e setseng. Ke e fa. [There is one-minute left. It is here.]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you sit down Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Ke kopa o se ka wa tlhola o nkutswetsa nako. Ke rekotile nako. [Please stop stealing my minutes because I recorded my minutes.]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am using the timer here in front of me. So, it's 11:07, your time is up. I'm advised that Honourable Mangope is not in the House. I would now like to call Honourable Matshe. It's 11:08. You've got 10 minutes, 11:18 you are done.

HON. MATSHE: Ke a leboga Motlatsammusakgotla. Motlotlegi Mmuskgotla Dr Mohono, Maloko a khuduthamaga, Batlotlegi ba Ntlo e. Motlotlegi Motlatsammusakgotla, gompieko re a kgefutsa re le setšhaba re leba tsela e re e tsamaileng, loeto lo re lo agileng go fitlhelela Aforikaborwa o o kगतलhanong le bo-emperiale, bokoloniale joo jwa apartheid le go golola naga ya rona kगतलhanong le kgatelelo. Loeto loo lo simolotswe ke borraarona dingwaga di le dintsi tse di fetileng mme re ne ra fitlha mo goreng ka April 27 1994 re fitlhe mo setlhoeng sa kgaratlho ya rona.

English Translation Follows:

[Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Honourable Speaker Dr Mohono, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Legislature. Honourable Deputy Speaker, our people are not happy when they look back where we are coming from. Considering the journey of the struggle we have travelled to become an antiimperialist and anticolonialism South Africa, free from apartheid and oppression. This journey of the struggle was started by our forefathers many many years ago until we overcame in April 27th 1994 and met our freedom.]

Thirty-one years ago, millions of our people voted for the first time in the land of their birth. Together as equal citizens they elected a government of their choice. As we look back, we can say

without fear of contradictions that indeed South Africa today is much better than it was before the 27th of April 1994.

This year's Freedom Day and indeed the theme chosen for our debates of today, namely, "United in Resilience for defence of our Freedom and Democracy," is even more relevant as it coincides with the people's celebration of 70 years of the Freedom Charter. The Freedom Charter provides a vision for a free South Africa. It laid the foundation for the struggle for inclusivity, equality and a better life for all.

The theme of this year's debate reaffirms our commitment to opposition to the systematic divisions of the past and any forms of exclusion including, Honourable Sonakile, neo-liberalism which explains what our people are currently experiencing, okay. It reignites our pledge and solemn undertaking made when we received the people's mandate in 1994 to work tirelessly to build a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society.

Allow me, Deputy Speaker, to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the many selfless heroes and heroines as well as millions of ordinary South Africans who, day in and day out, resisted the oppression and fought tirelessly for freedom and democracy. Some of them unfortunately had to lay down their lives for freedom. We dip our revolutionary banner in their honour amongst others William Oliphant, Boikie Maghesty Tlhapi, Lemmy Lechuti, Daniel Mmane, Mary Gaolaolwe, Kgosi Diseko, Johannes Simelane, Bushy Molefe, Daniel Letsie, Nkefi Kokong and many others.

We are truly grateful for their sacrifices and contribution to the struggle they've made. It is through their tireless efforts that we convene today to celebrate our freedom and narrate the profound story of our nation's progressive agenda. Since the dawn of democracy, the ANC in Parliament has led the passing of numerous laws intended to promote and protect human rights, restoring human dignity and improving the quality of life for all South Africans.

The great son of Africa, the Father of our Nation, Nelson Mandela, has this to say, and I quote: “We shall build a society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity, a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world.”

Now having quoted what Nelson Mandela said, it’s unthinkable that today you still have Members who want to argue for what they call minority rights. Can we assure Honourable Members that everybody’s right is protected in the Constitution of our country and there cannot be a special dispensation for a particular group. We are all equal in terms of the Constitution and we must all benefit from what the Constitution provides for.

Despite the persistent challenges we experience as a country, the ANC has always called for unity in diversity through the building of a national democratic society. We can proudly state that few societies that went through imperialism and colonialism can claim to have experienced the depth and breadth of policy, legal and institutional transformation compared to us.

Since 1994, the ANC has worked to ensure access to education for all. And the introduction of BELA Act amongst others enhances the focus on Early Childhood Development by making Grade R compulsory for all children by the time they turn five. So those that are opposing it are actually opposing the development of our people. Over the last 30 years, we’ve also increased access to basic education as well as higher education through the NSFAS and the FUNZA Lushaka bursaries.

A lot still needs to be done to advance and defend freedom and democracy in such a manner that we undermine the template of exclusion crafted by the architects of Apartheid like Hendrik Verwoerd. We’ve registered significant progress since 1994 in building a united and inclusive society. As we conclude, Honourable Speaker, corruption is the anti-thesis of development and indeed an enemy of the people. It denies them their hard-won rights enshrined in our Constitution.

And the criminals that are involved in this corruption, the criminal networks they rob the poor and, in some instances, they masquerade as revolutionaries.

The unfortunate state capture years have made us to realise that freedom and democracy can easily be undermined and somehow be reversed. And it is quite indeed painful to listen to some of the Members in this House arguing not to celebrate freedom. These Members it's clear that they don't have a full appreciation of what our people went through before April 1994. They don't have a full appreciation of what it means to be arrested without trial. They don't have a full appreciation of the disappearance of ordinary South Africans at the hands of the apartheid system. They don't have an appreciation of what it meant when Johannes Simelane was on a hunger strike at Thusong Hospital.

I want to ask where were they when all these people were involved in the struggle for national liberation that we are today celebrating. It means they don't have a full appreciation of where we come from but equally their vision is blurred. They don't know where we are going. And we want to invite you Honourable Members on a lecture that can clarify you ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. BOGATSU: Two minutes remaining.

HON. MATSHE: Apartheid colonialism but the importance also to note that imperialism has not gone ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. BOGATSU: Two minutes remaining.

HON. MATSHE: It's with us. Some of these things that you are raising related to service delivery, they are as a result of a new liberal agenda that has arrived in our municipalities denying our people access to basic services. So Honourable Members, as we celebrate, let's appreciate where we come

from but let's not allow our vision to be blurred. Join us as we celebrate the 70 years of that vision called the Freedom Charter. I thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Matshe. Honourable Tlhapi.

HON. SONAKILE: Are you free or are you dom?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sonakile, can we have order! Honourable Tlhapi, you've got five minutes, 11:18.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker, ke [is it] three minutes Honourable? Thank you very much. Deputy Speaker, ke nagana gore [I think] Honourable Members on the left, it's either ga ba tlhaloganye [they do not understand] the theme or ga ba nkutlwa ga ke simolola ke bua mo pele ga Ntlo ya gago gore the theme ya re [or they did not hear me when I started leading the debate before the House explaining that the theme says] United in Resilience, Honourable Botswe, For the Defence of our Freedom and Democracy.

Deputy Speaker, we acknowledge the pockets of the challenges which are experienced by government specifically at the local government, Honourable Sonakile. And the African National Congress is steadfast in implementing interventions to turn the situation around and hence the DDM introduction e e leng gore rotlhe re a itse gore [which we all know that] from national up until the local level, re a tlhakana re fa batho ba rona diservices [we work together for service delivery to our people].

So ga ke itse gore maloko a gago Honourable Deputy Speaker, ga nke ba bona re thuntsha lerole re semeletse re fa batho ba rona diservices. Ga ba batle le go bolelela batho ba rona gore ga re thuntsa lerole go na le mo re fokotsang mo teng ... [INTERRUPTION] ... [So, Honourable Deputy

Speaker, I wonder if the Members ever see us working hard at the *thuntsa lerole* programme to deliver services to our people. They do not even want to tell the community that when we do *thuntsa lerole* programme we tend to reduce ... [INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl, Honourable Steyl, can you please have order!

HON. TLHAPI: Batho ba rona ba kereya diservices [our residents receive services]. Deputy Speaker, I have just flagged a short synopsis of the key milestones since the dawn of democracy. And ha e le gore re tla nna mo ra tlhalosa re a itse gore African National Congress e dirile go le gontsi, ke ka moo ke sa kgonang gore re le bolelele. Honourable Matshe o lo boletse le gore go diragetse eng le ka; le a itse gore ka health, Honourable Steyl, e ne e le lona batho ba e leng gore lo botlhokwa mo pele ga Modimo. [If you want us to stay here and explain more, we all know that the African National Congress has done a lot of good work and that is why I could not finish telling you about all that. However, Honourable Matshe told you what happened in the past, especially in the health sector where, Honourable Steyl, your people were considered first priority and more important than anyone else.] So, ne ke re [what I am saying is] Deputy Speaker, our people has continued to attest to the fact that their lives are better than they were before.

HON. MOEMA: Speaker!

HON. TLHAPI: Ene ba re bontshitse, ene santse ba tlo re bontsha le mo local election tse di tlang [they have shown us and they will continue to show us in the upcoming local elections].

HON. MOEMA: Honourable Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Tlhapi.

HON. MOEMA: Is Honourable Tlhapi prepared to take a question?

HON. TLHAPI: Ha re tswa fa, ke tla go isa luncheng. Ke tla go isa luncheng. [when we leave here, I will take you to lunch.]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down Honourable. The Honourable Member is not prepared to take a question.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the improvements and the achievements we have made thus far are commendable and Honourable Members ba tshwanetse ba bue nnete ba tlogele go tshamekela mo pele ga Ntlo ya gago. Re batla gape le go acknowledge and re nne vigilant [Members must tell the truth. They should stop grandstanding in your House. We want to acknowledge and be vigilant] that the legacy we strive to change did not happen overnight but comes from the decades of the systematic and the deliberate exploitation. That's why sa ntse re le fa [we are still here] Honourable Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker, the other important part we need to be vigilant about is that our nation is part of the global world and therefore our economy is prone to the changes taking place throughout the world. The availability of resources to fund our priorities is an evolving challenge. This continues to retard our progress, slow our speed to accelerate service delivery and in worse cases reverses the gains which we have been made. The burden of underdevelopment and poverty continues to raise its ugly head.

Deputy Speaker, we assure our people that we are a government that listens. We have heard you. The mandate you have given us and continue to give us to lead the government will be honourably discharged. Our message to you is that we should never despair in the face of the challenges because they are never meant to persist forever. Honourable Deputy Speaker, ne ke re ke gopotse

gape le Honourable Members gore [I want to remind the Honourable Members that] we are not free until the Palestines are free. Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Tlhapi. Thank you, Honourable Members. Secretary you may read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 7 DEBATE ON WORKER'S DAY

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, Worker's Day is celebrated on the 1st May every year to commemorate the role played by trade unions and other parties to achieve equal employment standards for everyone. I will now call on Honourable Mokuua to lead the debate. You've got 10 minutes Honourable Mokuua. It's 10:23, 10:33, you are done.

HON. MOKUA: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. And let me pass our greetings to Dr Mohono our Speaker, Premier in absentia, Members of the Legislature and the members of the community at large. Can we start first with addressing the question why are we celebrating the International Worker's Day that is today called the May Day?

We are celebrating it because for a very long time, workers were oppressed, suppressed and because they were expected to work long hours and the basic conditions of employment were leaving much to be desired and their living wage was a mockery. I'll come back to DEDECT. A country that does not protect its workers is like a car owner who neglects the most important part of their vehicle, the engine. Workers, we must all agree, Honourable Members, are the steam engine and the backbone of the economy of every country. They are the creators of the economy and therefore they need to be taken good care of.

Today, I stand before you just as a public servant, but as a daughter of the working class, a voice from the struggle, sharpened by the fires of injustice, and committed without compromise, to the liberation of our people from the chains of economic oppression. We gather under a powerful theme 2025: “Build a Working-Class Unity for Economic Liberation Towards Socialism.” These are not just words, they are a mission, a call for commitment, a call for action.

May Day started off as an International Workers' Day as I've alluded before, following the Haymarket Affair which was a violent confrontation between police and labour protesters in Chicago in the May of 1886. The focus at that time was on the conducive working conditions, fair wages and humane working hours. In the past workers also had to contend with the struggles of exploitation, discrimination as well as contract employment that denied them sustainable livelihoods. A lot of strides have been made to protect the rights of the workers since 1994 when the mighty African National Congress took over government. They are now free to associate with any organisation of their own choice as enshrined in the Constitution of the country without being victimised or harassed.

There are victories that are recorded. Victories are: The Labour Relations Act is now enacted with the aim of advancing economic development and social justice, labour peace and democratisation of the workplace. Fulfilling the primary objects of this Act, which is to give effect to and regulate the fundamental rights conferred by the Constitution, Section 27 of the South African Constitution, is one of the greatest milestones our democratic government has achieved. This Act further prohibits unfair labour practices such as discrimination, victimisation, and the unfair labour practice and treatment of employees and also provide protection against unfair dismissals.

These are the things that in the past could not be done at the drop of the hat against the workers. Some of the victories of workers also include May Day which is now being a paid holiday, the implementation of the national minimum wage, the workers' right to collective bargaining as well as the legislation such as the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Labour Relations Act as alluded to, to protect the workers in the workplace.

Now for us to talk about these victories, I think it is important that we reflect on the struggles that workers have gone through and they are continuing to emancipate themselves. We must concede that more still needs to be done to protect workers. Whenever the economy starts to haemorrhage and markets start to become unstable, the workers become the first casualties through job losses. It cannot be that the people who put their shoulders to the wheel and grunt to make the economy grow are the first to be laid off while the captains of the industries continue to enjoy and come out barely unscathed and the separation of families that continue to be endured by workers.

As if that is not enough, in December 2019, a stranger landed on the shores of the country called COVID-19. The outbreak of COVID-19 highlighted the impact of worker wellbeing and mental health thereby expanding the occupational health and safety framework which previously focused mainly on the disease and injury risk to also focus on the positive impacts that work can have on worker's ability to thrive in life.

To maintain the health and wellbeing of workers, government legislation mandating safer working environment, e.g., improving ventilation and reducing crowding, managing physical and psychological risks, and other infection control measures as well as supportive leave policies, are an important step towards uniform protection across industries and jobs. It has also changed the nature of work by the introduction of the 4IR which also we had to change how we operate and we do work whereby the meetings were no longer physical but they were through the Zoom and the Teams and other platforms and also those that did not have the 4IR to do their work could not continue to do work hence they were laid off.

These mandates need to ensure that workers with high risk of exposure to workplace hazards, workers in non-standard arrangements are protected and should aim to eliminate the health disparities. There was a reprioritisation of the budget through the COVID-19. Reprioritisation means that all those that are white collar and are occupying the high ranks could be paid more and

those that are downtrodden are continuing further to be marginalised by the employer after COVID-19.

The lockdown made matters worse because there was no movement. Those that could thrive on making sure that day to day they go down the street to see how best they can feed their families they were now locked down and closed in. The massive retrenchments also that has happened during this particular time is something that cannot be forgotten. It is our duty as parliamentarians to ensure that workers are protected. We must be proactive and robust in our oversight role of ensuring that workers' rights are not trampled on in any sector of the economy. We must also find innovative ways of ensuring that the Fourth Industrial Revolution does not result in major job losses. We need to ensure a balancing act of embracing evolving technology while also guarding the livelihood of all workers.

In other words, the introduction of the 4IR should not continue to widen the gap between the haves and the have nots. So, after having said that, we had to answer this question: What is then to be done? One may ask. I say we can create a robust legal framework that protect workers' rights. We can promote access to equality jobs and we can foster a culture of decent work. Furthermore, we have the responsibility to enforce labour laws while ensuring that skills training is provided to workers and also continue vigorously to fight the scourge of the gender-based violence. We dare not fail or we dare not roll back on the gains of the workers. In this I also am thinking of the sex workers and the farm workers that are continuing to move around compromised and not fully protected. I think with that Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank you. Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Honourable Botswe, you've got 10 minutes, 10:33, 10:43, I stop you.

HON. BOTSWE: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Leaders of the Economic Freedom Fighters in the North West Province, Members of the Executive Committee, baagi ba Bokonebophirima [the community of the North West], Worker's Day, as commemorated on the 1st

of May every year, signifies a vigorous fight put up by workers and trade unions for workers' rights and social injustice in South Africa.

Internationally, it is recognised as Labour Day or May Day and speaks to the same course, but refers to the different struggles' workers overcame in different parts of the world. In South Africa, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) called for one of the biggest stay- away to demand recognition of the May Day as a paid holiday in 1986. The stay-away was widely supported by various organisations, workers, students and community members, and is still regarded as one of the biggest stay-away in South African history.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, this year Workers Day befalls us at one of our most bitter seasons as a nation and as a province. To rub the salt in our wounds, the selected theme of creating jobs and fighting poverty is one we have heard and engaged in many times before over the years without any fruits. It is also very calculating for a party who has been in government since the fall of Apartheid in 1994 to suddenly start speaking a language of working together when they single-handedly crafted the circumstances that now require urgent correcting. Where was working together when they deployed their friends to positions of power to grow their belly and not the economy?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we must never shy away from telling the truth, especially on the platforms of this nature where accountability is such a central part of what we do. The South Africa has had one of the highest unemployment and poverty rates in the world for the past 15 years. Overall trend on unemployment and poverty in 1994 shows us a persistent increase, with a light period of improvement in between, no significant or consistent improvement.

The only consistent that note is that it has been getting worse every year. The North West as a province is no better. The Quarterly Labour Force statistics shows that the North West has shared a similar trend as that of the country, but at such high pace. It also shows that we have been in the

top three (3) of the provinces with the highest unemployment rate since 2010, and recently the number one (1) spot in the country.

Naturally, the high unemployment rate has translated into high poverty rates both nationally and provincially. Approximately 55.5 of the population live below the poverty line. The 30.3 million people from the 63 million population, despite every President and Premier patting themselves on the back of their well that they have done in creating jobs, and how many thousands more they will be creating. All this until the next Labour Force stats are released and tell a story directly opposite to what the Head of Executive said and the stats lying. They can't be because our communities on the ground are in tears. The unemployed are crying from the hunger and despondency. The working class is crying because Ramaphosa's economy is pinching us on every level. To make matters worse, ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. OLIPHANT: Deputy Speaker!

HON. BOTSWE: The government is forcing another VAT hike on the country, making ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Botswe! Honourable Botswe!

HON. BOTSWE: Sure, that they are putting nail in the coffins of every hope South Africans may have had for a better future.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Botswe! Honourable Botswe, there's an order.

HON. OLIPHANT: Can Honourable Botswe take a question?

HON. BOTSWE: Ka lunch [During lunchtime] I will take a question, don't stress.

HON. OLIPHANT: Not now?

HON. BOTSWE: No. Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is time the truth is told. The ANC has no plan beyond liberating the people of South Africa from the Apartheid government. Even now, 31 years later, it still has no lucrative plan to govern the country, grow the economy and create employment, that is why you see the President who was at the forefront of killing workers in Marikana being deployed. Honourable Smuts, as we speak today, Jan Van Riebeeck, the rapist and the killer of our people, Hendrik Verwoerd, Eugene Terre'blanche, Pieter Botha, they are celebrating. They have won because of their boys and girls are in charge of the GNU.

We pleaded that the state-owned security and cleaning companies be established that will insource all security and cleaning personnel working at municipalities and government facilities instead of insourcing those services, we plead that the government ensure that no less than 80% of the goods and services procured by the state are locally produced and at least 50% of all minerals and resources are beneficiated locally. We plead that all food for local consumption be produced and processed locally on a large scale and that all products and goods that contribute to the state construction projects are produced locally.

These are all examples of investments the government can make to restore the dignity of our workers day and the labour force by creating sustainable jobs that will allow an increase in economic activities and decrease poverty. As the capitalist government are imposing massive attack on workers across the world, the class will be the order of the day. The trade war raised the ugly prospect of unemployment and the inflation. The worker's class will have to fight back to avoid destitution.

Trump's ideas are naturally to use his tariffs to force all factories to move to the United States. This is a distant dream. It was the very development of industry over the past few decades that forced the increase of the specialisation and the world division of labour in order to produce the advanced technology that is in use at the present time not even the vast US market is sufficient. The fact that the nation's states put a limit on the development on the productive forces has explained the time and again by the Marxist, by the Engels, by the Lenin and Trotsky.

Honourable Sambatha and Honourable Matshe, I'm asking myself what kind of socialist are you? Who are you representing because of; no, no, I'm not going to listen to the DA ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can you please have order! Honourable Sambatha!

HON. BOTSWE: Honourable MEC, I was just saying I'm asking myself are you a socialist or you are a mixed economy ... [INTERRUPTION] ... Can you protect me Honourable?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can we please have order! Honourable Botswe, may you proceed. Honourable Members, Honourable Members, can you please have order! Honourable Sambatha! Honourable Bogatsu! Can you please have order! You may proceed Honourable Botswe.

HON. BOTSWE: As we speak today, the socialists are directionless in the North West Province. This thing must stop Honourable Speaker. This thing of the Freedom Front Plus and the DA, ba tle mo [coming here] to come and impress the Afrikaners as if they are doing something better.

HON. MOEMA: Honourable Speaker! Speaker!

HON. BOTSWE: While they are sleeping in bed with the same ANC in the GNU. They must come ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Botswe! Honourable Botswe! Honourable Members ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. BOGATSU: Speaker call your House to order.

HON. BOTSWE: You are also in bed with them.

HON. BOGATSU: Speaker! Speaker!

HON. SONAKILE: Shut up Botswe.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members! Honourable Botswe, please can you just stop! Honourable Members, can you please have order!

HON. BOTSWE: Ene Botswe ke capitalist ya bofelo. [Botswe is the last capitalist]

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

HON. BOTSWE: Descendent of Jan Van Riebeck.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Botswe!

HON. MOEMA: Honourable Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Botswe, can you please have order. You are ... [INAUDIBLE] ... on your time. You want to speak Honourable Fanon?

HON. MOEMA: Yes, Honourable Speaker, you know the decorum of the House is collapsing in your hands. Rule 53 and Rule 54 read along, they are saying no Member may be interrupted. Rule 53 says that they must not converse aloud but people are having conversations here. You are not reprimanding them yourself. You don't have to call an order for you to do that. I think apply yourself effectively to this thing because it can't be. We want to hear what the Honourable Member is saying. The residents of the province are listening. So please Speaker. Can you protect the Honourable Member on the podium?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I'll come back to that. Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, in terms of Rule 74 I want to make a point of order. The double standards of EFF are really bothering us in this House because they are the ones who are doing the same when other speakers are on the platform. Why today now because it's Honourable Botswe who's on the platform we all have to bow. It is within our rights and rules in the rules that we can converse when a Member is there as long as we are not disturbing or drowning the speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can I make a ruling? No, no, you are not going to point fingers at me. Please! Honourable Members! Honourable Members, you see conversing and howling, they are two different things. Now Honourable Sonakile is right. In as much as we are supposed to be non-partisan as the Presiding Officers, when a Member of a different political party speaks, you are making noise. So, you must call yourself to order first. We are elders here.

HON. MOEMA: Order Speaker!

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you behave Honourable Members!

HON. MOEMA: Order on you Speaker. No order on you. I raised a point, if there's any Member who felt aggrieved, they should have raised on a point of order.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No can you sit down!

HON. MOEMA: Their silence means concern. They never raised that point of order. If we're interrupting anyone, they should have called us to order.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you sit down!

HON. MOEMA: We are calling these comrades to order. We're calling these Honourable Members to ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. OLIPHANT: He's out of order Deputy Speaker. He's completely out of order. The Deputy Speaker is making a ruling.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you sit!

HON. OLIPHANT: The Deputy Speaker is making a ruling. He can't be out of order.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you sit down!

HON. DANTJIE: Deputy Speaker!

HON. OLIPHANT: The Deputy Speaker cannot be out of order when he is making a ruling.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I'm not going to rule while you are still howling. I'm not going to rule when you are howling.

HON. OLIPHANT: The Deputy Speaker is making a ruling.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No! You may sit.

HON. DANTJIE: Deputy Speaker.

HON. BOTSWE: They know gore ba dirang [what they are doing].

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sit down! Honourable Dantjie.

HON. DANTJIE: Deputy Speaker, I think EFF is out of order because as the Presiding Officer and the Deputy Speaker elected by this House, we must respect you. When you say you are making a ruling, your ruling is binding in terms of the Rules. Whoever is not happy with your ruling, must write to the Rules Committee. So that is disrespect what they are doing. So thina we are waiting for your ruling Deputy Speaker. We'll abide by your ruling. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I know what is at play. We are not going to tolerate political gimmicks in the House. I have ruled and Honourable Botswe you are left with one minute to conclude your speech.

HON. BOTSWE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Let me take this opportunity and invite you. The EFF will be holding a rally on the 1st of May. The only political party e e nang le dikgatlhego tsa baagi le babereki ba rona mo [that has the interests of our residents and our workers at heart in the] North West Province, ko [at] Zinniaville in Rustenburg.

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

HON. BOTSWE: Honourable Oliphant you are also invited! And Honourable Sonakile ...
[INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SONAKILE: Ha ke ye koo [I am not going there]

HON. BOTSWE: It doesn't matter how you are a descendent of Jan Van Riebeeck, you are welcome there. Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your one minute is over Honourable Botswe.

HON. SONAKILE: Capacity ya Zinniaville ke bokae? [What is the capacity of Zinniaville?]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members order! Order Honourable Members! Honourable Tlhapi can you have order! Honourable Oliphant can you please have order! No! Honourable Sonakile, can you please have order! Order Members! Honourable Members, I will now call on Honourable Steenkamp to take the podium.

HON. SONAKILE: EFF ke dibully. Ene nna ha re ba tshabe. Ke dibully batho ba. [EFF are bullies but we are not scared of them. They are bullies]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can you please have order! Order Honourable Members! Order Honourable Tlhapi! Order Honourable Bogatsu! Honourable Sonakile! Secretariat where is the serjeant at arms? I think we are going to need their services today. No, no, you are not going to direct me. Honourable Members, can you please have order! What is the point of order? What is the point of order?

HON. BOTSWE: You can't just say what is a point of order. Mos jaanong o a ntshosetsa jaanong. [now you are threatening me.]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A re ye [let us hear] Honourable Botswe, what is the point of order?

HON. BOTSWE: Ao banna! [My goodness] We are all Members of this parliament. Honourable Speaker, nna I will never even be emotional. Honourable Speaker, whatever se se diragalang ha vandag, neh, [whatever is happening here today] whatever that is happening here today it is because of your office. It is because of your office. What they did last week Thursday, this is the results of it. Honourable Nathan is still drunk since from last week Thursday till now.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No but that is not a point of order. That is not a point of order Honourable Member. Please stop wasting my time. No, no, Honourable Members can we please have order! Please, on a very serious note. Honourable Steenkamp. It's 10:50, 10:59, you're done.

HON. STEENKAMP: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members and the people of North West and especially our workers. Today, as we debate Workers' Day, a day that should be about dignity, celebration and progress, I cannot help but feel the weight of sadness and anger on behalf of the people of this province. Because what are we celebrating?

In the North West, more people are unemployed than are working. Let that sink in. More people wake up every day with nothing to do, no income to earn, and no opportunity to grab onto than those who wake up with a job to go to. Stats SA confirms this. Our expanded unemployment rate stands at a devastating 51.5%. That means more than half the working-age population has no work and has given up trying to find it.

We are not just the most unemployed province in South Africa, we are the most unemployed region in the world. And yet, this government continues to spin empty promises and vague speeches while our people suffer. Speaker, we must be honest today. Workers' Day in the North West is not a celebration., it is a memorial for lost opportunity and it is a warning that if we do not change course, this province will sink even deeper into despair.

To the unemployed, the mothers, the fathers, the graduates, the young people filled with potential who are being denied the right to build a life, I see you. I hear your pain. You are not lazy. You are not undeserving. You are simply trapped in a system that has failed you. And to the employed, the teachers, the nurses, the factory workers, the public servants. You carry not only your families, but the entire economy on your back. I know how afraid many of you are, worried your job might be the next one to go. You are anxious. You are exhausted. And you are being let down.

We have seen this across departments in the province:

- NTI workers have not been paid for months.
- Employees of the North West Parks and Tourism Board receive their salaries late, living in fear and uncertainty.
- The Premier's State of the Province Address? Empty. No roadmap. No solutions.
- The Budget focuses more on temporary jobs, than real, long-term economic growth.

We are told that the focus is on inclusive growth, job creation, poverty reduction, and building a capable state but these goals are nowhere to be found in the recent APP's presented to committees. Especially not in the Department of Economic Development. Speaker, how can we build unity for economic liberation when this very government has destroyed the economy of the province?

Let's look at the facts:

- For 17 years, we've been trapped in low growth—around 1% GDP.
- Our national debt is spiralling, soon to exceed 76% of GDP.
- 28 million people rely on social grants, while just 7.5 million pay income tax.
- Of those, only about half a million South Africans carry the bulk of the tax burden.

We cannot tax our way out of this. Even SARS has warned that raising taxes further will not help. It will only make people withdraw from the system. What we need is growth. Real, bold, inclusive growth. But we are not seeing that here.

Now compare this to the Western Cape, where the Democratic Alliance governs:

- It has the lowest official unemployment rate of 19.6%.
- It has the lowest time-related underemployment.
- It created more jobs than any other province in Quarter 4 of 2024.
- It is attracting investment, maintaining infrastructure, and supporting small businesses.

The DA has shown that where we govern, we deliver. Not just in words, but in real results that changes lives. So, what is the way forward?

The DA believes in pro-growth reforms:

- Support small businesses and entrepreneurs instead of stifling them with red tape.
- Actively clamp down on corruption in the province.
- Triple your consequence management efforts within all departments of the North West.
- Fix the broken logistics and infrastructure.
- Save and spend tax payers' money better.
- Make education and skills development a main priority.
- Put a stop to the ever-growing gap between the budget plans and execution.
- Close the disconnect between policy and budget efforts ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can you please not disrupt. Honourable Sonakile, Honourable Oliphant, I'm really going to have no choice but to ask the serjeant at arms to remove Members who are disrupting from this House. I am warning you! I am warning you! Honourable Members, I am warning you for the last time. I will then have to ask the serjeant at arms to escort Members who are misbehaving out. You may proceed Honourable Steenkamp.

HON. STEENKAMP: Deputy Speaker, thank you. Another solution is to build a capable state that works for all the people of the North West and not just cadres and comrades. Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is not the time for ideology or the time for slogans. This is the time for action. For real economic liberation through growth, jobs, dignity and justice.

Go baagi ba Bokonebophirima, ke bua jaana [To the community of North West, I am saying this] I know you are tired. I know you feel forgotten. But you are not alone. There is hope. The DA will continue to fight. We will not rest until every worker in this province is paid on time, until every job is protected and until every unemployed citizen has a path to opportunity that they can use.

We believe in you. We believe in the power of this province to rise again. And we will never stop working to ensure that next year, when we stand in this House to mark Workers' Day, we can do so not with bowed heads and broken spirits but with pride and purpose, and proof that things can be better. Because they can. And with the right leadership, they will. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Steenkamp. Honourable Sebegoe, Honourable Magagane.

HON. MAGAGANE: Honourable Speaker Dr Desbo Mohono, Honourable Deputy Speaker Mokone Maine, Honourable Premier Kagiso Mokgosi in absentia, Honourable Chief Whip of the House Honourable Motlalepula Rosho, Honourable Members of the Executive Council, Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, former President Nelson Mandela in his address at the 1998 May rally, said: "The achievement of our rights as citizens and our rights as workers should indeed be celebrated together. Our history has made us inseparable." We remember the likes of Elijah Barayi, a mine worker who was elected President of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, Dora Tanama, the former late Premier of the North West Mme [Madam] Edna Molewa who is a former

shop steward of SACCAWU and many others who have left an indelible mark in the history of the workers' struggle.

Trade union struggles have been part of our fight for freedom and justice. Organised workers from various sectors played a vital role that brought apartheid to its knees. Together we have won the victory, the election of a democratic government led by the ANC. As we celebrate workers' rights, we will also remind our people of the critical role that trade unions, the Communist Party and other labour organisations played in the fight against unfair labour practices.

We have through our democracy and organised trade unions, opened access to workers, where they can now make vital inputs into the laws of the country. No longer do we have a government that sees farm workers or cleaners or security guards as not deserving of the same rights as others, where the use of child labour will not be tolerated. We reiterate the call made by the people's congress that child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

In May 2022 South Africa hosted the 5th Global Conference of elimination of Child Labour Conference to help construct a pathway, a free world from child labour. Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is disheartening that during the successful Vala Mgodhi in Khuma some of those who were apprehended were illegally foreign children that are zama-zama's. Some of these children have been repatriated to the countries of their origin facilitated by the Provincial Department of Social Development and Home Affairs but the problem here is that chances are that these same children will possibly not be reintegrated into society and they will go back into illegal forms of work.

Five of them are still remaining here in a place of safety in Mahikeng provided by the Department of Social Development as they could not be reunited with their families. They have already appeared before the children's court. And they are supposed to be repatriated last week but the

plans are that they will be repatriated tomorrow but there are still some uncertainties in the plans because of the Mozambican Embassy.

Also, the Mozambican Embassy alleges that 81 of those that are still in prison are children, but they have not provided documentary to prove this classification. The Department of Health is still conducting tests to conduct age estimation before they can choose which court they are supposed to appear for. Are they going to appear in the normal court or in the children's court? This also we should look at as part of the progressive laws enacted by the government of South Africa that a child shall not be allowed to work.

We also look at the National Skills Development Act, which makes all employers to pay something for training, that 1% that must be paid to the Department of Education, that supports recognition of workers' existing skills gained through experience. It gives unions a voice in training plans in workplaces and industries. As the world progresses into the 4th Industrial Revolution, reskilling of our labour is essential as it forces us to create pathways into the future of work.

The ANC has further consolidated health and safety laws, which gave workers many rights, including the right to form workplace committees to ensure health and safety, the right to compensation for job-related injuries and diseases, and the right to refuse doing dangerous work. Through these laws, we have witnessed domestic workers achievement, where they are now can actually be covered by the Compensation Fund. And it is important that we know that employers of domestic workers, all of us in this House, should actually register our domestic workers for the compensation fund and do an annual assessment based on their domestic workers' earnings.

Domestic workers have for far too long been deprived of the benefits of social insurance, right of social insurance and exclusion to other benefits also infringed domestic workers' right to dignity under Section 10 of the Constitution and we are pleased to say that now they can be registered and therefore they can be unchained. Although in this House there are some political parties who were

vehemently against this progressive inclusion of the most vulnerable workers. We have over the years built working class unity for economic liberation towards socialism and strengthen the offensive against crime and corruption in the workplace, including the criminal justice system and civil service.

The ILO Convention 190 and Recommendation 206, the first international labour standards to provide a common framework to prevent, remedy and eliminate violence and harassment in the world of work, including gender-based violence and harassment. Unfortunately, only 44 countries including South Africa from the 187-member states of the ILO have ratified this convention. As legislators, we need to push for more countries to ratify this because women like myself are protected through this convention in the workplace.

We have collectively restored dignity of our ex-mineworkers and registered massive progress by tracing ex-mineworkers who left work without claiming their benefits in the North West. Dibloukaart le makhuluskop ga di ise di claimelwe. Re tlhoka gore batho ba rona ba neng ba bereka mo dimaeneng ba kgone gore ba kereye dibenefits tseo. Le rona re tshwanetse re dire gore re kgone gore ba bonagale ba kgone go kereya dibenefits tsa bone. [They have not claimed for blue cards and makhuluskop. We have to find ex-mineworkers and make sure that they get their unclaimed benefits. We must also make sure that they are visible so that they can get their benefits]]

This intervention by the caring and passionate ANC government has provided ex-mineworkers and the beneficiaries with access to compensation benefits for occupational lung diseases and other social protection funds which were left unclaimed. Deputy Speaker, as I conclude allow me to borrow a few words from two of the most renowned German Philosophers Karl Max and Frederik Engels who concluded the Communist Manifesto on 21st February 1848, and said: “Workers of the World, Unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains!” I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Magagane. Honourable Botswe order! Honourable Members, before the next speaker, I want to bring the attention of the Members to

Rule 57, sub-section (a)(c) and (f). Members may read those rules at their time. Now Honourable Groenewald, you've got three minutes. It's 12:06 ... [INTERRUPTION] ... you're done.

HON. GROENEWALD: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Today as we observe Worker's Day, we must confront some uncomfortable truths. Our economy is fragile, our unemployment rate is unacceptably high. Millions of South Africans struggle daily to support their families and our government approach has done little to alleviate these crises. Instead of affecting reforms, we see layers of red tape, bloated bureaucracy, and race-based legislation that stifles competitiveness and merit.

The Freedom Front Plus respects this principle of historical redress but enough is enough. Policies such as affirmative action and specific versions of black economic empowerment go far beyond writing past wrongs. They create new barriers and fuel resentment. These policies enact a vicious cycle in which businesses are discouraged from hiring and expanding purely on merit. That doesn't serve anyone least of all workers who deserve a fair thriving job market.

Worker's Day is about more than speeches and ceremonies. It's about people, men and women across our country who labour with dignity to feed their children, keep the lights on and grow local businesses. Thousands of jobs have been lost over the years because of lack of service delivery and maintenance of our infrastructure.

The Freedom Front Plus says it is time to move beyond rhetoric. We need policies that encourage enterprise, reward productivity and create genuine opportunities for all South Africans regardless of their race or background. We must remove excessive regulations that choke small businesses and discourage foreign investment. We must address crime and corruption head-on, ensuring that every Rand of taxpayers' money is spent effectively, transparently and in a way that genuinely benefits our working citizens.

If workers' day is to have any real meaning, it must be renewed to our resolve to oppose ineffective, disruptive governance. There must be a cry for honest leadership that recognise the central role of merit, hard work and fair treatment in advancing our nation. It must be a stark reminder that no single group, be the majority or a minority deserve to be cast aside or scapegoated for political gain.

Let us commit ourselves to building a South Africa where sound economic policies empower workers, jobs come from innovation and investment and the dignity of every citizen is respected. Let us set a vision and a promise to stand firm for worker's rights, reject short-sighted and discriminatory measures and fight for a brighter, fairer future one in which every willing South African is free to earn a living, build a career and thrive in this land we call home. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Groenewald. Honourable Tsholo, you've got three minutes. It's 12:09:49, 12:12, you're done.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. while celebrating this particular day, we would like to greet all the workers under the theme: Building Working Class unity for economic liberation towards socialism.

Deputy Speaker, the uMkhonto weSizwe Party proudly stands in solidarity with workers across South Africa and the world. On the 1st May 1886 workers across the United States went on strike to demand an eight-hour workday. The protests culminated in a massive rally in Chicago's Haymarket Square on May 4th, where tensions escalated resulting in violence and fatalities.

In the aftermath of the Haymarket affair, several labour leaders were arrested and convicted, sparking international outrage and solidarity among workers around the world. Their courage and

sacrifices, Honourable Deputy Speaker, inspired the working people worldwide and their struggle became a lasting tradition celebrated as International Workers' Day.

uMkhonto weSizwe Party joins the workers to remember the struggles workers have fought, the victories they have achieved and their continued tireless efforts role in building a better society. We also join the workers, Deputy Speaker, to remember all those who have fallen in the course of struggle, the many courageous leaders, shop stewards and all those formations that aligned themselves with the working class.

With that particular note Honourable Speaker, we take note of the fact that there is a Theresa Mine, for instance, around North West where these particular mineworkers have been exploited by the employees, the capitalists, the imperialists, the colonialists, the ... [INAUDIBLE] ... in order to enrich themselves at the expense of the workers of this particular province. And one would ask herself, where are the rights of the workers in this particular instance? We will not even if we are celebrating ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

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

HON. TSHOLO: And recognising this particular day ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

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

HON. TSHOLO: Allow exploitation of workers by mineworkers in the province, capitalists.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo, your time is up. Your time is up. It's 12:12 there. Honourable Dial, 10 minutes. It's 12:12, 12:23, you're done.

HON. DIAL: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Speaker Dr Desbo Mohono, the Premier of the North West in absentia Honourable Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi, Members of the North West Provincial Legislature, dikgosi, baagi ba rona ba Bokonebophirima, baeng ba rona ba tlotlego [Traditional Leaders, the community of North West, our esteemed guests], ladies and gentlemen, greetings today.

Honourable Speaker, I concur with the former anti-apartheid activist and a trade unionist, His Excellency, the President of South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa, that May Day is a day for unity and solidarity, a day to remind ourselves that an injury to one is an injury to all. It is a day to lay claim to the fruits of our people's labour and assert their power as the workers.

Today as we continue commemorating May Day, the African National Congress joins workers as they claim many victories they have achieved in their struggle for decent working conditions and fair labour practices. International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day or May Day, is a celebration of courage shown by working class when they united in objecting poor working conditions. This day is celebrated in different days in different countries but generally falls on the first day of May.

The importance of this day reflects the fact that it has been declared a public holiday in more than 80 countries worldwide. The occasion offers the opportunity to celebrate and appreciate the toils of workers across the province in the public and private sector including the most vulnerable workers in our farm areas. Thirty-one years ago, there were 53 pieces of legislation governing labour sector. These pieces of legislation differed from province to province and from homeland to another homeland.

Over the years of democratic rule under the ANC government, four essential pieces of transformative and progressive legislation which include the Labour Relations Act, Basic Conditions of Employment Act, Employment Equity Act and Employment Services Act have been

put in place to redress apartheid era exploitative labour practices. Our supporting pieces of legislation which further give impetus and support a better life for all workers include the Unemployment Act and the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act.

Though we are proud of the milestones we have made as the African National Congress, we are also mindful of the challenges that continue to face the vulnerable workers, continue to be experienced by domestic workers at workplace and call on all employers to embrace collective bargaining as well as value of quality and creation of favourable working conditions for all our workers.

Exploiters paying below the sectoral determination of those expected workers to work long hours without compensation of overtime must be exposed and workers must enjoy their rights because they have been won through hard work and sweat. We must learn from the Marikana incident that there remains a blight of democracy which occurred mainly because of the collapse of bargaining engagements and ensure that such painful occurrences which have left lifelong physical, emotional, psychological trauma and loss of precious lives of the downtrodden never happens again.

Deputy Speaker, I think as the ANC we must still also take this opportunity to respond and make reflections to the following issues which have been raised by our colleagues in the Legislature. The first one is that poverty must never be used by anybody in this House as a mechanism for cheap political point scoring.

We must state Honourable Deputy Speaker that the EFF in the National Parliament is leading the pact in rejecting the budget which is meant to address the suffering of our people and create a conducive environment for investment which will then translate into job creation and grow our economy. So, they cannot come today here and complain about bad working conditions while they

are continuing to stand in direct opposition to the progressive and transformative initiatives that are brought about by the African National Congress government.

The North West Government, Honourable Deputy Speaker, as led by the ANC Premier Honourable Lassy Mokgosi has announced the launch of a North West Road Agency to deal with the road infrastructure backlog and to also attract investment in making sure that those who want to come and invest in the North West Province are not forced to travel on bad roads in our province. And this initiative will also create an opportunity for investors to come and invest in our provinces including in our far-fetched areas where there is bad road network.

So, the African National Congress Government is hell bent in trying to ensure that we create this conducive working environment for our workers in the North West Province. I think Honourable Deputy Speaker, we must not leave some of these issues that were raised by our colleagues unattended. In the third quarter of 2024, in the North West Province, 69 000 jobs were created. And in the fourth quarter of the same year, 20 000 further jobs were created. In the Western Cape, you must refer to your statistics Honourable Botswe, and you must also go and focus in Ditsobotla ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members order!

HON. DIAL: And these statistics Honourable Deputy Speaker have translated to a 4% reduction in terms of that fourth quarter statistics for 2024. The Democratic Alliance on the other side which is governing the enclave of Western Cape has been able to create that 75 000 jobs in the third quarter and the Honourable Member who was standing here was correct.

And it continued to create another, okay let me skip that part because I have missed my notes, but the point we must emphasise Honourable Deputy Speaker is that the population of the Western Cape is 7.4 million and the population of the North West Province is 4.1.

These jobs that have been created by the two provinces if you speak comparatively, the province of the North West is doing far better than the province of the Western Cape in terms of creating jobs in the third and the fourth quarter, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

So Honourable Speaker, I think what we must then also emphasise is that as the African National Congress we continue to remember leaders of our great organisation who were at the forefront of ensuring that the fight for the rights of the workers are never abandoned. These leaders are JB Marks, that we must never forget, Ray Alexander, John Taolo Gaetswe, Reg September, Emma Mashinini, Billy Nair, Elijah Barayi, John Gomomo and Viola Hashe, John Nkadimeng, Lydia Kompe and Stephen Dlamini.

So Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think I must also not forget to make the same reference that was made by Honourable Magagane when she stood here as part of encouraging our workers in the North West Province that they must continue to unite because when they unite, they stand to lose nothing but to lose the chains that continue to burn them. Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Dial. Honourable Mokuu. You know Honourable Sonakile I think you are now bordering on Rule 57. Honourable Mokuu, you've got five minutes.

HON. MOKUA: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. I think Honourable Dial has really responded very well to the Honourable Members. I just want us to do due diligence. For me from where I'm sitting in North West, we can't keep on referring to Western Cape when we are in North West. We are expected to work collaboratively to better the situation in North West.

And I think the struggle of workers is not something to really joke about. It's something that is very real for the workers and it is something that needs all of us to make sure that we change because the fact of the matter is farmworkers, they don't have what we call holidays. Sex workers

they don't have what we call basic salary. They don't have those particular conducive environments for them to can do work that they need to do.

So, the struggles of workers are real. I don't think this grandstanding and cheap politicking including semantics will help us. It has to start with us here, policymakers, that we are deliberate because all workers despite the colour, the race and the creed, all workers are exploited the same hence the slogan we've got nothing to lose but our chain. It always seems impossible until it is done.

I want to challenge all of us here lawmakers that let us look inwardly in North West. Let us want to change the situation in North West. Let us challenge those that look like us, those that talk like us to make sure that we change the colour of abuse of workers. So nna [myself] I'm just saying all these things, semantics that we are saying and doing they are not going to help us. Those that are the creators of the economy are paying us to come here and make laws and make sure that we implement the laws and we enforce the laws. Can we do exactly that? I think I will leave it unto you. Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Thank you, Honourable Members. Secretary, you may read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 8 PREMIER'S ORAL REPLY TO QUESTIONS

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before we deal with the questions, I need to advise the House that oral questions to the Premier are scheduled in terms of Rule 142 of the Standing Rules of the Legislature once a quarter and that the number of questions to the Premier is limited to 10 per day. I have received a letter from the Office of the Premier indicating that the Premier is indisposed and due to medical reasons.

The Premier has authorised Honourable Sambatha, the MEC responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development to take care of his business in line with the provisions of Rule 76 which provides that, I quote: “If the Member in charge of a motion or an order of the day is absent, another Member authorised by the absent Member may take charge of the motion or order after having timeously notified the Presiding Officer where possible.”

I confirm that I have received a correspondence from the Premier authorising MEC Sambatha to take charge and respond to the questions on his behalf accordingly. May I therefore take this opportunity to also wish the Premier speedy recovery. Honourable Members, I now call on the MEC Honourable Sambatha on behalf of the Premier to reply to oral questions as per Rule 142, Sub-section 2 which provides that the number of questions to the Premier is limited to 10 per Question Day. Honourable Wallhorn.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I’d like to rise on Rule 142(1)(a) about the ability of the Premier to host a conference tomorrow with business while today he’s too sick to actually attend to answer questions in this august House. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the ruling is that we are proceeding in line with Rule 142, Sub-section 2. I’m now inviting Honourable Sambatha to respond to questions. May you come to... the first question is posed by Honourable Rosho to the Premier. Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Indeed, the Premier has gone to consult doctors. It’s only medical officers who can decide on the health of an individual. Now on the question that is posed by Honourable Rosho, the Chief Whip, the response is as follows by the Premier.

Section 5 of the Municipal Finance Management Act empowers National Treasury to monitor the budget of the municipalities with MFMA and take appropriate steps if a municipality commits a breach of MFMA. This includes stopping of funds to municipalities in terms of Section 216 (2) of the Constitution.

Withholding the equitable share is one of the available legislative tools utilised by the National Treasury to enforce compliance. National Treasury dispatched letters to 11 municipalities in March in which the intention to invoke the Section 216 (2) of the Constitution by withholding municipal monies of March trenches of the local equitable share and conditional grants for persistent non-compliance to MFMA.

The March correspondence was preceded by the communication from National Treasury on the same municipalities which were alerted of non-compliance. As a consequence, both HOD's for COGTA and Provincial Treasury convened an urgent meeting with the accounting officers and chief financial officers of the affected municipalities on the 14th of March 2025 to discuss the withholding of equitable share and assist the municipalities to respond to National Treasury.

Municipalities were requested to submit validated accurate information to National Treasury. A technical team which comprised officials from National Treasury and COGTA was assembled to monitor the submission of verified information to National Treasury. Both the MEC of COGHSTA and Provincial Treasury convened an urgent meeting with Executive Mayors, Mayors and accounting officers of the affected municipalities on the 19th of March 2025.

This was primarily aimed at assessing the situation not progress and put further measures to ensure compliance and the release of the equitable share. The communication, the municipalities were subsequently requested to submit the information and compliance documents with the National Treasury with immediate effect. All municipalities agreed to comply and ensure urgent activation of process and that the equitable share flows to the municipalities by end of the third week of March 2025.

Similarly, the Provincial Treasury and COGTA interacted with the National Treasury officials to alert them about the finalisation of the list, verification of the POE and reconcile with municipalities' information received and other information that is outstanding. These processes further afforded municipalities the opportunity to engage National Treasury and urgently on areas of disagreements with a view of ensuring compliance with National Treasury letters and regulations. Honourable Rosho, Chief Whip, we can report to the House that all municipalities have responded positively and the equitable share was released.

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

HON. ROSHO: Honourable DS, I'm happy and satisfied with the response from the Premier. There will not be any follow-up. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does any Member wish to make a follow-up question? Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Deputy Speaker, I just think you know on a point of order. The Premier is not here. Honourable Wallhorn raised here a concern. The decision is that Honourable Sambatha has been delegated. That is a rule that is a privilege to ordinary Members. The Rules say the Premier must account to this House once a quarter. The Premier is not here. Honourable Sambatha can give the answers that the Premier's Office have given him. How is he going to, the Honourable Sambatha, give us follow-up questions that Members might have? And if the Premier, Honourable Deputy Speaker, if the Premier cannot attend once a quarter for whatever reason, we can all get sick from time to time ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. WILLIAMS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, can I call a point of order?

HON. STEYL: No, no, I'm still on the floor.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there's a point of order.

HON. STEYL: I'm still on the floor.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There's a point of order.

HON. WILLIAMS: Can I call a point of order?

HON. STEYL: If the Premier is not in this quarter, then in the next ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. ROSHO: Speaker?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There's a point of order Honourable Steyl. Honourable Williams.

HON. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much Honourable DS. The point of the order on the Member is that there is a ruling. And when we are in the House, we are all Members of the North West Provincial Legislature unless there is a rule that speaks about the status of the Premier in this context that a Member has preview to then maybe just maybe the Member must share so that we are able to understand. But also, the Standing Rules of this House dictates that when a Presiding Officer has made a ruling, that ruling stands. Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Chief Whip. Honourable Chief Whip.

HON. ROSHO: Thanks Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I must indicate that the Premier did communicate with my office to indicate that he's been disposed on medical reasons. I have consulted with all the whips of parties. And the whips of parties agreed. Actually, I had proposed that we should defer the responses and other whips of parties agreed. And because there was a strong view in terms of whips of parties that the Premier must appoint an MEC to come and respond because they want it to be responded today. So, we've consulted. There's been a consultative process with the whips.

And the whip of the DA was part of the... unless I'm out of order Speaker, unless I'm out of order. The whip of the DA was consulted. Actually, the DA is the one that proposed that the responses of the Premier must be responded by any of the MEC's, that's what the DA canvassed for, together with the Freedom Front Plus and we were persuaded. Of course, I must indicate that MKP was amenable on any stance but the EFF was clear that no let's be comfortable because the Premier is disposed. Whatever you come to a determination with the Speaker we can proceed but because there was that strong view in terms of the Rules that they expect the Premier to come and respond hence I acceded as a whip, I consulted, I engaged with the Speaker. We then agreed with the Premier that he will delegate together with the Leader of Government Business.

So, as we're sitting here, it's quite interesting that the people who are raising the same issue are Members of the DA. It shows that the DA is not whipping its Members properly. That's the conclusion that I come from because we agreed in the whips forum that this session will proceed with a Member of the Executive Council. And Chair we'll further beyond this maybe look into what should be the options in terms of making sure that when the Premier is not there, how do we deal with it but the whips forum that says the agenda of the day agreed on the matter, advanced or sponsored by the DA. Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I want to make a ruling on this matter. Now I have quoted Section 142 and when Honourable Wallhorn stood up, I made a ruling and I'm maintaining the ruling. If there were meetings before and, but there's a ruling in the House and we're proceeding. The Honourable Rosho said she is covered. She does not have a follow-up question. I'm now posing a question, does any Member wish to make a follow-up question? Any Member who stands here, should be on a follow-up question. Yes, Honourable Van Huyssteen.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. My follow-up question it relates to the number of municipalities we spoke about. The first section says to what extent is the province withholding payment to municipalities on account of their failure to pay their creditors. I would just like to find out from the delegated Member, the municipalities where payment was withheld due to this non-payment of creditors, which of those municipalities are under some form of financial administration placed by the provincial government? Thank you, DS.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Well Chair, the number is 11. The Member's question needs a written response. It's no longer that original question that the Member asked.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Members. The Member delegated by the Premier feels that the information you are requiring would be submitted to you in a written form. So, I think that you are amenable to that Honourable Van Huyssteen. Okay. The second question is posed by Honourable Makgokgowa to the Premier. Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, to Honourable Makgokgowa, the Disaneng Irrigation Scheme has a total number of 17 members, a total of 160 hectares shared by beneficiaries. This includes an additional 50 hectares by the traditional administration which brings

the total of hectares for the members to share to 210. And this 210 has been laid down with underground pipes and hydrants.

The Molatedi Irrigation Scheme has since collapsed owing to infighting and lack of proper management amongst members. As a result, the infrastructure is dilapidated such as houses, stores and irrigations systems meaning the centre pipes. A remedial plan is being developed to resuscitate the project and the MEC responsible will elaborate further on this remedial plan for resuscitation of the project.

Mooibank has both commercial farmers and emerging farmers and in relation to the latter support is given through the Potch College of Agriculture precinct which houses the college, the research and technology development for emerging farmers as well as agricultural research council. Soygro an international recognised producer for microbial inoculants and organic fertilisers is also based in Mooibank and is contributing immensely to job creation in the area.

Engagements are in full swing to collaborate with the members of projects of mutual interest. Eight communal property associations have claimed the land under the scheme and there are some legal processes to take into consideration. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has developed a litany of interventions/measures through CASP and Ilima/Letsema to support farmers through the various services.

These include providing assistance with business plans, agricultural extension, animal health services, capacity building and on and off farm infrastructure development. Trade support is part of package that the Department of Agriculture is doing. This service is provided by veterinary services which facilitate that farmers qualify to export purposes and agricultural economies provide support by facilitating access to markets.

Emerging farmers are being assisted with their production so that they can reach the level of exporting their produce. Once they reach the required level of produce, they are assisted to meet the regulatory requirements for export purposes. Honourable Tsholo knows that.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sambatha. Honourable Makgokgowa, any follow-up question? You have one minute, if you have.

HON. MAKGOKGOWA: Thank you Deputy Speaker. What I would like to say is that we appreciate the comprehensive response and government's support to emerging farmers in our province. And we would like to appreciate expansion of the programme in this financial year to benefit more farmers. There's no follow-up questions. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does any Member have a follow-up question? Honourable Van Huyssteen?

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the first section of this question asks how many farmers are expected to benefit from the revitalisation process? I would like to find out from Honourable Sambatha since it was stated that there are eight cooperatives also claiming and there's legal action going on. Exactly how many farmers have been approved to work this ground this just over 200 hectares, how many farmers are there exactly? Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Van Huyssteen, the question you are posing, I think it's a question of a statistical nature, it requires numbers. I don't know if the Honourable MEC wants to respond to that or he can bring the responses in writing. Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Honourable Chair, the Member is hijacking all questions because it's explained here. She says exactly how many, I said 17. I said it. It's said here by the Premier, it's 17 which means it's the exact number and on the other one, the only element it's explained that it's both imagined and established but when he wants that to be substantiated in exact numbers, this one, this one, it will be done. There's no problem in writing. He will just celebrate having usurped original questions for her own expropriation.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now proceed to the next question Honourable Members posed by Honourable Oliphant to the Honourable Premier. Mhleka [Sir].

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. A response by the Premier to Honourable Oliphant is as follows: A project is presently in the design phase which is expected to be completed by April 2025, the design phase. Following this, implementation will proceed in phases in which the first phase will cover 27 kilometres.

The department aims to appoint a contractor by 2025 July. All the following villages will be beneficial from the implementation of the aforesaid project and the villages would also benefit from job creation opportunities. The villages are: Dwarsberg, Mankaipa, Debrak, Pitsedisulejang, Sesobe, Ramogolela, Ramogajwe and Pachsdraai. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sambatha. The Honourable Oliphant, do you have any follow-up question? The Honourable Oliphant is not in the House. Does any other Member wish to make a follow-up question?

HON. BOGATSU: Can we continue please?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I'm happy that now you... Honourable Sonakile can you have order! Question 4 is posed by Honourable Sebegoe to the Premier. Honourable Sebegoe is not in the House.

HON. BOGATSU: A re e tlole [let us skip it].

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Iketle pele ausi [please wait sister], Honourable Member! Wait Honourable Member.

HON. MATSHE: On a point of order Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Smuts.

HON. MATSHE: I'm worried that Honourable Bogatsu has her mic on ready to disrupt at any time. I'm requesting that the mic be switched off.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I don't know Honourable Member. The Chief Whip of the ANC, did Honourable Sebegoe delegate any Member? Honourable Magagane? Are you delegated by Honourable Sebegoe? Okay.

HON. STEYL: Deputy Speaker! Deputy Speaker! We are not going to allow you to fish for response questions. If a Member has delegated, it must be in writing. Let us see it in writing first. Thank you. And Deputy Speaker, that in writing must be to the Presiding Officer and to the Secretary. Thank you. Let's see the letter first.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl, I'm the Presiding Officer here, okay. No, no, wait. And you are bordering on Rule 57. I have posed a question that did Honourable Sebegoe delegate any Member? Now the advice that Members are giving which you should not howl, we just given advice that if there's no delegation in writing like the Premier did, we should skip the question and that's it.

So, you don't need to howl or disrupt the House because I will have to invoke the sub-sections I have said you must read earlier on. Okay. I want to take it that we would then have to go to Question 5. The Question 5 posed by Honourable Tsholo to the Premier. Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. The answer to Honourable Tsholo by the Premier is thus, with reference to the report of the Auditor General for financial year 23/24 on Vote 11, Public Works, where the Auditor General made findings quoted hereunder. The investigation: The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) finalised an investigation into procurement irregularities identified at the department as per Proclamation R27 of 2015.

The report was submitted to the Office of the Presidency at the date of this report published in Government Gazette 42562 of 5 July 2019. The investigation was in the progress at the date of that report. The SIU is performing an investigation into irregularities identified at the department as per Proclamation R210 of 2021. The investigation was in the progress during the time of responding.

The Public Protector is performing an investigation into alleged maladministration at the department. The investigation of the Public Protector is still in progress. The SIU is performing an investigation into procurement irregularities identified at the department as per Proclamation R2 of 2018 at the time published in the Gazette 41387 on 19 January 2018. The investigation is still in progress. The SIU is performing an investigation into procurement irregularities identified at the department as per Proclamation of R31 of 2018.

In the 2025 State of the Province Address, page 20, paragraph 9 and 10, the Honourable Premier states as follows and I quote him: “The Seventh Administration is committed to nip corruption and maleficence in the bud by working with all law enforcement agencies such as the Hawks, SIU, Asset Forfeiture Unit and Chapter 9 Institutions. I have received reports from law enforcement agencies on cases that are under investigation and some high-profile cases that are before the courts.

Honourable Tsholo, I had numerous engagements with the Auditor General and SIU and law enforcement agencies and detailed report encapsulating all your concerns will be tabled at this august House once all administrative processes have been followed and finalised because we can’t interfere with them. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

HON. TSHOLO: I don’t have follow-up questions. I will wait for the tabling of the report as it has been indicated Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does any Member have a follow-up question? Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Thanks Deputy Speaker. On the same questions, I think it’s augmented to say how regularly does the Office of the Premier meet with law enforcement agencies to get updates on investigations conducted in various provincial departments. So, I’m just saying maybe if we can get a feedback. Thanks.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: It's in two ways. Either an agency tasked to do an investigation is ready to give an update. And in that instance, the meeting is determined by the readiness to give an update but the Office of the Premier occasionally have sessions like your quarterly meetings with Chapter 9 Institutions. Remember in this process, there's two different things. There's Chapter 9 Institutions. By law you can have sessions as determined by you. Then there's investigation agencies which have to be kept independent on the basis of the investigations they do.

So, when you need progress, you consult their heads. When they are read with progress, which progress must not be dealing with the independence of the investigation, then you do that otherwise quarterly the Premier does have scheduled meetings with Chapter 9 Institutions. The Premier can't have scheduled meetings with the investigation agencies. They are driven on the basis of information required at that particular time because the next time you'll accuse the Premier of controlling investigation agencies.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sambatha. We will now proceed to Question 6 posed by Honourable Tsholo to the Premier. Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. The answer to Question 6 is that the draft provincial Bill was worked between Provincial Treasury and Office of the Premier based on the provincial goals to promote preferential procurement geared towards acceleration of development of villages, townships and small dorpias in alignment with the provincial policy.

This Bill was never processed into a Provincial Act because National Treasury indicated that work was underway nationally to develop a Public Procurement Bill which would largely address the same issues. And we all know it's now an Act, the Public Procurement Act. The decision not to proceed with the referral of the Bill to the Legislature was a result of Section 100 Administration that was an intervention then. Matters covered in the bill are purely of policy nature and can also be addressed in the National Procurement Framework. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Follow-up question, Honourable Tsholo?

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. This thing was implemented hence we were just asking what prevented the government. Even if they are saying that it was never processed into a Provincial Act, what made it then not to be processed into a Provincial Act? Were there any compelling reasons to that particular effect?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Well Chair, the view of the National Treasury as the Premier has said was that because national was developing a legislation that would take the similar intentions the provincial legislation would have done. The province was then advised to wait and only when there's a gap with the national one, that they could then proceed. I'm now saying now the Public Procurement Act was then passed with no gap with still the same intentions to take and the province feel like it would be a futile exercise to take that as a provincial legislation instead of implementing the national overarching Act. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sambatha. We now migrate to Question 7 posed by Honourable Steyl to the Premier.

HON. SAMBATHA: Okay thank you very much Deputy Speaker. To Honourable Steyl, that the progress of appointing, oh, Steyl is CJ, Comrade CJ. I'm used to CJ not the surname. Thank you very much. The process of appointing the HOD is at an advanced stage. This is HOD for Education akere? [right?] It's at an advanced stage. Interviews were conducted and the report of the panel has been submitted to the Premier. It's awaiting processes of approval by the Premier himself. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

HON. STEYL: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, you see the problem here again is the Premier at the last question session stood there and said before the end of the financial year 24/25. Now we are in 25/26 financial year, the HOD is still not yet appointed but we are getting promises. And we are getting promises from MEC Sambatha. So, I don't know MEC Sambatha if you have that power to tell us exactly ka nako eo [when] the appointment is going to be made. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. May the Honourable Acting Premier ... [INAUDIBLE] ... this particular House as to when was the submission for processing done. Secondly, the exact anticipated date for the appointment of the Head of Department for the Department of Education. Thanks, Honourable Chair.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sambatha. You may proceed.

HON. SAMBATHA: Well Chair, there's no acting Premier. Yes, there's no acting Premier. The Premier is still in the province. It's a medical question, consultation of a doctor. So, there's no acting Premier. There's only a person to respond on behalf and by the way I don't even harbour ambitions to be a Premier at any time.

Chair, the issue of the exact date and when actually received, will be provided to the two Members in writing but the issue that is here it's not that the Premier is not sure where the process is. Every matter that has to do with interviews, recommendations ... [INAUDIBLE] ..., the Premier says himself it's only a matter of approval. Now you want me as an MEC, no, no, I'm saying that

process can only be confirmed by the Premier in writing and I stick to that. I can't then put the Premier in a corner of giving a date when I'm not the person to sign the appointment.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sambatha. Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Thanks Speaker. I think there's a complementary question and it's just explicit to say, were there any challenges? And if any, what are those challenges? I think it's a question that we should not take lightly because ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Were there any challenges?

HON. MOEMA: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

HON. MOEMA: With this appointment.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: The colleagues are exposed to something I'm not exposed to. The Premier says here I must tell the Legislature that the process has been finished. The Premier has not said in the answer there were challenges ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

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

HON. ROSHO: Chair, I think this is taking us back to what we've explained as a whippery. If the Members of the DA choose not to respect his whip because it's a woman, it's not our problem because the matter of questioning of the Premier it's been clarified and you've made a ruling. Thanks Chair.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Members, before you proceed Honourable Sambatha, Honourable Members, no, no, Honourable Members, you know we're not going to quote rules of the House selectively when they suit us. The Rules tells you that once the Presiding Officer has made a ruling they are binding. If you're not happy, you write that you're not happy. Now we have made a ruling on this particular issue of the presence of the Premier. And I find it to be very inconsiderate that if people are sick, we cannot at this level accept that people are having medical issues. It cannot be tolerated for whatever reason. It can't be. It's not correct, it's inhumane. So, Honourable Sambatha, you can proceed.

HON. SAMBATHA: I was saying it's things I'm not exposed to that they know. Let me re-read. It says: The HOD is at an advanced stage. Nowhere in the answer of the Premier does the Premier indicate problems identified. The only issue is that the Premier says this report is awaiting the approval. I don't know and the Premier has not said even on the reply that there are problems identified.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Members, I'm sure you would be aware of a number of follow-up questions that must be posed. I want to give the Honourable Steenkamp. You are the last Member on the follow-up questions.

HON. DABAMPE: Speaker?

HON. STEENKAMP: Honourable Deputy ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DABAMPE: Speaker!

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DABAMPE: It's a point of order Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order?

HON. DABAMPE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the point of order Honourable Dabampe?

HON. DABAMPE: The Member delegated by the Premier, that in terms of the questions asked to the Premier, there's a question of, if there were challenges. It's a question that was posed to the Premier. If there were challenges and when will the process be completed. Completed means when will the substantive SG be appointed? So that is a question. It's not a new question. It is here and it was not responded to.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dabampe, the Honourable Sambatha has said the response of the Premier says there were no challenges. If there were challenges, the Premier would have indicated in his response. So, there were no challenges. He says he can't give; Honourable Sambatha; can I proceed with the business of the day. So, I think that you're covered. Honourable Steenkamp.

HON. STEENKAMP: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you. I just want to refer you to Rule 137 where, no, I'm sorry I'm on the wrong page.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry?

HON. STEENKAMP: Sorry 142, I'm sorry. When it comes to questions to the Premier for oral reply. Now I know that you said that you've made a ruling but according to this Rule, 142 (1)(a) it says that questions to the Premier for oral reply must be scheduled for a Question Day at least once a quarter. So, the Premier is not necessarily a person, it is the Office of the Premier. The Office of the Premier has the answers or should have the answers. When you delegate someone to answer questions whether you are an MEC or you are the Premier, the person you delegate must be able to answer these questions because it is questions that are raised to the Premier's Office.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the issue that we have at the moment is that the questions have been delegated to the Honourable MEC Sambatha but we cannot be expected to sit here and to ask questions that we cannot get answers to. My Honourable Colleague at the back just said part of the question that the MEC cannot answer now is in the actual question on paper.

So, Honourable Deputy Speaker, my request to you would be that these questions that are not being answered that the MEC says that he's not the acting Premier. This does not say anything about an acting Premier, he was delegated. The Chief Whip said it, he was delegated to answer the questions. My request to you would be that the questions then be given to us in written response as per the rules of order but we cannot be expected to sit here and use this as a tick box exercise. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Steenkamp, we have already agreed to proceed and allow Honourable Sambatha to respond as delegated by the Premier. We cannot now when we are

at Question 7 say that no let's leave the questions. No wait, let's leave the questions then we must have a written response.

Now where Honourable Sambatha is unable to give details, we have said that those details will be provided in a written form because when you are delegated, even the Premier if he was here, I would assume that if your follow-up question requires him to go back to his office, he would still say that I will respond to you in a written form. So, it's not something abnormal. So, let's proceed with the business of the day. Where the Honourable MEC is unable to give a detail in line with the rules, the response will come to Honourable Members in a written form.

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are now migrating Honourable Members to Question 8. The Question 8 is posed by Honourable Sonakile to the Honourable Premier. Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the answer provided for the learned Member ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Indeed, the answer from the Office of the Premier not from me says, he must know; the answer from the Office of the Premier says and it's from the Premier because he has gone through these processes. To Honourable Sonakile, it says: In line with the DPSA approved guidelines, the Office of the Premier conducted lifestyle review as pronounced by the Premier in his State of the Province Address for 2021/2022 financial year as part of continued fight against corruption and fraud in the public sector.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the primary objective was to assess the financial disclosures of HOD's, CFO'S, supply chain managers, directors and of 12 Provincial Departments. This also include adherence to financial regulations and to identify any discrepancies that might raise questions about the officials' wealth accumulation vis-a-vis their known income sources.

The next stage of the lifestyle review is formally requesting supporting documents from the identified officials including property purchases records, financial statements, if available, and any relevant transactional details that can shed light on the general acquisition of assets within the specified times. Moreover, Honourable Sonakile, there are no associated costs. It's done in the cost of employees' budget that was used and internal staff, no external person involved. Thank you very much.

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

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Honourable Sambatha, go and tell the Premier that he must provide us with time frames of when that process would be completed. Ensure you relate the message as you did now. Thanks.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It's not a follow-up question. It's not a follow-up question. Any Members? Does any Member have a follow-up question? Okay we'll now migrate to Question 9 posed by Honourable Sonakile to the Premier. Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. The answer from the Premier to Honourable Sonakile. The answer from the Premier to Honourable Sonakile. Now Premier can delegate but when you have your issues are none of my responsibility. The construction of the monument has not yet materialised. This is the Premier.

This is primarily due to the Department of Economic Development previously being unable to secure the necessary funding. That's the reason not commenced. The department could not get necessary funding from Treasury. This project will be resuscitated in this current administration

which is Seventh Administration. You can wait up until 2029 ... [INAUDIBLE] ... led by ACSR now, Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation because its nature is a process ya [of] ACSR.

At present Honourable Deputy Speaker, there are no concrete steps that have been taken to construct the monument due to lack of funding. Consequently, no time lines, Honourable Sonakile, has been established for its commencement of completion. As the process has not progressed beyond the planning phase due to funding constraints, there are currently no appointed contractors, no funding has been allocated and no confirmed stakeholders actively involved in the process. So, there's nothing that has happened in the process of the project owing to non-availability of funding and the fact that it would then be shifted from Economic Development to Arts and Culture. Thank you.

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

HON. SONAKILE: Yes, I have a follow-up question that goes with the preamble. You know as if killing people in Marikana was not enough, now you are even lying to the people who have suffered pain whom a promise was made by the very same government that today is speaking as if that is something that is new or as if we are having a new government in the North West ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your follow-up question? What is your follow-up question?

HON. SONAKILE: The question is: Can the Member delegated by the Premier tell the Premier to provide a comprehensive action plan that will be implemented in this term. Thanks.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mare [but] if you're saying tell, that is not a question. It's not a question. Go and tell the Premier this and that. No, no, Honourable Sambatha I don't think you need to respond to that. You have noted it. Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. What led to the decision of the Department of Economic Development to take a lead in this regard as originally when you look at the issues of monument they fall within the Department of Arts and Culture looking at the 24 years and couple months from 2012 re be re sa ntse re sa kgone go bua anything se se tangible [yet we cannot say anything that is tangible]. Thanks, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Honourable Sambatha, do you want to respond or you will respond in writing?

HON. SAMBATHA: No, no, Chair. The issue of Marikana, the reason there was to be economic development first it's because at the time it was done also with an aim of economic revival of the area. It was not only done separately. It should have been done jointly so that the component ya [of] Arts and Culture is done, the component ya [of] revival ya [of] economy of the area is done.

Now that, that was not combined, it was only the issue ya [of] Arts and Culture. That's why it's going back to the original department. Originally it was not only meant for a monument, it had a component ya [of] economic revival ya [of] Marikana as an area. It should have had both departments initially. Now that Arts and Culture was not the one leading the component ya [of] monument, it's now that it's sent to them to do that. Otherwise, any further clarification the Premier could provide that in writing. There's no stress. Honourable Sonakile is just to be cool with that. He will receive it.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. We will now migrate to question... Honourable Bogatsu.

HON. BOGATSU: Thank you DS. Can the MEC confirm according to what he has just said, confirm that the Premier was lying to the community when he announced the project. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well I don't know what confirmation is that because we are dealing with follow-up questions. No wait, wait tthe kgaitsadiake [please my sister]. No Honourable Members, we are now dealing with follow-up questions, okay. A follow-up question is a follow-up question. In the absence of follow-up questions, we will now migrate to Question 10 posed by Honourable Wallhorn to the Premier. Honourable Sambatha, respond to Question 10.

HON. SAMBATHA: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. To Honourable Wallhorn, the mobile app is developed and live on the OOP which is Office of the Premier server. It is dependent on data connectivity. To date, all four districts and their task teams and the Honourable Premier and the executive advisors were trained on how to access the utilisation of the app mainly to test the functionality of the app.

As part of piloting and functionality of the app, live capturing of complaints was conducted and received on the ground from various districts from community members. This provided an opportunity for the development team to assess the response between the app and the receiving end of the database system. After training the districts, continue to use the app with the special focus on capturing the service delivery protests occurring in their respective districts.

Database assessment results from the system: This information provided that monitoring and incidents in a particular area highlighting the hotspots for prioritisation of resources and improved

decision-making. For the effective utilisation of the mobile app, the office will continue to intensify mobilisation and training of users to ensure support of the service delivery issues.

Honourable Wallhorn, there is an existing contract that is maintained for the overall operation of the GIS services between the Office of the Premier and Esri SA for the development of the app. Therefore, the app solution was developed internally within the Office of the Premier.

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

HON. WALLHORN: Yes, please Deputy Speaker. Can the Member delegated by the Premier confirm how many citizen service requests have been successfully processed through the app? And what is the average resolution time in terms of the traditional, I stand in front of a counter against the electronic version especially because not all residents of the North West have smart phones. What other alternatives is or are currently being investigated to provide equal access to these services especially for rural and elderly populations? Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sambatha.

HON. SAMBATHA: The Honourable Member will receive the response in writing though on the component of a certain number of members of the population not having access to Internet, there's call centres for those that have cell phones or have landline. But there's also an element of starting in ward councillors on an instance where a community member is in a ward and has a complaint, from that period it's then increased by attention to either a Mayor or then a district and then a Premier.

Also, the element ya [of] *Thuntsa Lerole* has that component of community complaints where when we engage them in the public meeting, they are still allowed to raise their issues. That's the

only component I can answer for. The first component, the Honourable Member because he is cool, he will receive that in writing.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sambatha. Does any Member have a follow-up question? Okay thank you Members. Thank you, Honourable Members. Responses to questions with written replies will be tabled through the ATC. The sitting is adjourned until further notice.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 12:45.