



**NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

**NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

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**TUESDAY, 27 MAY 2025**



**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**LEGISLATURE OF THE  
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

**TUESDAY 27 MAY 2025**

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

**HOUSE:** Observing a moment of silence.

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

**SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SITTING**

**2.1 Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2025**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I put before you the minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 for adoption. Does the House adopt the minutes? Does the House adopt the minutes?

**HOUSE:** Yes.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Secretary, may you read the next order.

**SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 3 ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**STEYL:** Speaker?

**HON. SPEAKER:** Honourable Steyl.

**HON. STEYL:** Thank you Honourable Speaker. The device is not working and we don't have the printouts for the order of business. The system is not working, so we won't be able to see the questions, the order paper, all of those things. And it's not printed for our convenience.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Okay. I will ask the Secretary to ask the team to check what could be the problem thank you Honourable Steyl, Honourable Chief Whip?

**HON. ROSHO:** Unless Members they don't have hard copies. I think there are copies that are circulated but I think there are copies. Maybe it's a mistake if they can just correct it.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Table staff can you make sure that all Members have got the document. Thank you very much and we apologise for that. 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 report with recommendations as House resolutions?

**HOUSE:** Yes.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Does the House adopt?

**HOUSE:** Yes

**HON. SPEAKER:** You are so down. What is wrong today? It's a beautiful day, It looks like you are not happy. Thank you very much. The committee recommendations are now adopted as House resolutions, Secretary, the next order.

## **SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 4 PROCEEDINGS ON BILLS**

### **4.1 North West Appropriation Bill, 2025 (Withdrawal and Re-Tabling)**

#### **Introduction and First Reading**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2025, the National Minister of Finance Honourable Godongwana withdrew the budget instruments that were tabled on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 and re-tabled them again on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

The withdrawal of the National Budget Instruments more particularly the Division of Revenue Bill has the effect on our Provincial Budget processes. As a result, the MEC for Finance in the province

must as a consequence also withdraw and re-table the Provincial Appropriation Bill in compliance with Section 27 (2) of the Public Finance Management Act.

I have received a request from the MEC for Finance to withdraw the Provincial Budget which was tabled on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and also to introduce the budget afresh today on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2025. Honourable Members, I will now call on the MEC to table the motion to withdraw the North West Appropriation Bill, 2025 which was tabled on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in terms of Rule 259. Honourable Mosenogi!

**HON. MOSENOGI:** Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise in terms of Rule 259 of the Standing Rules to withdraw the 2025 North West Appropriation Bill and the Provincial Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure tabled on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2025. Honourable Speaker, this is as a result of the pronouncement of the Minister of Finance Honourable Godongwana to withdraw the tabled budget documents which included the Fiscal Framework, The Appropriation Bill and the Division of Revenue Bill 2025.

While all budget documents form the basis for our budget process in accordance with Section 27, Sub-section 2 of the Public Finance Management Act and the Division of Revenue Bill and this Bill directly affects allocation to provinces in terms of equitable share and conditional grants. The implication of the withdrawal by the Minister of Finance necessitated the withdrawal of all already tabled budget documents namely the 2025 North West Appropriation Bill and the Provincial Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure by the province.

I therefore table this motion for the House to accept the withdrawal of the tabled North West Appropriation Bill 2025 and Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure which will be retabled in due course for the House to consider. I so move.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Mosenogi. Does the House concur with the motion as tabled by Honourable Mosenogi?

**HOUSE:** Yes.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Members. I will now call on the MEC for Finance Honourable Mosenogi to re-table and give the first reading speech on the North West Appropriation Bill, 2025. Honourable Mosenogi you have your 40 minutes.

**HON. MOSENOGI:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Chief Whip of the House, Members of the Legislature and different political parties present in the House, colleagues in the Executive Council, the leadership of the North West Administration led by the Director General Ntate [Mr] Mogotlhe, bakaetshe dumelang [I greet you all].

Honourable Speaker, I stand before this August House to table the 2025 Budget proposal. The tabling of the proposal was necessitated by the unprecedented events that unfolded at the national level which led to the re-tabling of the national budget.

Due to the parliamentary processes at the national level, the Minister of Finance withdrew the initially tabled 2025 Division of Revenue Bill and the related Appropriation Bill that was tabled on the 12th March 2025 and substituted it with the revised submission on 21 May 2025. The tabling of the first Provincial Appropriation Bill was anchored on the first National Appropriation Bill that was subsequently withdrawn, compelling provinces to also withdraw and re-table their Appropriation Bill.

Honourable Speaker, following the withdrawal of the first 2025 Appropriation Bill, I would like to introduce a new bill with minimal changes whilst also considering the new economic updates. As pronounced by the Minister of Finance Enoch Godongwana, the fiscal constraints and weak economic outlook continue to be unfavourable to the South African economy.

Despite the downward revision of the economic growth forecast, the Provincial Fiscal Framework has not been materially affected. Notwithstanding these new developments, we still reaffirm our commitment to the priorities of the Seventh Administration as initially tabled during the 2025 Provincial Budget Speech which was withdrawn.

The budget proposals, in line with the national priorities, are still geared towards driving inclusive growth and job creation, reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living whilst building a capable, ethical and developmental state.

Honourable Speaker, the Provincial Budget for 2025/2026 financial year amounts to R55.798 billion and grows to R58.367 billion in the last year of the 2025 MTEF. The Provincial Equitable Share allocation remains at R44.765 billion in 2025/2026, R46.200 billion in 2026/27 and R47.719 billion in 2027/2028. The Conditional Grants allocation amounts to R9.918 billion in 2025 financial year and R9.182 billion in the outer year of the MTEF.

The changes in the Conditional Grants allocation are attributed to the correction in relation to the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Grant Programme. The net effect of the changes to the Conditional Grants allocations after the correction of the CASP allocation increased from R751.764 million to R809.766 million in 2025/2026. The Provincial Own Revenue target remains unchanged at R1.398 billion in 2025/2026 and increases to R1.461 billion in 2026/2027 then to R1.527 billion during the 2027/2028 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, the allocation for the Provincial Departments as well as the Provincial Legislature largely remains unchanged. The Provincial Legislature receives R522.583 million whilst Office of the Premier allocation is standing at R519.498 million for the 2025/2026 financial year.

The Department of Community Safety and Transport is allocated R2.446 billion in 2025/2026 with Provincial Treasury receiving R695.181 million whilst the Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs receives R681.869 million.

The Department of Health is allocated R17.040 billion, the Department of Human Settlement R1.848 billion, the Department of Education R22.895 billion and the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation is allocated R776.063 million whereas R1.876 billion is allocated to the Department of Social Development in the 2025/2026 financial year.

The Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism is allocated R1.013 billion. The Department of Agriculture receives R1.277 billion and the Department of Public Works and Roads' allocation amounts to R4.207 billion during the 2025/26 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to re-affirm to this august House that we remain committed to our drive to join hands with the private sector to grow the economy and create jobs. As part of the interventions of government to grow the economy, the province is in the process of establishing the North West Development Fund as set aside 100 million as part of the government contribution to this initiative.

The budget proposals being tabled today forms a blueprint for a new era of inclusive growth and transformation. This proposal takes into consideration the unfavourable socio-economic condition that our people are faced with and have been tailored in such a way that the province is capacitated to address the imbalances.

Honourable Speaker, please allow me to table the following amended documents: The Appropriation Bill, 2025 and The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure report. I thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Honourable Mosenogi. The North West Appropriation Bill 2025 stands referred to the Portfolio Committee on Premier and Finance for further scrutiny and processing. Honourable Members, this House will adjourn for 15 minutes to allow for short media interview, if there's any, and thereafter resume the business after 15 minutes. The House stands adjourned.**[HOUSE ADJOURNED FOR 15 MINUTES]**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Secretary may you read the next order please.

**SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 5 DEBATE ON NOTICE OF MOTION**

**5.1 74.3 Billion loan application by the North West Housing Corporation to the Development Bank of Southern Africa and what the implications of this liability will be on the provincial fiscus and service delivery in general.**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the notice of motion was tabled by Honourable Steyl for a debate in the House. I will now call on Honourable Steyl to lead the debate. Honourable Steyl!

**HON. STEYL:** ... [INAUDIBLE] ... through efficient and smart governances supporting sustainable economic development and growth, here is the problem Deputy Speaker, Madibeng's total population hovers at around 550 000 residents and the ICT infrastructure there required to qualify as a smart mega city is decades behind the qualifying criteria. Madibeng cannot even deliver clean, portable water to all its residents.

Deputy Speaker, the less said about the failed governance, financial mismanagement, political instability in Madibeng, the better. It is nowhere near close to being an efficient and smart government that delivers. Deputy Speaker, the Provincial Government wants to incur a 74,3 billion Rand liability to fund a development that would benefit Gauteng rather than prioritise the residents of North West.

How can this government ethically and morally justify a development that the North West is quite plainly, not ready for?. R74,3 billion mega project comes at a cost of almost 150% more than the total annual provincial budget, which MEC Mosenogi just tabled, which for the current financial year hovers around 55 billion, 55 billion that cannot address the current socio-economic needs of North West residents as admitted by Premier Lazarus Mokgosi, as admitted by MEC Kenetswe Mosenogi, and every MEC that have lamented funding shortfalls on key service delivery programmes in every department, in every committee in this Legislature.

As we all know, mega projects are always delayed, behind schedule and incur expenditure far above the budget due to poor planning, poor construction, ineffective project management, fraud, corruption and wasteful expenditure. Just like Kusile and Medupi, liabilities that the nation will never be able to pay off, so too, as things stand, the North West Provincial Government would never be able to pay off a 74,3 billion Rand mega city project.

How will this mega project create jobs for the more than one million people in North West desperately looking for a job? And if we want to address unemployment in North West, which hovers at 56%, the highest unemployment rate in the world, would it not be better, if we are paying a 74,3 billion Rand DBSA loan to invest this money in our small dorpias, villages, and existing cities?

Because the reason North West has the highest unemployment rate in the world is because every municipality in the province has collapsed due to failed governance and crumbling infrastructure.

If we want economic development and growth, we do not need a mega city, we need every municipality, every city, and every dorpie and village to be effectively governed.

If we can invest the 74 billion Rand into our existing towns, to fund infrastructure and service delivery, imagine the difference it would make to all residents throughout the North West. Maybe then Mahikeng could truly become a capital city with the infrastructure of a capital city. Maybe Koster will then finally have a main road. Maybe if we invest in Lichtenburg, as an agrihub, more emerging farmers would access markets with ease to sell fresh produce at a reduced input cost.

Maybe if we invest some of these millions into Potchefstroom, the city could become a leading international destination for technological research and development. Maybe a few hundred million here and there, could improve the critical water bulk water infrastructure throughout the province so that every resident when they open a tap, receive clean water.

We can do a lot more with 74,3 billion Rand to improve the lives of North West residents, who all want the most basic of things. Clean water when we open a tap, electricity when we switch on the light and safe roads when we travel. Economic opportunity where we live. Not a mega city for a few but prosperity for all. Once this government have mastered the basics, then we can look at a mega city and only then. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Steyl, honourable Lenkopane. You've got 11 minutes.

**HON. LENKOPANE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Acting Premier, Members of the Executive, Members of the Provincial Legislature, **dumelang bagaetsho botlhe ka kwa gae.** During the official opening of this august House at the start of the Seventh Administration, Deputy Speaker, Premier Lazarus Mokgosi maintained that mega cities and smart city programmes will unlock investment in key focused areas such as housing, infrastructure, transport and logistics, education, leisure, tourism, healthcare, etc.

It is therefore noteworthy that we are finally coming closer together across different political parties to develop a clear path to arrive at achieving a smart city project in the province. I must say

this debate is rather encouraging. It is demonstrating the esteemed Member's intention to move from theory to practice. The context at which this debate arises may rather be discomfoting to some but be that as it may, for us the possible loan that is mentioned is an ambitious plan and a vision with potential to change the course of our provincial development and bring dignity to thousands of lives.

As housing restore dignity for the poor and marginalised members of the society, the challenges of housing in the province are well-known and we believe that the step by the North West Housing Corporation in this regard of thinking about what is said to be a loan is indeed progressive as it is part of their plans and vision.

We are optimistic that if there is any loan that might one day come in the space, it will actually aid already existing efforts by the Department of Human Settlement to expeditiously achieve management of sporadic rise of the informal settlement, the improvement of integrated human settlement developments and it can even assist to build a new cohort of SMME's in the construction and property sector in the province and create lasting employment.

Now Deputy Speaker, the North West Human Settlement seeks to achieve or to address the housing backlog and funding deficiencies that both the country and the province are experiencing. It goes without say, Deputy Speaker, that the current budget of just over 1.2 billion for housing infrastructure of the province will take longer to achieve housing delivery to the citizens of the province.

Government is unable to reach its financial obligation and commitments due to drastic budget cuts. The fact that it took parliament over two months to adopt a budget demonstrated the dire financial strains that the country finds itself on. Honourable Deputy Speaker, this debate brought forward, is based on an anti-thesis to the positive development trajectory embarked by the ANCled government. Members of the opposition benches, I beg them to understand that the key most benefits of rolling out large-scale housing infrastructure projects lead to improvements in the local economy.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the government's move to continue to work with institutions like DBSA, the private sector and other parties of interest in unlocking the economic benefits to the

country and to the people of the province, is that we have over too many of informal settlements creating overreliance and expectations and therefore we will always encourage that to happen.

And therefore, the smart and mega cities carry potential and will assist our municipalities to expand property rates collection and improve municipal revenue generation. Our people have also started on their own privately owned or acquired land that has been through restitution started to think around establishment of mega cities as well as other new settlements, an example of Mekgareng CPA, Bakubung, Bakgatla and other communities.

Honourable Speaker, therefore the Department of Human Settlements will henceforth take the lead to align with Section 19 of the Housing Act which stipulates that the mandate of the entity, and in this case the North West Housing Corporation Act 84 of 1982 is very clear that the entity carries no mandate to implement mega cities nor to enter into contractual obligations with external funders without the shareholders involvement. And therefore, the implementation will be carried out by the shareholder.

Those who are too forward need to exercise patience and wait. We are government of the people, by the people. The Department of Human Settlements is aware and shall always operate in line with all the legislative prescripts through the guidance of Treasury and the EXCO blessings. The department has begun a process of repealing the Act and has tabled the Bill which is currently published in the provincial gazette for public comments.

Our aim is to empower the entity to amongst others, implementation of mega cities and smart cities which is not specifically stipulated in the current Act. Through rigorous consultation processes which will be led by the department being the shareholder on behalf of government, our communities being the people of the North West will immensely form part and will benefit from the smart and the mega city projects.

The funding model proposal for this mega city projects includes consideration of blended funding models, combining public funds with private capital, donor contribution, the development finance to mitigate risk and extend impact. We are confident as the North West Government led by the ANC that the pledge by DBSA to support our North West Government as they have put it during the time of the interaction with the former Premier Maape under the Acting Premier Nono Maloyi,

has always shown that they are going to assist in capacity building to enable the relevant department and its entity that is the Housing Corp.

It is the right move and our people must not be defocused and we will forever continue to put them first. The opportunities for blended finance brought about in blended financing, the risk sharing, the blended financing leverages, private sector investment reducing pressure on public funds. Leveraged effect: Every Rand of public funding can potentially attract multiple Rands in private investment. Development impact: The donor and conventional finance may help structure the project with greater social and environmental outcomes.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the North West people and the country at large need to know that the loan applications and funding are spearheaded by Treasury and approved by the EXCO. The implications that are put before us by this motion of provincial fiscus and service delivery is immaterial because where we are seated, there's no such a loan, there's no application and it is just a dream. It is something that is not there. We cannot come here and lie to our people. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Lenkopane. Honourable Moema, you've got 10 minutes.

**HON. MOEMA:** Thank you very much. Commissar Shakes Botswe in absentia, and your leadership collective of the EFF, Honourable Deputy Speaker Honourable Maine, Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, good morning. The North West Housing Corporation's recent application for a 74.3 billion loan application proposal from the Development Bank of Southern Africa represents proof that we have a chronic housing and infrastructure deficits.

This loan proposal has sparked interest not only for its potential to transform living conditions but also for the complex implications it may have on the provincial fiscus and the broader landscape of service delivery in the North West. At the heart of this initiative lies the intention to tackle persistent housing backlogs that have plagued the province for years. The North West, like many other provinces in South Africa, faces significant challenges in providing adequate housing for its rapidly growing population. Informal settlements have expanded, and service delivery protests often stem from frustrations over standard living conditions.

While the potential benefits of such a financial injection are significant, the implications for the provincial fiscus raise critical concerns. A loan of this magnitude would likely require some form of guarantee or fiscal backing from the provincial government. This introduces the risk of longterm debt obligations that could strain the province's financial sustainability.

If not carefully managed, loan repayments could divert funds from the essential public services such as healthcare, education, and social development. Moreover, the debt servicing costs could limit the government's ability to respond flexibly to unforeseen fiscal pressures or economic downturns. Additionally, the success of this initiative depends heavily on governance, transparency, and efficient project management. South Africa's public sector, and the North West Province in particular, has experienced instances of financial mismanagement and maladministration.

Without stringent oversight mechanisms and accountability frameworks, there is a danger that funds could be misallocated or lost to corruption, undermining both the objectives of the loan and public trust. It is therefore essential that we focus on ensuring that there is stability and necessary leadership in the Housing Corp to impose rigorous due diligence and conditions tied to performance milestones, fiscal discipline, and community consultation.

The broader implications for service delivery must also be considered. On the one hand, the proposal for a loan application might be creating an impression that there is a potential to catalyse significant improvements in public infrastructure, enhancing access to housing services, and employment opportunities. If implemented as part of a holistic urban development strategy, the project could stimulate local economies and improve quality of life for thousands of residents. On the other hand, if the loan is not matched by institutional capacity and interdepartmental coordination, it could exacerbate existing inequalities and create isolated developments lacking integration.

Political dynamics further complicate the situation. Large-scale financial commitments often become politically contested, especially when questions arise over transparency, community engagement, and the equitable distribution of benefits. The provincial leadership must therefore ensure that this initiative is guided by inclusive planning processes and robust communication strategies that engage all stakeholders, from municipal authorities to local communities.

In conclusion, the 74.3 billion loan application proposal by the North West Housing Corporation to the Development Bank of Southern Africa represents a significant challenge. While it has the potential to transform the housing landscape of the province and enhance service delivery, its success hinges on sound fiscal planning, good governance and the active involvement of the public. As the EFF, Speaker, we therefore reject the proposal because loans put a burden on the coming administration and as well we do not have trust and confidence in the Housing Corp itself.

We saw recently they've been diverting from their actual mandate and even initiating programmes that are even outside their scope. Giving people raw meat, attempting to even kill our people, turning into events and so forth. So it appears clearly that there's no leadership. That Housing Corp as an entity is faced with critical leadership crisis and credibility chaos. Therefore, as the EFF we stand to reject the proposal. Thanks Speaker.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Moema. Honourable Groenewald, you've got three minutes.

**HON. GROENEWALD:** Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. The Freedom Front Plus stands today in absolute opposition to the reckless and fiscally suicidal decision by the North West Housing Corporation to apply for a 74.3 billion loan from the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

After interest calculated over 20 years, the total amount to be paid back on a loan will be to a 183.8 billion Rand. To put it in perspective with a monthly pay back of 765.8 million Rand, you could give every single person living in the North West a monthly stipend of 200 Rand for the next 20 years. Let us be clear, the so-called mega city is not a development plan. It's a desperate election smoke screen by a failing ANC-led government that has run out of ideas, run out of money and run out of shame.

The North West Province has a total budget of 55 billion. This loan is 74 billion, what's more than the entire provincial budget or differently put, after interest, a total of all three year's budgets in the medium term combined. Who in their right mind could commit an already struggling province to this kind of debt? Who will pay this back? The answer is simple: The people of the North West

through the equitable share, through reduced services, through sacrificed infrastructure will carry the burden of ANC incompetence for decades to come.

There are currently 75 housing projects in this province that are blocked or incomplete, clinics are understaffed, schools are collapsing, municipalities are bankrupt, roads are pothole graveyards but instead of fixing what is broken, the government wants to build castles in the air with borrowed billions. The Freedom Front Plus demands accountability. This loan must be stopped.

The North West Housing Corporation has no mandate to build mega cities. Its job is to provide decent, affordable housing to the people not to act like a rogue property developer playing monopoly with public money. This is not development, this is debt slavery. This is not a vision, this is vanity. And the people of North West deserve better. The House must rather investigate if such a loan is being applied for, if it's legally or not and ask DBSA to reject any such application.

Speaker, if the loan goes through, it will be remembered not as a legacy in progress but as a monument to mismanagement, another ANC blunder carved into the debt of future generations. I thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Groenewald. Honourable Williams, you've got 11 minutes.

**HON. WILLIAMS:** Honourable Speaker Dr Desbo Mohono, Honourable Premier Lazarus Mokgosi in absentia, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I'm worried about the debate because I'm not sure about the essence of the debate. The department just clarified there is no loan, the department not me.

So I'm just worried but let me go to; so I wanted to clarify first Members on my left that there is no loan. The debate it's saying 74 billion loan application by the North West Housing Corporation to the Development Bank of Southern Africa and implications of this liability on provincial fiscus and service delivery in the province. That's the speech. I want to talk to the misunderstandings and misconceptions and grandstanding that we do as politicians from time to time to try and score easy and cheap political points but I want to speak to the content of what this implies.

Honourable Speaker, President Cyril Ramaphosa during the sustainable infrastructure development symposium for South Africa held in 2021 decried that a tepid approach to investment in infrastructure undermines the goal to improve rural accessibility and establish linkages to formal economic opportunities in urbanised areas. There can be no argument that infrastructure is the foundation on which the future of our country is being constructed. It is the cornerstone of any nation's competitiveness, prosperity and social wellbeing.

Infrastructure development connects people to market opportunities and each other. Such connectivity is the lifeline of business fuelling the flow of goods, services and ideas that drive innovation and growth. The work of the state-owned entities in our economy of providing essential services and contributing to economic growth and helping reduce poverty cannot be overstated.

To give concrete meaning to our vision of growing our provincial economy through infrastructure-led development, we as the ANC are committed to providing the living condition of residents of the North West. We are of the firm view that infrastructure serves as the foundation of our province's economy by providing necessary physical and social systems for sustained growth and development.

Through infrastructure network, we can improve productivity, attract investment and enhance the overall wellbeing of every person who calls this province a home. Transformation of jobs can only come from economic growth and that is why we must support every entity, every government department, every private sector institution that can help us achieve on this programme.

Changing the apartheid spatial planning and accelerating our programmes of housing delivery requires us to reset buttons and do things differently. Collaborations with municipality, traditional leaders and other stakeholders in the spirit of the district development model is crucial to identify pieces of land that are to be used to create a more just and equitable urban landscape by addressing the legacy of apartheid caused by your ancestors anyway, spatial planning through legislation, strategic frameworks and a focus on integrated and sustainable development.

However, Honourable Speaker, while enthusiasm for large-scale infrastructure development projects like this is warranted, it is imperative that we base our discourse on the facts. Contrary to what is put out there by public reps, there is no loan of 74 billion that has been approved by the Development Bank of South Africa to the North West Housing Corporation.

At present what exists is a conditional commitment of administrative support from DBSA to assist the entity into developing a bankable business case. The process is purely preparatory in nature and does not constitute any form of financial approval or disbursement of the funding. As such, any suggestion that a loan has been granted or confirmed is misleading and prematurely raises public expectation.

A final decision on the loan can only follow once a rigorous due diligence process is completed including the submission of a viable project plan that aligns with national and provincial priorities and fiscal responsibilities. Furthermore, it is necessary to re-examine the institutional competency and the legal mandate of the North West Housing Corp which I believe the department is busy with that process.

According to the enabling legislation that governs the entity, its primary function is to manage and promote housing projects and not independently engage in high-risk, large-scale borrowing arrangements. Such financial undertaking especially those with significant implication for provincial fiscus falls squarely within the purview of the department itself.

If in the future, a decision is made to proceed with funding application of this magnitude, it must purely and properly be located and driven within the department itself which hold the appropriate mandate and accountability framework. The role of the NWHC should be supportive and operational not strategic or financial especially in matters that carry substantial long-term liabilities for the province.

We must exercise fiscal prudence and institutional discipline in the execution of our infrastructure agenda. As leaders, it is our duty to ensure that governance is not only visionary but also legally sound and transparent. Any infrastructure development must comply with applicable laws, regulation and inter-governmental processes that guide responsible public financial management.

Let us therefore all remain steadfast in our commitment to develop our people, to develop our province. Development should not come on the basis of a colour or an affiliation. It is a right of every citizen and therefore bringing the debate in such a premature state, for me it is nothing Honourable Deputy Speaker but grandstanding by the Members on my left. Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Williams. Honourable Tsholo, you've got three minutes.

**HON. TSHOLO:** Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. uMkhonto weSizwe Party does not support the envisaged 74.3 billion in loan application by the North West Housing Corporation in the Development of Southern Africa for the following reasons: A mega city is defined as a very large city that has a population of more than 10 million residents according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. A mega city therefore has about six million residents more than the North West Province population which had 3,8 million residents as at 2022 census report.

Before any attempt could be made to establish a new mega city in the North West Province, the North West Housing Corporation must first address the existing housing backlogs in the province including uncompleted housing units in North West dating back to 2011 as highlighted by the South African Human Rights Report that was released in November 2024.

The Commission revealed, Honourable Deputy Speaker, that more than many RDP housing projects remain incomplete across the province with poor planning, contractual disputes and weak oversight cited as key factors. In this particular instance, some of the service providers were paid whilst work was not of good quality standard. The defaulters to date, have not been brought to book. The existing municipal towns throughout the North West Province are in a state of decay. Infrastructure has deteriorated due to a collapse in local government.

Therefore, Honourable Deputy Speaker, uMkhonto weSizwe Party calls for the revitalization of existing towns, dorpies and villages commonly known as VTSD before embarking on the construction of the so-called mega city project. The R 74.3 billion loan application by the North West Housing Corporation is clearly not intended to address the immediate needs of the North West resident but to line up the pockets of cadres of the ruling party who are shouting at me whilst presenting or debating at this particular stage.

In terms of the Preamble of the North West Housing Corporation Amendment Act [Act No. 9 of 1994], Honourable Deputy Speaker, the North West Housing Corporation does not have a legal mandate nor a legal standing to build mega cities or smart cities, but it exists to address homelessness and develop social housing assistance within the province of North West itself. The

said Act defines the word house, in case you don't know it, as including any shelter, affordable low-cost housing or low-cost dwellings, flats, apartments or residential units whether held or to be held under sectional title deed.

The R74 billion of DBSA loan is set to follow the same pattern the country has experienced with mega projects like Medupi and Kusile where funds will most probably be funnelled to ANC cadres without projects being satisfactorily delivered and without consequence management for that particular matter. The proposal is based on political pronouncement of politicians and not on the North-West Housing Corporation Act of Parliament and therefore ultra vires ...  
[INTERRUPTION] ...

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Tsholo, I've been too generous with you. Your time is up, okay?

**HON. TSHOLO:** Oh thank you very much. You agree with my stopwatch.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**HON. TSHOLO:** Thank you very much Deputy Honourable Speaker for the period that you have afforded to uMkhonto weSizwe to debate.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you! Thank you! Thank you Honourable ...

[INTERRUPTION] ...

**HON. TLHAPI:** Mare VTSD ke ya motho wa rona bathong. VTSD ke ya ANC.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members can we have order! I see Honourable Mangope is not in the House. We will now call on Honourable Oliphant, you've got 11 minutes.

**HON. OLIPHANT:** Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Acting Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Honourable Members of the Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Deputy Speaker, I want to start off by just indicating the absolute abuse of this Legislature to come and listen to something that does not exist in facts.

Once again, we've seen a premeditated action that does not seem to find its expression in fact anywhere and that comes again from the Democratic Alliance. We were brought here the last time,

Deputy Speaker, to come and debate the location of scholar transport by the same Member who brought about this debate today. And in as fact-less as the scholar transport debate was, we are sitting with another fact-less debate that we are dealing with today in respect of a loan that does not exist in fact.

So the Democratic Alliance wants to bring us here because they have a history as remnants of the National Party and the Democratic Party to try to hold the ANC back from achieving that which it seeks to achieve in government not an ANC-led government because we are not leading anybody in government, we are the ANC in government. Our initiatives are to advance transformation and to advance the development of our people.

No silly debate of such a nature is going to keep us from achieving that which we want to achieve. They have not been able to demonstrate where the 74 billion loan exists in fact because it does not exist. So the entertainment that we want to try to bring to this House, they should try to have a roast like Helen Zille has taught them to go and sit on an open platform and debate on any issue that does not relate to service delivery. We are quite serious about the work that we are doing.

His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa in the opening of Parliament of South Africa had an expressing support of the infrastructure-led programmes to rebuild South Africa. And he remarked that, “from our largest metros to our deepest rural areas, we have a clear intention to turn our country into a construction site as roads, bridges, houses, schools, hospitals and clinics are built and as broadband fibre is laid and new power lines are installed.”

This we intend on continuously doing even in the North West. We therefore support strengthening of capacity of our state-owned enterprise to promote inclusive growth and infrastructure-led programmes so that our state-owned entities deliver the measurable results for inclusion and integration in the mainstream economy. This commitment to infrastructure development empowerment, must underpin our efforts to create a more equitable society and ensure that the benefits of transformation are true to millions of residents of our province.

The historically marginalised from our rural and urban communities should also be able to enjoy the democratic dividend. None of our communities should be left behind. There should be investments in their areas to increase access to markets, services and continued development.

Chapter 8 of the Public Finance Management Act underscores the need for departments and entities to follow proper financial protocols. I'm sure that the Democratic Alliance has not seen this.

The Act explicitly states the manner in which the entity must follow when borrowing money and/or entering into transactions which bind the national revenue to any future financial commitments unless authorised by another Act of legislation. This is not the case, this is not the case. We have not seen this happen in the North West Province.

Deputy Speaker, it was President Mbeki who said and I quote: "When the ANC government took over in 1994, it found nothing in office." We have found nothing in office and we have done much with the nothing that we found and we will continue to do so. The entity is therefore obliged to follow all statutory prescripts in the application of the loan from the DBSA and follow proper financial protocols.

As has already been indicated, there is no loan that has been approved. There are only memorandums of understanding and agreements in terms of collaboration. The Housing Corporation aims to embark on this path of rebuilding our province and to facilitate the resurgence of our provincial economy through infrastructure-led development and this must be supported.

Within this context, the Housing Corp remains a strategic contributor ensuring economic inclusion, improving living conditions and a catalyst to reducing inequality and alleviating poverty in the province. Infrastructure development is one key means to reverse the spatial patterns of apartheid and to address the legacies of privileged and the underdevelopment that the DA and the Freedom Front have not spoken to. In fact, they've spoken to us about struggles that they have no ideas of.

No efforts must be spared to address homelessness and develop social housing through assistance. The North West Housing Corporation through the department must in **pursuit** of the objective to accelerate housing delivery, it's just the benefit of reading and knowing English, continue to tap into the housing market by investing in productive sector of the economy to drive social development and boost economic growth. Not everybody knows English.

In this regard, the board must hasten to amend the founding legislature **of** the Housing Corporation. It must continue to play an oversight role on the entity to make sure that the mega city projects does not steer away from its intended objectives of enabling economic growth to address issues

such as unemployment and poverty. Collaboration with entities and other sister departments to train hordes of young people on artisan development programmes will also enable us to diffuse the ticking time bomb of youth unemployment whilst affording them opportunities to acquire skills in various disciplines.

The council for the built environment professionals and skills development strategy for the public sector in 2023 December revealed that 14% of registered professionals in South Africa are women, 14, and 62% of registered professionals are white, followed by 25% Africans, and nine Indians and four coloureds. We therefore see why we have not brought any statistics to justify why we don't want development because we want to keep the industry white.

Given the glaring anomaly revealed in the report of the council in the public sector, we are of the firm believe that collaborative work of the entity and sister departments such as Public Works require resoluteness on their part to address century old effects of apartheid and colonial economic systems which close opportunities for our people.

Interventions to capacitate young people with the requisite skills in order for them to participate meaningfully in the economy through internships and candidacy programmes will also be upskilled. Prerequisite technical expertise and project management capacities which the NWHC does not have must be mobilised to come to collusion as well as corrupt practices. These are all things that can come with the loan being approved in various forms or shapes.

The participation of the National and Provincial Treasury, and I want the people on my left to hear, the participation of the National and Provincial Treasury in the provincial steering committee will ensure that intergovernmental coordination enhances public/private partnerships while attracting investments for delivery of quality public infrastructure that our communities deserve.

Nothing must fall between the cracks and no maleficence must be associated with the rollout of envisaged mega cities, so says the ANC. Unlike the doomsayers who do not offer any solutions to the inherited infrastructure backlogs facing our communities, we will hold the Provincial EXCO and the department to the highest level of accountability. Just as we have done with VTSD that those who know its successes have just told us about. Thank you very much.

We will watch project implementation like a hawk to ensure that the project is corruption-free, that jobs are created for the benefit of our people as well as inclusivity for shared growth and accelerated service delivery including development is realised without compromise. We dare not linger to develop or to deliver on our government's commitment to use infrastructure development as the flywheel of the South African economy. So whether the EFF supports something that doesn't exist or not we are not there, we will remain focused.

Deputy Speaker, it is as Robert Frost says and I quote: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep but I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep." Whilst the opposition has an advantage of sleeping on duty and throwing stones at nothing which they support and going to the same people to ask for their votes, we cannot sleep. We don't have any ability to close our eyes. As much as it looks good for everybody to sleep, we don't sleep. We cannot sleep. We've got services to deliver as has been said.

We dare not linger as elected representatives of our people of the North West. We carry the hopes of more than thousands of people who have voted for us in their majority, many who live in abject poverty. Through equitable infrastructure development and prioritising both urban and rural infrastructure, we can connect the province of the North West and undo the legacy of apartheid which both the DA and the Freedom Front have not spoken to. They want to entrench us in a system that will not allow our people to develop.

We will use our land, we will use our skills, we will partner with the private sector and entrepreneurs to turn around the fate of our people. Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, we welcome the role clarification given by Honourable Lenkopane. We welcome the clarity given by Honourable Williams and look forward to the review of processes to be followed and the processes to be followed in the implementation followed as part of due diligence in order to close whatever loopholes that may occur.

We will not be deterred by people who want to put up loopholes in systems that don't exist, by people who want to withhold our focus in terms of driving development, by people who bring debates to the House on things that don't exist in fact or in law. There is no 74.3 billion loan approved. None of you have come to this House with any iota of evidence to convince the people of the North West that the ANC government is governing and governing recklessly. All of you have

made assertions of things that harbour no facts at all and you take pride in misleading people on platforms of Honourable Members.

Deputy Speaker, we are here on an uncalculated debate, a move to embarrass the African National Congress, a plan of the 1994 when the National Party gave us a government with old infrastructure, unmaintained for our people and they thought that we will fail. We have not begun failing, we have made mistakes. We are correcting those mistakes. We will continue governing our country and our province in the interest of the people. We will not sit and throw stones while we live in glass houses.

We are waiting for the day that the DA brings a debate to this House for us to debate stolen land parcels when they had an opportunity to govern in the very same JB Marks. They have not brought that debate. They must bring the debate to this House and debate the impact and the effect of the then Anette Combrink in her role as the Mayor. They have not done so. They have brought us debates, I don't want to say pre-what but whatever is pre, has not happened yet. It is only them who know that Medunsa by the floor is going to indicate what will or what cannot happen. We are bound by ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please wrap up Honourable Oliphant.

**HON. OLIPHANT:** Because we have got to defend the gains of the African National Congress. I thank you Deputy Speaker.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Oliphant. Honourable Steyl, ... [INAUDIBLE] ... the debate, you've got three minutes.

**HON. STEYL:** Thank you Deputy Speaker. Honourable Sonakile, the DA will continue to bring debates here in the interest of the people of North West. We are not scared ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Deputy Speaker, MEC Lenkopane, I don't know how you participated in this debate. You are not from COGHSTA unless you were redeployed **mare** you told us it's a grand project and it will empower people and economic development, what-what-what, and then you closed off and you said it's just a dream, it's an ambitious dream. **Ke ditoro, ditoro tsa hao.**

And then **le hape** former Premier Nono Maloyi is not here. This is the Seventh Administration, we don't want to hear about him. It is unfortunate that my MEC Oageng Molapisi is not here because

at least he would have spoken sense. Honourable Sonakile, if this is the quality of debates but **maobane bosigo ba kopana le Mogodire**, they had a working committee to come and debate here with nonsense. Yoh! Honourable Williams, the horror of apartheid can never justify failed governance. Never!

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Steyl!

**HON. STEYL:** Let us not do that.

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

**HON. WILLIAMS:** I wanted to call a point of order on that Speaker.

**HON. TLHAPI:** Thank you Deputy Speaker. Is nonsense parliamentary? Is nonsense parliamentary Deputy Speaker?

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

**HON. WILLIAMS:** Honourable Deputy Speaker? Honourable Deputy Speaker, my hand is up.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, can we please have order! The question has been posed to the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer will respond to the question, Honourable Williams.

**HON. WILLIAMS:** Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. May I please be protected and the Member not address me and focus on the debate. Thank you Chair.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, you know today we had a lot of fun in the House. Honourable Madoda Sambatha!

**HON. TSHOLO:** A communist can't speak like you are speaking, communist.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Tsholo! Honourable Tsholo! Can we please have order! I will make a ruling in the next sitting with regard to whether nonsense is parliamentary or not. We can proceed Honourable Steyl.

**HON. STEYL:** Thank you Deputy Speaker ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Priscilla Williams you are protected. Can you please address the House and not address Honourable ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

**HON. STEYL:** Through you Deputy Speaker, the horror of apartheid can never be used to justify failed governance. Deputy Speaker, Honourable Oliphant participated in this debate and he told us it's fact-less. The fact is that the title of the debate says the loan application. I debated the loan application and then he referred to the scholar transport debate that we tabled as the Democratic Alliance, MEC Wessels Morweng, he says it's fact-less. Children died in scholar transport in this province under that thing, children have died. Buses are unroadworthy ...

**[INTERRUPTION] ...**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members!

**HON. STEYL:** And the department can't even pay those service providers with broken buses ...

**[INTERRUPTION] ...**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Steyl!

**HON. WILLIAMS:** Order Chair!

**HON. STEYL:** The fact is, Deputy Speaker, the fact is, Deputy Speaker ... **[INTERRUPTION]**

...

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Steyl, I'm addressing you! When I say; no, no, Honourable Members. When I call you Honourable Steyl, you must stop, okay. Honourable Members; I will take the point of order Honourable Williams; can I please request that you have order. We have started very well, we had fun there and there. We did not interfere with Members doing whatever though you were conversing very loudly some of you disrupting other Members.

I want to get your point of order Honourable Member so that we allow Honourable Steyl to conclude.

**HON. WILLIAMS:** Yes, Honourable Chair, the point of order is just on the misplaced debates. We are debating the loan on Housing Corp and not Transport. So the Member must focus on what we are debating. If the Member wants to bring a Transport debate, we will do so at that time. Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, like I said today we're having fun. Can we allow Honourable Steyl to proceed? Please Honourable Steyl.

**HON. STEYL:** Thank you Deputy Speaker. Even these ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Oliphant I will really have to this time around remove you from the House or any other Member because we started having fun but now we are overdoing it. Can you proceed Honourable Steyl.

**HON. STEYL:** Thank you Deputy Speaker. The points of orders are also nonsense because Honourable Oliphant brought scholar transport here and he told me it was fact-less when children had died and those buses are unroadworthy ... [INTERRUPTION] ... **HON. WILLIAMS:** Mare the Member is continuing **ka go re bitsa** nonsense.

**HON. STEYL:** It's a fact. And the fact is Deputy Speaker, the ANC government, it embarrasses itself. It doesn't need me to come here to embarrass it, you do it by yourself as a government. I am here representing the Democratic Alliance in the interest of the people of North West. Deputy Speaker, this debate is not premature, it is prudent because had we come to debate a loan already solicited ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

**HON. WILLIAMS:** The five minutes is done.

**HON. STEYL:** It would be a crisis. The aim of this debate is: There is no feasibility study. We don't know how many houses are going to be built ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You've got 30 seconds remaining Honourable Steyl.

**HON. STEYL:** We don't know what, we don't know why. We want to stop this. And the Democratic Alliance, I want to thank all Members on the left who today spoke on the side of righteousness. Instead we will reject this with your fact-less debate. Go back to your working group and work to come debate us properly ... [INTERRUPTION] ... **HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Steyl. Your time is up.

**HON. STEYL:** We will never, never back down! I thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Steyl, thank you. Your time is up.

**HON. WILLIAMS:** Ga go na application.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members!

**HON. WILLIAMS:** Monna o tsogile fela a bo a re debate.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members! Order! ... [INTERRUPTION] ... **HON.**

**SONAKILE:** ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Ke lo tshaba tota.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable order! Honourable Members, can you please have order! Members of the House both on the left and right, can you please have order! Please Honourable Members. Secretary you may read the next order please.

#### **SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 6 MEC'S ORAL REPLY TO QUESTIONS**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, in terms of the Legislature Programme, today's sitting is scheduled for Members of the Executive Council to respond to Questions tabled for oral reply. The Question Paper was tabled through the ATC on the 20th May 2025, Honourable Members, I want to draw your attention to the following Rules: Rule 143 subsection (1) which stipulates that the time allocated for questions for oral reply is 60 minutes and Rule 143 sub-section (2) which states that the discussion on any particular question may not exceed 15 minutes.

Honourable Members should also note that all questions which will not be responded to due to time, will be converted to written reply and responsible MECs must submit the responses to the Secretary by the end of business today for tabling. Honourable Members, I want to remind you that we are still operating on the 9th Edition of the Standing Rules of the Legislature. The 10th Edition will only be considered for adoption today.

Honourable Members must resist the temptation of thinking that the Revised Rules are already applicable. Although we have subjected support to parties on training on formulation of questions, we have not been strict and going forward, we will not allow any question that offends the Rules that we would have adopted today.

Honourable Members of the Executive, where a question requires statistical data you cannot immediately provide, please indicate so, we will provide you an opportunity to provide same in

writing. Now we're getting to the questions Honourable Members. The first question is posed by Honourable Babuile to the MEC responsible for Provincial Treasury, Honourable Mosenogi. And Honourable Babuile is not in the House. Honourable Mosenogi.

**HON. MOSENOGI:** Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. The under-collection is as a result of the following: The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management has experienced delays in implementing the revised tariffs due to the difficulties in obtaining a gazette from the government printers. Additionally, some municipalities have been withholding or delaying deposits of motor vehicle license revenue to the department contrary to the relevant provisions stipulated in the contractual agreement.

Regarding the Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Tourism, the undercollection was mainly due to the implementation of the outcome of the high court. During the 2023/2024 financial year, the Casino Association of South Africa and other stakeholders challenged the Section 84 (1)(e) 87 (1)(a) and 87 (3) of the North West Gambling Board Act No. 2 of 2001.

The North West High Court ruled in their favour and the decision was subsequently upheld by the Constitutional Court of South Africa. As a result, the entity has had to revert to the 2004 levy tariff. In so far as it relates to the Department of Public Works, there were delays with regard to implementation of EXCO resolutions, approving the disposal of non-core, strategic assets.

The other response is how does the MEC remedy the situation to address underperformance and enhance departmental capacity? The Provincial Treasury in line with the process of initiating transversal bids for auctioneering services. This initiative aims to ensure the departments conduct auctions as planned and improve the recovery of outstanding debts. These bids are expected to be finalised before the end of the second quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year.

The Provincial Treasury in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism have submitted the Money Bill and draft amendments of the North West Gambling Board Act. The purpose of this draft legislation is to create certainty about the legalities of revenue mobilisation and collection from casino operation within the North West Province.

Furthermore, the Provincial Treasury working with the Department of Community Safety and Transport is actively engaging with municipalities to address the practice of deliberately withholding or delay by some municipalities on transferring motor vehicle license fees on time to COSATMA.

The province underspent by 1.75% on conditional grants as opposed to the same period in 2023/2024 financial year. The reasons are the underspending of the conditional grant mainly as a result of underperformance by the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Agriculture and Rural Development.

For Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, the underspending was as a result of the delay with the appointment of the contract for the implementation of the infrastructure projects. Regarding DARD, the national transferring department took time to approve the business plan for Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme grant. And as a result, the implementation was impacted negatively. Obviously, the issue of agriculture remains a major challenge.

On how we intend to assist and support the department, the department is expected to implement all departments that were severely affected are expected to implement recovery measures with the main objective of improving expenditure and on the comprehensive agriculture support programme grant. And this improvement was expected as at the end of 2024/2025 financial year.

Core to the recovery measures was agility in unlocking and concluding procurement processes. The Provincial Treasury is continuing to work with the department to address the planning and implementation challenges. Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Mosenogi. Does any Member wish to make a follow-up? Honourable Dabampe.

**HON. DABAMPE:** Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. On the issue of municipalities that are not transferring the money to Department of Transport, if we can get which municipalities are those. And also, the mitigation that the department is putting because engagement is not enough. What is it that Treasury is putting, be it Riots Act to say if you don't give the department the money that is due because this is a serious violation of the service level agreement between Transport and municipalities. So what is it that Treasury is doing including withholding of equitable shares to

municipalities? Have they ventured into taking that route to ensure that the province is able to get its rightful revenue? Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Mosenogi.

**HON. MOSENOGI:** Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. As we have stated, the Honourable Member is requesting that we submit the list of the municipalities, we will do so but the engagements are ongoing because some of the municipalities have been having challenges. And as it relates to the withholding of the equitable share, it's not the Provincial Treasury, it's the National Treasury but it's not within our interest as well that the equitable share must be withheld from the municipalities.

So we've been supporting municipalities in terms of the commitment they should make on servicing their current account with regard to the third party accounts, I think that's basically the questions that the Honourable Member has asked. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Sebegoe.

**HON. SEBEGOE:** Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. We welcome the response by the MEC to dismantle a culture of non-payment and commitment made to work with the Provincial Treasury to strengthen the collection of debt owed to municipalities by government. Now the question is, what other programmes and partnerships are in place to encourage households across our municipalities to embrace their responsibility to reduce their outstanding municipal debts?

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Mosenogi.

**HON. MOSENOGI:** Thank you Honourable Member. I think this part, it's largely a new question specifically on households but what we can say, we have insisted that municipalities across the province even those that are not under mandatory intervention or voluntary intervention, all of them need recovery plan. And part of the recovery plan should address the issue of collection both for commercial and for households, and obviously the household challenge it's much bigger.

So the challenge largely rests with the data available, and we have been working with them for cleansing of data ensuring that they improve the information of who they should be billing and

that even the billing account goes to the right person, get also the contact details as a result. So we are working with some of the municipalities and we will be piloting with two or three municipalities but in some areas there are improvements.

The challenge will be also collaboration with ward councillors to ensure that they encourage communities to pay their household debts but the other major issue is to intensify on the indigent register because in some parts of municipalities they have not really updated the indigent register where there can be at least a reduction in terms of what is due to the municipality and they can benefit from the subsidy that indigent households will benefit from. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any other follow-up question? Honourable Tsholo.

**HON. TSHOLO:** Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. The Honourable acting Premier indicated that the Department of Agriculture remains a major challenge. Therefore, I would like to be clarified Honourable Deputy Speaker as to the mitigation factors or measures that will be taken in order to deal with this particular department to avert the major challenges that have been reflected. Thanks, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Mosenogi, Honourable Members, I just read you the rules earlier on. So you should be just careful of the 15 minutes and the 60 minutes because the 15 minutes is inclusive of the 60 minutes. So you may not want to spend, and I'm not saying Members must not ask questions, you may not want to spend the 60 minutes of the questions on one question because at 60 minutes we are going to finish in terms of the rule. We are going to stop on the questions and defer them to written responses. As we do that, we are left with five minutes on the 15 minutes. Honourable Mosenogi, you may respond to Honourable Tsholo.

**HON. TSHOLO:** Thank you very much. We indicated that the delay also in terms of past expenditure was as a result of the business plan being approved late by the National Department. So we have had a discussion with the department and introduced the measures that will improve in terms of their expenditure on the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Grant. It was part of our response earlier, Chair. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Wallhorn.

**HON. WALLHORN:** Thank you Chair. Yes, in terms of the APP of Provincial Treasury and specifically looking at the culture of non-payment which was mentioned a couple of times now. The department, what action plan can they put forward that actually addresses both the households, the municipalities and even businesses that are owing money to us because it's a multi-year thing. I can take that as a written response if she cannot answer it now. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, it's a new question. You'll have to formally ask it whether for oral or written response, Honourable Sonakile.

**HON. SONAKILE:** Thank you Deputy Speaker. To the MEC Treasury, can you kindly quantify the 1.75% that has been underspent on conditional grants as to in terms of Rands and cents how much are we talking about? Thanks.

**HON. MOSENOGI:** Thank you very much. The oral questions often, Honourable Deputy Speaker, it does not necessarily have to but we will provide it as part of the written response on quantifying but in our press statement that we released as the Executive Council, that figure was there. I don't want to mislead the House at this point. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is in line with the rules that where statistics are required, the Member of the Executive may request that the question be responded to in written response. We now move to the second question posed by Honourable Botswe who's absent. And to the MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance and Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Honourable Molapisi who's not in the House has authorised Honourable Wessels Morweng to respond. Honourable Morweng, may you respond to the question.

**HON. MORWENG:** Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. The question was with regards to the event that was held at Lokaleng on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March which cost government 250 000 and then the MEC was required to give a response to that. And then we have provided an Annexure A which provides invoices and the payments therefore. The subsequent question to that was the, what did the MEC do to intervene on the health hazard. There were no health and safety issues experienced. The ablution facilities were provided for, proper seating arrangement under a tent and the police presence were available.

Furthermore, there were no reported incidents even after the event. The MEC have considered the discomfort of the Members of the House and have since cautioned the former accounting authority and the current interim board not to undertake similar events without the expressed approval of the MEC's office. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any Member wishes to have a follow-up question? Honourable Sonakile.

**HON. SONAKILE:** It is not necessarily a question Deputy Speaker but to say the Member is making reference to an annexure that has been submitted. Can we kindly be furnished with that annexure? Thanks.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** MEC Morweng, you will then facilitate that Members do have a copy of the annexure.

**HON. MORWENG:** No, I will do that Deputy ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Secretary, do you have the annexure? If not, you will facilitate that Members be favoured with that annexure. Honourable Moema.

**HON. MOEMA:** Thanks Chair. Just a follow-up on question (b). It's actually in relation to consequence management because that's why the question is clear to say there were no ambulances, there were no traffic officers as per the prescribed legislation that as and when you are having a gathering that has people that are at roundabout 1 000 and above or so, you must then have safety officers on site, you must also get approval from the local municipality in the area where you are going to host the event. So hence the question says the interventions is so far as that was not followed during that particular event. Thanks Speaker.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Morweng.

**HON. MORWENG:** Thank you very much. I think the MEC responsible has made it clear that upon realising this, he has called the accounting officer and made it clear and cautioned them that in future they must desist from embarking on a situation of this nature without necessarily considering other requirements thereof. Then we must remind the Honourable Member that

consequence management does not necessarily warrant a suspension. It also speaks to a Member cautioning or making it clear to the relevant accounting authority that this should not repeat itself. So from where I am seated, that on its own is fine for consequence management.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Members. We'll now migrate to the third question posed by Honourable Sonti to the MEC responsible for Agriculture. Honourable Sambatha.

**HON. MOEMA:** Speaker? Speaker!

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Moema.

**HON. MOEMA:** It appears that we're not having the same question paper or answer sheet because here there's a second question on the appointment of the North West Housing Corp board. Can the MEC provide a date on their appointments, their positions and qualifications and their earnings per sitting? So it appears on my question paper. And I see you are already going to Question 3.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Morweng, because we're on Question 2. Do you have that response to the question because you were supposed to respond to the question as posed?

**HON. MORWENG:** No pardon me Deputy Speaker. *Ke gama ya mafisa, ke e gama ke gadimile.* The question was to provide the qualifications for the members of the North West Housing Corporation Board. We have provided them there Honourable Moema. I don't know if I should go through them or in the interest of time they appear there. From Dr MM Tlhape to Ms Miga and we have attached their qualifications, if you can check them there. I don't think I should go through them in the interest of time Deputy Speaker.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable MEC Morweng, can we; table staff, Secretary, ensure that the attachment to questions are given to Members because I sympathise with what Honourable Morweng is saying that in the interest of time, and we are only in the third question. And we've got 17 questions and we have 60 minutes to deal with questions but because Honourable Moema you have posed this question; do you want to insist that the qualifications be read out? Or we save time and then you be favoured with the attachment? Honourable Moema.

**HON. MOEMA:** No agreed Speaker in the interest of time but I think among other questions, Question (c) that one is straightforward, how much do they earn per sitting? That one you can

answer. You don't have to give us attachment in the near future or so. You can answer to that immediately.

**HON. MORWENG:** Thank you very much ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Morweng, may I request you to look at the question and respond to say the question (a)(b)(c), the response is like this, this, this, so that Honourable Members don't have to come up and down saying that you have not responded to questions. And this applies to all Members of the Executive. You may go to the last answer.

**HON. MORWENG:** Okay, thank you very much Chair. The chairperson per day, the rate per day, he or she earns 5 549 and then per hour is 694 Rand. The deputy chairperson is 4 709 Rand and then per hour it's 589. Then members of the board is 4 317 Rand and then per hour it's 540. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, are there any follow-up questions? Honourable Dabampe?

**HON. MOEMA:** Thanks Deputy Speaker. Just clarity, is it per sitting or cause I hear him saying per day, per hour. So I want to understand cause normally boards earn per sitting not per day and; so just clarity, that is it per day, per sitting or what? Thanks.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Morweng.

**HON. MORWENG:** It is per sitting and the assumption is that sitting normally takes one day.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Morweng. No, no, can we have order Honourable Dabampe. No, no, Honourable Dabampe, can you please have order! You know today we're doing just fine. Honourable Members, we'll now migrate to Question 3 posed by Honourable Sonti to the MEC responsible for Agriculture. Honourable Sambatha.

**HON. SAMBATHA:** Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. The answer on (a) is that the main drivers of overspending in the programme it's traveling, traveling of lecturers and assessors and moderators. Once you have students on the programme *ya* internship, wherever they are, you need them visited by assessors and moderators. And that we can't properly budget because

when you budget, you will not know the kilometres from where assessors would be coming from to a farm. It depends on the distance in the province you travel. That's one cost driver there.

The second one and Honourable Dabampe knows this one because he's a chair of the biggest institution's council, UNISA. It's on the basis of the material. The cost of material keeps changing and the reason it keeps changing is on the basis of the number of learners you would have which are attached to farms but also number of learners that would then be expected to be taken through theory in that instance. So the cost drivers are predominantly those ones that make it far expensive.

On (b), on how many were trained, the first breakdown we have is that training was on that period was on beef production, broiler production, layer production, business management and marketing, vegetables production and vegetable processing. The numbers are as follows: the total is 409. In the 409, 180 are males and 228 females. And in total, 229 is youth. And in total, five is people with disability.

And then (c), as we indicated above the total is 409, it does not change and we have said beef, broiler, layer marketing, vegetable production and vegetable processing. And then those that were training them is ARC which is Agricultural Research Council. And fortunately, I must speak on this matter because there were people who were saying MEC and ARC.

ARC is the National Department of Agriculture entity. It has two functions. The national department does give it direct allocation for training in provinces because they have provincial appearance. The second one is when a department which means a provincial department gives them a responsibility to do training but they are accredited with AgriSETA.

The second one that is responsible for training it's our own, KGORA Farmer Training Centre which is a provincial entity. In the breakdown, 361 the majority were trained through ARC. The next one is on the graduates' placement. The total were placed at the time in question, it's 116. And this 116 was covered by one programme called CASP.

Now in CASP, you pay graduates 7 250 per month in CASP but I must also be honestly disclosing that this year we also have an inclusion of internship through AgriSETA and the AgriSETA ones are paid 5 000. So you're going to have two different graduate payments, one ya CASP 7.2 and one ya AgriSETA, 5 000. It's meant for the internship programme.

The next one Chair, point four, which is green jobs. As at the end of the quarter, the department had performed based on its numbers but I want Members when they look to the Department of Agriculture and numbers, they must look to realities. We don't know how many farmers are outside there. You have a situation where today's register does not include somebody who has not registered in the farmer's register.

So your planning must also have to do with actuals of; even when people had applied post the period of closing the application, there are those who are still going to apply. And when the Portfolio Committee visits, it would find other people saying we need assistance this and this. Those are the numbers that make planning change on each intervention on that regard.

So the performance was like that; on the next cluster, under (5) on the conditional grants, it says most of conditional grants are underspending and this question was answered, one portion by the MEC of Treasury, the acting Premier, the former DSG of the ANC Youth League, the former provincial coordinator of the ANC, Comrade Kenetswe Mosenogi.

No, no, there is a Premier, I'm not saying he must be the Premier. There's a Premier. We elect in the ANC without MKP. **Nawe** we elected you, when you were in the ANC, we elected you. We even employed you, most caring organisation. We employed you. You had an income because of the ANC.

**HON. MOEMA:** Order! Order Deputy Speaker.

**HON. TSHOLO:** We don't need political profiling of individuals here.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Sambatha, there's an order.

**HON. TSHOLO:** The MEC must respond to questions.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is the order Honourable Moema?

**HON. MOEMA:** Yes, the order is that Speaker we have limited time and to do justice to other questions, at least let's focus on the questions. Now they are responding to each in terms of credentials and we don't have interest in that. Our interest is this questions that we asked.

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

**SAMBATHA:** Thank you very much Comrade Fanon.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Tsholo! Please! Can you proceed Honourable Madoda Sambatha.

**HON. SAMBATHA:** Thank you very much Chair. Now Chair, on this one, when it says all grants, the most problematic grant expenditure in the department is CASP. Like what the MEC had said that because of national approval later, but what we had agreed with the Portfolio Committee through the MEC, was that let's not take this answer of late approval. Let's do an assessment in all nine provinces and check whether late approval only affects North West.

So that we check if the problem is North West. We attend to it in actual sense so that we don't hide behind national department approving late. Yes, it does approve late but if other provinces do spend properly, let's then approach those elements of proper expenditure. That's what we have said on this one. We don't want a blinded hide late approval permanently. The second element is also how the department is structured it's on its own problematic in terms of expenditure of grants.

That's what we are going to attend to. So in this one, even the Portfolio Committee will get a presentation once we are finished to check other provinces. Thank you very much Chair.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Sonti, do you have a follow-up question? Okay. Does any Member have a follow-up question? Honourable Oliphant.

**HON. OLIPHANT:** Thanks Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, we appreciate the comprehensive response and government's support. The distribution of training institutions, 48, by the ARC versus 361 by Kgora suggests reliance on internal infrastructure. It would be useful to understand comparative quality and certification outcomes between these two providers.

Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Sambatha.

**HON. SAMBATHA:** Well Chair, the first issue is that both of them are accredited by AgriSETA, both of them, ARC and Kgora. The only component that we must be looking at it's internal capacity

of availability of trainers. Kgora being a provincial government entity, we must keep improving on availability. As we speak, it has more vacancies on trainers available yet it has a sizable number including directly training community. That's (1).

(2) On ARC, the advantageous exposure of ARC training is because it's largely favoured by the organised formations in agriculture. It gives them too much of exposure on research. Like I said, it's a national entity but on qualification basis, they're rendering the same level. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Sonakile, was your hand up? Okay.

**HON. SONAKILE:** Thank you Deputy Speaker. Question to the MEC, the MEC is saying that the total learners who were trained it's 409. And of the 409, 180 are males and 228 are females. So there's one student who's missing. Where is that one missing student MEC? Thanks.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Sambatha.

**HON. SAMBATHA:** I will find the missing student and send him a notice. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Tsholo.

**HON. TSHOLO:** Thank you very much Honourable Chair. Having noted these particular challenges of CASP, why is the department **renewing** on the implementation of the beneficiary account that will ultimately assist the department in achieving?

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Sambatha.

**HON. SAMBATHA:** No when I said we'll be doing provincial checks it's because the national department says there are provinces who are doing well. And it's purely because of the implementation of the beneficiary accounts. That's what they say. When you take the provincial perspective of the management of the Department of Agriculture, they are not in favour of beneficiary accounts.

And on the basis of that, we must look to a province that has a beneficiary holder's account and a province that does not have to come to a proper decision as to if this component ya beneficiary holder's account is beneficial. I can tell you many problems of it. You give it to a beneficiary account, the supplier who is contracted by the beneficiary holder without the department does not

deliver and the money is paid. Later the person who must pay for the costs of reactivation of the project is the same department that did not take the responsibility to appoint the supplier and pay the supplier.

So we're looking at those things but if it is beneficial and quicker to implement, we will look at the logistics of that. Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Members. We will now migrate to the fourth question posed by Honourable Moema to the MEC responsible for Community Safety and Transport Management, Honourable Morweng.

**HON. MORWENG:** Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. The Honourable Member wanted to know about the network crisis at Christiana Police Station during the load-shedding and the alternative measures to be considered by the department to ensure that this does not inhibit operations at the station.

The SAPS in 1998 migrated from the manual recording of cases or complaints to the information technology electronic global access control system which in cases of recording of crime or complaint, has the crime administration system which is called CAS and the investigation case docket management systems.

In order to ensure the implementation of all these electronic data management systems, the SAPS through SETA and its human resource development division trained all its members, officers in the implementation application of this system and even developed standard operating procedures including procuring back-up systems such as laptops with connectivity devices from 3G to 5G which are used during power outages and not only during load-shedding.

The next question it spoke to the issues pertaining to general procurement at the stations which could have otherwise been avoided had the staff been competent for such duties. The Department of Home Affairs in terms of Section 19(4) of the Immigration Act 13 of 2022 determines which skills or qualifications are to be regarded as critical skills.

The SAPS has a component division of supply chain management under which sub-directorate fleet management falls. And all employees in these divisions including those working as fleet

managers are trained and qualified, assessed and evaluated based on the job description which is an employment contract agreement between employer and employee. Thank you.

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

**HON. MOEMA:** Yes Speaker. What qualifications does the person hold or what is the prerequisite of being a fleet manager? The question is there, it's on the question paper.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Morweng.

**HON. MORWENG:** Deputy Speaker, allow me to provide an oral response to that, a written response rather. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay. Does any Member have a follow-up question? None. Honourable Tsholo.

**HON. TSHOLO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I'm interested in the qualifications that are supposed to be submitted including the report that was supposed to be provided by the department in as far as the qualifications of all staff members are concerned. May I kindly request that we also access such reports. Thanks. They are not attached here.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Morweng.

**HON. MORWENG:** They will be provided as part of written response ... [INTERRUPTION]

...

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay thank you very much.

**HON. MORWENG:** Honourable Tsholo reetsa!

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We will now migrate to the fifth question which is posed by Honourable Dial who is absent to the MEC responsible for Health, Honourable Lehari.

**HON. LEHARI:** Okay thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Member want to understand EMS responses which is critical for patient that requires urgent medical attention. Now the first question, how many calls are on average lodged through the EMS toll-free emergency

number on monthly basis? Here is a matter of only numbers, 10 700 calls are received monthly. You can't add, you can't subtract, 10 700.

The second question, what is the average response time of EMS in rural communities? Now 70% of all priority that is those who are seriously ill, one patient is being responded to within 60 minutes. The third question, what factors are contributing to delayed response and what is being done to mitigate against them? The issue is the delay and how to address that delay.

Before this response, it's a matter of budget and buying more ambulances, shortage of ambulances. Now in responding to the delay, the lack of public transport system results in ... [INAUDIBLE] ... of ambulances for non-emergency. There is a planned patient transport system to ensure transport of patients; furthermore, the poor terrain and ... [INAUDIBLE] ... road infrastructure is being mitigated by the purchase of close to 13 4x4 ambulances to ensure access.

But the main one on this delay, the number of ambulances is currently 1 is to 50 000 population as opposed to 1 is to 10 000 norm from the national department. That means instead of having one ambulance for 10 000 population in the province, is one is to 50 000 population. Obviously, the delay will be there to respond. So the department is in the process of procuring additional ambulances as part of medication.

For 2025/26, we are planning to have 50 ambulances but it's still less. What can we do? It is the budget that we have. But furthermore, as part of mitigation, Deputy Chair; and escalation of protocol on delayed authorisation was established for intervention by the Transport subdirectorate and established communication with COSATMA MEC and delegated signatories for approval on work has commenced.

A communication pathway has been established with WesBank regional manager on delays experienced with authorisation of repairs. Weekly status reports with detailed progress on approved repairs are being generated as part of mitigation. Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Lehari. Does any Member have any follow-up question? Honourable Tsholo.

**HON. TSHOLO:** Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. With regard to the reasons that have been given by the Honourable MEC responsible for the Department of Health when he said what could he do because that is because of the budget. Is the department nor the Honourable MEC not able to reprioritise based on the needs on the ground looking at the demographics of our province? Thanks, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Lehari.

**HON. LEHARI:** Just to demonstrate Chair, Ngaka Modiri Molema, we were operating with 15, repairs are 14 and total is 29. Dr Kenneth Kaunda, operational is 13, repairs is 11, total is 24. Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati is 15, repairs 8, total 23. And Bojanala, we are operating with 17, repairs 21, total is 38. Now total for operation is 60 in the province, repairs 54 and total is 114 instead of 420 that we have to use in operating. So even if we prioritise, the allocation of the number of ambulances dictate you what to do. Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Wallhorn.

**HON. WALLHORN:** Chair, just a follow-up on the average response time in rural communities. I just wanted to find out is there a specific rural area that the MEC has identified that is giving the most patients basically. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Lehari.

**HON. LEHARI:** We know close to 16 or more percentage in the province, the province is rural. Some they call it deep rural. Now your Moretele, your Taung, Kagisano Molopo as an example, is where now we have prioritised. Those are deep rural. In Mafikeng, Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp there is a challenge but not like in those deep rural. So we've prioritised deep rural areas in the province. I mentioned only three municipalities but they are not three. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Members. We'll now migrate to the sixth question posed by Honourable Modise to MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance and Human Settlements, Honourable Molapisi who has authorised Honourable Morweng to respond on his behalf. Honourable Morweng.

**HON. MORWENG:** Thank you Deputy Speaker. The question posed by Chair of Chairs was with regard to initiation schools in the province, how many non-compliant or illegal initiation schools were closed across the province in the last season? Chair, in Ngaka Modiri Molema, four illegal initiation schools were conducted around Tswaing sub-district using fraudulent permits. The principal claimed that the National House of Khoisan granted them illegal permit which is a structure that is not recognised in terms of the Traditional Khoisan Act No. 3 of 2019.

The PICC closed all the illegal schools and opened a police case against both principals and the care givers. The case numbers, they are there. Initiates were taken to the nearest permitted schools after consent was granted from parents. Two other schools were illegally operating around the areas of Mafikeng, Ditsobotla sub-district. The PICC managed to close them down and subsequently open a police case against the culprits. Case numbers are also as follows, they are there.

The last illegal initiation schools were closed at Mafikeng upon where there were 16 initiates found at the school. The initiates were in a critical condition due to dehydration. The initiates were rushed to hospitals for medical attention. However, no police case was opened because the principal and the care givers escaped. Parents did not aspire to open case with the SAPS.

In Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, illegal schools were unable to be closed due to internal disputes between bogosi and members of the communities. In areas such as Taung, specifically in areas under the jurisdiction of Batlhaping ba ga Phuduhutswana, there was a decision taken by Kgosi and his initiation committee that the community would not be practicing during the season.

However, there were community members who held a different view and felt that the decision was not properly taken because there was no consultation on the matter with the broader community. During urgent meeting between the PICC and the stakeholders which included traditional leaders, SAPS, initiation principals and the Provincial Coordinator of CONTRALESA, after careful consideration, it was agreed that dikgosi will process the matter internally and they will update PICC.

And then how many lives were lost during the season? Three deaths were reported for the 2024 winter initiation season. And then how many cases were registered and successfully prosecuted

against illegal operators? It's nine cases and we have provided case numbers thereof. Thank you very much Deputy Speaker.

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

**HON. MODISE:** Sorry Honourable Deputy Speaker. ... [INAUDIBLE] ... incident of illegal or non-compliant initiation schools in the province in line with the existing legislation of Customary Initiation Act No. 20 2021, the work put forward by the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Council to reduce the loss of life emanating from the illegal initiation and the referral to some of them to be prosecuted.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me make my follow-up on that regard question. What are the interventions being taken by the department to train or to assist the traditional surgeons to comply with the obligation during the coming winter initiation season? Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Morweng.

**HON. MORWENG:** Deputy Speaker, we will provide a written response to that effect. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Morweng. Does any Member have a follow-up question? Thank you very much. Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Williams?

**HON. WILLIAMS:** Thank you very much Honourable Chair. My follow-up question is in terms of these initiation schools and kids that are abducted, what are the support measures that the department puts in place for affected families especially after the effect. Not only those that the children are eventually passing on but also those who find their kids already being taken by this institution in terms of psychosocial support. And are there any measures that the department is putting in place? Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Morweng.

**HON. MORWENG:** Deputy Speaker, we need not to mislead the House. So we will provide a detailed response that is backed by evidence of how the department has intervened on incidents of that nature that has transpired before. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Members. We will now migrate to the seventh question which is posed by Honourable Oliphant to Honourable MEC responsible for Public Works and Roads, Honourable Mokuia who's absent, but authorised Honourable Motsumi to respond on her behalf. Honourable Motsumi.

**HON. MOTSUMI:** Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Under Question 7 I must indicate that there are three sub-questions there. So I'm going to address all the three sub-questions at once. In terms of the first one, as the department we must confirm that the contractor development programme panel Vuku'phile consists of 52 active contractors still participating in the programme.

All 52 contractors are deemed active and participating for the entire duration of the panel until such time that the panel has officially lapsed. The following contractors have benefitted either through practical projects or theoretical training during the 2024/2025 financial year. We must indicate that out of 52 contractors, we confirm that 23 are females. We don't have youth. Persons with disability we are having two, the remaining contractor fall under the male category.

The second one, we must indicate that out of 24 contractors specified on the above demographics. For example, 23 females inclusive of one female with disability and one male with disability, all were allocated projects either from public works infrastructure through storm damage, schools projects or transport infrastructure through the routine roads maintenance projects.

The contractors also underwent theoretical classroom training in the 2024/2025 financial year. The training was NQF level 4 accredited with 67 credits. The training was offered to above 24 contractors which were active and participate in the programme at the time. However, only 18 successfully attended and completed the classroom training. The remaining four contractors were offered the training; however, they were not available on the specified training period.

The next one, I must indicate that unfortunately due to the budgetary constraints, the department was not able to allocate any large project under the contractor development panel in the 2024/2025

financial year. In instances where contractors received projects, it would be through the normal SCM and individual bidding processes. Thank you very much Deputy Speaker.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Motlotlegi Oliphant, do you have any follow-up question?

**HON. OLIPHANT:** Thanks Deputy Speaker. Besides that terrible shirt, *mare ene ke motho yo o siameng*. Deputy Speaker, I want to welcome the report from the MEC responsible for Public Works and Roads. We also welcome the interventions in respect of women and persons with disabilities. However, there's a serious shortcoming in terms of youth-owned enterprises.

I would want to establish what the plan is in terms of youth-owned enterprises in the current financial year and to which extent there's going to be an intervention to expand the number of youth-owned enterprises. Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Motsumi.

**HON. MOTSUMI:** Thank you very much Deputy Speaker for the follow-up question from Honourable Oliphant, but as the department we must put it on record to say that this particular contractor, development programme actually, it was opened for all the categories inclusive of youth. I think as the department what we are going to do because sometimes it's a matter of compliance. Remember we were dealing with a panel.

So what we are going to do? I think we must intensify when it comes to training of our young people in terms of filling these forms because if you don't comply, there is nothing that we can do. But as the department, it's worrisome and we cannot just fold our arms whereas we failed dismally, actually to accommodate all the categories. So we are going to work hand in hand with other departments like your DEDECT where they are dealing with cooperatives and they know how to; actually they are very conversant compared to other departments when it comes to these SMME's and so on. So we are going to work with them to check how best can they assist us in training our young people across the province in terms of issues of compliance and making sure when they submit their documents, they submit all the necessary documents that are being required. Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any Member got any follow-up question? Honourable Dabampe.

**HON. DABAMPE:** Thanks Deputy Speaker. I just want to get maybe clarity from the department that when they saw that many of the applications did not have youth, why didn't they headhunt for young people because it can't be that there's a programme for contractors and there is not even one, just one young person. And I know that the MEC who's responding on behalf of Public Works is very passionate about young people.

So she must tell us why didn't the department try to headhunt to say we are leaving five just for young people? Even yourself for sure Deputy Speaker are not happy that young people here, they're not accommodated. It's extremely wrong and there is no proper justification as to why would young people be left out in such an important programme. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Dabampe, don't canvass me indirectly, okay.  
Honourable Motsumi.

**HON. MOTSUMI:** Let us agree Deputy Speaker that young people were not left deliberately. Like I have already indicated, the advertisement was inclusive of all the categories. And I did indicate that it is a matter of compliance. And sometimes as the department, it is very difficult for us. Headhunting, we can go for headhunting but sometimes we have to look at the matter of compliance because we are dealing with policies, legislation.

So we don't want to be accused when we are headhunting to say that the processes were not fair and open to everybody to say that actually it was cadre deployment where members of the ANC actually they were actually targeted to be part of the programme. But we hear the arguments and we are in agreement and as the department we are not happy about this particular report. Hence, we did indicate to say that as the department, we'll sit down and do something in making sure that in the next project at least there's a number that represent young people because they are mostly affected. Thank you very much Speaker.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Sonakile. O sharp?

**HON. SONAKILE:** I'm covered Deputy Speaker, **E re ke go tlogele.**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Members, we're left with one minute, 30 seconds to complete the 60 minutes of the questions that are allocated in terms of the

Rules. I will use my discretion now to allow Honourable Dantjie to respond to; is that a point of order? Yes.

**HON. SONAKILE:** Deputy Speaker, point *ya ka ya order ke gore* noting that the time is limited and that is Question 8, immediately after this sitting the Portfolio Committee is going to be meeting the department to discuss this matter, can we maybe take another one? It's a proposal. Thanks.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Dantjie, it's the eighth question. It's a question posed by Honourable Williams to the MEC responsible for Social Development. That's a ruling now. Now Honourable Dantjie, can you respond to the question posed by Honourable Williams.

**HON. DANTJIE:** Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. (a) Not all grants recipients in the North West Province have been converted to the Postbank cards. As at the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, 2025, 59 778 out of a total of 157 068 were converted from the SASSA gold cards to the Postbank card, 43 945 clients migrated from the SASSA cards to the private bank accounts as at 12 May 2025. This means that as of 12 May 2025, 103 733 grants recipients have been migrated from SASSA gold cards which translates to 66% of total number of grants recipients in the province. The remaining 34% continue to use the old SASSA gold cards without any disruptions in terms of receiving their grants timeously.

(b) As at 12 May 2025, there were 53 345 clients that is your 34% in the province that still need to change to black cards. The card conversion is a competency of the National SASSA office. Therefore, the provincial office relies on their national counterpart's statistics. I want to put it on record that I'm responding on behalf of SASSA and National Department, we don't have stats as the Provincial Department. Thus far, what we're presenting is as provided before us.

(c) All the outlets with points of sale devices, swiping machines across the province including spaza shops in villages and townships offer grants collection services. It is important to note that the SASSA gold cards continue to function Honourable Members until all the cards are replaced or until grant recipients opt to switch to their private banks like others have already done. And clients who have lost SASSA gold cards or such are damaged or dysfunctional, they get to be

issued with Postbank black cards by using the outlets as provided. Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Williams, you have a follow-up question? She's outside or she's waiting for the meeting. Does any Member wish to have a follow-up question? None. Maybe because the Portfolio Committee is going to be dealing with it as you said. Now Honourable Members, we have come to the end of time as it relates to questions. The remaining questions will be submitted in terms of what I said when we started with the session, dealing with questions to the Secretary. Secretary you may please read the next order.

**SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 7 ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES AND POLICIES**

**7.1 North West Provincial Legislature Standing Rules 10<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**7.2 North West Provincial Legislature Member's Enabling Facilities Policy**

**7.3 North West Provincial Legislature Bursary Policy for Members**

**7.4 North West Provincial Legislature Allowances to Political Parties Policy**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the Seventh Legislature embarked on the process of reviewing the Standing Rules of the Legislature. This was a consultative process which involved all represented parties and inputs received were incorporated in the revised Standing Rules. We are satisfied that the process involved was inclusive and the Rules Committee considered and agreed on the revised Rules that are to be tabled today. Honourable Members, I therefore put before you the 10th Edition of the North West Provincial Legislature for adoption. Does the House adopt the revised Standing Rules and Orders?

**HOUSE:** Yes.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Sonakile, you said yes", Thank you Honourable Members. The North West Provincial Legislature Standing Rules 10<sup>th</sup> Edition are now adopted and

come into effect immediately. Honourable Members, the Rules Committee also agreed to the following three policies as recommended by the Member's Interest Committee. Honourable Members, I therefore put before you the following policies for adoption: North West Provincial Legislature Member's Enabling Facilities Policy. Does the House adopt the policy?

**HOUSE:** Yes.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The North West Provincial Legislature Member's Bursary Policy. Does the House adopt the policy?

**HOUSE:** Yes.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The North West Provincial Legislature Allowances to Political Parties Policy. Does the House adopt the policy?

**HOUSE:** Yes.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Sonakile, I don't hear you saying yes.

**HON. TSHOLO:** On his behalf, yes.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Tsholo, you always like talking, today Honourable Members, can we have order please Honourable Members! Earlier on I made a ruling that I will come back to the House with regard to whether the... Honourable Members, I defer the ruling on whether Honourable Steyl has used an unparliamentary language or not when he used the word nonsense in the House.

And I'm therefore coming back to the House with a ruling which I deferred. It is important to first understand the meaning of the word unparliamentary as understood in the parliamentary context and also defined in the Standing Rules of this House in terms of the North West Provincial Legislature Standing Rules. The word unparliamentary is defined as follows: Unparliamentary conduct means words, statements, gestures, utterances, or remarks made by a Member of the Legislature that defies the politeness of the Legislature or deemed to be provocative or threatening and which are not suitable for use in the Legislature.

And the word parliamentary has an opposite meaning. This appears to be the most common definition of the word. And in this regard, I have looked at the Rules of Parliament and other Legislatures as they define unparliamentary in a similar manner. Members, our history in the South African Parliament is riddled with examples of instances where the word nonsense was used and the common understanding is that whether the use of the word nonsense is parliamentary or not depends on the context in which it was used.

Honourable Members, **lo longwa ke eng?** This word can be used to disagree with the next person or to carry insults to the next person. The use of the word nonsense per say does not amount to unparliamentary language. However, the context and the tone in which the word was used should be taken into account when making a ruling. I am of the view that the context that the word was used today was not meant to be unparliamentary.

However, Honourable Members, in order to preserve the dignity of this House, I request that Members of this House must refrain from using these borderline words because in some instances they provoke the next Members and often lead to the degeneration of the House. I thank you. That concludes the business of today. The House is adjourned until further notice.

**HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 11:43!**