

[Sitting No. 4 – 2026] Third Session, Seventh Legislature

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2026

09H00

EDITED

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

Thank you, you may be seated. Honourable Members, we are honoured by the Supreme Council of the Royal Bafokeng Nation under the leadership today of Kgosanakgolo [Chief Headman] Tumagole, they will be joining the delegation tomorrow, Kgosi [the King] is not here today, he will be joining tomorrow.

Today the delegation is led by, like I have already said, Kgosana [Headman] Tumagole, Councillor Daphney Montsho, Kgosana [Headman] Modisaotsile, Rre [Mr] Molefi Kgokong, they are here to engage the legislature for benchmarking purposes. They will be with us for two days to share knowledge, lesson and even possible areas of collaboration. We welcome you Magosana a ga etsho [our Headmem], we are truly honoured to have you in our midst today. Secretary you may read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 2, MOTIONS AS PER RULE 101

2.1 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE AS PER RULE 106

2.2 NOTICE OF MOTION AS PER RULE 107

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Secretariat. Is there a Member who wish to table a Motion without Notice, I will take hands. Thank you. Honourable Motsumi, LGB your Motion?

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to move a Motion without Notice in commemorating the National Water Month in South Africa and is dedicated to highlighting the importance of managing water as a common, good and building resilience for the future.

The monthlong programme is observed annually on the 1st to the 31st of March led by the Department of Water and Sanitation, activating a series of activities across the country to advocate the department's response to challenges of water security, infrastructure, maintenance and investment, recurrent droughts driven by climatic variation, inequalities in access to water and sanitation, as well as deteriorating water quality.

National Water Month builds on this foundation, highlighting the value of fresh water and advocating for sustainable management of water.

POWER CUT DISRRUPTION

HON. SPEAKER: I think we are back, everything is in order. LGB you can start.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Speaker, for chasing Honourable Maine from my table.

This year's theme is "water and gender" with the slogan 'where water flows equality grows', centres women and girls in water solutions, ensuring their voices, leadership and agencies are full recognised in water decision making.

The theme also highlights, Honourable Speaker, a transformative right based approach to solving the water challenges. In response to mounting demands and insufficient infrastructure, President Cyril Ramaphosa has declared water supply challenges a national crisis and further announced a comprehensive national intervention, bringing on successful multiagency model applying to stabilise the energy sector.

To centralise and accelerate recovery, government has established the National Water Crisis Committee chaired by the President. This body will coordinate all state efforts to address water crisis, drive the requires reforms in water sector, and deploy national resources and technical experts to struggling municipalities.

In support of the National Water Month 2026, as the African National Congress we call on our communities to use water sparingly to ensure equitable share, the available resources and continuous fill from the taps. We further condemn acts of vandalism and sabotage targeting water infrastructure as they undermine national efforts to secure a reliable and sustainable water supply.

We also encourage communities to report acts of criminality affecting water infrastructure to the police so that we can ensure there is water for all. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Motsumi. Does any Member wish to respond to the motion? Honourable Van Huyssteen, Honourable Dabampe, you know you have 1 minute to respond.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Although there are debatable aspects in the motion that has just been raised, I think it is important that we also highlight, the MEC has highlighted climate change, she has highlighted failing infrastructure, but we also need to highlight the fact that we have a failing district municipality across this entire province, in particular I am going to refer to the Dr. Ruth District Municipality which is completely failing the communities in being able to supply bulk water. But Speaker, there really is a need for this to be converted into a debate. So, I would like to formally move that this be converted into a debate as there are debatable aspects. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Van Huyssteen. Honourable Dabampe?

HON. DABAMPE: Thank you very much Speaker. The MEC speaks of water month, but she fails to explain that in the province we don't have water. Our communities in Tamasikwa, in Dinokana, and in many other areas of the province do not have water because of the ANC has eaten the money of water, the pipes are dilapidated because of ANC wants to rely on water tankers. ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Dabampe, there is an order. Honourable Chief Whip? May you take your seat Honourable Dabampe?

HON. ROSHO: Thank you Speaker. Speaker, I think there is a move by Honourable Van Huyssteen that the motion has debatable aspects and she has requested that we need, if ever this motion, the MEC can convert it into a debate.

And I thought madam Speaker, you will first rule on that so that as we move forward, at least as Member speak, at least we have that understanding that we are moving for a debate, and if it moves for a debate if a Member agrees, we need not have to listen to others because we will wait for the session of the debate. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC, do you have a problem of converting the motion into debate?

HON. MOTSUMI: I agree, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable MEC. Honourable Dabampe you will have an ample time to debate the issues during the debate. Honourable Botswe, your motion?

HON. BOTSWE: Ke a leboga Mmusakgotla [Thank you Speaker]. Mmusakgotla [Speaker], I hereby rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters in the North West Province to table a motion without notice, congratulating Kyla Mthethwa an Lesedi Moeketsi for being selected to represent South Africa at the World Championship next year.

Honourable Speaker, the two high school learners from the High School for Girls Potchefstroom were selected at the trials organised by the South African Majorette and Cheerleading Association which brought together 187 athletes from across the country. Athletes who achieved a score of 75% and higher received qualifications for SAMCA Colours, which is prestigious honour that recognises national level excellency.

Lesedi Mooketsi is one of the four recipient of this qualification this year. As the EFF we wish to convey our congratulations to both Kyla and Lesedi for their great achievement, been selected to represent a country on a global stage is with of all noise. And it is a clear refection of their hard work and discipline.

Honourable Speaker, we urge the community of the North West Province and the North West Government to rally behind Kyla and Lesedi because their participation serve as a much needed encouragement to younger people that to showcase their talent on the world stage is possible.

We further trust that this accomplishment serves as an encouragement to the North West Government to restore extramural activities like majorettes at our public schools across the province. Ke a leboga [Thank you].

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

HON. MOTSUMI: Honourable Speaker, as the African National Congress we welcome the motion from EFF, but also to state in record to say that what is lacking about that particular motion without notice is to give credit to the Department of Education which is led by the African National Congress. And we remain committed in making sure that those particular learners are going to be given the necessary support because we have started by actually exposing them to extra mural activities. That is why today we are able to celebrate them through the leadership of the African National Congress. I thank you Honourable Botswe for acknowledging that.

HON. SPEAKER: You must thank me, not Honourable Botswe. Honourable MEC you thank the Speaker, not Honourable Botswe. Thank you very much Honourable LGB. Honourable Wallhorn, your motion?

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Honourable Speaker. The Democratic Alliance welcomes the appointment of Comrade Marathon Champion, Mr Tete Dijana as the Protection Officer at the North West University, Mahikeng Campus. Mr Dijana's remarkable journey is one of good, discipline and humility. He has inspired South Africans across the country and brought pride to our nation through his achievements on the global stage.

His new role shows that excellence belongs not only in sports, but also in service to others and the safety of our communities. We commend NWU for recognising character and integrity in this appointment. Mr Dijana's presence on the campus will in no doubt encourage students

and staff alike. His story is a powerful reminder that true greatness is built on perseverance and purpose. I so move.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Warlhorn. Does any Member wish to respond to the motion? Thank you. Honourable Lenkopane, your motion?

HON. LENKOPANE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to commend the Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Honourable Kenny Morolong, for the recent handover of school shoes to learners from the nine schools in the Greater Taung and Mamusa Local Municipalities.

The handover programme held at Uurpan Safari Lodge in Schweizer-Reneke brought together community leaders, Schools Governing Bodies and Councillors, and various stakeholders committed in supporting learners in rural communities. Through this initiative hundreds of learners received school shoes, restoring dignity and confidence to learners who often face socio-economic challenges in accessing the necessities required.

We further commend the collaborative efforts between government and partners such as Infrastructure South Africa, National Student Financial Aid Scheme, and this programme reflects the importance of partnership between government business and communities in advancing education and improving the lives of young people in our province. I thank you Speaker.

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

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you very much Speaker. Let me join the MEC in appreciating the efforts of the Deputy Minister in donating school shoes to children who are needy. I believe that it is a wakeup call even to Members of this House that such initiatives are very important

as Honourable Lekopane has said. And that we must stand together and assist the less privileged. I also thought the MEC will use the opportunity to also thank her Deputy Minister, Mme [Madam] Bernice Swart for donating one loaf per family last week. So, I don't know how she missed that one. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Matuane, your motion?

HON. MATUANE: I am ready for the Member statement, thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Ok. Honourable Tsholo, your motion?

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of uMkhonto weSizwe Party to table a motion without notice in order to congratulate a new incumbent Advocate Neo Sephoti on her recent appointment as the North West Province Public Service Commissioner.

E ne e leletswe ke dipoo, ga e bolo go nna tlhobaboroko mo go rona jaaka babei ba melao gore porofense ya rona mo mefemeng e mentsi ya puso mmogo le maemo a magolwane ke tshika-yoo-tshega fela. Mme selelo sa rona se utlwagetse kgotsa se sekegetswe tsebe. [This position has been ignored for too long, it has been a serious challenge to the legislature that in most spheres of government in our province men are holding leadership positions. However, we are happy at the end of the day our cry has been heard.]

The position Honourable Speaker, has been vacant for over 3 years, as the North West Province was the only province without a Public Service Commissioner. It is highly commendable that for the first time in over 5 years that the Public Service Commission has a full complement of Commissioners. We take this opportunity to wish Professor Somadoda Fikeni and all Commissioners the best in their task.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, MKP request this House to note with great pleasure the appointment of the North West Province's Public Service Commissioner, we extend our warmest congratulations to her on this significant achievement.

This appointment is particularly noteworthy Honourable Speaker, as it marks a milestone for women in leadership positions in this province, especially during this month of International Women's Month. We acknowledge her dedication, hard work and commitment to public service. uMkhonto weSizwe Party would like to wish her all best in her new role and look forward for her contributions to the people of the North West Province in general. I so move Honourable Speaker, thanks.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Does any Member wish to respond? Honourable Chief Whip, Honourable

HON. ROSHO: No, thanks Madam Speaker. I had hoped that this will be tabled in terms of procedures of the House, because normally once this process is concluded, is completed the Speaker, unless Honourable Tsholo is now the Speaker of the House. So, in terms of the procedures it should be announced by the Speaker and Members of parties will make their inputs. That is how it is done Madam Speaker. And I would want to appeal that as much as we appreciate the motion, the motion must be led by the Speaker. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Chief Whip. Honourable Tsholo, Honourable Tsholo, I am still the Speaker here.

Colleagues let us accept that some of our Members they think they will be doing something right, but Honourable Chief Whip is correct Honourable Tsholo. I don't say you have made something wrong, but you could have asked can I move with this, because remember this is the House that have appointed a Committee that interviewed for the Public Service Commissioner. But you will make sure that you do the right thing akere [right] Honourable Tsholo.

You will do the right thing, once the process, everything is concluded we will definitely inform this House because the House accepted the Committee to deal with the matter. LGB?

HON. MOTSUMI: Honourable Speaker, as much as we are welcoming the ruling, you are on point, but I think Honourable Tsholo must withdraw and apologise because she is denting actually the processes, remember she was part of the panel, she was the panellist, it means that she actually indirectly and directly leaked the information.

And I believe that there are principles that it takes that if you are part of the panellist o nna le form e o e saenang ya gore [you should sign a form that says] whatever that has been discussed there is confidential, meaning that any party from here they can even challenge this particular decision because it was not tabled in this particular matter. So, either way I am referring back to you so that our Legal must advise us so that we take decision and disciplinary hearing against the Member because really it is totally out.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo, knowing you you won't have a problem to withdraw?

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Speaker, these fellow Honourable Members they did not teach me ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. SPEAKER: Withdraw?

HON. TSHOLO: I don't have any problem to withdraw but they must call themselves to order.

HON. SPEAKER: No, no Honourable Tsholo, be in order, withdraw?

HON. TSHOLO: I withdraw and I will put the motion again after you have done it procedurally.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, thank you very much. Honourable Sonakile, your motion?

HON. SONAKILE: No thank you Speaker. Speaker, I hereby move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move without notice that this House note the life and legacy of Simon Nkoli, a courageous freedom fighter who stood at the intersection of the struggle against apartheid and the struggle for LGBTQI equality.

Further, note that Nkoli was in prison between 1984 and 1987 during the Delmas prison trial alongside fellow activists, including Terror Lekota and others such as the now Judge, Geina Malindi for their involvement in the liberation struggle through organisations like the UDF and COSAS. Recognises that while in prison Simon Nkoli made the brave decision to come out to his fellow activists challenging both the apartheid regime and prejudice within the liberation movement itself and affirming the principle that the struggle for freedom must include freedom for all.

Acknowledges that Nkoli's historic role in organising South Africa's first pride march in 1990 and his tireless activism which helped to ensure that the democratic South Africa we built after apartheid became one of the first countries in the world to constitutionally protect people from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Recalls Nkoli's powerful words that continue to resonate today, "I am black and I am gay, I cannot separate the two parts of me into secondary or primary struggles, so when I fight for my freedom I fight against both oppressions".

Recognises that the inclusion of LGBTQI rights in the Constitution of South Africa was not accidental, but the results of the sacrifices of activists like Nkoli and many others who demanded that freedom in South Africa must be indivisible.

We note with deep concern the latest developments in countries such as Senegal where legislation has been introduced or strengthened to criminalise same sex relationships. Reportedly increasing penalties of imprisonment for individuals simply because of who they love. We condemn in the strongest terms the criminalisation and persecution of LGBTQI persons anywhere in the world.

Recognising that such laws violate the fundamental principles of dignity, equality and human rights. And we affirm that South Africa's Constitution stands as a beacon of hope globally. A reminder that freedom, dignity and equality must extend to every human being regardless of sexual orientation or identity.

Speaker, in honouring Simon Nkoli we are reminded that the struggle for human dignity does not end at our borders. His life teaches us that freedom is incomplete if it excludes anyone, and may this House therefore recommit itself to defending the constitutional promise that Simon Nkoli and so many others fought to secure. I so move.

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

HON. MAGAGANE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I would like to appreciate the motion brought by the DA to celebrate the life of Comrade Simon Nkoli who was an ANC activist. And we also want to include the fact that we appreciate that LGBTQIA+ rights are human rights and in the month of the Human Rights we should be celebrating human rights and also for those who are homosexual. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Magagagne. Honourable Sonti, your motion?

HON. SONTI: Thank you Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I hereby rise on behalf of the EFF to table a motion without notice regarding the tragic passing of Kedibone Mojalefa, a 37-year-old woman in Ledig, Letlhabile Section whose body was found laid under an abandoned truck this past weekend.

Honourable Speaker, it is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we mourn the tragic loss of another young women in a defeating, painful and undignified manner. It is reported that on the morning of Saturday, 14th March 2026 a by passer noticed the lifeless body underneath the abandoned truck and notified the police who confirmed the death upon arriving at the scene.

The circumstances surrounding her passing has left many residents of her community shocked and deeply saddened because she was not just another statistic, but someone's daughter, someone's friend, someone's neighbour. We are once again reminded how little value is placed on the human life, and even more so the lives of women and children in South Africa. Witnessing how common and almost insignificant ruthless killings of this nature have become, is always such a bitter pill to swallow. Though investigations are currently underway no amount of action is capable of restoring life, no amount of prison term can restore the dignity of the life lost.

As the EFF, we convey our most sincere condolences to the family, friends, neighbours of Kedibone as well as all the women and girls in the province who ...[INAUDIBLE]... in fear with the reporting of another death. I thank you.

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

None. Honourable Dabampe, your motion? Oh, sorry Honourable Dabampe. Chief Whip?

HON. ROSHO: Thanks very much Speaker. And as the Chairperson of the Multiparty Women's Caucus we want to support the motion and appreciate that uMama, she is part of our

activists on the ground because when coming to issues of gender-based violence there is no party line. We fully concur and support, and pass the condolences to the family. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Chief Whip. Honourable Dabampe, your motion?

HON. DABAMPE: Thanks very much Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters in the North West Province to table a motion without notice congratulating the Provincial Coordinator of the EFF Youth Command in the North West, Fighter Fikile Mangengenene on his graduation from the North West University this afternoon.

Honourable Speaker, the EFF recognises the importance of education amongst the youth particularly those in leadership structures of the Economic Freedom Fighters. We recognise the ability that education has to sharpen young minds and the fruitfulness derived from such minds often seen through intellectual and leadership contributions which benefits even the most overlooked communities.

Fighter Fikile has showed that indeed we can strike and pass at the same time. And as such we exhaust every opportunity we are presented with to celebrate academic excellence, especially amongst our ranks. We are confident that our shaping as an organisation coupled with academic attainment breeds a relentless generation of thinkers, breeds a relentless generation of doers, and fighters who will materialise economic freedom in our lifetime. We therefore send our proudest congratulations to the young lion of the EFF and wish him great success in all his future endeavours. I thank you.

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

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. As the African National Congress we are joining the chorus also to congratulate the young lion from the EFF, but it must be noted and appreciation must be given to the African National Congress because I strongly believe that the reason why he or she was able to graduate today is because of through the efforts of the African National Congress, we know *gore o tsena ka* [he is being funded by] NSFAS, if it was not for the African National Congress, at least we have managed to break that particular chain where now we see young people being able to access education because of free education. Thank you very much. If a ka add that thing *ya* NSFAS [if he can mention the NSFAS funding], it's very important.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you LGB, thank you very much. Is there any Member that I have left out on motions without notice? Honourable Lehari, do you have a motion, alright?

Thank you very much. Except the motion that was withdrawn by Honourable Tsholo. Does the House adopt these motions, does the House adopt this motion?

HOUSE: YES.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any notices of motions? Honourable Magagane, Honourable Sonakile?

HON. MAGAGANE: Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a notice of motion in terms of Section 107 of the Standing Rules for this House to have a debate on Reimagining Safety for Public Servants in Public Institutions.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Magagane. Honourable Sonakile?

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Speaker. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to table a motion in terms of Section 107 to introduce that in the next sitting we debate the Strengthening Ethical Governance in the North West by introducing mandatory lifestyle audits for public reps in the North West, as a substantive motion. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sonakile. Any other notice?

Notice of these motions will be put on the Order Paper for debate as per the Legislature Programme. Secretary you may read the next order?

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 3, STATEMENTS

3.1 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS AS PER RULE 130

3.2 EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS AS PER RULE 130A

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Secretariat. Does any Member in terms of Rule 130 wish to make any statement? Can I take names? MEC you will come during the Executive Statements, this is for Members of the Legislature. Thank you, Honourable Members, if I didn't capture your name I will check before I close the statements for Members. Honourable Matshe, your statement?

HON. MATSHE: Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla ke ema mo boemong jwa African National Congress, ANC, go tsenya tlhagiso kgotsa polelo ya go kgala ditiragalo tsa sešeng tsa go senngwa ga mafaratlhatlha a metsi kwa polaseng ya Marais Inn kwa Schweizer-Reneke mo kgaolong ya Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati.

Mmasepala o begile fa dinokwane tse di sa itseweng ba kgakgamolotse legora la motlakase la lefelo leo mme be senya dipeipi tsa neelo tseo di momaganeng le dipompo tsa didiba tse di neelanang ka metsi go setšhaba sa mafelo a a fa gaufi. Tiragalo e e maswe e e diragetse ka labotlhano o o fetileng. Seno se bonagala se tshosetsa go fitlhelelwa ga metsi ka mokgwa o o sa kgaotseng.

Le fa e le gore didiba tse di tswelletse go dira, go tswelela ga tshenyo ya ka bomo ya dithoto go ka re fitlhisana mo go reng madutelo a metsi a felelwe kgotsa a kgale. Seno se ka ama thata dikgwebo-magae, ditheo tsa setšhaba, le mafelo a otlhe a a ikaegileng ka mafaratlhatlha ano a metsi.

Mafaratlhatlha a metsi a botlhokwa thata bagaetsho, mme jaaka dithoto tsa morafe a tlhoka go sirelediwa. Go thukuthwa ga mafaratlhatlha a mofuta o ga go nyenyefatse fela go neelana ka ditirelo mme go tsenya mokgweleo o o bokete mo leding la pusoselegae ka ba tshwanelwa ke go senka madi go baakanya mo disenyi di kgaotseng teng.

Jaaka ANC re ikuela go baagi go ntsha matlho dinameng ba bege ditiro tsa go senngwa ga dithoto ka bomo, mme a ba dirise metsi ka maikarabelo fa go ntse go tswelletse ka go matlafatsha tshireletsego le tsamaiso ya kabokgolo ya metsi. Tirisanommogo ya setšhaba e botlhokwa thata go boloka mafaratlhatlha a a re tshegetsang go itshidisa, go bona itsholelo kgotsa tsholo e e siameng. Re a leboga Mmusakgotla.

English Translation Follows:

[Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress, ANC, to table a statement condemning recent acts committed at Marais Inn Farm in Schweizer-Reneke, Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District, whereby the water infrastructure has been destroyed by unknown criminals.

The Municipality reported that criminals of unknown identity cut the electric fence of that farm and destroyed the pipes connected to the taps that pump water from the reservoirs to supply to the nearby communities. This criminal act occurred last Friday and it is a serious threat to the water supply and accessibility.

Even though the reservoirs are still functioning, to destroy the assets intentionally will cause the reservoirs to dry up and the impact will severely affect rural businesses, state entities and every other place that receives water from this infrastructure.

Water infrastructure is very important and like any state asset it should be protected. Destruction to water infrastructure does not only hamper service delivery but it also causes a heavy burden on local government allocations and revenue because they will now have to start looking for funds to repair or replace the infrastructure.

The ANC pleads with the community to always keep an eye and report such criminal acts, and to please use water responsibly while we are still strengthening the protection and preserving water supply. It is very important for the community to work together in preserving the infrastructure because our lives depend on it. Thank you, Speaker.]

HON. SPEAKER: Ke a go leboga Rre Matshe. Go tla latela Mme Matuane. [Thank you, Mr Matshe. The next speaker is Madam Matuane.]

HON. MATUANE: Honourable Speaker, I hereby rise on behalf of the indestructible Economic Freedom Fighter to render a Member statement regarding the disgraceful environment the detectives of the Criminal Investigation Department, CID at Itsoseng Police Station are forced to work in.

Honourable Speaker, while police officers are expected to combat rising crime in our communities, detectives at Itsoseng Police Station are working under extremely difficult condition. It is reported that 18 detectives are operating from an overcrowded 4 roomed house situated opposite the police station. This structure which was identified as a suitable workplace for 18 individuals comprising of both men and women, also houses five work desks, 1 laptop and 1 toilet facility which not only hinders productivity but also raises serious health and safety concerns.

When asked, one detective provided further insight on these conditions and advised that they have to take turns in using the desk and laptops when carrying out investigations, and that while some detectives are inside the facility working, others are forced to sit outside under the tree await their turn.

Honourable Speaker, the time for empty promises and cosmetic oversight visit is over. MEC Wessels Morweng conducted an oversight visit to Itsoseng Police Station last year August and publicly acknowledged the severity of the condition at the facility, including the structure wherein the detectives are housed.

He further stated that through the accelerated service delivery programme he will speak to the former Acting Provincial Commissioner, Major General Patrick Asaneng and see what they could do. Today, more than six months later the MEC and his trusted accelerated service delivery programme has not even lifted a finger.

As the EFF we are deplored by the dismissive attitude of the MEC in addressing the infrastructural concerns raised at Itsoseng Police Station. We condemn the MEC for regarding a conversation as a solution under an official programme in response to the cries of those who are means to keep the people of North West safe.

The EFF demand that MEC uses his weight to ensure that the facility housing the CID Unit of Itsoseng Police Station is renovated and is able to accommodate all 18 detectives at the same time. We demand that renovated facility be furnished with desks and chairs for all detectives. A sufficient number of new filing cabinets, a new laptop for all detectives, secure Wi-Fi connectivity and an additional toilet specifically for female detectives.

We are not asking for anything special, just the basic necessity for any employee as set out by the Basic Condition of Employment Act and Occupational Health and Safety Act. Honourable Speaker, I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Matuane. Members of the Executive pardon me, I was supposed to give you an opportunity to respond on the first statement, does any Member of the Executive wish to respond to the statement?

HON. MATUANE: Ba ka se nne le dikarabo, ga di yo. [They do not have answers]

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Magagane, your statement?

HON. MAGAGANE: Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement welcoming the initiative and commitment by the African National Congress, led provincial government during SOPA 2026 Pronouncement to advance infrastructure development and improved service delivery in the North West Province.

Among a range of priority projects scheduled for implementation in the 2026/2027 financial year is that the North West Department of Public Works and Roads will work in partnership with the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism to strengthen waste management and road maintenance initiatives. This collaborative approach by the provincial government forms part of the broader drive to ensure a clean, safe and healthy environment for residents across the North West.

The provincial government has committed more than R1 billion for catalytic projects in Phelindaba, Maquassi, Verdwaal and Ramokoka Stadt to boost productivity by lowering transport costs, reducing transact time and connecting rural areas to the economic mainstream. These targeted investments are intended to stimulate local economies, improve mobility and restore connectivity within communities by stimulating trade, foster job creation, attract investment and improve overall quality of life.

The upgrading of Nelson Mandela Drive in Mahikeng allocating over R700 million for the project and the work included widening the existing bridge to serve as a carriageway with

construction expected to commence in two weeks. Road construction is to resume in Dwarsberg and Pitsidisulejang in Moses Kotane Local Municipality, Kromkruil, as well as Lebotlwane to toll road in Moretele Local Municipality in the new financial year to repair roads severely damaged by the floods that we experienced last year.

We applaud finalisation of the memorandum of understanding with the Central University of Technology to roll up Pothole Repair Programme in our municipality with the focus of empowering 7 000 unemployed young people. The provision of asphalt for designated municipality to fast-track project delivery will enhance alignment across national, provincial and municipal road network, expand access to economic opportunities and improve mobility for residents throughout the province.

As the ANC we welcome advancing and improving infrastructure development in the province in that it is crucial for driving sustainable economic growth, reducing poverty and improving equality of life by enhancing productivity and connectivity. This will form part of the backbone of the economy of the North West through transport, energy and digital networks, facilitating trade, creating jobs and attracting foreign investment, and fixing local municipalities. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Magagane. Does any Member of the Executive wish to respond to the statement? Honourable Lenkopane?

HON. LENKOPANE: Thank you Speaker. Let me join Honourable Magagane on the statement and it is very true that the Premier has already addressed the public on the interventions that he has called the Department of Economic Development to start to focus on supporting municipalities on issues related to waste and waste management. And that we must now start to move from a point of regulatory but to also seek to get into creating caring communities as well as the economy within the area of waste.

And that is why the last Friday the department has already started by launching a campaign that is called *Matlakala ke Zaka* which seeks to call all of us to join hands in making sure that we bring dignity, economy and change the lives of the people through waste and waste management. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Honourable Khunou, your statement?

HON. KHUNOU: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement of joining the people's march in defence of our sovereignty and democratic gains taking place on Saturday, 21st of March 2026, which is the Human Rights Day.

This historic mobilisation will be led by the ANC together with our alliance partners, the South African Communist Party, Congress of South African Trade Union, South African National Civic Organisation, and will bring together business formations, labour, Faith Based Organisations, Civil Society Movement and all patriotic people of our nation.

The main national event will take place in Johannesburg, Gauteng with simultaneous marches and solidarity gatherings in Ethekehwini, Kwazulu Natal, East London, Eastern Cape and Cape Town, Western Cape. Across our country, South Africans will rise in unity to defend the democratic gains secured through struggles and sacrifice.

Human Rights Day is rooted in the blood of martyrs of Sharpville who died in the struggle against the brutal and heinous apartheid system 66 years ago. This was a long treasures journey to achieve our constitutional democracy. As we mark 30 years of the adoption of our Constitution, we reaffirm that the Bill of Rights remains the cornerstone of our democracy and the guardian of our freedom and rights.

We gather in unity and solidarity to celebrate, nourish and strengthen our hard-fought democracy which was earned through the blood and sacrifices of our forebears whose ideas we dare not betray.

The message of this march is clear and solid that South Africa will not be bullied, we will not allow external pressure or internal opportunism to weaken our constitutional democracy. We will not allow our sovereignty to be compromised, we will not allow the sacrifices of our forebears to be undermined.

The ANC calls on workers, youth, women, veterans of the struggle, professionals, entrepreneurs, religious leaders, community activists to stand side by side in defence of our democratic gains. This is a march for constitutionalism, for national dignity, for unity of our people, and for the continuous transformation of our society.

Let us fill the streets peacefully, proudly as patriots on Saturday, the 21st of March 2026 to defend our sovereignty and defend our democratic gains. Let us stand together with one voice and declare loudly that we will not be bullied. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Khunou. Does any MEC wish to respond to the statement? None. Honourable Steenkamp, your statement?

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you Honourable Speaker. The DA is deeply concerned about the current situation in Ganalaagte in Tswaing Local Municipality where 5 schools were forced to close down due to severely deteriorating infrastructure. According to reports from DA Councillor, Kagiso Mangwetjana, learners of Logaga Primary School, Bopanang Primary School, Rakgwedi Bokang Primary School, Diphadi Primary School and Bakolobeng Primary School were without access to education for more than two consecutive days.

Parents in these communities took the difficult decisions to close the schools because the conditions became unsafe for both learners and educators. Many of these school buildings were constructed decades ago and have simply just been allowed to deteriorate over time. When it rains the situation becomes even worse with the classrooms been dangerous and unsuitable for teaching and learning.

Honourable Speakers, learners have since returned to the school receiving education in the same harsh circumstances. But this situation represents a direct failure of government to uphold the constitutional right of basic education. When infrastructure collapses, education collapses with it. The consequences extend far beyond the classrooms, when children are unable to attend school, they are left unsupervised during the day and become increasingly vulnerable to social risks within their communities.

Every day lost in the classroom is a day that undermines their future opportunities. What makes the situation particularly concerning is that communities themselves have had to intervene because government has failed to act. The DA is therefore calling on the North West Department of Education to urgently intervene in providing immediate solutions to ensure that these schools are made safe and functional so that learners can go back to school and learn without further delay.

We will continue to work closely with our Councillors on the ground and with the DA's Provincial Spokesperson on Education, my colleague Honourable Wolfgang Wallhorn, to ensure that this matter receives the urgent attention and oversight that it deserves. Honourable Speaker, learners in Ghanaleagte deserve safe classrooms, functional infrastructure and uninterrupted access to education. Anything less is a betrayal of their constitutional rights and their futures. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Steenkamp. Does any Member of the Executive wish to respond? LGB?

HON. MOTSUMI: No, thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I am going to express myself in Setswana so that a ntlhaloganye sentle [she will understand me clearly].

Number one, a re dumalane gore Honourable Speaker, the five schools tse di builweng mo statement sa DA, Department of Education ba a itse ka tsone, and ba nne honest, ba bue boammaruri gore the reason why dikolo di sa tsena for two days is because of dipula di ntse di na. Ba se ke ba tla fa be ba grandstand as if dikolo ntse di sa tsene because of infrastructure. [Let us all agree, Honourable Speaker, that the five schools mentioned in the DA statement, the Department of Education is aware of their situation. They should also be honest and tell the truth as to why the schools were closed for two days, which is due to high rainfall. They should not come and grandstand to say the schools were closed down due to poor infrastructure.]

In the past we did admit that we are still struggling, we are having challenges in terms of the infrastructure in our schools. And also, mo statement sa gagwe a tlhalose gore [she should also explain in her statement that] the African National Congress through the Department of Education immediately after ha ba fetsa go utlwa gore indeed go nnile le [after they heard about] storm damaged schools in that side, they did send the team there, they have made assessment.

As I am speaking to you the contractors will also be introduced in that particular schools. So, also a se ke a e baya e ka re there is a vacuum [she should not put it as if there is a vacuum], in that particular ward there is ANC's led by the African National Congress, yo e leng gore [who is] the Councillor actually ke ene a tlisitseng [the one who reported] this particular issue to the department for immediate interventions, so interventions are there.

Ha a re community di thusitse di thusitse jang, because of dikolo ntse di tswetswe for two days, and re dumalane le community gore re ya go ba thusa. Ha ba re as the DA ba intervene, ba intervene ka eng because they are not in charge. Ba ya go re thusa ka eng, unless a commit in this particular platform gore ba tla re fa tšhelete ka bonako gore re bereke dikolo.

Re baakantse dikolo tse dintsi, the very same DA ba paletswe ke go bua. Ene a sa tla fa a embarrass the Minister who is the Minister of DA. So, ha a bua mo go se ke ga nna le any contradictions because tšhelete, the grant and everything re krea from national. So, I think tshwanetse Minister a informiwe ka the behaviour ya, gore tota, unless if go na le contestation between her because a ke re go na le conference ko DA, so o utlwa ka dilanguage tsa bone gore there is a problem in the DA.

English Translation Follows:

[If she says the community helped, in what way? because the schools closed for two days and we agreed with the community that we will help them. When she says the DA should intervene, in what way because they are not in charge. How will they help us unless she makes a commitment in this particular platform that the DA will give us money urgently to renovate the schools and the infrastructure.

We refurbished so many schools and the very same DA were quiet. So, she should not come here to embarrass the Minister who is the Minister of DA. So, if she wants to say something she should not contradict herself because we receive the grant and everything from National. So, I think the Minister should be informed about her behaviour unless if there is any contestation against her. We know there is an oncoming conference at the DA, so you can just hear from their language that there is a problem in the DA.]

HON. SPEAKER: Your 1 minute is gone MEC. MEC Lenkopane.

HON. LENKOPANE: Thank you Speaker. I think this statement is a coincidence, it comes at the right time when the Premier and the collective of the Executive have just received a whole plan around climate and climate change management, the implementation of the new Act which we all agree that matters of disaster and other related will always be integrated in our plans, and we have to form forums which the Premier is leading around climate and climate change. So, developments that causes disaster cannot be equated to a party or lack of capacity. We just need to all be alive to those matters.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you MEC. Honourable Dial, your statement?

HON. DIAL: Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to convey our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and comrades of Mr Mosiuoa Terror Lekota. Terror as he was affectionately known was a former leader who served South Africa in various capacities during the pre and post democratic era. His passing marks the departure of a figure whose life intersected with important moments in the history of our country and our struggle for freedom.

His whole spent many years from his youth, student days, the leadership of the UDF and accused in the famous treason trial which became the longest political trial in the aftermath of the Vaal uprising in 1984. He became a Member of the Executive Committee of the ANC serving as the National Chairperson between 1997 and 2007.

He served as the first Premier of the Free State Province in the post-apartheid South Africa between 1994 and 1996, as the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces between 1997 and 1999, and later serving as the Minister of Defence between 1999 and 2008. He later left the ANC to form his own Congress of the People and serving as its President.

Undeniably, Mr Lekota played a sterling role in the demise of apartheid leading to the dawn of democracy in 1994. History has in its anal a man committed to the lives of the people, their dignity and their freedom. For his role in the liberation struggle he was arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to Robben Island for a period of 8 years. He led in the South African Student Organisation and served in the Black Conscious Movement.

As we commemorate 30 years anniversary of the Constitution of South Africa and the Human Rights, we state unequivocally that Mr Lekota has undeniable footprints in these milestones. And regrettably as a coincidence of history, passes on this significant calendar days of our rich history.

The ANC extends its condolences to the Lekota family, the Liberation Movement, his Congress of the People which he founded and the people of South Africa, on the passing of this compatriot who shaped our course of history in South Africa. Madam Speaker, we wish to wish that Mr Lekota must rest in peace. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Dial. Does any MEC wish to respond to the statement? Honourable Lenkopane, MEC?

HON. LENKOPANE: Thanks, Honourable Speaker, let me join Honourable Dial on this message and indicates that indeed former Comrade Terror, his works stand as a testament to the ungearing values of justice equality and human dignity. May his example continue to inspire us to serve with dignity, to lead with purpose and to always place the people of this country at the centre of our work. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Honourable Tsholo, your statement?

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise on behalf of uMkhonto weSizwe Party to make a Member statement on ensuring safe learning environments, addressing the alarming incidents of falling ceilings in schools.

With this particular topic Honourable Speaker, I stand to highlight the concern for learner and educator safety in schools especially focussing on the issue of falling ceilings. Honourable Speaker, the recent incidents of failing ceilings in our schools are a start reminder of the crumbling infrastructure plating our education system. In the past quarter alone there have been numerous reported cases of ceiling collapses putting the lives of learners and educators at risks.

It is unacceptable that our children and educators are forced to learn and teach under the constant threat of injury or even death. Classical examples nor cases are the one of Logaga

Primary School, Rantlaka Secondary School, and the other one around Dr Kenneth Kaunda when we visited or during the Oversight 2025.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo, take your seat, there is an order. Honourable LGB?

HON. MOTSUMI: But the statement was tabled by Honourable Steenkamp where he raised the issue of Logageng ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. TSHOLO: The topic is different Honourable Speaker.

HON. MOTSUMI: Those particular schools are part of the same statement, unless if there is a problem with Honourable Member, she is not concentrating here Honourable Speaker. It was tabled by the DA there, the names of the schools mentioned there they were mentioned in the very same statement, so I am supposed to also respond the same thing *gape ko go* [again to] Honourable Tsholo, Honourable Speaker.

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo, can you take your seat, I will give you a chance? Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Williams?

HON. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, I am not sure, maybe I am standing on a point of clarity, to check if matters that are already before the Committee and processed by the Committee, presented to the Committee can or are allowed to be made into statements or motion? I do not have a problem, I just want to check. Thanks Chair.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, no Honourable Tsholo sit down. Honourable Tsholo it's fine. Honourable Members, LGB is raising the issue of, the same issue that Honourable Steenkamp has raised in her statement, and we know very well that once issues are the same, we can't repeat them because the MEC would be expected to respond to the same response she gave on the issue.

Unless Honourable Tsholo you are convincing me that you are not speaking of the same area of the same issue because if there are issues in those particular three or four schools, the MEC have responded to in toto in the issues in the school. But unless you say is a totally different statement to what Honourable Steenkamp have raised. Honourable Tsholo?

HON. TSHOLO: It's different and especially I said, "ensuring safe learning environments, addressing the alarming incidents of falling ceilings in school", and it is not the same.

HON. SPEAKER: But it is the same issue of the infrastructure ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. TSHOLO: The content, the content is not the same.

HON. SPEAKER: No, no hoo, wait Honourable Tsholo. Honourable Tsholo, it doesn't matter how do you phrases, no Honourable Members, the problem is you speak when I speak, you need to listen so that when I rule on the matter I don't suppress anybody.

Honourable Tsholo, I want you to listen to me, it's okay that you also want to expand on the issue of infrastructure, but the unfortunate part you are using the very same environment where the MEC have clarified, unless you could have used a Ratlou but knowing very well that you are talking to Tswaing.

But in this instance, you are indicating the danger of the infrastructure in the same infrastructure issues that Honourable Steenkamp have raised. But also, what is also worse, Honourable Williams as the Chairperson of your Portfolio indicated that in the Portfolio Committee meeting you were discussing these issues.

So, can we agree Honourable Tsholo that we can't repeat the same thing, unfortunately I won't allow that to take place. You will bring another statement so that we can respond correctly to you. If you come with the statement I am not allowing it.

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Speaker, this is not the same, even the content is not the same.

HON. SPEAKER: There is an order, Honourable Tsholo ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. TSHOLO: When a person is citing incidents as classical examples, it does not necessarily mean that it is the same as the previous Member statement.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo, there is an order?

HON. TSHOLO: No, it's wrong.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Ke lebohile Mmusakgotla [Thank you Speaker]. Ke cheka fela hore [I just want to check] when last was Honourable Williams at the Portfolio Committee because ha re bone [we do not see her], so I don't know if she knows what issues are happening there.

HON. WILLIAMS: Wa ntlwaela wena. Ga ke itse gore o ithuta go tlwaela batho. [You are disrespecting me.]

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo, I have ruled on that statement of yours, I am sorry Honourable Member, you can't continue because the contents are still speaking to the same disaster. Honourable Botswe, your statement?

HON. TSHOLO: Ga le reetse, problem ya lona ke gore ga le reetse [the problem is that you do not listen] and you want to take decisions that are ill-informed, it's wrong.

HON. OLIPHANT: A a re tswele ka motse Speaker. [Speaker, chase her out of the House.]

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo, I am not going to accept that behaviour in my House, it doesn't matter how you feel, but if I have ruled on the matter, maybe you should familiarise yourself with the Rules of the House, you can't overrule the ruling of the Speaker or the Presiding Officer. No matter how you feel, no matter how you feel, the decorum of ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. TSHOLO: People must learn to listen Honourable Speaker, listening is a skill.

HON. SPEAKER: Hey, hey, switch off the mic, switch off that mic, hey Honourable Tsholo ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. TSHOLO: Ke eng a sa bale sa gagwe statement, ka bala saka le reetse. [May she should read her statement and I also read mine, you listen to the two statements.]

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo? Honourable Members.

HON. OLIPHANT: A a re tswele ka motse. [She must leave the House.]

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Nathan, Honourable Tsholo, Honourable Members, I am not going to allow this behaviour in the House, never, I am not going to allow to fight like you are kids in the House, no, I am not going to allow that, and nobody is going to speak. I have made a ruling on the matter and it is done. I have made a ruling and it is done. Honourable Botswe, your statement.

HON. BOTSWE: Can you protect me Honourable Speaker? Honourable Speaker, Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla, e re le nna ke tsene ko Education [Honourable Speaker, let me also talk about the Education department]. I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to table a Member statement on the unacceptable conditions at Mmakgori Primary School located in the North West Province mo [her in] Mahikeng, where learners are being deprived of their right to quality education due to shortage of teachers and incomplete infrastructure.

Honourable Speaker, the learners of Mmakgori Primary School are been failed on multiple fronts, the school is operating without a Natural Science teacher leaving learners in that critical subject area without instruction, without guidance and without the opportunity to fully participate in the curriculum. This is not a minor failure, it is a direct violation of the constitutional right to a basic education. How can the Department of Education expect learners to focus and compete or to progress when they are denied a teacher for a fundamental subject?

But the crisis does not end there, Honourable Speaker, the Department of Education appointed a contractor to renovate Mmakgori Primary School, yet that contractor abandoned the work before completion. As a result, the ceiling is still collapsing and literally falling on learners and educators. This possess a serious safety hazard and create environment completely unfit for teaching and learning.

Learners are expected to concentrate in a classroom where the roof can collapse at any moment, teachers are expected to teach in the conditions that no workers should be subject to.

Honourable Speaker, the Department of Education cannot continue with its hand on this mess, we demand to know what monitoring mechanism were in place to oversee the work of the contractor? Was the contractor paid in full for work not done? If so who authorised the payment and what consequences will follow? What action has been taken against the contractor for failing to complete the renovation? And most importantly when will the department step in to fix the ceiling and ensure the school is safe?

Furthermore, Honourable Speaker, we demand to know what are the immediate steps been taken to secure a qualified Natural Science teacher for Mmakgori Primary School, the academic year is already underway and these learners cannot afford to wait another term, another month or another day without a teacher. The department cannot claim to priorities education while schools like Mmakgori are left to rot and learners are left behind.

The EFF therefore calls on the Department of Education to provide a full and urgent report to this House detailing names of the contractors and officials responsible for this failing for renovations and steps taken to hold them accountable. And also, the timeline for the completion of all outstanding infrastructure work, and the plan to immediately deploy a qualified National Science teacher to the school.

Honourable Speaker, the learners of Mmakgori Primary School did not choose to be born into the system that neglect them, they did not choose to study under falling ceilings without teachers. The Department of Education has a duty, the responsibility and the legal obligation to protect the future, not to focus on the factional battles of the ANC. One loaf, one family. Ke a leboga [Thank you].

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Botswe. Does any MEC wish to respond? LGB, Honourable Lenkopane? Oh, I said LGB, MEC Lenkopane.

HON. MOTSUMI: No thank you very much Honourable Speaker. A ke simolole fela mo Ntlong ya gago ke apologise mo Dikgosing tsa rona for behaviour ya uMkhonto we Sizwe, and

ke ye kwa dikarabong Honourable Speaker. [Honourable Speaker, let me start by apologizing to our Traditional Leaders for the behaviour of uMkhonto weSizwe Party and then proceed to my response.]

Honourable Speaker, can I be protected Honourable Speaker, this is uMkhonto weSizwe Party.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am begging you, there is nothing wrong in haggling each other, but do it with respect and honour, and the decorum of the House must be maintained. Please, I know Honourable Tsholo you are offended but it is okay, we will take it outside, don't worry. We will deal with these things correctly, don't do it this way. LGB, I am sorry for that, you can continue.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Let me appreciate the statement tabled by EFF there. The issue of non-availability of Natural Science teacher, as the MEC I take responsibility, I will do investigations and I will make sure definitely that the relevant person capable is been hired in that particular position, because the Constitution of South Africa is very clear and straightforward to say that no one must be denied education. That is the first aspect.

The second one, I think let us appreciate also for the fact that Honourable Botswe did indicate that as the Department of Education in that particular school, Mmakgori Primary School, we did appoint a contractor. For the fact that we did appoint a contractor it shows that as the Department of Education we are taking issues of education very seriously, especially when it comes to safety of both learners and educators.

What we are going to do, we are going to table that particular report to give a report to the Legislature Sitting with regard to progress registered to check how best can we remedy the situation, because the contractor was there, he decided to abandon the site. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you LGB. MEC Lenkopane?

HON. LENKOPANE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Eish, I just wish to express my concern regarding Members who in this House are raising a lot of criticism which is actually done in a manner that risks discouraging our communities from seeing education as a priority.

It is at a time when we are working tirelessly to build confidence in our education system to keep learners in school and to motivate communities. So, we are discouraging that and we have always put education as a priority and all the debates that have been done here by the MEC of Treasury, and Premier, and the MEC of Education's clarities. So, this notion of creating a crisis around education must come to an end. We always prioritise education.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you MEC. Honourable Wallhorn, your statement?

HON. WALLHORN: Thank your Honourable Speaker. The Democratic Alliance rises with a straightforward question, why has the North West Provincial Legislature and the Department of Sports and Recreation failed to put together a proper team of athletes who have competed in previous Comrades Marathons, and who can offer workshops, mentorship and real development programmes for aspiring comrade runners starting at the grassroots level?

Our province has no shortage of talent, people like Simo Mjaji who works right here in this Legislature and champions like Tete Dijana are proof of that, yet we are not using their experience to build the culture of sport development which could significantly enhance our local programmes in inspiring next generation of athletes.

For the DA sports is not merely a desirable feature, it is a practical tool for keeping young people engaged, bringing communities together and lifting up those who need it most. The DA's position is simple, every child should have access to proper sporting pathways starting

in schools, supported by the Department of Education and strengthened through local programmes of the Department of Sports and Recreation.

At the moment we celebrate individual achievements, but we do little to build systems that produce more champions such as comprehensive training programmes and support networks that foster teamwork and collaboration among young athletes.

A Provincial Comrades Marathon Athletics Team properly funded and supported could visit schools and communities across this province, they could run workshops, training sessions and mentorship programmes. The results would not just be better athletes but young people who learn discipline, resilience and pride in themselves.

The DA believes in key plans and real results. So, the DA asks again, where are the policies, budgets and programmes that turn talent into opportunity? Why do departments fail to make sports and recreation a priority? We call for action now, set up a provincial unit for developing athletics related to the comrade marathon, link it directly to schools, make sport as a pillar of youth development.

The DA will keep pushing this issue because we know that developing talent is not optional. This approach helps us create a province where young people receive the support they need to pursue their own goals and achieve greatness beginning with our province's own comrades' qualifier, the *om de dumm*, a 50-kilometre ultra-marathon. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Wallhorn. Does any MEC wish to respond? LGB?

HON. MOTSUMI: No, thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Now, I am a little bit confused now. When we started the EFF congratulated the Department of Education and also did indicate some athletes who have qualified, who will be representing the country. Now, we are here also whereby now the DA they are raising something else.

And I am requesting you Honourable Speaker, I am humbly pleading with you, DA Comrades must not bring their political differences here, the Minister is doing good, that is why today even the EFF they have appreciated the good work that we have done so far when it comes to extra mural activity. So, I am a little bit confused, they are not happy, the EFF is happy, we are producing ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. SPEAKER: Is that an order? MEC there is order, take your sit?

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, there are no DA Comrades here, but we are having Honourable Members of DA. Thanks.

HON. SPEAKER: Can you withdraw the comrade part, LGB.

HON. MOTSUMI: I withdraw Honourable Speaker. Indeed, Honourable Members from DA they must not bring their political differences. We know we acknowledge that they are going for conferences so they cannot come here and fight the Minister directly here. Can we not be co-opted in their fights Honourable Speaker? Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Honourable Dabampe, your statement.

HON. DABAMPE: Thank you very much Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to table a Member statement encouraging baagi ba Bokonebophirima bogolo segolo [the community of North West, particularly] students with outstanding debt at institutions of higher learning in signing an online petition in support of the Student Debt Relief Bill.

Honourable Speaker, the process initiating the Student Debt Relief Bill started in November 2024 and is now pending the official voting in Parliament. The Economic Freedom Fighters has launched an official website wherein students with outstanding debt and the community at

large are able to register their support of the bill, with the aim of reaching at least one million signatures that will be submitted on the day Parliament votes.

Hundreds of thousands of young people across the country and here in the province have worked tirelessly to complete their studies against all odds. Yet, despite their hard work and academic success, they are being denied the opportunity to graduate simply because they cannot afford to pay outstanding student debt.

Honourable Speaker, the continued withholding of academic qualifications is testament of how access to tertiary education is treated as a privilege reserved only for the wealthy in South Africa, Honourable Sonakile, despite constitutional provisions that require such access to be made available to all equally. It is also a testament of the deliberate intentions of capitalists to exclude the poor, already marginalised child from participating in the economy through employment, and lifting their family's dependence on a government who finds glory in our people's suffering.

Therefore, it is our plea Speaker, that all patriots and interested individuals follow the link to the official petition website on all social media pages and pledge their support to put an end to this cruel and unjust system that punishes the poor for seeking education. Let us support putting an end to economic torture of the youth! Let us support putting an end to deliberate cycles of poverty! Let us sign the petition and pledge our support to the Student Debt Relief Bill! Thank you very much Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Dabampe. MEC's anyone who wants to respond? None. Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Speaker. Speaker, the latest crime statistics for the third quarter of 2025/26 financial year, covering October to December 2025 paint what can only be described as a mixed and deeply concerning picture for the North West Province.

While the DA welcomes the overall decrease of 4.1% in community-reported crime across the province. Any reduction in crime is positive and gives some reassurance to communities that policing efforts are making an impact.

However, when we look deeper into the numbers, particularly in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, the picture becomes far more troubling. The district alone accounts for 23.9% of the province's total crimes, recording 6 196 serious community-reported crimes in just three months. While there has been a 10.7% reduction in total crimes across the district, with the Klerksdorp police station recording a notable 15.8% decrease, this progress is overshadowed by deeply worrying trends in other areas.

The township of Jouberton, Jobertina as it is known, has now become the number one contributor to rape cases in the entire province, with 37 reported cases in a single quarter, an increase of 10 cases compared to the same period last year. Behind each of those statistics is a victim, a family, and a community living in fear.

Equally concerning is the number in murders in Jouberton, where cases increased from 7 to 12 in just three months, representing a shocking 71% increase. These are not just numbers, they are lives that have been lost. Property-related crime also continues to place enormous pressure on residents and businesses in the district. The Klerksdorp police station is now ranked 20th nationally for theft of motor vehicles, highlighting the persistent targeting of vehicles in the CBD and surrounding suburbs. The station also ranks 29th nationally for total property-related crimes.

Meanwhile, Ikageng remains one of the country's hotspots for residential burglary, ranking 12th nationally for housebreakings, despite a slight local decline. This level of crime continues to undermine economic activity, investment, and the sense of safety in our communities. These statistics also reveal worrying social dynamics behind violent crimes in the province. Across the North West, arguments, misunderstandings, road rage incidents, vigilantism and robbery were identified as the leading causes behind murders and assaults.

The DA believes that these statistics highlight three urgent priorities: Firstly, that targeted interventions are needed in crime hotspots such as Jouberton, Ikageng and Klerksdorp. Secondly, that policing must focus on intelligence-driven operations against property crimes. And thirdly, government must address the underlying social drivers of violence, including alcohol abuse, community conflict, and vigilantism. Honourable Speaker, the DA will continue to push for stronger policing, better crime intelligence, and real accountability in the fight against crime in our province. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sonakile. Does any MEC wish to respond? Thank you. Honourable Chief Whip of the House, Honourable Rosho.

HON. ROSHO: Tla ke go leboge Mmusakgotla [Thank you Speaker]. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to table a statement extending its deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the Motshabi family, the 5th Council of Mahikeng Local Municipality, the African National Congress, and the community of Mahikeng at large on the untimely passing of Councillor Tshepiso Motshabi whom we fondly called Comrade Zela kana [or] Rre Motshabi.

On the 4th of March 2026, the people of Mahikeng were robbed of a dedicated servant of the people, a fearless activist, and a tireless community builder. Councillor Motshabi served the residents of Ward 2 in Mahikeng Local Municipality with extraordinary commitment and unwavering dedication. In every responsibility entrusted to him, he carried the mandate of the people with humility, courage, and an unshakeable sense of duty.

As Chairperson of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC), he discharged his responsibilities with remarkable diligence, integrity, and intellectual rigour. He understood the vital importance of accountability and oversight in governance and was never hesitant to engage in robust, principled debates in pursuit of justice, transparency and good governance. Councillor Motshabi was known among colleagues and comrades as a radical thinker and a

fearless advocate for the interests of the community he loved so deeply. He was never content with the ordinary when the wellbeing of the people was at stake.

He went beyond the call of duty to assist those in need, often dedicating countless hours to resolving community challenges and ensuring that the voices of the most vulnerable were heard within the corridors of power. Throughout his distinguished public service career, Councillor Motshabi also served as a Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC), where he contributed meaningfully to the strategic direction of the municipality.

His passing is a painful reminder that public service is often carried by individuals whose sacrifices and contributions cannot easily be replaced. Councillor Motshabi was a towering figure of intellect and conviction, a beacon of hope for many residents who looked to him not only as a political leader but also as a compassionate listener and a problem-solver.

As the African National Congress, we pass our condolences to his family, relatives, friends and the African National Congress his party and the entire community of Mahikeng, in particular residents of Ward 02. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time. May his revolutionary soul rest in peace but the footprints that he left behind in terms of being a servant of the people walk with us as public representatives. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Chief Whip. Does any MEC wish to respond? LGB. Order on what? Okay. Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you very much Speaker. Speaker, I just want us to look into something that I believe is being problematic. And I think Honourable Chief Whip will agree with me that procedurally congratulatory messages and condolences must be done as motions because when they are being done as Member statements, it closes out Members of the Legislature from responding because now statements are only limited to Members of EXCO.

It was similar with Honourable Dial earlier. We could not even send as parties our condolences to Ntate [Mr] Lekota's family because it was closed. So, I think that issue is not necessarily something that is wrong but it becomes a problem because it closes everyone out of a process that we could have all participated on. So, I would like that in future, that thing be looked into. And on that note maybe Speaker throw in that the DA sends its condolences to the family of Motshabi and of Ntate [Mr] Lekota ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Order! Sit down.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Sit down. Your point is taken Honourable Sonakile. I think at the level of whippers they will duly make sure that they look into that and it be corrected. Honourable LGB, you were to respond. You're fine? Thank you very much. Honourable Members, I now move to Executive Statements. Honourable Lenkopane you were the first one who want to raise a statement on ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Speaker, apologies. Myself and Honourable Steyl did also indicate that we have Member statements.

HON. SPEAKER: Oh.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Member statements that we are still busy with before we move to the Executive. We also noted.

HON. SPEAKER: Oh, sorry I think I missed other Members by mistake. It's Honourable Van Huyssteen and Honourable Steyl, okay. I'm sorry Members of the Executive. Let me allow the

two Members to table their statements. I didn't recognise them. You will start Honourable Van Huyssteen and Honourable Steyl will follow. Thank you.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise today to highlight a serious issue in Stella Town: The continuous and almost debilitating deficit in reliable coverage of mobile network by Vodacom and Cell C. Our residents in Stella Town have been living with very poor cell phone signal for far too long and in many cases not a signal at all. This is more than an inconvenience; it is critical to the common sense in terms of basic safety, health, economic opportunity and ability to exercise your democratic rights.

To begin with, Madam Speaker, the Naledi Local Municipality is currently running a transversal Vodacom prepaid meter installation program in Stella Town. However, due to the limited Vodacom network coverage, these meters cannot fulfil their purpose. Residents buy electricity but have been left in the dark due to units not reflecting. Not only does this prevent everyday life, it results in unsafe living conditions where alarm systems and external lighting cannot work.

In addition, Madam Speaker, having no reliable mobile signal hinders the ability of residents to reach out in an emergency situation when there is a time of need. Safety is not a negotiable right, and this very right is being threatened even taking note of the statistics that Honourable Sonakile has just presented in this House, Speaker. This highlights the need for communication in a time of need.

There are medical concerns in addition to the safety concerns. One Stella Town mother told us that she has a son who uses a glucose meter that needs to be connected to a mobile network to communicate important health updates while he is in school. The crucial connection is continuously disrupted due to inadequate signal coverage, which endangers this child's life while trying to get an education, Honourable Motsumi.

Stella Town businesses fail due to their inability to reach or be reached by clients, Honourable Lenkopane. A simple card transaction cannot be concluded on a speed point because there is simply no signal for that transaction to happen. This hampers economic growth and development in the rural town of Stella. And it is highly relevant to your department Honourable Lenkopane.

During our inquiry, residents informed us that they themselves have escalated this lack of network coverage with Cell C and Vodacom. Residents' threats to transition to other cell phone networks have been met with laughter by these service providers who fail them continuously. Honourable Speaker, let us as this House resolve to engage Vodacom, Cell C, ICASA and the Office of the Premier.

Honourable Motsumi, I'm quite sure in the absence of the Premier, either you would respond or another MEC. Honourable Sambatha is absent today so he will not be able to fulfil that role today. But let us engage them as a matter of urgency so that we get a sustainable solution for the residents of Stella Town.

Our residents have the right to dependable communication, services in their homes and power in uninterrupted flow. Madam Speaker, I believe that this is not although Stella town might seem like a rural community, it affects every single department and their delivering on key performance indicators for every department within this House. I thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Van Huyssteen. Any Executive Member who wish to respond? Thank you very much. Don't worry Honourable Van Huyssteen. EXCO is a collective they will definitely get your message. Honourable Steyl. I think Honourable Steyl is the last one I missed. Honourable Steyl.

HON. STEYL: Thank you Speaker. The Democratic Alliance in North West successfully held its Provincial Congress in Potchefstroom under the theme: A strong DA ready to govern. The Congress brought together 270 delegates to elect new provincial leadership and mandate the

DA's structures with a clear political plan of action as we move towards the 2026 local government elections. The message is clear. The DA in North West is strong. The DA in North West is ready to govern.

The DA's Provincial Congress elected a diverse leadership team, that is now tasked with the implementation of our plan of action towards governing local government municipalities in North West. From Mahikeng, Freddy Sonakile was elected as our Provincial Leader. From Tswaing, Councillor Carin Visser was elected our Provincial Chairperson. From Rustenburg, Councillor Luan Snyders was elected as our Deputy Leader. And from Madibeng, Councillor Erna Rossow elected as Deputy Provincial Chairperson. And the Provincial Finance Chairperson comes from Ditsobotla.

Congress acknowledged the massive growth recorded in Matlosana, under the leadership of our colleague in the NCOP Jeanne Adriaanse, receiving the best urban constituency award. While the ANC in Matlosana protects a disgraced CFO Mercy Mpetla while residents suffer under the collapse of service delivery, the DA in Matlosana is growing strong ward by ward establishing branch by branch, winning the hearts of voters there.

Under the leadership of Wolfgang Walhorn, the DA is recording tremendous growth and is seeing a surge in support in Moses Kotane and Moretele. This constituency was awarded for best performing rural constituency. House by house, street by street, ward by ward, in rural villages, the DA is growing stronger every day.

The DA in North West is proud of hosting this successful congress unlike our colleagues in the ANC with their disgraced performance at their regional conference in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality but nonetheless we move stronger while the ANC chuck out PEC members from their regional conferences.

And I see today the Honourable Motsumi, Honourable Speaker, is very excited about our federal congress. Don't worry we will elect a strong leadership and not a single PEC member

or federal council member will be chunked out of that congress. We are disciplined. We love our party, we love our colleagues. We work together unlike ba bona ba loantša batho ba bang. Ke lebohile. [unlike Members of the ANC fighting one another. Thank you.]

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Steyl. Executive Members, you want to respond? Mme [Madam] Lenkopane, LGB.

HON. LENKOPANE: Thanks, Honourable Speaker. O a itse report e e ntseng e ntshiwa fa ya DA conference [the DA conference report tabled here] can't be referred to the Executive to respond. It is actually not a statement. It's an abuse of your rules and this must just be wiped away. O tla e reporta next door [He can table it next door]. Thank you. It's not a statement to can be qualified by the rules of this House, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: LGB.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. You know the problem with the statement is very cosmetic. Honourable Steyl must not be ashamed that Honourable Sonakile is a Leader of DA. So, when he congratulates he must not come with mixed feelings here because what he wants his intention is to cloud the statement instead of swallowing his pride and say Honourable Sonakile for the very first time in the history of DA, a young person, black for that particular matter, has chowed actually.

They have chowed their cabal in DA. That is why when you balance there, there is only him who actually emerged. The rest belongs to this other cabal. So, as the Executive we congratulate the young, potential, capable Honourable Sonakile. And in future they must come back next week in the next sitting here to be clear to say that the leader of the party is Sonakile. So, they can't come here and mix issues and feelings. And they were also fighting. He knows ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Your one minute is gone LGB.

HON. MOTSUMI: By just a smallanyana [very small] margin there. He was chowed. He was very chowed there.

HON. SPEAKER: Your one minute is gone. Thank you very much Honourable Members and Executive for responding. Honourable Members, I now proceed to Executive Statements in terms of Rule 130(a). I've recognised Honourable Lenkopane, Honourable Motsumi, Honourable Tlhapi. And who else? The three of you.

HON. LENKOPANE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I've got two statements. The first one is the statement on Borakalalo title deeds conferment and the community beneficiation ...
[INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Sorry MEC. MEC as you deal with your statement, know that you have three minutes.

HON. LENKOPANE: Okay. Honourable Speaker, this statement is presented to acknowledge an important milestone in the implementation of the People and Parks Programme and the advancement of the land restitution in the North West Province.

The conferment of the title deeds to the Mooke Community Property Association and Ga-Habedi Community Property Association in Borakalalo area marks a significant step in restoring land ownership to communities that were historically dispossessed of their land. This milestone, Speaker, also signals the beginning of a new phase in the management of protected areas in our province. It reflects our commitment to ensure that the land ownership by communities must translate into the meaningful participation in the economic opportunities arising from conservation areas.

This achievement also gives practical effect to the policy direction articulated by Honourable Premier regarding the commercialisation of the protected areas in the North West Province through Parks and Tourism. The objective is to unlock investment in tourism, the wildlife economy and the biodiversity-based enterprises while ensuring that communities who are landowners become key partners of these initiatives.

The North West Province will continue to advance this position through national platforms such as the People and Parks Programme, where government, conservation authorities and communities work together to strengthen co-management arrangements and unlock sustainable economic opportunities linked to protected areas.

Honourable Speaker, these title deeds therefore represent more than a restitution milestone. It marks the beginning of the new chapter where conservation, tourism development and community empowerment move forward together to ensure that the biodiversity economy becomes a driver of inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods in our province. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable MEC. Does any Member of the House wish to comment? Chief Whip.

HON. ROSHO: Thanks very much Madam Speaker. I think we should appreciate the statement made by Honourable Lenkopane on issues of biodiversity. And we want to commend her as the African National Congress to be aggressive in transforming the sector of biodiversity and environment. It is important that our people are aware that wildlife actually it's a space that they must occupy especially the previously disadvantaged.

However, I also want to pursue Honourable Lenkopane to ensure that the Bill that is sitting before us on biodiversity is actually benefitting the previously disadvantaged people. And we appreciate that you are doing that but you must intensify that work because our people must occupy that space. Wildlife cannot be for the elites and the few in the country. Things must change, the status quo must change. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Chief Whip. Honourable Motsumi, your statement.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. The North West Department of Education is proud to announce that Mbulelo Tolamo, a grade 7 learner from Klerksdorp Primary School in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda Local Municipality has been selected to represent South Africa at the continental *spelling bee* competition to be held in Zimbabwe from the 18th to the 21st March 2026.

Last year, Mbulelo Tolamo won the 2025 South African National *Spelling Bee* Finals held in Sun City. By winning the national title he earned the opportunity to represent South Africa at the African Junior Championships Spelling Competition which will be hosted in Zimbabwe. The participants in the competition won the spelling competition from cluster, district and national level. The *spelling bee* competition promotes literacy, reading, language skills and academic excellence among learners.

As the MEC of the department, I wish the best of luck to Mbulelo Tolamo and the entire team representing South Africa in the continental competition. And on behalf of the North West Department of Education, I take this opportunity to wish our learner Mbulelo Tolamo the best of luck together with the entire South African team which will be participating in the *spelling bee* competition. And we must indicate that we are going to give the learner the full support as the department. We are definitely going to make sure that the trip becomes a success. Thank you very much.

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

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Speaker. Speaker, the DA also joins in to congratulate Mbulelo Tolamo on that achievement and his representation of South Africa at that international competition.

O tla hopola Mmusakgotla hore Lefapha la Thuto nationally ka tlasa Mme Siviwe Gwarube ... [INAUDIBLE] ... le tse ling tsa maano a lulang a bua ka ona ke bo licompetition tse li tsoanang le *bospelling bee*. So, ho a bontša hore lefapha le matsohong a matle e bile a siameng. Ebile Mme Gwarube a sebetsa joalo le Mme Motsumi ba pusha joalo dilo tse tsoanang le *bospelling bee* tse ka nnang tsa hudisa country ea rona. So ke maatla a GNU mo e tsamaileng teng Speaker. Ke a leboha.

English Translation Follows:

[You will recall, Speaker, that the Department of Education nationally is under the leadership of Madam Siviwe Gwarube and some of the strategies she always talks about are competitions such as *spelling bee* and the likes. This really shows that the department is under a very good leadership. Madam Gwarube is working together with Madam Motsumi to promote *spelling bee* competitions because they have a potential for growth and prosperity to our country. Speaker, this is what we call the power of Government of National Unity. Thank you.]

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Sonakile. Honourable Tlhapi, your statement.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, North West Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation on Friday the 06th March officially opened the new Community Library in Thekwane. And on the 14th March the department also opened the new library in Tswelelang near Wolmaranstad.

Madam Speaker, the collaborative efforts of the strategic stakeholders that comprises of the Rustenburg Chrome mine, Royal Bafokeng Institute, Rustenburg Local Municipality and the Department culminated into the establishment of Tshukudu Community Library. I was accompanied by MEC Motsumi and we officially handed a new library to the community of Thekwane on Friday the 06th during the *Thuntsha Lerole* Programme that we all know.

Tshukudu Community Library epitomises the commitment of the private sector collaboration with government in developing and uplifting industry-hosting communities through infrastructural community development. Both libraries offer a welcoming and inclusive

environment designed to meet the diverse needs of community it serves. The library features include:

- A reception area and a dedicated librarian's office.
- Internet and Wi-Fi access.
- Ablution facilities.
- A shelving area for housing more than 2,500 books.
- A kitchen for staff use.
- A children's and toddlers' collection area with age-appropriate resources.
- The computer stations for research, study, and digital access.
- A specialised section equipped with resources and assistive technology for people living with disabilities.

On behalf of the Provincial Government and the people of Thekwane we give gratitude to the Rustenburg Chrome mine and Royal Bafokeng institute for their courtesy and commitment on social investment. We sincerely appreciate our strategic stakeholders in safeguarding the future of Thekwane by honouring our community with this invaluable information graveyard. It is now our property, and we should protect it with our own lives because protecting it, is securing the future of our young people.

Funds permitting, Madam Speaker, we will accelerate libraries infrastructure programme because above all libraries are sanctuary spaces, a place where silence and tranquillity meet and offering comfort and inspiration. Within the library walls, people can find comfort and peace that allows them to unlock their dreams and awaken their true potential. I thank you.

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

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Speaker. It's not a comment on that statement. That statement is very progressive. We need more libraries in the province. Actually, the MEC must also focus on libraries that are white elephants in our villages. For example, I know two or three in Ratlou that were built however, they've never been opened officially. Now di tlo end up di cracka. [They will end up cracking.]

But I'm raising also, Speaker, a point of order. The Honourable Member Lenkopane there, I don't know whether it's parliamentary for her to drink nip in the House. O busy ntse a phahamisa nip a noa ko Ntlong ya hao. [She is busy drinking nip in your House]. So, I don't know if that is allowed and I would want a ruling on that. Thanks.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sonakile. I don't think ke [that is] nip. She should know better that you can only drink water in the House. You can't drink nip, but the Chief Whip will look into that if indeed it was a nip. Honourable Molapisi, your statement.

HON. MOLAPISI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. The bottle looks very suspicious.

HON. SPEAKER: Order Honourable Molapisi. Your statement.

HON. MOLAPISI: But I can confirm it's water. Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism to share with the House that the North West Provincial Government remains committed to the protection of the rights of consumers and ensuring that businesses operate in a fair, transparent, and responsible manner.

Early this month, the department celebrated World Consumer Rights Day. Through the Consumer Affairs Court and the Office of the Consumer Affairs, the Department of Tourism

continues to play a vital role in promoting ethical business practices and safeguarding the interests of residents across the province.

Recent cases brought before the Consumer Affairs Court demonstrate both the challenges faced by consumers and the importance of strong regulatory intervention. In the matter of Mrs. Josephine Seithlamo vs. Francois Drilling (Pty) Ltd, the court ordered the company to drill a new borehole and install the necessary equipment after the original work failed to meet the agreed specifications. We are pleased to note that the consumer has confirmed that the company has complied with the court order and that the new borehole is functioning effectively.

In another case, Ms Paballo Matsietsa vs. Agenback Motors, the court ruled that the dealership must refund the consumer an amount of R220 000 after it was established that the vehicle sold had numerous mechanical defects and previously been written off following the accident. This ruling reinforces our commitment to ensuring transparency and accountability in the automotive sector.

Similarly, in Sebaka and others vs. Mpho Kegomoditswe trading as Regomoditswe Tombstone and Funeral Services, the court ordered a refund of R96 000 to the consumer who had paid for the tombstone that were never delivered. Ke botsotsi [they are crooks]. The department has since initiated criminal proceedings due to the failure to comply with the court ruling.

Furthermore, as I conclude, in Radiokana vs. Mr Johan Grantling trading as Eagle Building Supplier, the court directed that the supplier to refund R91 000 to the complainant for failing to provide roofing materials as agreed. Criminal proceedings have been initiated and the matter will be heard in the Rustenburg Magistrates Court.

These cases, Honourable Speaker, demonstrate the department's unwavering commitment to ensuring justice for consumers and holding non-compliant businesses accountable. We want to encourage all residents of the North West Province to report unfair business practices and to make use of the services offered by the Consumer Affairs.

As government, we remain resolute in building a fair marketplace that protects consumers while supporting ethical and responsible businesses that contribute positively to the growth of our provincial economy. I thank you Speaker.

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

HON. ROSHO: Thanks very much Madam Speaker. As we welcome the statement made ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Sorry, sorry Chief Whip. I was off record. Honourable Chief Whip.

HON. ROSHO: Okay thanks. Thanks Madam Speaker. As African National Congress, we welcome the statement. We still want to request the department led by the MEC to ensure that awareness in rural areas makes impact because part of our challenges on issues around consumers is that most of our people in rural areas, MEC, I know that you are trying your best. But we want you to triple your efforts to make sure that our people in rural areas are aware.

Also, be deliberate with our people with disabilities and also our women especially women who are middle-aged like. You know, not only older women but start bo rona so [our age] from 50 and above so that we ensure that we are aware of these challenges in rural areas. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Chief Whip. We conclude our Executive Statements. There's no any other comment. Secretary, may you read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 4 ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 5 DEBATE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Secretariat. Human Rights Day is a national day commemorated annually on the 21st of March to remind South Africans about the sacrifices that accompany the struggle to the attainment of democracy in South Africa. I will now call Honourable Tlhapi to lead the debate. Honourable Tlhapi, you have 10 minutes.

HON. TLHAPI: Ke a leboga Mmusakgotla Mme Desbo Mohono, ke leboge Chief Whip ya rona Mme Motlalepule Rosho, ke leboge Deputy Chief Whip Mme Karabo Magagane, ke leboge Premier in absentia Ntate Lazy Mokgosi, ke leboge the Leader of Government Business Mme Viola Motsumi.

Ke leboge gape Deputy Speaker Ntate Collen Maine, Members of the Legislature, Members of the Executive my colleagues, Secretary le botlhe ba Legislature. Mme ke boe ke leboge Magosi a rona a Bokonebophirima ka gore re porofense ya magosi Madam Speaker. Ke leboge gape le baeng ba gago mo letsatsing la kajeko, media ba ba leng teng. Ke a leboga.

English Translation Follows:

[Thank you, Speaker Madam Desbo Mohono, thank you Chief Whip Madam Motlalepule Rosho, thank you Deputy Chief Whip Madam Karabo Magagane, thank you Premier in absentia Mr Lazy Mokgosi, thank you the Leader of Government Business Madam Viola Motsumi.

Thank you, Deputy Speaker Mr Collen Maine, Members of the Legislature, Members of the Executive my colleagues, Secretary and everyone in the Legislature. Let me also acknowledge the Traditional Leaders of the North West because Madam Speaker this is the province of Traditional Leadership. Also acknowledge the guests and the media. Thank you.]

Madam Speaker, the scholarly discourse underscores the pivotal role played by the civil rights movement in raising awareness of social justice issues. They highlighted the severe deprivation faced by the black communities and exposed profound disparities in health, education and economy thus calling for the decisive action to address inequalities and promote a just and equitable society.

These movements had significantly influenced Africa's liberation struggle. The breakthrough of the North African countries like Egypt and Libya from the chains of oppression and colonialism gave much hope, inspiration and strength to Southern African states in their struggle to pursue an egalitarian state founded on freedom, justice and equality.

Precisely 66 years ago, Madam Speaker, on the 21st of March, thousands of black South Africans both young and elderly gripped by despair, agitation and serious resentment towards a racially oppressive system of government. They gathered outside the police station in the township of Sharpeville to peacefully protest against Pass Laws Act and Group Areas Act that fuelled discrimination and oppression against black South Africans.

These laws have enabled the forceful removal of black South Africans to segregate places that had limited access to basic services, with employment prospects severely limited. They deepened systematic control and oppression by placing and constraining black people in adverse living conditions that make survival extremely difficult.

Resistance of the apartheid brutal regime was witnessed through a peaceful demonstration by black South Africans against the *dompas* in March 1960 where the police opened fire on peaceful protestors and killed 69 people with more than 100 injured.

Though we appreciate that March 21st event of 1966 is not only the massacre that led to a tragedy, however, this one shifted the struggle into a new phase. It drew global attention into the injustice of apartheid, galvanised resistance campaigns and underscored the cost and the necessity of the resistance in the struggle of the liberation and the freedom. Sharpeville Massacre is remembered as one of the most defining and painful moment in the fight for human rights and social justice.

The courage of ordinary people who stood up against unjust law even at the cost of their lives reminds us that our democracy and freedom were not handed over on a silver platter but were won through sacrifices. Madam Speaker, we also give recognition and honour to the women of Ramotshere Moiloa who participated in the pass laws resistance campaign.

Madam Speaker, the collapse of the apartheid government did not absolve the new administration of 1994 from the challenges faced by the country at that time. The government of 1994 inherited a violent and a deeply divided society with majority of its people facing poverty and inequalities.

The government of the new dispensation had to confront and address these entrenched problems while also addressing severe infrastructure backlogs and the consequences of centuries of deliberate depravation in service delivery to black communities e e tswang kwa kgakala. Ba a itse ka fa left ka fa gore ke bua ka eng. [...that started long time ago. The Members on the left side know what I am talking about.]

The Freedom Charter which is a foundational document serving as a powerful statement of aspirations of the majority of South Africans on their fundamental rights and freedoms was the only guiding documents that the government could adopt in pursuit of the democratic and non-racial society. The new government adopted the Freedom Charter, and it served as a solid foundation for the country's democracy and the culture of the constitutional rights. Although the Freedom Charter is not fully implemented, it has for the most part played a role in guiding government's approach in its service delivery programmes.

The principles of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa that was adopted in 1996, and its associated Bill of Rights were lifted from the Freedom Charter and many of the Charter's core demands find direct expression in legal framework.

Madam Speaker, we celebrate this year's Human Rights Month under the theme: Bill of Rights at 30, Making Human Dignity Real. This theme reminds us a celebration of this year's human rights month coincides with the commemoration of the 30 years of the adoption of the Constitution of South Africa.

The celebration of the Constitution's 30th anniversary happens at the time with the seventh democratic local government elections that will be taking place later this year. This is indeed a testament to the resilience and the majority of our democracy. Our government has meaningful progress in protecting and advancing fundamental rights.

Deputy Speaker, it has also adopted sound policies and budgets aimed at realising our socio-economic rights. This is in pursuit of a dignified and equal society as outlined in the Chapter 2 Bill of Rights in the South African Constitution. In providing dignity to low-income earning households, government provides child support grant and old age grants to eligible South Africans.

The proportion of people receiving social grants grew from 12.8% in 2003 to more than 40% today. Social grants have become a primary source of income to the majority of low-income receiving households. Taking into cognisance the increasing cost of living, government from April this year will increase child support grant with 3.6% while old age grant increases with 3.7%.

Government makes provision on the subsidised housing programme. Although there is a subsidised housing backlog, the number of the households residing in formal dwelling as a result of RDP housing programme has increased progressively within years. The government is aware of the increasing demand of housing hence the commitment of the Seventh

Administration on provision of housing as its apex priority. Despite 500 million Rand committed to the construction of 1 148 housing units in the province, the government has also committed to spend 80% of the budget allocated to human settlements for the completion of all blocked housing projects in the province.

Through the implementation, Deputy Speaker, of a no fee school policy, government provides education for all. Government has also introduced scholar transport to reduce the long distance learners walk to school and minimise the absenteeism during rainy days. We have also seen how the implementation of the national school nutrition programme has been vital in attempt to address food insecurity and ensure access to education for all children.

The implementation of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme remains the instrumental in affording previously disadvantaged people access to the tertiary education. This scheme is crucial in helping them to overcome the financial barriers to higher education and thereby contributing to the attainment of the social justice and economic development.

Government has also provided access to medical healthcare services which is crucial in ensuring that every individual has a right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The access to medical healthcare capacity has been increasing progressively within years Deputy Speaker.

Despite the launch of the Desmond Tutu School of Medicine by April 2025 in the province which will increase our medical health professionals drastically, every year through the Nelson Mandela/Fidel Castro Medical Programme, the province sends a number of students to Cuba to advance studies in medicine which also increase the capacity of the province with medical healthcare professionals.

Government has also made provision to water and households with access to municipal tap water and has increased progressively within years. Access to tap water provision has increased

from 78.4% in 2004 to 79.8% in 2005 which is an increase of 6.3 million households. Access to improved sanitation has also increased from 61.7% in 2002 to 83.1% in 2004.

Today more than 90% households have got access to electricity. There has been a notable increase with access to electricity since 2002. There is also access to improved sanitation in the households. Madam Deputy Speaker, the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation in honour of this year's human rights month makes provision of the following activities and programmes:

The department will have the gender-based violence and femicide awareness dialogue. We will also have a social and moral regeneration activities. We will also have an educational and foundation support programmes through libraries. We will also have programmes that preserve culture and artistic heritage as well as programmes that preserve and promote African mother tongue languages.

Deputy Speaker, we are prone to be affected by the geo-political environment. As South Africa, we condemn the war in the Persian Gulf. The rising conflict in the Middle East will have direct economic implication on us if there is no cease fire. Oil prices will increase which will affect commodities and our cost of living as such the budget adopted few weeks ago will negatively be affected.

Deputy Speaker, we are government in progress and just like any other government, we are experiencing challenges. Despite a 6.2% decrease on our official unemployment rate as a result of the provincial government's commitment and efforts on job creation, unemployment remains a serious crisis especially amongst the young people. We are experiencing water shortages. We are also experiencing sewer spillages and housing backlogs. And some of these problems are perpetuated by vandalism and elements of criminality.

Deputy Speaker, in the same breath, I want to assure the people of Bokonebophirima [North West] and your House that our government has declared 2026 as the year of decisive action to

fix local government and transform the economy. The provincial government Kgothakgothe [general meeting] focused on various issues that are also limited to accelerating service delivery, Honourable Steyl, restoring the dignity of communities and charting a clear path towards improving local government and service delivery in the province.

A clear comprehensive plan and resolution with time frames has been developed and given to the municipalities as a clear mandate to address human rights issues such as housing, water and sanitation as a way of giving back the dignity of our people. I thank you Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Tlhapi. The Honourable Moema, you've got 10 minutes.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you ever so much Deputy Speaker. You know it's so pathetic for Honourable Tlhapi MEC to stand here boldly and say 32 years into democracy they have dismally failed to fully implement the Freedom Charter, 32 years into democracy. That's so pathetic.

Honourable Speaker, leaders of the Economic Freedom Fighters led by Commissar Shakes Botswe, Dikgosi [Traditional Leaders] led by Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders in the North West Province Kgosi Maotwe, Honourable Members of this House, and most importantly the people of the North West Province, good morning.

Honourable Speaker, I should wish to begin the human rights debate by borrowing from the words of human rights activist Sol Plaatje when he said, and I quote: "Awakening of Friday morning, June 20, 1913, the South African native found himself not actually a slave but a pariah in the land of his own birth."

Today we commemorate Human Rights Day, a day written in the blood of our people who refused to accept oppression. This day Honourable Speaker reminds us of the heroic role played

by the late Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe who led the 1960 anti-pass campaigns which resulted in the brutal killings of our people during the Sharpeville Massacre. Those martyrs did not die for symbolic freedom. They died for real freedom, economic freedom, land dignity and equality.

Honourable Speaker, apartheid denied black people their humanity. Our people were treated as foreigners in their own land. They were forcefully removed from productive land, subjected to inferior education, denied quality healthcare and forced into cheap labour to benefit a white minority. The apartheid government used violence, guns and imprisonment to silence the legitimate demands of black people but today we must ask difficult questions.

What has changed for the black working class majority, because when the mineworkers of Marikana demanded a living wage to feed their families, it was not the apartheid government that responded with bullets, it was the democratic government led by the African National Congress. During the Marikana massacre, the black working class were killed by a government that claims to represent them in the same way the apartheid regime killed those who demanded dignity.

This is why, Honourable Speaker, we say there is a very little difference between the old oppressor and the new one when it comes to the lived realities of our people. The faces in government may be black, but the suffering of our people remains the same. Honourable Deputy Speaker, our people are still trapped in poverty. The youth are still without decent paying jobs. The people of North West are still without reliable service delivery. They are still without decent housing and proper living conditions. Human rights cannot only exist in the constitution while our people live without water, sanitation and electricity.

The people of Taung continue to suffer without clean and reliable water. Women and elderly people wake up in the early hours of the morning to fetch water like it is still in the 1960s. When they protest for their basic rights instead of coming with solutions that will assist in

changing their current conditions, the ANC government sends the police to brutalise our people. This is a violation of human dignity and a direct violation of human rights.

Honourable Speaker, land remains central to the question of human rights and dignity. Without land there cannot be dignity. Without land there can be no economic freedom. Without land there can be no real justice. Our people cannot eat political speeches. Our people cannot build wealth without access to land of their birth. The EFF maintains that land expropriation without compensation is not an economic demand, it is a human rights issue because land restores dignity. Land restores economic participation, land restores the humanity that was taken from our people through colonialism and apartheid.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to also remind this House of a simple but powerful truth often attributed to Nelson Mandela who said: “To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.” The painful reality today is that corruption and incompetence have become the biggest threats to the human rights of our people. When government fails to provide water, jobs and safety, it is denying people their humanity just as the past regime did.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Human Rights Day must not become a ceremonial event where the former liberation movement congratulates itself while our people suffer. It must be a day of accountability, a day where we ask whether people are truly free from poverty, inequality and unemployment. The struggle for human rights did not end in 1994. It continues today in the fight for economic justice, quality services, land and dignity.

The EFF will continue to be the fearless voice of the people, the unemployed and the forgotten. As the Economic Freedom Fighters, we reaffirm that the struggle continues until every household has water, until every young person has a job, until every family has land and until wealth of this country is shared amongst those who produce it. I thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker and good morning.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Sonakile, you've got nine minutes.

HON. SONAKILE: Motlatsammusakgotla e re ke u lumedise le Maloko ohle a Kokoanopeomolao. Deputy Speaker, e re ke qale ka ho nehelana ka mohlala oa bophelo bo baahi ba Bokonebophirima ba bo phelang nqeng tse ling tsa porofense. Ke hoseng motsaneng oa Lebaleng, Makwassie Hills, bomme ba eme mela ka diemere ba emetse truck ea metsi hore e tlise metsi hore ba khone ho tlatša diemere tsa bona ba khutlele mahaeng a bona ho ea ho futhumaletsa bana hore bana ba ba tle ba khone ho hlapa mme ba noe metsi.

O ka nahana hore mohlala ona o ke fanang ka ona ke story sa 1987 empa ke ntho tse etsahalang kajeno. Ke bophelo bo moahi oa motho a motšo oa Lebaleng a bo phelang democracy ea rona hobane masepala oa bona o tsamaisioang ke ANC o hloleha ke ho isa ditšebeliso tsa phallo ea metsi dipompong tsa bona. Bohloko ba taba ke hore ka nako tse ling batsadi bana ba khutla diemere ntse li sa tšela metsi hobane lecomrade la senokoane le fuoeng tender ea ho isa metsi, le sa tlisa metsi letsatsing leo.

English Translation Follows:

[Deputy Speaker, let me greet you and all the Members of the Legislature. Deputy Speaker, let me begin by giving an example of the life that North West residents live in other parts of the province. It is in the morning in the village of Lebaleng, Makwassie Hills, women are lined up with buckets waiting for a water truck to bring water so they can fill their buckets and return to their homes to boil water for their children to bathe and drink.

You might think that the example I am giving is a story from 1987, but it is something that is happening today. This is the life that a black resident of Lebaleng lives in our democracy era because their ANC-led municipality fails to deliver water supply services to their taps. The sad part is that sometimes these parents return home with empty buckets because the criminal comrade who was awarded the tender to deliver water services did not deliver the water that day.]

And so the day ends with the same way it began, with empty containers and broken promises. Deputy Speaker, when a resident of a democratic country must spend a day chasing water like this, we must ask ourselves what does the right to dignity mean if the most basic necessity for life cannot be guaranteed?

Today we commemorate the victims of the Sharpeville massacre where South Africans stood up against injustice and paid with their lives. Their sacrifice helped pave the way for the democratic South Africa we celebrate today; a country built on the foundation of the constitution widely regarded as one of the most progressive in the world.

But Deputy Speaker, Human Rights Day must also force us to confront an uncomfortable reality because while our constitution promises dignity, equality and access to basic services, for many South Africans those rights remain beautiful words written on paper and after 32 years of democracy, that should trouble all of us.

Let me be clear. Apartheid was evil. It was a brutal system that denied millions of people their dignity and their humanity but no one ever imagined the ANC that fought for freedom, that those who fought for one of the most progressive constitutions in the world, who were the ones who fought to have this best constitution would today return to undermine and urinate on the very same constitution they helped create.

Thirty-two years is a long time. It is a long time for rights to remain promises rather than realities because the true test of a constitution is not how beautifully it is written but the test is whether the promises are felt in the daily lives of ordinary people. Deputy Speaker, Nelson Mandela once said, “there can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its most vulnerable citizens.”

That statement should haunt us today because in the North West the evidence tells of a deeply troubling story. Over the past five years, the South African Human Rights Commission has repeatedly warned about systemic failures that directly undermine the rights of our people. In

its 2025 investigative report into the state of municipal delivery in the North West Province, it paints a devastating picture.

The commission investigated 84 complaints across municipalities in this province, and it found that systemic failures in water provision, sanitation, waste management, electricity supply and road infrastructure lead to human rights failures. Communities reported prolonged water shortages, unsafe drinking water, raw sewage flowing through the streets and homes, illegal dumping, collapsing roads and failing infrastructure. The commission concluded that these failures directly violate residents' constitutional rights to dignity, water, sanitation and healthy environment.

Deputy Speaker when you look across our province the examples are everywhere. In Orkney, residents live with persistent sewage spillages caused by collapsing infrastructure. In Alabama, communities have reported sewage flooding streets and homes. In Ventersdorp, residents have complained about discoloured water that is unsafe to drink. In Taung, communities reported receiving brown water that is not fit for human consumption.

In Bray, residents reported that the water is so salty it causes stomach cramps. In Ganyesa, communities must travel long distances pushing wheelbarrows just to collect water from communal pumps. In Morokweng, residents have gone for extended periods without reliable water supply. In Lichtenburg, residents reported going over a month without water.

In Jericho, residents have reported years of water shortages forcing communities to buy water from private boreholes. In Reagile near Koster, communities live with sewage spillages and unreliable water supply. In Swartruggens, residents have raised concerns about illegal dumping and inadequate sanitation facilities. In Marikana, communities have reported sewage spillages, unreliable water supply and poor waste collection.

Deputy Speaker, these are not opposition talking points. These are documented complaints investigated by the South African Human Rights Commission. And then you will find in this

House an MEC member will come who lives in luxury wanting to defend this nonsense and violation of human rights.

This crisis is not confined to one municipality, it is happening across districts, across towns, across villages and the entire province. And the tired excuse we hear every time is the same, apartheid. Yes, apartheid destroyed humanity, yes apartheid destroyed or created inequality, yes apartheid left deep scars in our society, but apartheid ended more than three decades ago.

A child born in 1994 is now 32 years old. Ke motsoali o khona ho itseela ditšoele [A parent who is able to make decisions]. Surely by now the ANC government must accept that every sewage spill, every dry tap and every collapsed road cannot be blamed on a government that left office 30 years ago. At some point, responsibility must replace excuses.

Deputy Speaker, even the statistics confirm the seriousness of this situation. According to Stats SA, the North West ranks fourth in the country for reported human rights violations after Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape. This is deeply concerning for a province with just over four million people to be number four in the country. If a province with one of the smallest populations in the country is producing some of the highest levels of human rights complaints, something is fundamentally wrong but because behind those statistics there are real people whose constitutional rights are not realised.

Speaker, just last week at the memorial service of former liberation fighter Mosiuoa Lekota, may his soul rest in peace, the former ANC leader Tokyo Sexwale issued a very stark warning about the future of the governing party. He reminded his party the ANC that revolutions and governments often collapse when they fail to meet the basic needs of the people. He spoke about the Russian revolution where the rallying cry of the people became bread.

He warned his party and said that if it does not wake up from the slumber it is sleeping on and heed to advice, the new revolution in South Africa will be that of water. And I agree with him because it may simply be water because when taps run dry in Lebaleng, sewage spills in

Orkney, residents drink brown water and when families have to buy water to survive, the issue is no longer politics, it is a human rights crisis.

Deputy Speaker, even ANC leaders of the liberation struggle warned us about this danger. Oliver Tambo warned that if corruption ever took root within the ANC, then ANC would become worse than the system it replaced of apartheid. Mandela took it further and reminded us that if a democratic government like the one that we are having today ever treated the people the way that apartheid government did, then the people must remove it from power. Those were not words of opposition politicians, those were the warnings from the architects of our freedom.

Deputy Speaker, Human Rights Day must therefore be more than a ceremonial event where we repeat the same speeches every year like Honourable Tlhapi would want us to do. It must be a moment of ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sonakile, as you wrap up. You've got 30 seconds remaining.

HON. SONAKILE: The greatest threat to human rights in South Africa today is no longer a system of laws designed to oppress people. It is the collapse of governance that prevents rights from being realised. The heroes of Sharpeville did not sacrifice their lives so that South Africans could have beautiful rights written in a constitution while living without water, dignity and basic services. They fought so that freedom would be lived and until every South African can open a tap and see water flow, until every learner can reach to school safely and until every community can ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

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

HON. SONAKILE: From the time of ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sonakile, take your seat. Your time is up! Your time is up! Can you take your seat Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Groenewald, you've got four minutes. Okay Honourable Groenewald is absent. Honourable Williams, you've got nine minutes. Can we have order Honourable Members!

HON. WILLIAMS: Motlotlegi Motlatsammusakgotla, Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla, Motlotlegi Tonakgolo ya Bokonebophirima Rre Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi, Bakhuduthamaga ba ba tlotlegang, Makgotla, Maloko a Kgotlatheomolao ya Bokonebophirima, Magosi a rona a a eteletse pele merafe ya rona ya gaetsho, baeng ba tlotlego, bomma le borre. Ke kopa lo ntetleng gore ke lo reye ke re madume ke segaetsho ka ke le mosetsana wa motswana, wa motshweneng, makopong ke naiweng ke naiwa mmeleng.

Ke ikokobeditse le go nna motlotlo gore lo mphe sebaka seno go ema Kgotlatheomolao ka lefoko segolo jang fa re buisana kapa go ngangisana mabapi le kgakologelo ya keteko ya letsatsi la ditshwanelo tsa botho. Jaanong ntletle ke kgwe ka tlhaa gongwe go latlhela tlhware logonnyana mme ke dirisa lolame lwa sejatlhapi go ngangisana. Motlatsammusakgotla, ga ke na go arabisana le bonnake gongwe badiredibasweu ba ba ka fa molemeng go fitlha ba ithuta go amogela tekanyetsokabo tsa mafapha jaaka di tlhola di kopiwa.

English Translation Follows:

[Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Premier of the North West Mr Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi, Honourable MECs, EXCO, Members of the North West Legislature, The Traditional Leadership of the North West, esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen. Accept my greetings, as a Motswana girl of the Batshweneng clan greeting is my culture. *I am a*

Motshweneng makopong ke naiweng ke naiwa mmeleng [chanting a traditional totem or praise for the Batshweneng clan, a baboon is their totem].

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the debate of the commemoration of the Human Rights Day. Allow me to share my sentiments using the English language. Deputy Speaker, I will not argue with the Members of the DA on the left side until they learn to adopt the budgets of the Departments as allocated.]

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Africa's first noble peace prize Laurette and former ANC President Chief Albert Luthuli once declared, "our cause is a cause for equality between nations and people." These words remind us that the struggle for human dignity is both national and global. Today we mark 30 years of the Bill of Rights, the foundation of our democracy and living testament to the sacrifice of our people.

We remember Sharpeville, 1960, where 69 lives were lost in the fight for dignity. We remember Mamelodi, 1985, where peaceful protest was met with brutality. These are not just historical moments, they are reminders of the prize of freedom. As we reflect on the three decades of constitutional democracy, we must affirm that our freedom was not accidental, it was organised, fought for and won. The Freedom Charter declared South Africa belongs to all who live in it. Today, the Bill of Rights gives that vision a legal force.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, rights on paper must translate into real change in people's lives. That is why the ANC has declared 2026 the year of decisive action to fix local government and transform the economy. Through targeted programs, the ANC-led government continues to expand access to education, however, we must speak honestly. While scholar transport remains essential particularly for rural and farm communities, serious challenges still persist. Many learners still struggle to reach school safely and consistently.

This demands stronger implementation, greater oversight and accountability because no child, no child Honourable Deputy Speaker must be left behind. At the same time, no fee school

policy continues to support poor households. The national school nutrition programme ensures learners can learn with dignity. NSFAS remains a critical pathway to higher education. These are not just programmes, they are instruments of social justice.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, economic dignity remains central to human rights. Through local economic development, we are supporting small businesses, cooperatives and youth entrepreneurs to revitalise townships and rural economies. But let us be equally clear, the fight against corruption and crime remains a serious and ongoing challenge. It requires far more decisive, coordinated and sustained action to uphold the rule of law and restore public confidence.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Bill of Rights at 30 reminds us that freedom is not a destination, it is a continuous responsibility. It demands that we build an economy that creates jobs, strengthen our municipalities and ensure that no community is left behind. In closing, Kwame Nkrumah reminded us freedom cannot be given as a favour, it must be claimed by the people themselves. The Bill of Rights is not just history, it is a living commitment, a commitment to restore dignity, to advance equality and to transform the lives of our people. Let us move forward with honesty, with courage and with decisive actions. I thank you.

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

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. The theme of Bill of Rights at 30 making human dignity real, highlights the progress and challenges in realising human dignity in South Africa 30 years after the adoption of the South African Constitution.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, our farm workers still live in abject poverty where many don't have identity documents, birth certificates nor decent houses as well as electricity. There could be no making human dignity real when our people have no access to land. Our forefathers used to plough fields on their own. Today such fields are forests no longer producing food and for

that particular matter indigenous food. Do you call that freedom and democracy even making human dignity real?

I visited a ward in Groot Marico on the 6th March 2026. People are living in abject poverty with a high level of new born babies around the area without birth certificates even their parents from various farms. The Bill of Rights Honourable Speaker, as enshrined in Chapter 2 of the Constitution is a cornerstone of democracy affirming the values of human dignity, equality and freedom.

But there are still key challenges to this particular effect. There are systematic inequalities and poverty persist affecting marginalised communities, violence against women and girls, xenophobia and migrant rights abuses remain concerns regardless of the Chapter 2 of our Constitution on human rights.

As we debate this Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to move as uMkhonto weSizwe Party that we should be seen popularising the constitution and promoting human rights education. A classical example where schools are unable to act because of being afraid to be judged by circuit managers and where there are super ovulated powers.

A drainage system which poses a risk to learners and educators health in Tshiologang Primary School. The environment is inhabitable and inconducive for learning. Do you call that human rights and human dignity? No there is no dignity at all to our learners and educators in as far as these challenges of drainage systems are concerned.

Secondly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am also calling that we need to be seen strengthening accountability and implementation of human rights in this particular regard. Whilst we are acknowledging these particular key challenges, there are also key achievements that were achieved in as far as the Constitutional Court that has played a pivotal role in interpreting and protecting human rights with landmark cases like Grootboom and Treatment Action Campaign.

Secondly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the one of the South African Human Rights Commission that has been a watchdog throughout promoting and protecting human rights. Whilst we are debating all these particular issues, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to call upon our good selves so that we need to make these particular issues of promoting the constitution in as far as human rights are concerned fashionable so that we are able to take charge and act accordingly. Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Tsholo. The Honourable Kodisang, you've got four minutes.

HON. KODISANG: I stand here acknowledging Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, Kgosi [The King], Kgosana [Headman] Tumagole and the Supreme Council of the Royal Bafokeng. Honourable Deputy Speaker, as the giant Dr Maya Angelou once said, and I quote: "My mission in life is not merely to survive but to thrive." Yet for millions of South Africans today thriving remains a distant dream because they are still struggling simply to survive.

The Bill of Rights in the Constitution of our country reminds us that it is a cornerstone of democracy enshrining the rights of all people of our country and affirming the values of human dignity, equality and freedom. It further places a clear obligation on the state to respect, protect, promote and fulfil these rights but Honourable Deputy Speaker, the lived reality of our people tells a different story.

Gompieno potso ke gore a seriti ke boammaaruri mo maphelong a batho ba rona kgotsa ke tshepiso fela ya molaotheo? [Today we ask ourselves if human dignity does exist for our people or is it just a mere promise from the constitution?] For many communities in our province, from Taung to Madibeng, the promise of dignity remains something that they desperately yearn for. These are not simply service delivery failures. Ke go palelwa ke go sireletsa ditshwanelo

tsa batho [it is failure to protect the rights of the people]. This fails to protect the basic rights guaranteed by our constitution.

Recently, the South African Human Rights Commission has highlighted systematic failures in municipal service delivery across the North West particularly in water, sanitation and infrastructure. These failures undermine the dignity of our people every single day. Human dignity is not an abstract principle, or it should not be an abstract concept.

Seriti sa motho [Human dignity] must be experienced in everyday life. When a family can turn a tap and find clean water, that's when a child can walk safely to school and when communities see honesty and effective leadership. As we commemorate 32 years of the Bill of Rights, a re tlogeleng go bua fela. A re tseneng mo tirong. [Let us not make empty promises, let us turn words into action.]

Honourable Deputy Speaker, our forbearers have lost their lives for us to realise this democracy. It cannot be correct that South Africa belongs to all who live in it. As Action SA, we are saying we cannot allow people to come from wherever they are coming from and tell us or dictate to us how we must behave in our own country. So, we are saying this Bill of Rights must protect the citizens ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining Honourable Kodisang.

HON. KODISANG: Of this country. I thank you Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Honourable Oliphant, you've got 10 minutes.

HON. OLIPHANT: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker Honourable Maine, Honourable Premier of the North West Province, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the

Legislature, Members of the Supreme Council of the traditional house of the Barolong, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I've got no business in acknowledging you. The latter speaker just spoke about constitutionalism and then decided that she will forget constitutionalism and decide to attack the Bill of Rights ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. BABUILE: Order. Order Speaker.

HON. OLIPHANT: In respect of foreign nationals ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. BABUILE: Deputy Speaker?

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

HON. BABUILE: Deputy Speaker, we must just correct one thing. I think the Member made a mistake by saying Barolong and that must be corrected. I think that is the correction that I wanted to make. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Babuile, is that a point of order?

HON. BABUILE: Yes sir.

HON. OLIPHANT: Deputy Speaker, I acknowledge the slip of the tongue, and I don't think it required necessarily for us to engage in dialogue.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you proceed Honourable Oliphant.

HON. OLIPHANT: The latter speaker spoke about constitutionalism and decided to forget that the very same constitution caters for foreigners that come into our country and how they ought to be treated and that also encompasses human rights. So, we should not be selective in our approach and decide what we want to engage on and what we want to forget. I thought it's important that I raise it before I start because we must not deceive the people of our province.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the founding father of our democratic state and global revolutionary icon Nelson Mandela once asserted that to deny people their human right is to challenge their very humanity. I think it's important Deputy Speaker to note that Maya Angelou when she spoke did not speak about a South African experience, she spoke about her very own experience in the context of the United States of America.

In addition to that, we have had a debate in this House about water provision and we have been able to bring to the fore statistics in terms of development and how far we've reached and how far we've come as a province specifically speaking to the fact that 75% of the people in our province have infrastructure for bulk services. The challenge that is there is servicing it and ensuring that the aged infrastructure is maintained.

It's a fallacy that there is no infrastructure to take sufficient water to our people. It is this government of the African National Congress that has understood its impediments and consistently provided boreholes to people in villages and far from the water network understanding fundamentally that it will take time to expand the water network to our people. We were interventionist in our approach and took water to our people. We must not seek to be lazy in our research and not be able to provide statistics for that which we want to argue.

Today we gather not merely to commemorate a date on a calendar but to reaffirm the soul of our democracy under the theme: Bill of Rights at 30 making human dignity real. Human Rights Day 2026 arrives at a moment when our national reflects on 30 years of the bill of rights, the corner stone of constitutional order.

I think another input here Deputy Speaker will be to say that yes, we will speak about apartheid. It affected us from 1948 and before that there was still a system of surprising black people that lasted for more than 300 years and today we want to sit here and assume that in 30 years we are going to turn back, regress what we have not achieved and say that apartheid cannot be the main of that, it is the main cause of it and we will progressively get there because our interest particular black people in our province.

The constitution remains a collective covenant to build a society founded on equality, justice and human dignity. Human Rights Day is rooted in the painful history of Sharpsville where peaceful protesters demanding dignity were met with brutality. Sharpsville is not an isolated chapter in our struggle, we also remember Boipatong, Langa, Soweto 1976, Winterveld and Bisho, each a tragic but defining moment in the long march to freedom.

The struggle for Freedom Rights was a story of household courage and local leadership that refused to be silenced. Right here in our very own province our people played a very decisive role on the struggle. From Sol Plaatje, the first Secretary General of the African National Congress to Seaparankwe [Stalwart] Moses Kotane, one of the most towering leaders of our movement and to heroines like Seaparankwe [Stalwart] Mama Ruth Segomotsi Mompati who both carried the banner of freedom across the world.

Our Province was not merely a spectator to history. The landmark perspective in the ANC is a long tradition of advancing Human rights includes the 1923 conference resolution on the African Bill of Rights. The 1943 claims and the 1989 constitutional guidelines for democratic South African. This proves again that this is not only about apartheid which was institutionalised in 1948, it was beyond that. Each of these milestones carried forward a single threat, the insistence on a culture of human rights for all, one which we enjoy today.

Together they became the birth mark of our democratic constitution, adopted in 1996 and the Bill of Rights that anchors it. 30 years after the adoption of the constitution, the Bill of Rights remains a living promise guaranteeing equality before the law, access to education, house, healthcare, water and the right to live in dignity, something that Action SA does not value or respect.

Indeed, our democracy has delivered meaningful progress. Millions of South Africans once lived in darkness now have electricity in what we call universal access that has got water, they have got access to house and social protection, something that black South Africans had not achieved. Millions of young people attend schools and universities that where once closed to them giving expression to the injunction of the freedom charter that the doors of learning shall be open to all, Honourable Dabampe, even at UNISA. These gains reflect the commitment of improving the lives of our people and advancing social justice.

The launching of libraries at both Rustenburg and Wolmaransstad are part of redressing human rights above a concrete step towards restorative justice providing communities with free access to knowledge digital resources and culturally relevant materials that empower learners of all ages. These spaces will serve as a safe community hub for literacy programmes, legal and civic education and skills training helping to close information and opportunity gaps created by past injustices.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, 30 years later, the promise of dignity is not yet fully realised, we agree. Some of our communities still struggle with unemployment, poverty and unreliable water supply and failing infrastructure. Some of our young people feel excluded from the economy. Some of our woman still live under the shadow of gender-based violence which President Cyril Ramaphosa has declared a National Disaster. The truth is simple, rights written on paper must be felt in everyday life.

In our province, decisive interventions are being implemented to ensure that dignity becomes tangible from initiatives like operation *bulela metsi*, government is investing billions towards infrastructure that communities in Madibeng, Ratlou, Mahikeng and Ramotshere Moiloa have reliable. I am from Alabama. Nobody must speak about that which we do not experience. Yes, there are water challenges, we have not seen sewer flowing into the houses of people. I live there.

Because access to water is not charity, it is a constitutional right, approximately R300million has been spent on water and sanitation projects across Municipalities. The ANC declare this year, the year of fixing local government and transforming local government while also prioritising fixing local government through implementation of roll-call 6 pillar, ensuring clean towns, repairing roads, restoring street lights, strengthening community participation in governance.

These interventions recognise that human dignity begins with functional municipalities and reliable services. In Matlosana in particular, there are issues relating to system like the telemetric system which requires an intervention because that system allows for constant flow of water as opposed to the un-automated switching on and switching off of water infrastructure.

At the same time, we understand that dignity is inseparable from economic opportunity. When a young person has a job, when a farmer has access to markets, when small businesses thrive in townships and villages, dignity becomes real. That is why our economic strategy focus on revitalising the township and rural economy, supporting co-operatives and entrepreneurs and aligning development through the district development model so that no community is left behind.

Our responsibility does not end at the borders. Human Rights are universal. As South Africa, we will continue to stand for justice everywhere, whether in Africa or in the wider world because the struggle for human dignity belongs to all humanity. The Bill of Rights at 30 is not simply a celebration, it is a call to action.

In conclusion Deputy Speaker, we must ensure that every child in the North West can learn with dignity, that every household has water and electricity, that every woman can walk the streets without fear and that every young person has hope for our future. As Oliver Tambo reminded us, and we can claim him Honourable Sonakile, the fight for freedom must go on until it is won. You claim what you should claim, don't tell us who to claim.

Today the struggle continues not against apartheid, but against people like Honourable Steyl, but against poverty, inequality and unemployment and together we will ensure that the promise of the Bill of Rights becomes a living reality to every citizen of our province. I thank you. We will continue fighting.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Oliphant. The Honourable MEC Tlhapi, you have five minutes.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, it means the Honourable Sonakile o na le problem ya go utlwa. Ga a ne a bua dilo tse a neng a di bua fa, a tshamekela mo Ntlong ya gago Deputy Speaker. A tshamekela ko gallery. [It means Honourable Sonakile has a hearing problem, considering the things he said on the podium before your House Deputy Speaker, grandstanding to the gallery.] I have indicated that we still have challenges as this government, ya [from] the past and government has planned in place ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl and Honourable Sonakile, can you please have order. Keep quite Honourable Steyl. Honourable Tlhapi, you may proceed.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. I said, I have indicated that indeed we still have challenges as this government and these challenges are of the past and we are here to rectify what happened 30 years ago and that is why do we have plans in place.

That is what I have indicated that Human Settlements has plans with time frames, so le nne le reetse Honourable Sonakile. Even today, Honourable Sonakile o ne a bua ka metsi. Even today Honourable Deputy Speaker, ga o ka ya ko difarm tsa rona, our people are still struggling and you know very well gore le sa ntse le na le water rights mo bontatemogolo wa lona, ntate mogolo wa lona, ntatemogolo ba ganang ka diwater rights tseo. That is why farm ya motho o

montsho e suffara go feta farm ya motho o mosweu. So ga le bua fa, le tshamekela mo gallery, le bue ka difacts.

If Honourable Sonakile a batla go bua boldly ka human rights, ke batla gore a advice dicolleague tsa gagwe ko Western Cape, ko Gugulethu. You must make sure that you bring back the dignity of our people there before o tla go tshamekela mo gallery ya rona ya mo North West, advise your colleagues in the Western Cape because, they are your colleagues, o ska bua ka human rights eo sa e itseng.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Teme, ko Groot Marico, ko o neng o le ko teng because rona rotlhe re tsamaya province e ya rona e, ko Groot Marico, ko Mosegetsane, VD e o neng o le ko go yone, most of the people ba ba senang diID, we agree with you, but they are foreigners and they are illegally in the province, hence ba suffara go kreiya diID. A o batla gore re direle batho ba e leng gore ba tlile illegally in the province re ba fe diID? O re tlhalosetse Mma. They are illegally in our province and ga gona gore ba ke kreiya dilo tseo.

English Translation Follows:

[That is what I have indicated that Human Settlements has plans with time frames, so you must listen attentively Honourable Sonakile. Even today, Honourable Sonakile spoke about water. Even today Honourable Deputy Speaker, if you can visit our farms our people are still struggling even to obtain water rights, you know very well that our great great grandfathers are still being denied the water rights. That is why farms owned by black people are suffering and performing poorly compared to farms owned by white people. So, whatever you say in this House when you want to impress the guests at the gallery, must be based on facts.

If Honourable Sonakile wants to speak boldly about human rights, he must start by giving advice to his colleagues at the Western Cape, Gugulethu to be particular. You must make sure that you bring back the dignity of our people there before you can grandstand to the gallery in the North West. Advice your colleagues in the Western Cape because they are your colleagues, do not just talk of human rights you know nothing about.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Teme, we all do oversights across the province, so the place you visited in Groot Marico, Mosegetsane, we agree that most people there do not have IDs, but they are foreigners and are illegally in the province, hence it is difficult for them to obtain IDs. Do you want us to give IDs to people who came into our province illegally? Is that what you are saying? They are illegally in our province and we cannot give them the IDs.]

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

HON. TSHOLO: I interviewed them, they are not foreigners. You prioritize foreigners over our black people in their own land.

HON. WILLIAMS: On a point of order Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Williams, what is the point of order?

HON. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise in a point of order in terms of these Members that are disrupting the Member of the ANC in speaking. When they were talking, nobody was talking back to them. May they allow her to speak because she is not here for them but for the people of the North West. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Williams. The order is sustained. Honourable Tsholo, your hand was up.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker I raise on a point of order to correct the Honourable MEC. Those people I have interviewed and ... [INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Order Honourable Members. Can you please allow... You are talking alone, you are talking alone Honourable Tsholo. Honourable Members, can you please have order. We have guests here, so Magosi a rona a Bafokeng ba ipotsa gore [the Traditional Leadership of the Bafokeng are asking themselves if] is this how Honourable Members behave. Can we please behave ourselves? Honourable Moema, your hand was up on a point of order.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I just wish to call the Honourable Member to order. She can't say that they are not delivering services to people on the basis that they are foreigners. They are human beings and today we are debating human rights. So, it can't be correct. She is out of order that she refers to people as foreigners in a situation of giving them service delivery. She is out of order. She must respect this debate.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can I please request you to behave yourselves and all Members who are misbehaving, you are going to cost me to call the Sergeant of Arms to escort you out of the House, all Members from all political parties. Honourable Tlhapi, you may proceed. Honourable Steyl, keep quiet.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I was saying to Honourable Teme, Honourable Tsholo, I am sorry. Most of the people ba a buang ka bona ke difarm workers, that is why also ke mmolella le ka VD [the people she is referring to, are farm workers that is why I am also telling her about the VD] because I know most of them are foreigners and they are illegally in the Province.

So, as the governing party ya [of the] African National Congress we are busy working with the Home Affairs to make sure that we assist those people. Ga re ye fela re ya go ba okomela re dira door to door ya MK e be re re re a ba thusa. So nkabe o utlweletse before o bua wena Moema. Honourable Deputy Speaker, ke batla go leboga Honourable Nathan and Honourable Williams ga ba ne ba thusa batho ba rona ka fa left gore human rights ke eng [We cannot just go there, do door to door campaign like the MK and say we want to help them. Honourable Moema you should have listened to my response first before you talked your point of order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to thank Honourable Nathan and Honourable Williams for teaching the Members on the left about human rights]...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Tlhapi, you are being disturbed, I think Members are excited because we have guests here. Honourable Oliphant, what is your point of order?

HON. OLIPHANT: Apologies Deputy Speaker. I rise on a point of order. Deputy Speaker, Honourable Moema is draining the speaker on the platform. We cannot hear what she is trying to say. Please, if you can intervene.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: What is the point of order Honourable Oliphant?

HON. OLIPHANT: We can't hear the speaker on the platform because she is being drained out by Honourable Moema.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Please take your seat Honourable Oliphant. Honourable Tlhapi, may you please conclude.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Tla ke tswale ka gore ke a bona gore ka fa ga ba rate Human Rights, ba e bua fela mo Ntlong ya gago. Jaanong re tla ba ruta yona, re ba thuse as African National Congress ka gore re na le responsibility ya go netefatsa gore batho ba rona re a ba thusa jaaka ke setse ke kaile, with percentage of cause gore go diragalang ko diward tsa rona le mo Province ya rona ya Bokonebophirima. Re tla le ruta Human Rights. Thank you very much.

English Translation Follows:

[Let me conclude because I can see that Members on the other side of the House do not like Human Rights, they just talk about it in this House. But we will educate them about it, we will assist them as the African National Congress because it is our responsibility to make sure that we update people about the percentages and whatever developments happening in the wards and in the province as a whole. We will educate you about Human Rights. Thank you very much.]

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Tlhapi. Honourable Moema, what are you rising on?

HON. MOEMA: Unfortunately, she ran away. I wanted to check with her if her comrades who were in exile, who were in Lusaka, where they considered to be illegal?

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Sonakile, Honourable Members, I am appealing to all Members to behave themselves in accordance with the rules of the House. Thank you, Honourable Members, and Honourable Tlhapi for closing the debate. Secretary, may you read the next order please.

SECRETARY: Order No 6: MEC's reply to questions for the Social Cluster.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the questions are scheduled in terms of Rule 138(1) of the 10th edition of the Standing Rules as adopted by this House. Let me draw your attention to the following Rules: Rule 139(1) which stipulates that the time allocated for questions for oral reply is one hour per sitting and Rule 139 (2) which states that the discussion and on particular questions 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 replies and responsible MEC's must submit the written replies to the Secretary for publication on the ATC by end of business of today.

I want to plead to Honourable Members to adhere to chapter of the standing rules, but I want to emphasise the following rules: Rule 135(1A and B) and 2A until 2K as Honourable Members who posed questions to Members of the Executive Council. Rule 141(1,2, 3 and 4) to Members of the Executive Council who must reply to the questions.

The time now 3 minutes to one. It shall be an hour and we will stop there. We will now go to question 1 as posed by Honourable Tsholo to the MEC responsible for Education, Honourable Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Chair. In response, as the Department, we must indicate, Honourable Tsholo, that out of 147 storm damaged schools, repairs have been completed at 37 in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Roads. Management contractors have been appointed for a further 32 schools where repairs are currently at various

stages of site handover and implementation. The remaining 78 schools are still under evaluation and will be appointed for repair, subject to the availability of the budget. I must indicate that the numbers here, it is not inclusive of the latest storm damaged schools that we have mentioned previously. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo, do you have any follow-up questions? Honourable Members, if you want to address the Presiding Officer, you must raise your hands. Howling will not help you. Honourable Tsholo, you said you don't have any follow-up question.

HON. TSHOLO: Definitely, Honourable Deputy Speaker, and I hope that the Honourable MEC as the ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: You said that you don't have a question Honourable Tsholo. Just take your seat. Any Member wishing to make a follow-up question? Honourable Dabampe.

HON. DABAMPE: Speaker, mud schools. I don't know if I heard that correctly, the answer of mud schools to say that will they be eradicated. Thanks.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Mud schools?

HON. DABAMPE: Yes, there is a question, question No. 2 and I think maybe the MEC forgot about.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Ok. Honourable Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: No, I did not actually, I am a former Teacher. So, I wanted to go question by question so that I don't create any confusion, but through you Chair, let me go to the question

No. 2 that speaks to how many mud schools do we have in the Province. If any, I must indicate as the Department we are still consolidating, doing our verification.

What we can confirm before the House is that there are two that I have confirmed, that I did visit, which is in your Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, which is your Nthapeleng Primary School with 215 learners and we have constructed two classrooms block completed and we have delivered two mobile classrooms as a temporary solution and the second that I have identified, that I went there physically as the MEC is Ikhutseng Primary Schools which enrolled 193, four mobile classrooms are delivered in that particular school and construction of two class blocks on sight. Thank you very much Chair.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Motsumi. Any Member with a sub-question? None. We will now migrate to the second question as posed by Honourable Wallhorn to the MEC responsible for Education, Honourable Motsumi. If the question has sub-questions, please answer questions in its entirety.

HON. MOTSUMI: I thank you very much Deputy Speaker for your guidance. Looking into Educator recruitment, training and retention for the financial year, 2023/24 and 2024/25 and 2025/26, in terms of recruitment of Educators, Honourable Deputy Speaker, we must confirm that so far, 2023/24 we have appointed permanently 858 Teachers all in all. The response provides also, we have categorised our answers based on all the districts so that Honourable Members have a better understanding to say that in Dr RSM how many teachers and so on.

In 2024/25 Honourable Deputy Speaker, I must indicate that we managed to appoint 1382 Teachers permanently and 2025/26 one must confirm that we have appointed 1044 Teachers all in all. I must indicate, Honourable Deputy Speaker, that in terms of cumulative training of Educators for the three financial years, we are definitely, because it is not statistical, there are more numbers there that we have provided. So, we will actually as the department offer that information in writing so that the Honourable Members are able to go through the report. Thank you very much.

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

HON. WALLHORN: Yes, Deputy Speaker. I just want to find out if it will be possible if we could get a quarterly report of this nature to the Portfolio Committee for every body's attention. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable MEC.

HON. MOTSUMI: Accepted Honourable Speaker. We will definitely do that.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Does any Member wish to make a follow-up question? None. We will now migrate to question three as posed by Honourable Bogatsu to the MEC responsible for Education, Honourable Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: As the Department of Education, Honourable Deputy Speaker, we can confirm that 224...

Point of order, Chair. Chair, just in line with our rules just to check because Honourable Bogatsu is not here, whether formally this has been done correctly. A Member who has formally communicated with the procedure of taking over the question. Thank you very much Chair.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you. You are correct Honourable Smuts. The procedure does not have any correspondence to the effect that Honourable Bogatsu would have delegated a Member to take the question on her behalf. So therefore, the question will fall off. We will

now migrate to question four posed by Honourable Modise to the Member of the Executive Council responsible for Education.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Modise, the Districts have issue [INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Motsumi. I am also advised that Honourable Modise is also not in the House and there is no communication from either the political party or the Member responsible. Therefore, the question will also fall off.

Honourable Members, can we migrate to.... Honourable Tsholo, may you please have order. We are cruising very nicely. We now migrate to question five. Honourable Sonakile, can you please behave. We are now migrating to question five as posed by Honourable Tsholo to the MEC responsible for Social Development. I must indicate that we did receive an apology letter from the responsible MEC and in her absence, Honourable Mosenogi has been delegated to respond to the question. Honourable Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. The Department has appointed one Psychologist attached to JB Marks treatment centre to date. The same appointment, appointed Psychologist also provides services to Taung inpatient treatment centre. These two centres receive referrals from the other two districts which does not have state facilities. Other referrals are done to two private centres especially for clients who are economically viable. The Department is considering the shared service model as part of the future plans to recruit and fill psychologist position for other districts considering the volume of work and to ensure value for money.

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

HON. TSHOLO: Yes, Honourable Chair. With regards to the issues of substance abuse, it is not very clear to this particular instance.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can you please behave yourselves. Honourable Mosenogi, are you able to respond to that question?

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Our response is based on the two treatment centres that are servicing persons or patients with substance abuse related challenges and we are indicating that the Department of Social Development has two state facilities with in-patient treatment with a bed capacity of 40 in JB Marks and 20 in Dr RSM and that in addition, there is also NPO's that have been accredited to provide services for patients that can afford.

So, there are services that are provided by the State and there are services that for psychologists, because the question was speaking about Psychologists. So, we are indicating that we have appointed one and that one Psychologist is servicing the two treatment centres and in addition, there are other private centres that are providing services to patients that can afford. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Mosenogi. Any Member wishes to make a follow-up question? Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Deputy Speaker. As a follow-up, I just want to check with, I'd say the acting MEC, that does she agree that the failure to appoint Psychologists and the failure to build treatment centres in the two other districts amounts to human rights violation?

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sonakile. The Honourable Mosenogi. If you feel that it is a new a question, you can indicate and we will rule accordingly.

HON. MOSENOGI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are indicating the commitment of the State because this treatment centres have been recently built and we have given the Committee a report demonstrating that there is a commitment to address the shortages in terms of health professionals in these treatment centres because you would remember in the previous financial year, Taung treatment centre was not operational and to date Taung Treatment centre is operational and there are plans to consider in future.

Currently with the budget that we have and the MEC will announce in her budget speech on the effort that government is going to undertake in addressing substance abuse in the province over and above these two treatment centres what the plans are. Thanks.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Mosenogi. Is there any Member who wishes to make a follow-up question? None.

We now migrate to question six as posed by Honourable Van Huyssteen to the MEC responsible for Social Development. Honourable Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. The Service Level Agreements for NPO's about all validated and compliant NPO's are 341 and they have signed SLA's. The Department is indicating that they will do the first tranche to NPO's in the first quarter of 2026/27. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Van Huyssteen do you have a follow-up question?

HON. HUYSSTEEN: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker, our acting Speaker for this session. My follow-question just relates to the compliant NPO's, whether the nine NPO's who recently challenges the Department at court, are they included amongst these compliant NPO's for the up-coming financial year.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you. Every single one that are in court there is a question related to that and will answer because those NPO's are, the Department has decided to appeal. So, they are not included because the matter is still before court. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you. Does any Member wish to make a follow-up question? None.

We now migrate to question seven as posed by Honourable Sonti to the MEC responsible for Social Development. Honourable Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: The households that are on social relief of distress, is 16,000 households in the social relief of distress and the criteria that is being used, the applicant must be without visible means of support, household with no income, experiencing undue hardship and hunger. Applicant must be a South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee in the country. Applicant must have insufficient means to sustain themselves. Households affected by disaster. Child headed households who require food relief. Beneficiaries who are home based due to ill health, weak and require food relief. Households experiencing death under exceptional circumstances including disasters and we further provide breakdown of each and every, in each district that we are servicing about 4,000 in each district of the beneficiaries under social relief of distress. Thank you.

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

HON. SONTI: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I think they must provide a regular report to the Committee.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Enkosi Mama [Thank you Madam]. Any Member wishing to do a follow-up question? Honourable Dabampe.

HON. DABAMPE: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. I just wanted to check because we have more than 16,000 people who are unemployed and who are improvised in the Province. Is the programme big enough to cover many of our people? If you were to check the questions, it speaks about the high unemployment rate. Is it doing justice to the masses of our people in terms of reaching them and what are the plans to ensure that it reaches and reduces gaps that are there?

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: We will provide the responses to the Member. I think the Department will take it further. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Ke a leboga [Thank you] Honourable Mosenogi. We will now go to question eight as posed by Honourable Matshe to the MEC responsible for Social Development. O a bereka vandag [You are very busy today] Honourable Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. As indicated earlier Honourable Deputy Speaker, we have appealed the matter of the High Court. So, all the responses of two and three, because they are dependent on the appeal, the fact that we are appealing, will not go to two and three. Thank you.

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

HON. MATSHE: Nyaa Rra, ba arabile sentle. [No Sir, I am satisfied.]

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Ke a leboga Motlotlegi Matshe [Thank you Honourable Matshe.] Any Member who wishes to make a follow-up question? None. Question number nine as posed by Honourable Van Huyssteen to the MEC responsible for Health, Honourable Lehari.

HON. LEHARI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. With reference to R5.3million allocated to emergency medical services, the answer is as follow: the core of the injection involves the acquisition of new high specification ambulances. These include the conversion cost for medical, oxygen, manifolds and stretcher fitments.

Question no. 2; what improvement will these additional funds bring in addressing the current state of EMS in the Province? The improvement that the injection of capital will bring in the province include the following:

Reducing the response time of ambulances, reducing the over reliance on ageing vehicles and minimising mechanical breakdown during critical missions. Providing EMS practitioners with modern, economical, sound and reliable equipment that will reduce burnout and enhances the quality of patient care provided during the trauma and medical emergencies. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Lehari. Honourable Van Huyssteen, do you have a follow-up question.

HON. VAN HUYSSTEEN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. My follow-up is just nearing the end of the financial year, has this additional fleet being procured and if so, where is it stationed now?

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Van Huyssteen. Honourable Lehari.

HON. LEHARI: Thank you very much. Now you are talking about mathematics. So far, I can say that they are at 60% but after the end of this financial year I can submit a full report to you, Honourable. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Does any Member wish to make a follow-up question? None. We will now go to question 10 as posed by Honourable Botswe to the MEC responsible for Health, Honourable Lehari.

HON. LEHARI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. With regards to the Sekhing Community Health Centre which is three months from completion date and at 41%. Sekhing is at Dr RSM, Greater Taung Sub-District. What is the reason for the delay? The delay encountered was the appointment of the Community Liaison Officer which delayed the contractor by a month. The contractor subsequently applied for the extension of time to account for the time lost and this was the cause of the delay. I went there several times to engage the community.

Question two, what remedial core actions will be implemented to ensure that the contractor completes on time so as not to further inconvenience the community? The contractor was insured with notice of default, number one; for non-performance on the 09 March 2026. The contractor's response must include an acceleration plan which will be used to determine the steps to be taken moving forward. We anticipate reflection on additional resources in the plan of the contractor to improve contractor's performance. Thank you Chair.

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

HON. BOTSWE: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Ke ne ke batla go itse gore a mme re sa ntse re eme mo go reng e tla bulwa ka June 2026 as o ne a kaile pele? [I just want to check if the Health Centre will be operational by June 2026 as the MEC promised?] and then the other question ke [is] the impact on the budget. E tle go impacta jang the previous budget

e e neng e allocatetswe to the previous contractor? [The impact of the delay on the previous budget allocated to the previous contractor?] Thank you very much.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Lehari.

HON. LEHARI: The second one I will give you a response in writing to further gather information, but June is not possible. We can agree around August just to be practical. Thank you very much Chair.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Ke a leboga [Thank you] Honourable Lehari. We will now go to question 11 posed by Honourable Magagane to the MEC responsible for Health. Honourable Lehari.

HON. LEHARI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. With the recent reports of closure of the North West Provincial Department of Health Head Office in Mahikeng; what are the main interim measures that are put in place to mitigate against service delivery disruptions. The Department has temporarily occupied government offices at Mmabatho Nursing College, the Geo-Science Office, the Garona building offices and the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Office while the process of addressing roof repairs at the Head Office park is underway to ensure business continues. Those offices are very old.

Two, what plan does the Department has to repair the building and what would be the financial implication thereof? The Department is considering replacing the concrete tile roof with IBR sheets based on the recommendations of the structural engineer who conducted comprehensive assessment of the office park building. The engineering consultant appointed for the office park is currently finalising the project cost through the quantity surveyor which will be submitted to the Department for approval once completed.

Question three says; what is the expected time frame for completion of repairs for service delivery to continue? The anticipated construction duration is unknown at this stage because of the following reasons: the first three months will be allocated to the supply chain management processes while the construction period will be determined upon approval of the engineering. Consultants submission outlining the full project scope and costing, usually you know the reasonable time is six months including everything, so it is tough. Thank you.

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

HON. MAGAGANE: Not a follow-up but if we could possibly get a monthly or quarterly report to give us an update on the matter as a Portfolio Committee. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Member who wishes to make a follow-up question? None. We will go to question 12 posed by Honourable Sonakile to the MEC responsible for Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Honourable Tlhapi.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the question from Honourable Sonakile is just too long but I will respond like you have indicated earlier.

The first question is that, the Chief Directorate for Sports and Recreation collaborates with the Department of Education on implementing various programmes targeting the youth in particular school sport, both departments also collaborating in the implementation of the community sports programmes targeting out of school youths in particular, in rural areas.

The Chief Directorate for Arts and Culture, libraries and archives collaborating with the Departments of Education and Social Development in programmes targeting young people, in particular promoting the use of indigenous language and development of young women writers whose books are published and launched by the Department on various platforms. The

programme also collaborates with the social development in the social cohesion initiatives such as community dialogues on a range of topical issues facing the youth such as teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, bullying in schools and many others.

On the second question, Deputy Speaker is that, I am not going to read the question because this question is long. I am going straight to the responses. I am responding to question two now, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The Department provides community libraries with books. Community libraries have established book clubs to encourage reading, out of school use and learners are members of book clubs. Department supports reading clubs. Through reading competitions, 2025/26, the winners of the provincial reading competition were supported to participate in the annual *Funda Mzansi* reading competition that was held in George, Western Cape. 24 young people consisting of learners and out of school youth participated in the national competition.

On 1.2, on the Library services Deputy Speaker, Community libraries provide support to learning and teaching. 20% of the Community library services grant is spent on learner material that are distributed to all community libraries. The libraries provide services of educational tours to support the programme of early childhood development. The community libraries provide space for learners and students on higher learning institutions to sit and study and for reference services. In addition to books, libraries provide free internet and Wi-Fi services and we also have computers provided in community libraries and they are available for internet access and for word processing.

On 1.3, on the Arts and Culture, in February 2026, the Department collaborated with the Department of Education in the North West Province to implement the annual school arts competition. The two-day event was held in Mmabana Mahikeng. As the custodian of arts and culture in the Province, the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation intends to formalise this collaboration in a form of a memorandum of understanding in order to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of the two Departments are clarified in order to ensure that this annual event is hosted successfully. The bullet 2, this programme is funded by the National Department of Arts and Culture who are also an additional strategic partner that will form part of the MoU.

On 1.4, of the same question Deputy Speaker, the Sports and Recreation programme collaborates with the Department of Education in implementing various programmes targeting the youth, in particular, school sports and both departments are also collaborating in implementing the community sports programmes. We are also targeting the out of school like I have indicated, in particular ko metseng [the villages].

The second question ya [about] the inputs and the outputs, on the reading and libraries, the outputs in the departmental APP, Honourable Sonakile, the community members attending public awareness activities about libraries, the community libraries are responsible for planning activities in their local areas in collaboration with schools, departments of social development, health and local NGO's. Members from the elderly are participants in the activities of the library awareness.

We also have the part of the arts and cultures. The 2026, the event of this Department, the ACSR provides the logistical and technical support throughout the events. In addition, the Department will ensure that Mmabana is availed as premier venue for this event at no cost to the Department of Education. The programme is meant to supplement the arts and culture curriculum in public schools in the province and over 1000 learners participated from primary school level in all four districts.

The genres that were supported were poetry, contemporary and traditional dance, the gumboots, dramatic arts and visual arts. At the end, the winners and runners-up were handed out the trophies that will provide the learners with permanent motivation to remain at school until they complete their matric. Local artists were also employed as adjudicators and this is part of the job creation.

On the same question Deputy Speaker, on the providing of the evidence and the joint planning; there are no formal agreements with Department of Health, Social Development, but there are sector Departments that are engaged at local level with planning and implementation of the public awareness activities that we are normally doing. On the Sports and recreation, with

regards to the sports and recreation programme, an MOU has been signed between the two Departments ensuring that programmes such as school sports are planned and executed jointly, thus eliminating the need for silo planning. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, it is just to request the MEC to commit that she will submit a detailed report because she omitted a number of things on that question, saying that it is quite long. So, if she can commit to that. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Tlhapi.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. I will indeed send a detailed report to Honourable Members also.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you. Does any Member wish to make a follow-up question? Honourable Wallhorn.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I want to take the Honourable to the question two which specifically says your interventions. So, it was not what the Department is doing, we specifically asked what her interventions were as the MEC. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Tlhapi.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. The detailed report will provide such thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you. Does any Member wish to make a follow-up question? Thank you. None. Question 13. E boditswe ke Motlotlegi Williams to Mokhuduthamaga Tlhapi [Posed by Honourable Williams to the MEC Tlhapi].

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, a total of 28 community art centres have been provided with laptops and musical instruments to supplement and augment work done by the Mmabana Regional Centres. Deputy Speaker, also this one has a numerical report on it. I don't know whether if I must indicate because it is also just too long, unless the Deputy Speaker advises otherwise but I can respond to it because I have indicated the list of the numbers the Honourable Member was requesting. Thank you. Can I go on?

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Tlhapi, respond to what you can respond to and then indicate which report you will furnish the Honourable Members with.

HON. TLHAPI: Deputy Speaker, the seven vacant posts where advertised for filling and the selection panels have been approved for all posts except the CFO. The profiling has been completed for all advertised posts and the filling of post Manager Risk is finalised. An offer has been issued and a successful candidate is expected to start on the 1st April 2026 and the following table Deputy Speaker will indicate, I have already indicated that the CFO is not yet, and the Manager Risk and Management, the shortlisting completed was on the 26 January 2026 and the interviews were held on 06th February and offers were issued on 28th February 2026.

The Deputy Manager Revenue Management and Budget, the shortlisting was on 4th February 2026 and the interviews were held on 24th March and we have not yet issued the offer of acceptance and the Deputy Manager on ICT, it was also shortlisted on 04th March and the interviews were held on 26th March; the Deputy Manager Infrastructure on the 04th March and the interviews were on 27th March; the Deputy Manager M&E was on the 27th March and then we still need to reschedule that one; the graphic design is not yet there.

On the second question, it says how many vacancies are still yet to be filled. The entities in the final stages of finalising the new organisational structure and the quantification of vacant funded posts will be misleading because some of the old posts have been abolished and the new posts will be created. So, on this will report to your good house, Honourable Deputy Speaker in writing. On question four, the delays in the finalisation of service delivery model and the organisational structure played a significant role in the delay of filling the vacant posts. I thank you.

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

HON. WILLIAMS: Nyaa Mmusakgotla, ke siame. Ke a leboga. [No Speaker, I am fine thanks.]

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does any Member have a follow-up question? None. Thank you Honourable Tlhapi. We will now go to question 14 posed by Honourable Steyl to the MEC responsible for Education, Honourable Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Mine is just to indicate that there is no crisis, Honourable Steyl in terms of the relations between the Department of Education and the Department of Public Works. I must indicate that, procedurally, schools receive grants to do basic services and maintenance including the emptying of septic tanks and septic tank should be emptied by the local authority but still we have realised that there is a serious gap between us as the Department and also the relevant Municipality.

So, we have taken it upon ourselves of making sure that we strengthen that particular relation because we cannot allow this situation to persist because it goes to the health of both our learners and our educators. So, we assure you that definitely this will not repeat itself, we are going to make sure that the septic tank consistently so, it is being emptied. In terms of Diteho Secondary

School, I must indicate that we have received a confirmation from the officials of the Department of Education that the septic tank was not full to capacity as stated in the question.

The challenge experienced at the school was the theft of the submersible pump which affected the water supply to the facility. We must confirm that a contractor has since been appointed to maintain the ablution facilities and service the borehole, ensuring that the water system remains operational. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank You. Honourable Steyl do you have a follow-up question?

HON. STEYL: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Thank you MEC Motsumi. Just want to check, since we posed this question, whether those tanks have been emptied at the first school and then what is the timeline for the restoration of the water? We know the Municipality has failed there, but what is the interim measure to service those septic tanks in the interim? Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. I can confirm before the Honourable Member that the Circuit Manager responsible did indicate from the visit, because we had to send them there to do verification where they verify that actually your issue is true. We must confirm that, where I am seated as the MEC, they have committed that they are dealing with the issue. Mine is just to do a follow-up just to check whether that particular issue was addressed.

In terms of maintenance, like we have already indicated, this function belongs to the Local Municipality but it does not mean necessarily as the Department we cannot do anything about it. That is why we are going to strengthen the relationships and there must be thorough monitoring from also from our side. We must not rely 100% to the municipality to say that it

is their responsibility. Remember, the schools belong to the Department of Education. So, we have resolved that there must be thorough monitoring from the Circuit Managers. It cannot be correct that it must be the Honourable Members who are bringing these issues that deal with the health of our learners. So, we commit to say that thorough monitoring will be done to avoid this to happen again.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Motsumi. Does any Member wish to make a follow-up? None. Question 14. Honourable Dabampe to MEC Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Honourable Dabampe, yes, following the ECD function shift, a total of 80 ECD staff were transferred from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education. I must indicate that the impact of migration of Early Childhood Development from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education in April 2022 can be summarised as follows:

- The ECD function shift fundamentally changed how the work force is categorised from care givers to practitioners, the latter of which has led to a push for a highlighted focus on NQF aligned qualification.
- There is an increased access of ECD programmes and registration of ECD centres in the Province through Bana-Pele mass registration which brought a great number of informal centres into a formal fold.
- The migration triggered a review of the roll-out of the early child administration and reporting system for the period between 2024 and 2026 which enabled the Department to track learner progress and practitioner needs more accurately than in the previous manual system used by the Department of Social Development.
- It improves the interface between your ECD and foundation phase which is your Grade R.
- The Department of Basic Education has leveraged the function shift to mother tongue based basic education into the early years which was less of a priority under the Department of Social Development. I thank you Deputy Speaker.

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

HON. DABAMPE: Yes Speaker. If the MEC can maybe provide the Portfolio Committee with monetary impact of the shift and if the Department was able to get the money which was allocated to DSD, if it was allocated to the Department. I think I will pause there, Speaker.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mokhuduthamaga [MEC].

HON. MOTSUMI: I will definitely do that Honourable Dabampe. I will submit that consolidated report to the Portfolio Committee with the necessary information. I thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Any Member who wishes to make a follow-up question? None. Question 16 by Honourable Babuile to MEC Motsumi.

HON. MOTSUMI: Honourable Babuile, the Department implements a proactive system with intervention to prevent bullying, assault and sexual misconduct in schools through comprehensive approach including implementation of policies, education and active monitoring. The initiative is whole school approach involving learners, parents, educators and the community create a safe and positive school environment.

In terms of prevention strategies an anti-bullying campaign comprising of implementation of well communicated code of conduct, capacitating educators, support staff, parents and learners on mandatory reporting as stipulated. Provide age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education where healthy relationships concerned. Right to set boundaries to assist learners to understand acceptable behaviour. Create an enabling environment for multi-sexual response to address bullying and issues relating to sexual assault among learners.

All educators or any person working with children are subjected to vetting through the police clearance and any person found on the sexual offenders' register, he or she is immediately dismissed. I must indicate that the Department is providing a multi-phased approach guided by the legislative framework and policies that focus on preventing and managing school violence, learner violence, pregnancy, sexual assault and vulnerable learners in need of care and protection.

These guiding tools advocate to prompt an effective response to address all various of learning. Care and support for children and learning framework. Provide a structural approach for identifying and supporting vulnerable learners including the requirements to report abuse and statutory rape. The school-based support team, serve as the first point of contact for identifying learners who require psycho-social support. Their responsibilities include conducting initial assessment, documenting, observation and implementing basic intervention within school capacity. When cases exceed the school resources or involve serious concerns such as abuse or to neglect, the SBS team must escalate these cases to the District coordinator. Their proactive role in early identification intervention is essential for preventing escalation and ensuring that learners receive timely and appropriate support.

Details monetary reporting obligation to SAPS and referrals to Department of Social Development using form 22 and source of procedure for managing cases of learner pregnancy. Offers place that is for reporting incidents for social abuse, harassment and social offences involving learners and in terms of the National Schools Framework, it outlines procedures for ensuring learner safety including process of reporting abuse, exploitations and statutory or rape.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act 32 of 2027 that deals with sexual offences acts, actually aims to comprehensively review and amend all aspects of sexual offences laws in South Africa. We are having prevention activities as the Department;

- there is a gender-based violence;
- femicide awareness campaign;
- there is monetary reporting on learner pregnancy and sexual offences workshop;

- there is parental capacity building on parenting skills and gender-based violence; lastly,
- there is learner support agent in the Department.

These are the tools that we are using as the Department to try to close gaps where there are gaps. Thank you very much.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Motsumi. Honourable Babuile, do you have a follow-up question?

HON. BABUILE: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. MEC, do you have a contact numbers for learners who are bullied where they can contact and report such bullying in the Department. I think you said in your last response that there is a person responsible for that. Secondly, what is the Department doing with regard to collaboration with different stakeholders and amongst others, SAPS with regard to adopt a cop which is not active when we go to different schools and we have detected that through our oversight visits in different schools.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: MEC.

HON. MOTSUMI: As the Department of Education actually Honourable Babuile, we must confirm that we are still having that approach of co-opting a cop in our different schools. Yes, you are right, we have realised that in most of our schools, they are not active as in other schools, but it does not necessarily mean that they are not doing anything. Our responsibility is to resuscitate the programme because we have realised that since the establishment of this particular programme, there is no continuous programmes where under normal circumstances, as the Department, we are interacting with SAPS in terms of the good work that they are doing and doing monitoring.

In most schools, we don't have that particular monitoring tool where you actually report to say that in this particular school, this is what is happening. Normally they become active when there is an incident, therefore meaning that we are more reactive than being proactive, but it goes back to both Departments to go back and check how best can they strengthen that particular strategy or the approach because the truth of the matter is that it is assisting the Department, without that cooperation I don't think that we would be where we are. I think that the system would have collapsed altogether.

That is the response to the first question. The second response is that, remember in the Department of Education, we are having different Directorates with their own functions. There is a Directorate specifically that deals with security in our schools that goes all in all with the issues of bullying and so on. We must confirm that under normal circumstances, we rely on the school, then the school goes to the district and the district reports directly to the relevant directorate for further intervention, but I get your point because sometimes the very same learners they don't even feel safe or they are not even comfortable of reporting these particular cases directly to the educators. I think we will have to find ways of making sure that rather than having that chain of communication to protect also the identity of the victim, I think we must establish a hotline specifically for that so that these particular learners become free to talk to whoever because under normal circumstances, they don't report at all because they think that the school environment does not allow to be free to report such cases. Thank you very much.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you MEC Motsumi. I want to remind Members of the Executive Council that in terms of the rules, you have six minutes to respond but two minutes to a sub question. Does any Member have a follow-up question? Honourable Matuane.

HON. MATUANE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Are teachers receiving mandatory training to identify and respond to abuse and misconduct? How many school counsellors, psychologists as well as social workers are currently deployed and is the number sufficient? Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: MEC you may respond but I think the second question deals with statistics which you will not be in possession of and you can furnish that response to the Member in writing.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Matuane for the follow-up question. I must confirm that as the Department of Education, indeed there are teachers specifically who are trained for dealing with such issues. Not only them and also SGB. If you can look at the component, how the composition of the SGB is, there is that particular SGB member specifically for issues of safety that is inclusive of bullying. They went through the workshops in terms of how best can we handle such cases.

The second, already the Deputy Speaker has ruled on the matter, we will provide full information in terms of social workers that we are having, counsellors in our schools and so on. They are not sufficient obviously because we have large number of schools and large numbers of learners, but there is work done. Thank you very much.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Motlotlegi Motsumi. We are going to question 17, Honourable Wallhorn to MEC responsible for Education.

HON. MOTSUMI: Honourable Wallhorn, it needs more information but in summary, we are definitely going to provide you with a full report because I am going to take an hour just responding because of the breakdown. Just to allay your fears, to indicate that in terms of permanent or temporary classrooms, we are having 334. Labs we are only having 10, science and computer laboratories, Batho Batho is two, Ikaneng is two, Mphe Bana one, Tlhalefang one, here we are breaking the schools that are having the science labs and computer labs. In terms of workshops, I am going to verify this particular information because we do have technical schools having the workshops. I want to do justice to this particular response. So, you will get the response in full, consolidated with all the figures breaking down whatever that is requested by this particular question. Thank you very much.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Honourable Wallhorn, do you accept the MEC's request to furnish you with a detailed report?

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. The MEC says basically she will give a report. I am looking forward to that. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you. We will now go to question 19...Oh I forgot to ask, is there any Member who wishes to make a follow-up question? None. We now go to question 19 posed by Honourable Dabampe to MEC responsible for Social Development, MEC Mosenogi.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. It is mandatory for the Department to train all registered NPO's. Those NPOs where capacitated on the prescript of registration for community-built services for older persons. Further training of social workers of the Department and NPOs was provided. NPOs where also trained the National NPO capacity building guidelines, NPO Act, PFMA and also the Service Level Agreement they received further training on it.

The Department through social mobilisation programme, *Re Thuse re go Thuse*, further engaged both funded and unfunded NPOs and capacitated them on various prescripts guiding departmental programmes. The aim of the campaign is to ensure that NPOs are capacitated on the Departmental mandate and priorities on the programme funding as prescribed by the APP and the Sector Funding Plan. The total number of NPOs totally is 2558 NPOs, they were capacitated during the period. This number include both funded and unfunded NPOs. 302 NPOs were funded to the tune of R221million. A further R3.7million was utilised for Expanded Public Works Programme. I thank you.

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

HON. DABAMPE: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Year in and year out there are NPOs which are rejected on the basis that they don't have the proper documents. Maybe we can get a list of NPOs which have been trained and assisted because it is not only about training, but also assisting those NPOs, even the new ones if we can get because you are saying 302. Is it 302 purely new that have not been funded in the previous years and if so, can we get a list of these are the new NPOs that we are going to fund for the next financial years. Thank you.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you very much. We will provide the response as requested. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Member with a follow-up question? None. Question 20 is posed by Honourable Babuile to MEC Lehari.

HON. LEHARI: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker and Honourable Babuile. Long-time no seeing you. In light of reports claiming that critical patients at Job Shimankana Tabane Provincial Hospital often wait for more than 6 hours. This is the answer: The Job Shimanakana Tabane Hospital has improved the dry age area, increasing the initial assessment of patients by expanding the dry age area. The facility can now perform simultaneously assessment ensuring that red which is emergency and orange which is very urgent cases are identified within minutes of arrival.

The priority three, which is green has been expanded to accommodate patients preventing the bottle neck of the causality floor that previously delayed critical care. However, the hospital bed capacity remains constrained leading to procurement of 68 additional beds. The Departments commits to continue exploring alternative stages to increase JST Hospital beds. The Department continues to implement sound administrative and clinical practices aimed at improving and sustaining waiting times within acceptable norms. Amongst the practices are the following:

- Improvement of out-patient department infrastructure for better patient flows.
- Continues revision of staff allocations in line with services demands;

- Recruitment and retention of health care works within available budget;
- Improvement of clinical supervision leading to frequent ward rounds and quick decision making.
- Accelerated diagnostic capacity through procurement and deployment high end diagnostic equipment such as CT-Scans, mammography, MRS and digital X-Ray machines.

The second one says in your response kindly provide the following details. Response: the average waiting time for OPD within regional and tertiary hospitals, they are only two or three in the Province, fluctuate between 140 to 260. It is between more than a hour to less than 4 hours, which constitute a full journey a patient transfers from entering the hospital, accessing patient record, being attended by a nurse or a doctor at which vital signs examinations are done, taking X-rays, taking bloods, be seen by any of the allied health like psychologists, receiving medication from the pharmacy and accessing the hospital. Not like they are just sitting for four hours.

However, within the casualty, the Department waiting time are strictly managed through an international acceptable sorting of patients according to the degree of illness, emergency which is called by age system. The system allows patients that are emergencies, P1 Red to be seen with immediate effect. Patients classified as moderate, P2 Orange to be seen within ten minutes and finally, none emergency P3 Green to be seen within an hour. Majority of hospitals in North West Province are able to see the various categories of patients within the above acceptable norms except when certain conditions that lead to delays like high volume of patients arriving at the same time and during service interruption by alleged gangsters, hence security is continuously being beefed up.

Tertiary Hospitals such as Job Shimankana Tabane and Klerksdorp-Tshepong that are constantly receiving a huge influx of patients do experience long waiting times as a result of patients with complex conditions requiring various complex medical interventions that require longer duration. The Department commits to monitor waiting times and use the learnings to improve the efficiency within the system. It is for this reason that the Department is prioritising

various hospitals, casualty departments and accident and emergency. Further information, I will supply in writing.

All infrastructure upgrades undertaken in 2024/25 financial year at JST. The Department has completed two projects in JST Hospital which are: Upgrade of medical gas system and JST Hospital lift replacement. Bulk water supply. Water project is underway with the progress of 70% completion. We are left with 30%. We can complete this one in two months. Thank you Chair.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Lehari. Honourable Babuile, do you have a follow-up question?

HON. BABUILE: Honourable Lehari, can you provide a detailed report on completed infrastructure for 2025/26 financial years. For all provincial hospitals in North West. Thank you.

HON. LEHARI: I will do that. Thank you. It is my work.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. We have surpassed the one hour stipulated in the rules. The questions 21 to 27, the responsible MECs will have to submit them in writing before the end of business today. Having said that Honourable Members, this concludes the business of today. This sitting is adjourned until 31 March 2026. Thank you.