



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

**VERBATIM REPORT
[HANSARD]**

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

OF THE

SECOND SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2020

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Health	Dr P C Ramathuba
Social Development	Ms N C Rakgoale
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	Mr T A Mokone
Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure	Mr N D Masemola
Transport and Community Safety	Ms M M Lerule-Ramakhanya
Agriculture and Rural Development	Ms N A Ndalane
CoGHSTA	Mr B R Makamu
Sport, Arts and Culture	Ms T A Moraka
Provincial Treasury	Mr S C Sekoati

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The Deputy Speaker	Mr A J D Ndou
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The Deputy Chairperson of Committees	Mr C B D Selane
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The Leader of the Opposition	Mr M J Buthane
The Secretary of Limpopo Legislature	Mr S Mothoa

MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE (in alphabetical order)**PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE HOUSE:**

African National Congress (ANC)
 Democratic Alliance (DA)
 Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)
 Vryheidsfront Plus (FF+)

1. Aphiri, Mokgadi Johanna	ANC
2. Boshielo, Shela Polly	ANC
3. Buthane, Modikane Joseph	EFF
4. Kekana, Nakedi Grace	ANC
5. Lebea-Olaiya, Kedibone Margaret	ANC
6. Lekganyane, Nakedi Maria	ANC
7. Lerule-Ramakhanya, Mavhungu Maureen	ANC
8. Maharaj, Risham	DA
9. Mahasela, Mahlodi Caroline	ANC
10. Makamu, Basikopo Rodgers	ANC
11. Makhurupetje, Makoma Grace	ANC
12. Managa, Lilian	EFF
13. Manganye, Tinyiko Florence	EFF
14. Maritz, Marcelle Frieda	FF+
15. Marule, Jacob Boy Otto	ANC
16. Maseko, Funani Jerry	ANC
17. Masekoameng, Mmabogahla Isaiah	ANC
18. Masemola, Namane Dickson	ANC
19. Mashamaite, Nkhohlo Victor	ANC
20. Mathabatha, Chupu Stanley	ANC
21. Mathe, Simon Matsobane	ANC
22. Mathye, Susani Violet	ANC
23. Matlou, Leswafo Joshua	ANC
24. Mdaka, Falaza Philemon	ANC
25. Mitleni, Wisani Goodman	ANC
26. Mochadi, Sekutu Monicca	ANC
27. Mohlala, Manamane Charles	EFF
28. Mokaba-Phukwana, Mapula Annah	ANC
29. Mokgonyana, Essob Mmanoko	ANC
30. Mokone, Thabo Andrew	ANC
31. Molapo, Reneiloe Rosemarry	ANC
32. Monama, Gannye Rodgers	ANC
33. Monyamane, Nkome Sarah	ANC
34. Moraka, Anna Tandi	ANC
35. Mphahlele Selaelo Regina	EFF
36. Ndalane, Nandi Annah	ANC
37. Ndou, Azwindini Jeremiah Dingaan	ANC
38. Phala, Katlego Suzan	DA
39. Phala, Kgolane Alfred	ANC
40. Radzilani, Fulufhelo Florence	ANC
41. Rakgoale, Chritian Nkakareng	ANC

42. Ramathuba, Phophi Constance	ANC
43. Raphela, George	EFF
44. Sekoati, Seaparo Charles	ANC
45. Selamolela Selelo Donald	ANC
46. Selane, Che Bonnie David	ANC
47. Seono, Mmaishibe Rebecca	ANC
48. Seshoka, Jetrick	EFF
49. Smalle, Jacobus Frederik	DA

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1. Mamaregane, Mmamora Lilliet	ANC
2. Mathevula, Brenda Tirhani	EFF
3. Matibe, Tshitereke Baldwin	ANC
4. Nchabeleng, Mamagase Aleck	ANC
5. Shaikh, Shahidabibi	ANC
6. Smit, Christiaan Frederik Beyers	DA

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- a) Rules Committee
- b) Internal Arrangements Committee
- c) Programming Committee
- d) Whippery
- e) Disciplinary Committee
- f) Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests
- g) Committee of Presiding Officers
- h) Public Accounts Committee
- i) Public Participation and Petitions
- j) Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and Disability

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- b) Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs
- c) Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure
- d) Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
- e) Agriculture and Rural Development
- f) Transport and Community Safety
- g) Sport, Arts and Culture
- h) Education
- i) Health
- j) Social Development
- k) Public Administration
- l) Oversight Review Mechanism

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Netshamulivho, A J (Mr)

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2020
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now have the opportunity for a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may be seated. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Members of this august House and members of staff, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. Let us proceed with our Order Paper.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SHOOTING INCIDENT OF A POLICEMAN'S WIFE IN LEPHALALE
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC to present this motion to this august House on the shooting incident of a policeman's wife in Lephalale.

I want this House to note the constant killings that have befallen our beautiful province of Limpopo in recent times; the latest being the shooting of a woman by her policeman husband in what appears to be a family feud in Lephalale.

According to reports this incident, a second one in Lephalale in the same week, involves a policeman who blatantly shot his partner in broad daylight in front of their neighbours and family members. He reportedly also committed suicide in the process.

We can do all we like as a government, even society organs or the police but for as long as there is no change on the part of members of the public, this war will just be in vain – it is never going to be won.

We appeal to community members to report such incidents of abuse or possible abuse to the police when they see them among their friends, colleagues or relatives. We understand that there are some occasions where victims go silent and not report acts of abuse by their partners. It is, therefore, incumbent on us as civil society to play our part and save more lives.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Is there any seconder? Hon Lekganyane, you are recognised.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, second the motion as presented by Hon Seono. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Lekganyane, you are recognised.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby present motion without notice on Tsakani Maluleke's appointment as Auditor-General.

THE NOMINATION OF TSAKANI MALULEKE FOR THE POSITION OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

(Motion without Notice)

It gives us a great pleasure that the Parliament of this country has nominated a woman to take over the position of Auditor-General as the term of the current incumbent draws to a close.

The term for the current Auditor-General, Mr Kimi Makwetu is coming to an end during the month of November 2020, paving way for possibly the first woman to occupy that auspicious position since the establishment of the Office of the Auditor-General over hundred years ago.

The nomination of Tsakani Maluleke by Parliament as the first female Auditor-General is a demonstration that the ANC government is committed to create an equal society and discard the notion that women are substandard beings and only good in playing second fiddle to men.

If Tsakani Maluleke is appointed, which is quite likely as her nomination has the backing of both the ruling party and the opposition benches; she would bring with her over to this office over 20 years of experience from both the government and the private sector.

We hope that her role as the Deputy Auditor-General over six and half years has strengthened her capacity to understand and respond to the challenges and opportunities facing government and its various institutions.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Donald Selamolela of the ANC stand here to second the motion by Hon Lekganyane. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice? There are no hands, which means there is none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? There is none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements in terms of Rule 200? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the MECs and the Premier and all honourable Members present in the House today.

THE ANC GOVERNMENT DISAPPOINTS PEOPLE WHEN IT COMES TO SERVICE DELIVERY (Members' Statement)

The ANC government continues to disappoint our people in a big way, especially when it comes to service delivery.

People cry for services from government until they get tired and protest on the streets because of their frustrations and loss of hope. The people of Molemole in particular ward 5, ward 6 and ward 8 (i.e. Makgatho, Maphosa and Sekakene villages) are suffering because of lack of water.

Quality, safe and sustainable water supply in these villages is a dream deferred. They just hear the concept being spoken about in the media and other public platforms but it never reached or touched them. There is a general water supply problem in Molemole Municipality, which led to communities protesting in the streets in the past weeks.

Not even water tanks were visible in these communities to regularly and constantly provide water to our people. What the people need is a permanent solution to challenges they are confronted with on daily basis; which are characterised by temporary and unsuccessful solutions.

The ANC government is deliberately denying our people right to access to quality, safe and sustainable water supply as a standard service. Instead, people rely on water tanks that come to the villages occasionally.

The EFF is disappointed with this practice of water tanks to the villages because it is not reliable and it is unsustainable. For corruption reasons, the ANC government continues to outsource this service to its leaders who own these water tanks which continue to milk our municipalities.

The ANC government is notorious today for failing to deliver services to the people and only pretend they care during the election. Immediately after that, you will then see their true colours.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and try to find a permanent solution to the people of Molemole. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Are there any other Members' Statements? there is none. Can I check from Members of the Executive if there is anyone who wants to respond to the Members' Statements? MEC, Hon Makamu, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Premier, honourable Members of the Executive and the Members of the Legislature.

We want to thank Hon Seshoka for raising the plight of Molemole in ward 5 in respect to the shortage of water. I must indicate that we have taken the concern and we will be able to attend to it. But, it is important to clarify that it could be, maybe the community he mentions here, but the challenges that are affecting the communities of our province in terms of water shortage is well documented.

We have come up with measures to intervene. There are three ways of intervening where there are water shortages. The one mentioned is the short-term measure of the water tankers; which we also spoke about, and the Capricorn District Municipality as the water service authority in this respect is busy handling the matter. But we have already started with the programme on the medium-term to ensure communities receive water through boreholes. We have even partnered with Eskom in trying to make sure that boreholes which are drilled are quickly completed.

A permanent solution in terms of us as a province is about the water schemes that we are to connect with our communities. I am saying we have received the matter. We will be able to intervene and handle ward 5 in Molemole and then report to the House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC, for the response and clarity. Can we move to item 5?

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 201? There is none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tabling of committee reports and papers? There is none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2018/19 REPORTS OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

Committee chairperson, you may take the podium.

MR MONAMA

E tla ke go rete, Mahlako e mošweu diatla le matsogo. Ke tamiša kgoro ye ya Maroteng ka moka, madulaphate le balata bao ba ka bago ba le gona ka mo. Legatong la Komiti ya Public Administration ke rata go tšea sebaka se gore ka boikokobetšo hle amogelang pego ye re e beilego mo ya ngwaga wa ditšhelete wa 2018/19 gore ke dika le meragelo ye e ka bego e diregile nako yeo. Ga le ke le re go tšwa molomong la rereša. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Re a go leboga, Kanyane. Is there any seconder to the move? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

MR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. My name is Che Selane. I hereby second the move as presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee on Public Administration. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selane. Committee chairperson, you may continue.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier of our province; Members of the Executive Committee and my fellow honourable Members of the House. I rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration to present and for adoption and consideration of the 2019/20 financial year report. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable chair, I think it would be advisable if you mention all the quarters starting from third quarter up to Annual Report.

MR MONAMA

Thank you very much. It is quarter 3, quarter 4 and the Annual Report for 2018/19 financial year. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Aphiri, you are recognised.

MS APHIRI

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Monama. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Aphiri. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Selane. You are allocated three minutes, honourable Member.

MR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The three minutes is dealing with my well prepared and thoroughly researched speech. Hon Premier, the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip and all protocol is observed. We are meeting in this month of OR Tambo to celebrate and remember his contribution in the struggle for liberation. Of course, the ANC-led government must lead the people to address the challenges of service delivery. In doing so, the ANC-led government must lead with courage and serve the people with pride.

The Portfolio Committee on Public Administration met and considered all reports as presented hereby the relevant department, notwithstanding the fact that the office of the Premier has received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General. This has prompted the standing committee on Public Accounts and portfolio committee to develop a coherent oversight programme to help the Office of the Premier to achieve a clean audit outcome.

However, it is worth mentioning that in the process of achieving clean audit, the fundamental contradictions existing between the department and the Legislature is an attempt to regain the confidence which the masses of our people have lost, particularly on the ANC-led government to ensure service delivery. In essence, I want to quote from the book of Paulo Freire in his book called "The Pedagogy of the Oppressed" clearly exposed here that; "The oppressed must help to fight back and regain the lost confidence to achieve full humanisation". This, in essence, clearly demonstrate that there should be a process in which the Legislature must assist our people to realise the developmental agenda of the South African Government.

Because of the three minutes, I just want to make peroration about the provincial administration. I think we did mention in this august House about Woodrow Wilson, the then President of the USA who was declared the father of Public Administration. Despite his liberal understanding of the administration, his influence in the field of

Public Administration remains humongous. Wilson argued that; it is better to have the school genius in the public administration because they will save us from all these political and administrative blunders.

We cannot afford officials in Public Administration who select employees because they have got a beautiful and nice hairstyle. We need employers who recruit our people on the basis of merit regardless of their political affiliation. Despite the pressing challenges facing our provincial government, it would be dubious if not naïve in our character not to appreciate the tremendous work done by our provincial administration. We have seen well attractive libraries being built to our communities and we appeal that our provincial administration or government redouble its efforts in ensuring that libraries are near and accessible to our people. Despite the fact that buses have been purchased, we must ensure that they are there to serve our people.

The most critical issue is the land redistribution programme. We know that our province has been allocated a considerable number of hectares and we believe that our government will distribute fairly and equally.

It is the view of the portfolio committee that the land must not be distributed to those who are politically connected or the few elite business group. The people of Limpopo must be given the land and be supported with the necessary tools to work the land so that they can sustain and contribute towards building the economy of this particular province. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selane. Maybe as a reminder honourable Members, the programming committee has taken a decision to say, the debate on financial year 2018/19 all speakers will be allocated three minutes per speaker. It is just a reminder. Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings once more to the Premier and all honourable Members present in this House.

The Office of the Premier has exceptionally failed to perform its constitutional duties in the financial year under review. As the coordinating department, led by the Premier himself, we expect him to know better and to lead these other departments by example. However, as usual, the rhetoric is the order of the day with no outcome and deliveries. Here are the highlights of the period under review. It was during this period that many departments failed to pay their legitimate invoices within the prescribed period of 30 days as expected after receiving the invoice. The outstanding cases for disciplinary proceedings from the department which are currently piling without being resolved date back from the previous financial year are still continue pilling without any resolution of those cases.

Filling of funded posts by the provincial department is still a big challenge and the number of employees doing business with government is on the rise in Limpopo province. Non-performance in this regard drastically affects service delivery whilst there is no consequence management to government employees doing business with

state. The Premier has always been preaching the song of performance and service delivery agreement with the MECs since he was elected as the Premier of this province. None of the MECs were reprimanded or removed from their positions based on non-performance. Instead, those who are corrupt, lazy and incompetent continue with their work as normal under the weak administration of Premier Mathabatha.

The laziness and incompetence come with heavy price to the poor people because they do not receive service delivery they rightfully deserve. Only those who differ with the Premier politically within the ANC, regardless of their sterling performance, are the ones to lose their deployment in government. However, Hon Speaker, you will agree that in Limpopo things are of opposite nature wherein the province is on autopilot as there is no leadership. This was attached by the union affiliated to the ANC as the ruling party which confirms all our concerns regarding the collapse of governance, which started from the Office of the Premier to all the departments and parastatals including the municipality in the province. Lack of good governance pose a major threat to social and economic development, hence the situation in this province has become what it is today.

The people of Limpopo, especially poor Africans are fatherless because the Premier is dismally failing in his constitutional obligation. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker of our provincial Legislature; Hon Premier, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the Legislature and the Chief Whip of the majority party, greetings to you. I rise to hasten to say that, the dynamic nature of our beautiful province requires visionary stewardship of our Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, who is well grounded and abreast with the overwhelming needs and expectation of our people. A leader who understands the people of Limpopo province, that they have legitimate expectations of improved livelihood and dignity; and who is committed to ensuring that the ANC-led government at all material times place service delivery at the centre of transformation and development agenda.

We make a clarion call, as the portfolio committee that the Office of the Premier must ensure that they consolidate all the gains by addressing the fundamental constrains like chronic underspending of expenditure, unauthorised expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure which are now serving as impediments for effective development. It is therefore incumbent upon the OTB to ensure that due diligence is exercised by sector departments' public entities and municipalities so that this province gets value for allocated resources.

It is a matter of factual analysis that cognisance must be taken that between 2010/11, 2013/14 financial year, Limpopo's total unqualified audit opinion was amounting to 15. As we speak between 2014/15 and 2017/18 financial year period now, we have about 29 unqualified audit opinion. We take this opportunity on behalf of the portfolio committee to commend the good work and the leadership. We also have two

departments who were able to obtain two clean audits which was foreign to this province. The other issue that was there was the issue of the disclaimers and adverse.

For now it is no longer in the vocabulary in the province the issue of the disclaimers in all the departments, public entities and municipalities. We also wanted to appreciate the audit opinion. It means that if we can work harder and become robust in our oversight we will turn the corner. We are also worried about the regression of the Department of Social Development which has slightly regressed due to some material misstatement. But those are the issue that I think they can be addressed. We also wanted to put more emphasis on the 2018/19 that we must ensure that service delivery is becoming a priority in the province. We are raising this Hon Premier because we find that departments and public entities are spending a lot of money but are unable to reach the target. There is a problem of misalignment with the targets vis-à-vis the expenditure.

We are also worried about the scourge of gender-based violence in the province and the spate of killings that are taking place that the Department of Transport and Community Safety must put all together all the law enforcement agencies to ensure that they deal with this monster. We also want to take this opportunity to ensure that all the projects that have been invested and the infrastructure in the province must be able to create sustainable jobs. We are saying as a portfolio that the Premier is not sleeping on duty. He always comes when we call him. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chairperson.

7.2. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2019/20 REPORTS OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

MR MONAMA

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I, Rodgers Monama, rise on behalf of the portfolio committee for Consideration and Adoption of Quarter 1, Quarter 2, Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 reports and the Annual Report of the 2019/20 financial year. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier and honourable Members good morning. I, Caroline Mahasela, rise to second the report as presented by Hon Monama. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mahasela. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Hon Sibanda-Kekana you are recognised. [APPLAUSE] Honourable Members, we have arranged

for training next week. I think they will eventually get it right. You must be patient with them.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Noted, and again next time you must also extend the mics to our seats there. Thank you so much.

Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo; Hon Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Deputy Speaker; Members of the Executive Committee; Chief Whip of the majority party; Members of the Provincial Legislature; members of Chapter 9 and 10 institutions and the House at large.

Let me start by echoing the sentiments as said by my colleagues on the Portfolio Committee of Public Administration by commending the sterling work of the Office of the Premier who is not sleeping on duty and makes sure that at all times he holds the bull by its horns. In the first quarter of 2019/20, Office of the Premier has spent 22% of the budget as opposed to 25% per target. It is imperative to ensure that the institution achieves its targeted goals in respect of the roles and responsibilities towards the general provincial government and for being an oversight institution leading by example is essential.

In terms of the invoice payments the province has regressed. In 2018/19 the percentage of invoice payments was 12,9%, whereas in 2019/20 it increased to 14,69%. The problem of not remitting invoices on time impacts negatively on the sustenance of small/medium enterprises and emerging businesses as these people's cash flow and debt repayments that ultimately suffocates and demise these businesses.

This cannot be overlooked, considering that government depends on SMMEs for rapid job creation and to address poverty and the inequalities. Still on job creation, the vacancy rate was at 14,58% during the first quarter of 2019/20 financial year which is equivalent to 13 586 in numbers. The number of filled posts during the quarter were five that were considered critical. The total number of filled posts on Persal were 100 509. The progress registered in terms of gender mainstreaming, and we would like to applaud the Office of the Premier on same, is that the Office of the Premier and the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism were the only institutions that met 50% of gender parity in senior management level?

As much as we commend the good work by the Office of the Premier and the said departments, we also urge other departments to follow suit. We also registered in our portfolio committee to say the mainstreaming of gender must not only be seen on women holding strategic positions in various departments, but also on the issue of total emancipation in terms of the economic sector.

Barbara Bush once said; "To empower a woman is to empower her children, her family and her community. The smartest investment we can make is in women. Women must have the freedom and the possibility to decide who they are." The sanitary dignity programme was implemented successfully and we would like to commend the department on that. This programme is vital to ensure that the dignity of young girls sutured by what reality will be without these aid mechanisms. Acknowledging that we

are living in a rural province with lack of skills as most skilled people flock to other provinces to seek a better life, a dignified living cannot remain the mirage of our hope.

It is with endeavour of promoting industrial and manufacturing that we ought to change and challenge the status quo of poverty and inequality. Industrialisation and manufacturing are the crux of inequality. The marula fruit initiatives and related endeavours to enhance entrepreneurship and creativity are inventing new unique product not only for local consumption but also for global project that we advocate for, especially if the initiatives were rural based where job creation is accessible to the most desolate.

Developments have been made with regard to Spatial Land Use Management Act (Spluma) and we also commend the department for same; because everything has been implemented whereas we see the progress in Fetakgomo-Tubatse municipalities having experienced some changes with regard to their borders. The Special Economic Zones plans being Musina-Makhado and Tubatse have now been finalised and submitted respectively. The sluggish movement with the SEZ counters the envisaged and promised jobs to the youth of the province who, so direly, seek relief from undignified life of substance abuse, crime, lack of skills, teenage pregnancies etc.

Our Constitution as a sovereign law prohibits discrimination of any kind. The fact that children with disabilities could not access ECD centres is condemned and should be addressed with immediate effect. No facilities and programmes government under any condition should prejudice another person. The infrastructure and programmes of ECDs should be constructed in a manner that caters for children with disabilities.

As I conclude, let me indicate that Education and Health are the pinnacles of national priorities. However, in the quarter under review, Education reports indicated that there are still schools having shortages of stationary, toilets and classrooms. These can be attested by the number of schools that we were petitioned by the schools themselves. Progress has been made to that effect but equally we urge the implementing agents like our IDT and the Mvula to move with speed to curb those challenges.

On Health, let me indicate that the infrastructure challenge has long been standing from dilapidation, lack of maintenance and thermal challenges from the Department of Health. This crisis require priority as early as possible to evade hiking of poor medical services because they will be simultaneously increasing dependability on this service. The problem is, how will the impoverished access these services if they cannot access quality services; let alone afford private rate medical services especially those that are on chronic medication. Synchronised communication is necessary going into the future for smooth flow of services, reporting and intervention. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Sibanda-Kekana. Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I think you have also taken note of the behaviour of Hon Mathe and his utterances because they are totally unparliamentary. I hope you are noting that.

Nonetheless, greetings again to the Premier of this province, Hon Stan Mathabatha and the honourable Members present in this House.

The Office of the Premier is expected to lead by example, provide overall leadership and monitoring of the adherence of good governance and ensuring that provision of services is of good quality. The above narratives apply when a ship has a captain who knows how to navigate even when there is storm. It is clear that the Office of the Premier under the leadership of Hon Mathabatha does not understand its role, mandate and obligations against itself and other departments of government.

The people of Limpopo should not expect anything good from this government other than systematic failures and excuses for lack of performance, as we have already observed in most reports presented in this house. The Office has dismally failed to provide institutional support system and transversal services to the entire provincial administration, hence the level of rot and corruption in this province.

The current vacancy rate is sitting at 17,3%, which is well above the accepted norm of 10%. This constitutes non-compliance and directly affects service delivery in the province. However, Premier Mathabatha fails to comprehend that. The EFF notes with disgust that the failure by this OTP to ensure that the Department of Education does not violate court orders on provision of scholar transport tender to people who did not meet requirements. We further note with great disappointment that the failure to confront the Department of Health on a tender which cost an uproar, even when the courts are agreeing that this was wrongdoing by the Office of the Premier and unlike other provinces he decided to remain mute to date.

The ANC government does not care about designated groups and the importance of prioritising them. The failure to use 30% of the total budget to procure from youth, women and people living with disabilities is a clear sign that the ANC government is showing a middle finger to this designated group. Some of the provincial department entities and municipalities are comfortable with unqualified audit opinion with matters of emphasis. They do not want to graduate to the next level. This happens because the Premier has the audacity to come before this House and want to defend the stagnant audit outcome in increasing irregular expenditure in the pretext that the province is making progress.

The EFF will not celebrate unqualified audit opinion with matters of emphasis because that is poor performance. We will not join the Premier as he wants to reduce the province into mediocrity. Furthermore, the EFF would also want to congratulate Capricorn District and the Legislature for having received a clean audit. We only wish that the executive mayor of that district was be the Premier of this province maybe things would be different. [APPLAUSE] The PPE security and perishable tenders at the Department of Health were queried but there was never a single word from the Office of the Premier ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Order Members!

MR SESHOKA

[SILENCE]

THE SPEAKER

I am saying order to the Members. You may proceed.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you for the protection. The one that is making noise is the one closer to me. I understand she is crying for a soup. Does this mean that the Premier might be having some interest in these departments? Only him and his conscious know, but he must know that truth has ways to come out in the public.

The Limpopo Premier, Stan Mathabatha, is more interested in defending the Fetakgomo-Tubatse land accusation and upfront payment made in Lephalale supposed housing units while entities are collapsing under his watch. It remains a mystery why the ANC still keeps him. It is public knowledge that all the rot at VBS and municipalities happened under his watch. Lepelle Water, RAL, GAAL, GNT, LEDA and municipalities are all in a state of disarray. Instead of hearing the voice of a leader of this province on important matters, we are subjected to voice notes of leaders trying to charm each other.

The people of Limpopo want promised jobs not voice notes from *WhatsApp* recordings. The people of Limpopo want protection from criminals not protection of spokespersons. The people of Limpopo want formalisation of informal settlements not whisky and votes-addicted leadership which forgets about them. The EFF will continue to expose the ANC government and its dismal failure under the Premier, Stan Mathabatha in the interest of the people of Limpopo. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Chairperson, Hon Monama it is your time.

MR MONAMA

Hon Madam Speaker; the Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of this august House and the Chief Whip of the majority party, I greet you.

Madam Speaker, allow me to say that the world and the South African government is faced with serious financial constraints for equitably sharing her fiscus among the three spheres of government to sustainably address the socio-economic needs of citizenry. This fiscal constraints emanate from the weak economic growth exacerbated by the scourge of COVID-19 pandemic.

Hon Premier, we are aware that you don't possess a magic wand to turn the economic tide, but we are confident that the rollout and the implementation of high impact catalyst growth project will result in inclusive economic development. The acceleration of sustainable growth of the provincial economy that creates the much needed productive and sustainable employment. These might only be realised if we improve

and enhance a sound intergovernmental relation and international alignment between different levels of government for better coordination and service delivery.

For the period under review, the Office of the Premier has managed to expend 96,2% of the appropriated Budget. The good thing of expending the Budget is that it ensures that programmes are implemented, liabilities are remitted, and there is a meaningful impact on the lives of our people when they get these services.

However, we also wanted to raise a concern that R12,9 million had to be returned to the Provincial Treasury for the purpose of COVID-19, which was supposed to assist some of our communities. However, Hon Premier, I want to ask for an African adage that says: "No matter how beautifully the chicken dances, it never pleases the hawk." It is complemented by the saying that: "Dogs do not bark at a stationary wagon."

Hon Premier, one of the fundamental milestone acknowledged is that, for the first time in the history of this province, you managed to ostracise yourselves from your disclaimers and your adverse audit opinions. At least, two departments got adverse audit opinions for the period under review.

We also want to raise the matter of the overreliance by municipalities on consultants, which I think does not yield any meaningful improvement.

We also want to welcome the concrete proposal by the Provincial Treasury and the Office of the Premier for the disposal of provincial non-core assets including properties and investments. There was progress in implementing the auditors' remedial audit actions. Out of the eight recommendations, seven were implemented for the period under review.

However, the irregular expenditure by the transversal departments seems to be utterly stubborn to root out. The challenge becomes old age in terms of irregular expenditure, and we need an urgent attention. One other worrying factor is whereby the accounting officers are unable to apply, Hlabirwa, for condonation, so that they graduate from that state of unqualified to clean audit.

There was a lament for the prioritisation and empowerment of women in the provincial administration. We are worried, although the chairperson of the standing committee is going to raise it. The parity part and the empowerment of women, we are not making any progress in that regard. We are also worried about the vacancy rate in some of the departments, the Departments of Rural Development, Transport, Public Works, Education and CoGHSTA.

We also know that there is a challenge in the transversal unit in the Premier's Office, in terms of capacity. That unit is not well capacitated to support all the public entities, sector departments and municipalities.

We are in an era of technological revolution, and we cannot afford to have a situation where the majority of the departments do not have viable GITOs (Government Information Technology Offices). Those positions are vacant. We can't overcome the struggle of data recovery system dilemma in the province, if we don't improve in that regard. Hon Premier and the MEC for Provincial Treasury, we welcome the establishment of the Provincial Database of Forensic Experts in order to expedite the

appointment of investigators when a need is identified and alleged acts of corruption are reported. We are, however, worried that as much as the Provincial Treasury is commissioning these forensic investigations on alleged acts of corruption, the recommendations thereof are not implemented. That's our worry.

We have a case of the feeding scheme, the issues of the scholar transport and GAAL where there are forensic investigations. If these can be implemented, the province will lead in the way of good governance and will ensure that the public resources are efficiently and effectively utilised. It is now incumbent upon the provincial Legislature to enhance its oversight capacity to ensure prudent utilisation of resources.

Finally, the Office of the Premier had 39 targets and 37 were implemented. We appreciate and commend the good work. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, we so move for the consideration and adoption of the report by this august House.

We also wanted to put more emphasis Hon Premier and the MEC for CoGHSTA, that as the portfolio committee we are worried about the performance of the Mookgophong-Modimolle Municipality and Thabazimbi Municipality, which are led by the opposition. There is deep-seated corruption and poor cooperative governance in those institutions. If you can intervene in those areas, as a portfolio committee, we will be more than pleased. Unfortunately, Mpe is the member of the ANC, that's why he is performing in that district.

Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. We shall now call upon the Hon Premier to respond to the debate made by honourable Members.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. I think I must appreciate the manner in which the deliberations went. I also appreciate the criticisms and the advices that we received from honourable Members. You can be rest assured Hon Speaker, honourable Members including Hon Seshoka, that they will all be implemented. [LAUGHTER] They will all be implemented. We also appreciate the accolades that we received.

I must support Hon Selane that there is no institution, entity or any organ of civil society that can be successful if it does not have skilled and capable cadres within itself. You need skilled people, skilled officials, skilled clerks, skilled financial officers, administration officers for you to achieve the kind of government that we are running currently.

Hon Speaker, we are not yet there, but we are almost there, taking into account the history of where we are coming from. I must acknowledge the accolades that most of the Members were making, more especially on the issue of audit opinions. Remember, we had a situation at some stage where you had a disclaimer audit opinion as a norm.

It was usual that government departments were getting disclaimer audit opinions. It was normal.

At some stage I remember we had about 13 entities getting disclaimer audit opinions. In municipalities, it was a norm. Currently, you hardly hear of a disclaimer audit opinions in provincial entities and provincial government departments. You don't even have one, including the Departments of Health and Education. At some stage, two or three years back, we were told that it had never happened that the Department of Education got at least an opinion in its financial results. Currently, you no longer have that. The department has actually reduced the findings from hundred and something to two. I think that must be commended. [APPLAUSE]

We are talking proper financial accounting here. The honourable Members must understand the reason why we are so impatient with disclaimer audit opinions. With a disclaimer audit opinion, you actually don't know. It's like a patient who comes to a doctor and say, *ga ke tsebe gore ke babja ke eng. Mmele wo ka moka o no baba*. You don't know what to treat. But, if you have got an opinion, irrespective of how many findings you have, at least you know, as somebody who is doing oversight that the Auditor-General has identified one, two, three findings in your financials. Now, what are you doing about them?

You then come up with systems and mechanisms to deal with those findings. If you've got a disclaimer, you can't do that. You then run a government department which cannot even account for its financials and its activities. Currently, we don't have that. *Re le lebetše lentšu leo* in the provincial government, Hon Seshoka. As a result, I can assure this august House that going forward, we are going to see those departments which were under a qualified audit opinion coming into a clean audit opinion. Watch the space! [APPLAUSE]

Watch the space! I can guarantee you that you are going to see government entities getting absolutely out of the qualified audit opinion into the unqualified audit opinion. You will see government departments which uncharacteristically have never had even a qualified audit opinion, getting unqualified audit opinion. Watch the space!

Hon Speaker, I cannot agree more with the chairperson of the portfolio committee on the issue of gender-based violence. *Bagešu, go lekane!* I think all of us, different political parties, different religious persuasions, every individual, every entity, every organ of civil society in this province, must now sit back and say, *re e lahlile ge re e tla kae?* It can't be acceptable. Within this month of October, we have had so many incidences of gender-based violence. You ask yourself questions, why?

It can't be expected that it is only government that can deal with this because it is not a problem that can only be dealt with by law enforcers. You cannot say the Police must do one, two, three, alone. It is a societal issue. It needs the entire society. It is a social ill. *Ge e le gore setšhaba se swanetše gore se hlapišweng, a se hlapišweng*. This issue of gender-based violence, we need to seriously deal with it. Through you Hon Speaker, it is against this background, Hon Monama that we have dedicated two MECs, the MEC for Transport and Community Safety and the MEC for Social Development to convene a task team that will be all-encompassing, taking on board even organs of civil society to see to it that we get to the root of this problem and deal with it once and for all.

We have said we have instructed even the MEC for Treasury that resources permitting, let's make funds available for that task team. It can't be right that bommagorena, bomakgolo wa rena, dikgaetšedi tša rena di phela ka go hlobaela, ba sa tsebe gore ba tla tsoga ba sa phela goba ba tla tsoga ba le bjang, ka lebaka la banna ba dihlogo tša go hloka megopolo. I totally agree with you honourable chairperson. Le gona ke re setšhaba sa gešo a re emeng ka maoto, sera se tsene motseng. Ge e le gore e tšhaba ka motato, gona a re e direleng lenaka la go tia. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Premier.

7.3. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2018/19 REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON QUALITY OF LIFE AND STATUS OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY.

Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I stand to move for the second, third and fourth quarter report. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Madam Speaker, I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, ke eme mo go thekga pego ye e beilwego ke modulasetulo. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana. You have three minutes. [APPLAUSE]

BACKGROUND

Malibongwe! [LAUGHTER]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning, honourable Members and the Premier in absentia. As per procedure, Hon Speaker, the Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability, interacted with the Office of the Premier on special programmes on 09 July 2020. The meeting was scheduled to

execute the Constitutional mandate tabled in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, Act 108 of 1996, as provided under section 114.

The standing committee ensured that the institutional development programme has been established to ensure that provincial administration has the capacity to deliver on its mandate.

Hon Speaker, the Office of the Premier reported that six departments maintained their 2% employment of people with disability at senior management level, i.e. the Office of the Premier; LEDET; Agriculture; Transport; Social Development; and Sport, Arts, and Culture. The report further indicates that only five departments have achieved an overall 2% employment of people with disability, that is the Office of the Premier; Social Development; Sport, Arts and Culture; Treasury; and Agriculture.

This remains an indication that all the departments, with the exception of the Department of Health, have a dedicated disability focal person to assist in the implementation of disability programmes. The office of the Premier cited that the coordination of special focal activities is managed by an official on an ad hoc basis, which is a concern. The department cited a budget strain on compensation of employees, which is regarded as a serious challenge.

As part of the intervention strategy, the Office of the Premier together with sector departments, have developed a revised structure which includes the post of disability focal point. The Office has reported that only the Department of Transport and Community Safety have complied with the 50% employment equity status. The committee raised a displeasure in the continuous noncompliance of departments. However, the Office of the Premier has come up with the reprioritisation of funded posts to comply with employment equity plan of sector departments as an intervention strategy.

As a committee responsible for the Office of the Premier, we acknowledge the report that the Office has facilitated and monitored seven poverty alleviation programmes in the province. However, the committee requested to be furnished with the list of the projects and their budgets thereof, which we are still waiting for.

At the same time, monitoring and coordination remain the responsibility of the Office of the Premier, and it should be strengthened.

As we conclude, the year 2020 marks the 102 years of women struggles. As Joseph Conrad said: "Being a woman is terribly difficult task, since it consists principally in dealing with men." This cannot be complete until we take the journey from the era of President Oliver Reginald Tambo, who took women issues to the centre stage within the ANC and provided leadership in society with regards to women empowerment.

We thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. It's over to you, Hon Mphahlele.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the EFF, we would like to apologise that Hon Mphahlele will not make it today. As a result, we will just submit the soft and hard copy of this debate for further processing.

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Hon Phala, it's your turn.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Due to the time allocation, I will just highlight on the Children's Rights Programme, the Office of the Premier for the quarter under review, reported that they had participated in the Provincial Child's Rights Ambassador in the children's manifesto meetings with the political parties in Johannesburg.

On the vital registration, the Office of the Premier reported that the number of deaths registered within the quarter was just over 29 000, and of the total, 26 000 deaths were registered within the required timeframe, which is 30 days. However, as a committee we were very much concerned with the noncompliance to the 30 days registration standard that needs to be identified and implemented. We, therefore, encourage the Office of the Premier to popularise the importance of death registration within communities.

On the Take a Girl to Work campaign, the Office of the Premier reported that they have facilitated and coordinated National Children's Day at Tshilidzini School and Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament at the Limpopo Legislature.

On social grants, the Office of the Premier reported that during the quarter under review, the provision of social grants had improved as follows:

- The Office of the Premier had monitored access to social grants by children, and the findings were that 81 000 children benefited from the child support grant;
- Child dependency grant was at 14 703 which has improved by 123; and
- Foster care grant was at 52 912 which has improved by 795.

On special schools, as a committee, we were still concerned with problems that Thusanang Special School in Belabela still experienced. They still remained a headache to the committee.

As a committee, we had seven recommendations that we gave to the Office of the Premier. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Chair, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, you may take the podium.
[APPLAUSE]

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo, Premier in absentia, Hon Deputy Speaker in absentia, honourable Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana, all Members of the provincial Legislature, members of our Chapter 9 and 10 institutions, good morning.

Madam Speaker, it is not everyone who understand how difficult it was to be a woman back in the day. Women had been deprived of basic human rights, not for years, decades or centuries, but for thousands of years. It is not only about voting, being involved in politics, businesses, but the trivial matters, like having a say in the family, marrying a person they wanted or not marrying at all. All these ordinary things were barely paid attention to, while they were once just a dream to millions of women. It is largely assumed that educating women will make them too independent. In other words, they will not do what they are expected to do, which would be looking after the house, bringing up children and taking care of their husbands' needs.

As per procedure, the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and Children with People with Disability, interacted with the Office of the Premier's special programmes for the 2018/19 third and fourth quarter reports. On Institutional Development, this programme has been established to ensure that the provincial administration has the capacity to deliver on its mandate. This ensures that policies, processes and systems that enable the provincial administration to deliver services are in place.

The Office of the Premier reported that they had monitored government procurement for the empowerment of people with disability. However, noncompliance to the 7% procurement target set aside for the people with disability is still a challenge. The Office of the Premier capacitated line function departments on strategies to empower disabled people as an intervention strategy.

The main purpose of the administration is to provide effective leadership, management and administrative support to the core function of the department. This will ensure continuous refinement of cooperate policies, skills development, efficient and effective financial management, structures and systems in compliance with legislation and best practices and the championing of the Batho Pele principles and service delivery.

On effective and capable youth machinery, the Office of the Premier reported that its youth directorate has profiled all youth development structures in 11 departments, five district municipalities and 22 local municipalities. However, the Office of the Premier cited lack of reporting in terms of the youth development plan by the office in the department and municipalities. The Office of the Premier is planning to train all youth officers on the template that is aligned with the plan.

The Office of the Premier should ensure that all departments comply with the required gender targets ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Sorry, honourable Member. It is like people are making noise at the gallery.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

The Office of the Premier should ensure that all departments comply with the required gender targets and gender representation in SMS (Senior Management Service) and all levels of the public service. Women participation in national education system is ...
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Your three minutes is up, honourable chair. Thank you very much. It is three minutes.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Okay.

THE SPEAKER

Yes. [APPLAUSE]

**7.4. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2019/20 REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON QUALITY OF LIFE, STATUS OF WOMEN,
YOUTH AND CHILDREN WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY**

Committee chair, it's over to you.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to move for the adoption of the report on the 2019 Older Persons' Parliament and the 2019, 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Chair, we are at item 7.4.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Sorry, Madam Speaker. As per the report of 2019/20, I stand to move for the adoption of the first, second, third, and fourth quarter reports as well as the Annual Report. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Chair, this item does not have an Annual Report. It is up to the fourth quarter report and not Annual Report.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

I'm sorry for mentioning the Annual Report, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am here to support the Hon Chair of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo, Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa in absentia, Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou, honourable Members of the Executive Council present, Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana, honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, members of our Chapter 9 and 10 institutions, I greet you all in the name of Jesus.

The Office of the Premier is the administrative and political principal of the provincial administration. To some extent, we expect the Office to set an example for all the other departments to follow. This special programme in the Office of the Premier should therefore not be found wanting in implementing its own set targets.

On the issue of meeting the 2% employment target of the people with disability, I just want to quote in the word of God. Luke 14: 12-14: "But when you give a feast, invite the blind, the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind and you will be blessed because they cannot repay you for you will be paid at the resurrection." If you believe in it.

For 25 years, we still have not yet reached the set targets. Hon Premier, failing to reach a mere 2% of employing people with disability in SMS posts, is just simply no longer justifiable, indeed. This talks more to the will than the availability of posts. It is all well to have disability focal programmes, but if these programmes are not brought to fruition, it all becomes pointless.

We commend the fact that all the departments, with the exception of the Department of Health, have dedicated a disability focal person to assist in the implementation of disability programmes. We commend the departments that have met the disability equity target. We remain concerned about major departments like Health, Education, and CoGHSTA which still fail to meet the equity targets. It seems like there is no will at all for these departments to meet the set targets. There is even lesser effort by the Office of the Premier to enforce compliance. Departments which fail to implement, have been reported to cite budget strains on compensation of employees as the main reason why they fail to meet the set targets. This cannot really be an acceptable reason, to claim that meeting disability targets will bear negative results on the provincial purse. It cannot be acceptable.

As part of the intervention strategy, the Office of the Premier together with the sector departments have developed a revised structure which includes the posts of disability focal point to address these particular challenges. We believe that moving forward, this will no longer be an issue.

The Office of the Premier reported that they have monitored government procurement for the empowerment of people with disability. However, noncompliance to the 7% procurement targets set aside for people with disability is still a challenge. The Office of the Premier capacitated line function departments on strategies to empower disabled people as an intervention strategy. We cannot be seen to be complacent in such an important matter as regard disability and simply allow the departments not to do the right thing.

On gender equity, the Office of the Premier reported that only the Department of Transport and Community Safety has complied with the 50% employment equity status. The committee raised a displeasure in the continuous noncompliance by departments. However, the Office of the Premier has come up with the reprioritisation of funded posts to comply with the employment equity plan of sector departments as an intervention strategy. It was reported that as part of gender mainstreaming in sector departments, all departments have appointed a gender focal person, whose responsibility is to popularise and mainstream gender programmes and projects.

Madam Speaker, the empowerment of women is not a favour, but is central to our equity projects. It does not make sense to have programmes on women empowerment when these are not met by actual representivity of women in the workplace. The presence of women in the workplace, more so, occupying senior roles, goes a long way in advancing the gains of our revolution. The presence of women in leadership position goes a long way in affirming the rightful space that women should occupy in society. We, therefore, urge the Office to ensure compliance by departments.

Looking at poverty alleviation and food security amidst the COVID-19 crisis, I want to steal the words spoken by the first President, our father, our grandfather Tata Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela. He said: "Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and can be overcome and eradicated by action of human beings." He further said: "Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life."

The effects of COVID-19 on food security in our province have indeed pushed the people of Limpopo into the poverty line. The effects of this pandemic have resulted in the worsening of food security in the households across the province. The effects of the pandemic cannot be underestimated as many households in the province were vulnerable prior to the pandemic.

The Office of the Premier also reported that they have facilitated and monitored seven poverty alleviation programmes in the province. It would be to the advantage of the House if we could be furnished with the list of the projects and the budgets thereof. According to the report, the Limpopo Provincial Command Council on Wednesday, 13 May 2020 released a statement saying that the province has received 93 000 application for food parcels. The province has also been able to provide about 13 000 cooked meals to children.

The Provincial Command Council also said that out of five district municipalities, two do not have functional food banks. We would like this situation to be duly addressed. We are aware that programmes of food banks were established in the province to address issues of food insecurity. The Office should brief the House on this particular

programme, and how this intervention has impacted the lives of the residents of the province. We would like the House to be briefed in detail about this programme including its cost.

Looking at Oxfam and Stats SA on food and security in South Africa, the country is food secured at national level and food insecure at household level, where the majority of the voters are. All households have access to adequate food. Almost 20% of South African households had inadequate or severe inadequate access to food in 2017. This varied by province, population, groups of household head and household size.

According to Oxfam, food security occurs when all people at all times have access to sufficient and safe nutritious food to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy lifestyle. Food insecurity occurs when people's access to food is minimally adequate and they have trouble meeting their basic needs, while severe inadequate access to food occurs when there is a critical lack of access to food.

Despite these challenges, it is important to note that according to Stats SA's report of May 2019, Limpopo had 93,6% and Gauteng 84,0% proportions of households that reported adequate food access, while North West had 64% and Northern Cape 66,5%, and they had the lowest proportion of the households that had adequate food access and therefore can be seen as the least food secured province.

The social security net in Limpopo probably goes a long way in ensuring that most households do have access to food. We should, however, note that the statistics have altered, since the COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on the economy, and may have resulted in the need for assistance. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You have one minute left.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

I have one minute left? Thank you, Madam Speaker. Food inadequacy and hunger are still a challenge for poverty-stricken households as they lack money to buy food and are unable to produce their own food.

On provision of sanitary pads in Limpopo through the Sanitary Dignity Programme, the Office of the Premier has reported that the Department of Education has an implementing agency for the Limpopo Sanitary Dignity Programme. They have undertaken to provide sanitary pads to all children from quintile 1 to quintile 3.

In conclusion, we have highlighted what ought to be done. We believe that the Premier, as the principal, will ensure that implementation takes place. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. Hon Phala, the floor is yours.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As a committee we continued to engage with the Office of the Premier. At the end of our meetings we had a few recommendations for them. Recommendations are a way to track if the committee is being listened to. Sadly, some of them continued to repeat themselves. The recommendations that were made to the Office of the Premier were:

- They must ensure that all departments comply with the required gender targets and to ensure gender representivity at SMS and all levels of the public service;
- The Office of the Premier should ensure that bilaterals are held with sector departments to address the issue of non-compliance;
- They should ensure that line function departments are capacitated on strategies to empower disabled entrepreneurs;
- They should further ensure that birth and death registrations are popularised in communities.
- They must conduct an audit of the grants provisioning in post offices in the province; and
- The Office of the Premier should ensure that sector departments develop strategies for past training placements and include this information in their next report to the committee.

Under quarter three, some of the recommendations that we made were that the standard of reporting should improve in order to give the Legislature a clear and concise information, in order to make an informed determination of progress made.

For the 2019/20 fourth quarter report, most of our recommendations as a committee repeated themselves, that:

- All departments should comply with the required gender targets and to ensure gender representivity in SMS at all levels of the public service;
- Monitoring and coordination remain the responsibility of the Office of the Premier and should be strengthened, which was a recommendation from quarter 3;
- The standard of reporting should improve in order to give the Legislature a clear and concise information in order to make an informed determination of progress being made, which came from both quarter 2 and 3;
- The necessary documents and strategies referred to in the reports should be submitted as addendums to support the information provided for us as a committee to verify. This was a recommendation from quarter 3;
- Their fourth quarter performance report should indicate progress with regard to their planned intervention regarding the departments that have failed to

implement programmes dealing with issues affecting women, youth, children and the elderly. It also came from quarter 3; and

- The previously disadvantaged groups are empowered and their living conditions are improved for the better. It was also a recommendation from quarter 3.

Hon Speaker, as a committee, we do not only like to engage with the Office of the Premier. It would be much pleasing that after all that is said, they do implement our recommendations. You can clearly see the report for the 2019/20 financial year from quarter one to quarter four, most of our recommendations were not implemented and they kept on repeating themselves. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Chair, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, it's your turn.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Hon Speaker, the provincial administration should always be exemplary. It must give life to pronouncements of the ruling party and give expression to policies by ensuring that planned projects are implemented. It is not by accident that the programme focusing on youth, women, disability and children is located directly in the Office of the Premier. This is so because the ANC-led government is aware of the particular vulnerabilities that these groups face, hence, the special programme provided.

South Africa still has an unacceptable high numbers of violence against women and children, as well as insufficient inclusion of people with disability. For us to be a truly inclusive society, we should continue to strive and achieve this vision. I emphasise this point because failure to ensure that people with disability are represented in the workplace, perpetuates certain stereotypes with regard to people with disability. If we are sincere about equality, we should not view employment of people with disability as a favour but as a fundamental aspect of what we understand about equity and fighting discrimination in the workplace.

More than 25 years down the line, the departments such as Health, Education, CoGHSTA and Safety still fail to meet the 2% target. This speaks volume about the leadership of the departments. We would like to see this gap closed and we would like to believe that our leadership is listening.

On youth development, we congratulate the Office in its achievement on the skills empowerment programme for the youth. Results in the end of the year indicated that 948 internship programmes took place, 499 learnership were initiated and 1 316 bursaries were issued. We, thus, congratulate the Office more so in the face of a high level of youth unemployment and despondency. We are aware that the capacity of the state to employ is limited, and as such, opportunities such as the bursaries and internships give youth the necessary workplace opportunity to exposure. In the same breath, we are worried about the number of unemployment graduates and unemployed interns in our midst.

We want to see, Hon Premier, a leadership that is continuously trying its best to develop Limpopo as the province, so that opportunities may be opened for the youth. As such, we cannot only hope that the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) finally take up, but we have to demand that the vast majority of those who should have opportunities in the Special Economic Zone should be the youth. On making Limpopo an attractive and safe destination of choice on COVID-19, we are aware that the whole world is still caught up in the grip of the COVID-19 epidemic, however we should strive to make Limpopo a safe and attractive destination of choice for the investors as we move into level 1. In this difficult time of COVID-19, it remains important to highlight matters of poverty alleviation, not merely in our talk, but in our action as well.

This epidemic has done much to highlight the differences between those who have access to better resources and those who do not, more so in matters of access to health and better living conditions. We, thus, appreciate the introduction of the COVID-19 grant which has benefited the most vulnerable sector in this society. The difficulty brought on by COVID-19 has the real ability to reverse the gains of the democracy as more people are thrown into more vulnerability and further instability. Mismanagement of COVID-19 relief funds and resources meant for the most vulnerable by officials, must be met with the action that it deserve, a swift corrective action must be taken in that regard.

On opportunity and calls for intervention in the hospitality sector for the benefit of the youth, we know that the tourism and hospitality sector has badly been affected and we hope that as we emerge from this challenge, we focus on securing those jobs once more for the youth. We would like to urge the Office in particular to work closely with the hospitality and restaurant industry, to ensure that young Limpopo citizens are given first preference for jobs within the industry. We still have unfortunate cases whereby non-South African citizens are preferred in this industry, not necessarily because South Africans cannot do this job, but mostly for the unfortunate fact that non-South Africans are often regarded as cheap labour. We are unfortunately easier to hire and fire. To the one who is taking notes for the Premier, if we do not address the challenges, we will continue to have a high percentage of our youth that are outside the economic cycle of the province and the country as a whole. This feeling of exclusion will justifiably explode if not expressed.

For gender-based violence awareness campaign, we congratulate the Office on achieving its set targets. In terms of awareness campaign, more so programmes which also include men and young voices as part of the solution in fighting this scourge of gender-based violence. The efficiency of these programmes must be indicated by a reduction in reports and cases of gender-based violence. Sadly, we still remain with incidents on gender-based violence in the province. This is where we urge community traditional leaders and civic organisations to work with the police and government to eliminate this scourge. The murder of the mother and daughter Hettie and Lizette Deacon, who owned Ocean Basket in Polokwane, remains a very sad chapter in our province. The fact that those were entrepreneurs providing a vital service and employment in the province, makes the case even more tragic. We assure that harsh sentences will be meted against the perpetrators.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, this Office is the head of the provincial administration, and as such, should lead by example. It should further ensure that, it deals decisively with all offices that continuously fail to meet set targets with regard to youth and

disability programmes, year after year. We will warn the office to take note of the above recommendations and also ensure that the following, with all departments, comply with the required gender and disability targets, and to as well ensure representivity in SMS and all levels of the public services.

Monitoring and coordination remains the responsibility of the Office of the Premier and it should be strengthened. The standard of reporting should improve, in order to give the Legislature clear and concise information in order to make an informed determination of progress being made. Necessary documents and strategies referred to in the report should be submitted as addendum to support the information provided.

I therefore move on behalf of the committee, that the report be adopted as the report of this august House. I move accordingly. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chair. We shall now proceed to item 7.5: Consideration and Adoption of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As for the report of 2019 women, 2019 Elderly Persons' Parliament, 2019 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, I stand to move for the adoption for the report.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise, Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga Speaker sa rena. Nna, Joshua Matlou, ke ema go thekga polelo yeo e boletšwego ke Modulasetulo wa Komiti, Mme Mokaba-Phukwana. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Matlou. We shall now call upon, Hon Mathye. The first speaker on our list.

MS MATHYE

Muchaviseki Xipikara Manana Molapo, Muchaviseki Muphirimiya wa Xifunzankulu xa Limpopo, Tatana Mathabatha va ha ku famba, Ximokonkulu Muchaviseki Mokgonyana, Swirho swa Mfumo wa Milau hinkweru, inhliknhi. Madam Speaker, as part of constitutional mandate and guided by the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, the Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities hosted the 2019 summit on the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. The event was held on the 10 December 2019 in Capricorn District, Polokwane Municipality at Bolivia Lodge. The 2019 summit was attended by 500 delegates, and participants made their voices heard

by participating in various commissions. The contributions of the participants of the South African discourse need not be overemphasised.

Participants contributed immensely to the topic presented to them. The programme was organised to monitor and oversee implementation of transversal programmes by executive departments, conduct Sectoral Parliament as part of public participation and oversight activity. Furthermore, monitor and oversee chapter 9 institutions tasked with the responsibility of safeguarding constitutional rights affecting vulnerable groups, and serve as advocacy for interests of special and vulnerable groups in the province. The role of the Department of Health was on providing quality health care services to victims of gender-based violence.

Some of the problems identified during the selection points included unemployment and poverty. The nature of the relationship between the twin problems of poverty and unemployment has been proven recently. The very same nature of the relationship has received more extensive scholarly attention worldwide. Shocking though, the number of people are at risk of negative psychological effect of unemployment, usually underestimated in South Africa, for example; though the same point could be made of more circumcision, unemployment was until recently officially measured in terms of the number of people who received state unemployment benefits, the so-called social grants. Despite this, there is strong evidence that unemployment increases the risk of poverty and contribute to inequality, and that it also gives rise to a series of delay social effect on unemployment to people themselves, their families and their communities in which they live. Therefore, the commission resolved that there is a need for government to design programmes that are meant to assist and intervene in this sector of the society.

The Statistics South Africa shows that the results of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for the second quarter of 2019 indicates that the official unemployment rate increased by 1,4% point to 29,0% as compared to the first quarter of 2019. The number of unemployed percent increased by 455 000 to 6,7 million in quarter two. 2019 compared to quarter one 2019 resulted in an increase of 476 000 labour force.

Together let us take action to support the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaigns. Let us all hold hands in support of the campaign, by wearing the white ribbon during the 16 Days of Activism period. The white ribbon is a symbol of peace and symbolises the commitment of the wearer not to never commit or condone violence against women and children. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the various 16 Days of Activism events and activities, since the calendar outlining events taking place around the country over the period of the 16 days.

Volunteer in support of NGOs and community groups who support abuse to women and children.

Many organisations need assistance from the public and one can volunteer his or her time and make a contribution to the work of the institution. Help to plan garden or a shelter, sponsor plastic tables and chairs for kids at a clinic or join an organisation as a counsellor. The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is an annual event that provides awareness around gender-based violence including prevention of violence against women and children. It starts on 25 November and ends on 10 December each year, as I highlighted earlier on. Our ambition is fuelled by

dreams to become a model for sustainable peace makers for conflict resolutions. Let us continue lobbying for the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitations.

The commission resolved that government must organise awareness campaigns and invite the public to participate especially men and young males. The world of work is changing and with significant implications for women on one hand, we have globalisation, technological and digital revolution and the opportunities they bring. On the other hand, the growing informality of labour, unstable livelihood and income, new fiscal and trade policies and environmental impact, all of which must be addressed in the context of women's economic empowerment.

On Community Empowerment, we must cradle down ensuring that all girls and boys were to have access to quality and early child development care and pre-primary education, so that they are ready for primary education.

The community and the local police stations are active partners in ensuring local safety and security. The goal is to bring about effective crime prevention, by launching intelligence recent crime prevention projects in partnership with the local community. You may want to also become a reservist, a member of the community who volunteers his or her services and time to support local policing efforts to fight crime. For more information on how to join, contact your local police stations.

Many of the Community Policing Forums (CPFs) are not utilised, the reason why many of these structures are underutilised is because of fear of identification and victimisation. Councillors are looked down by community members and discourage them to participate in Community Policing Forums because they see them as threats. More often than not, CPFs are the very perpetrators of criminal activities who are feared in communities.

There are challenges related to the utilisation of policing forums and community safety forums. Police officers do not attend to cases promptly. Police officers also do not service people with disabilities appropriately, especially deaf people. Police officers do not attend to cases when people are alive. When they are called they would ask, is someone dead? Sufficient death at police stations is a serious challenge. Lack of commitment by police officers and social workers is a serious problem too. It is also alleged that police vehicles are used to transport drugs instead of criminals. Community members also are abusive towards police. Basically, there is a serious outcry about the conduct of police officers and social workers. Police officers victimise each other by ganging up with criminals in the communities.

A ndzi ya emahetelelweni, the ANC is dedicated to empowering women working at South Africa across every level and every function. Through our professional development programmes, industry living initiatives and inclusive policies and benefits, therefore, a need to advance gender quality both at government and beyond shall be realised. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathye. We shall now call upon, Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Hon Speaker, I have to combine the two reports. The Quality of Life for Women, Youth and People with Disability Committee's mandate is to monitor and oversee implementation of transversal programmes by executive departments, conduct sectoral parliaments as part of public participations and oversight activities. In the 2019, we had the Women Sectoral Parliament in Masisi Community Hall and Elderly Persons' Parliament in Lephalale. We also had the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children in Polokwane in 2019.

Based on the debates that we had during all these three sectorial parliament as a committee, we had recommendations. On the women sectoral parliament, recommendations on the report being debated about were that:

- Government should regulate churches as women become victims of these mushrooming churches.
- Policies should be put in place to address the inequalities in the workplace. Bursaries be made available to disadvantaged women.
- Government should intensify outreach on the implementation of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- Awareness campaign should be intensified to conscientise communities about the importance of accepting the LGBTQ people in their communities.
- Empower the virtually impaired women on their sexual rights.

On the older persons' sectoral parliament report recommendations were that:

- Communities should be sensitised about Alzheimer to curb the fatal, brutal and burning attacks on older persons within communities as a result of this illness' side effects.
- That social workers should visit elderly at their homes once a month to teach them about the way to report crime.
- That government should increase safety in rural areas, particularly against juveniles.

In our 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children as a committee was based on the alarming rise of gender-based violence cases that informed us to hold this summit in Polokwane at Bolivia Lodge.

We invited various departments and relevant chapter 9 institutions on this issue. NGOs of victim empowerment centres were also attending. A lot was said referring to different plenary, and all plenaries upon reporting proved to what we are faced with in 2020, the gender-based pandemic as said by the President. Those heading and working in VEC, details show how they are underfunded and sadly, this House has seen VEC funding being reduced in this current financial year by the social

development. Our police officers in police stations are not sensitive enough to deal with and assist some of the victims. The low years of sentence that perpetrators get was said to be not enough to curb the spread of gender-based violence. Government need to intensify gender-based violence awareness within communities, working together with churches and everyone.

As the DA, we welcome the establishment of the Limpopo Gender-Based Violence Technical Team, and we hope it will assist in solving this issue and we shall be monitoring its work. Growing up, one was part of the girl-child at school for junior female learners and ranged to the senior female one, then we had the take a girl-child to work followed by mini-workshops and teachings on how a girl-child should behave. I honestly believe that it is about time that government and communities should guide the boy-child take him to work and further guide him on how to behave in societies in order for him to know how to live within a society where women exist. This will assist in helping the male gender to live and appreciate women and not fight and eventually killing them. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. We shall now call upon, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, the committee chairperson.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Standing Committee of Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability hosted the 2019 Women's Parliament as part of its institutional mandate guided by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 section 114(2) as amended. Read together with rule 88(1) of the standing rule and orders of the Legislature of the Limpopo Province and guided by the women's month celebration, the event was held on 30 August 2019 in Vhembe District, Musina Municipality at Masisi Community Hall.

Women's parliament is an annual event that provide platform for women to engage in debates on issues affecting them and to propose solution to their challenges. This year's event was held in celebration of 25 years into democracy. The theme for the 2019 Women's Parliament was "25 years of democracy growing, South Africa together for emancipation of women". On attendance, the 2019 women's parliament was attended by an estimated 700 delegates, and 22 presenters represented their respective formation and were able to make their voice heard through the dynamics and vibrant debates on the topic as aforementioned.

The contribution of the participants to the South African discourse need not be overemphasised. Participants from different women formation debated on the following topic: "Emancipation of women today, reflection of 25 years into democracy". Government should create opportunities that will reduce the high rate of unemployment amongst women and further monitor the mushrooming of churches, and ensure that they are registered with the council of churches as women become victims. The participants debated robustly on sexual abuse in the institutions of higher learning in exchange for favours. Today the labour force makes up 64% of the population, with the proportion of children and elderly compromising smaller shares.

Internationally, democracy profile such as this are often associated with rising incomes, faster productivity growth, high saving and rising living standards. Alternatively, they can lead to a frustrating and destabilising environment where young people cannot get work contributing to violence, crime, alcohol abuse and other social ills. The determinants of success in whether a country can harness the advantage of having a large number of young people who are able and willing to work is on striving together to move builders of young women at education for expanded meaningful choice of opportunities. Education is a key to success and young women should be encouraged to go to school so that they can be independent. There should be much emphasis to women in dealing with illiteracy in rural communities. Lack of education and inferiority complex is still a challenge amongst young women.

As the ANC-led government, we should intensify outreach programmes on the implementation of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The direct and immediate measures to attack poverty is to present a long term strategy to increase employment and broaden opportunities through education, vocational training and work experience, public employment programmes, health and nutrition, public transport and access to information while they are to be achieved in each of these areas. These strategies would take time to have a large scale effect on poverty to reduce the abject effect of poverty on millions of South Africans over the short term. As the committee, we must encourage Office of the Premier to strengthen youth service programmes, and introduce new community based programme to offer young people life skill training, entrepreneurship training and opportunities to participate in community development programmes. Strengthen and expand the number of FET colleges to increase the participation of rate to 25%.

The portfolio committee recommends that:

- Awareness campaigns should be intensified to communities, teaching them about the importance of accepting the LGBTQ in their communities.
- Women, including people with disability, should be protected against any form of abuse.
- Funds should be made available to assist women who are interested in establishing cooperatives.
- Virtually impaired women should be empowered on their sexual rights.

As part of our institutional mandate and guided by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 section 114(2), as amended, read together with rule 88(1) of the standing rule and order of the Legislature of the Limpopo province, mandate the Standing Committee of Quality of Life for Women, Youth, People with Disabilities, to serve as advocacy for interest of special and vulnerable group in the province and ensuring that the provincial budget allocation addresses gender disparities.

The portfolio committee hosted 2019 summit on 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children and older persons. Parliament was attended by 500 delegates and participants made their voice heard by participating in various commission. The commission emphasised the role of the Department of Social

Development and Victim Empowerment Centres as an access for victims including people with disabilities. The recommendations are:

- Government must provide enough funding for these centres and there should be police officers assigned to deal with cases of gender-based violence.
- The Office of the Premier should emphasise the campaign to educate our communities about the importance of utilising VEPs.
- Communities should be educated about their relationship with LGBTQ communities.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I move that the report be adopted as the report of this House, and I move accordingly. Good day. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Thank you honourable Members. We shall now have the response by the Executive Council and call upon the Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSSINESS

Thank you, Madam Speaker, honourable Members in the House and the colleagues in the Executive Council. I am standing here, Madam Speaker, having been designated by the Hon Premier, who due to other pressures had to leave the House. However, it will be important that on behalf of the Premier, we would like to express words of gratitude, particularly to the Chairperson of the Committee and the entire committee for the work that they continue to do, as well as for continuing to ensure that the special and designated groups are actually taken care of.

Let me say that, in terms of employment equity, we are aware that due to the patriarchal society that we are actually being socialised in, we continue to create programmes that are progressive. However, in terms of implementation they become difficult, but also at times we do not necessarily meet the targets as set. If we look in terms of the decades that we have taken to rule as the African National Congress, through the Office of the Premier which is the most strategic office to ensure that all special programmes are implemented. We have seen some forms of progress, however the progress which is not necessarily satisfactory. For that, the Office of the Premier has as a matter of intervention, decided that all those that are political leaders in the provincial government, are going to sign performance agreement with the Office of the Premier, which were supposed to have been done by yesterday and surely it will be done very soon.

Amongst other sets of targets that are supposed to be accounted for, is the issue of employment equity, both for women but also for people with disabilities. We believe that with the political heads taking responsibility in terms of accountability, we should within no time be able to meet the set target. We are aware that this is worrying because it has been for now, almost two decades that we are not been able to reach the targets, however with those interventions, we believe that we should be able to reach the targets.

In terms of the women empowerment as well and in terms of government procurement, the Office of the Premier has designated the Office of the Provincial Treasury and the Economic Development to ensure that we are able to, not only make sure that we follow up, but also to make sure that we are able to report to EXCO in every EXCO sitting in terms of how far have we gone in terms of women empowerment. I am happy to say that in terms of the empowerment targets, we have been able to surpass the set targets in terms of women, however, with people with disabilities we are still lagging behind and we are striving to ensure that we would be able to reach the targets. Political heads have been informed that it is their responsibility to make sure that in terms of whatever opportunities that are going on within their departments, they must take responsibility to make sure that people with disabilities, as a vulnerable group, are empowered. We believe that with that intervention, where EXCO is actually given reports in their sittings, we would be able to reach those targets in no time.

The issue of gender-based violence is one matter that the Office of the Premier has on several occasions been able to make sure that we all of us take responsibility in terms of ensuring that our budgets are actually taking into account for those kind of developments within society. However, it is going to be important for us to understand that this is a societal responsibility, to ensure that we are able to bring about, as we build new society, new thinking, but also in terms of socialisation of our families, we are able to engender new thinking in terms of respecting women, but also making sure that we are able to protect them and we are able to protect our children.

We have seen over the years that Limpopo has been one of those provinces that has been said to be a peaceful province but as well, a province that respects its elderly and women, but now of recent, we have seen a spate of attacks on women. We have seen a spate of attacks on children, particularly female children. Those are some of the challenges, unfortunately, that we are not going to be able to have every police men in every household, and therefore, it becomes a responsibility of all of us to make sure that we are able to end the spate of attacks and the violence against women and children. Those are some of the challenges that as we observed the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, we need to make sure that indeed, it does not only end on the 16 days, but it becomes something that becomes inherent in us.

It becomes part of our lives, but as well, it become something that as society we are able to acknowledge the violence that has been meted against women, perpetrated against women for many, many decades. For many centuries, and therefore it becomes our responsibilities as men that we are able to end this part of what we use to call the triple oppression against women in this country. Therefore, as men, we need to make sure that during this 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, as we are observing it, we must make sure that we are the ones as men who are able to take the lead, and ensure that indeed women and children are protected, especially in this province because we are becoming the epicentre of gender-based violence.

If we look at the statistics, as much as we understand that it is not only in this province, but if you look at the statistics, you listen to the radio, you listen to what is happening, we would understand that this province has become pandemic, and therefore, we need to stop the tide. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity on behalf of the

Premier, to thank the portfolio committee and thank this opportunity that has been given. I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Sekoati, Leader of Government Business. Thanks for the response on behalf of the Premier. We shall now move to item 8. Are there any announcements?

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Lunch is forever suspended.

9. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Deputy Chair of Chairs. This House is adjourned to Tuesday, 03 November 2020 at 10:00 in this Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]