



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

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ANNUAL HANSARD REPORT, 2021/22

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

OF THE

THIRD SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

It's your voice, use it!

Vision

The Limpopo Legislature seeks to be a representative body, a vanguard of people's aspirations and interests towards a democratic, nonsexist, nonracial, united and a prosperous society.

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Mission and Strategic Goals

The Legislature is an autonomous institution and an agent for transformation that strives to:

- defend, strengthen, deepen and maintain democracy;
- make quality laws and policies for the citizens of the province;
- have an effective and meaningful participation of the citizens in the law-making processes;
- articulate the needs and desires of the citizens;
- be a transparent, consultative and accountable institution;
- maintain norms set nationally for eradication of racism and gender imbalances;
- maintain norms set nationally for eradication of racism and gender imbalances;
- have a representative and accountable budget; and
- ensure provision, retention of competent skills and efficient utilization of human resources.

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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
The Chief Whip	Mr M E Mokgonyana
The Deputy Chief Whip	Dr S M Mochadi
The Chairperson of Committees	Mr N V Mashamaite
The Deputy Chairperson of Committees	Mr C B D Selane
The Leader of Government Business	Mr S C Sekoati
The Leader of the Opposition	Mr M J Buthane
The Secretary to the 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, 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

PERMANENT DELEGATES TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

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

COMMITTEES OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

CATEGORY ONE – STANDING COMMITTEES

- 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

CATEGORY TWO – PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

- a) Provincial Treasury
- 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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**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 11:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We may now have an opportunity for a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

You may all be seated. Let me take this opportunity to welcome all our guests connected via our virtual and social media platforms to the Limpopo State of the Province Address 2021. I also welcome our listeners and viewers on various communication platforms. In the interest of safety, we request all of you in the House to sit at your designated area, wear your masks at all times and sanitise. Honourable Members in the House are advised not to connect to Microsoft Teams in order to avoid echo.

Honourable Members and guests, this House is convened in terms of Rule 13(1) and (2) of the Standing Rules of the Limpopo Legislature in order to afford the Premier of the Limpopo province an opportunity to deliver the State of the Province Address to the people of Limpopo.

It is my honour to welcome you, Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; the First Lady, Mrs Maggie Mathabatha; and all Members of the Executive Council.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon Jerry Ndou; the Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Mokgonyana; and leaders of opposition parties; Hon Buthane; Hon Smalle and Hon Maritz. You are welcome. Honourable Members of the Limpopo Legislature present here and those connected via our virtual platform, I welcome you all. I also acknowledge honourable Members of the National Council of Provinces and honourable Members of Parliament who have connected via virtual platforms. I also welcome all our stakeholders who have connected via virtual platforms and social media platforms. Today is a big day for the people of Limpopo, and everyone in this province is eagerly waiting for the Premier's address.

On that note, we shall now give this opportunity to the Hon Premier of the Limpopo province to deliver the State of the Province Address. Mahlatji! [APPLAUSE]

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

2021 STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS (SOPA)
(Address by Hon C S Mathabatha, Premier of Limpopo)

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am told this House has been disinfected and as a result I can take off my mask.

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, honourable Members of the Legislature, Members of the Executive Council present here, President of SALGA and your Executive Mayors and all Mayors connected to this virtual platform, leadership of the ruling party, the ANC; leadership of the opposition parties, I assume it is Hon Seshoka today; Hon Smalle and Hon Maritz, Chairperson of Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, our esteemed Majesties, Kings and Royal Highnesses, former MPs and MPLs, Members of the NCOP, Director-General and Heads of Department, stalwarts and veterans of our liberation struggle, Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Ledwaba; Heads of our Chapter 9 and Chapter 10 institutions, leadership of religious communities, leadership of organised business and labour, youth, women and community leaders, members of the media, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I think you will agree with me that last year this time, I stood in this Chamber to outline the bold plans which we had designed for our beautiful province. These plans were about propelling Limpopo to the heights of socioeconomic prosperity. We sought to overcome the inherited yet deep-seated legacy of unemployment, poverty, and inequality. Our plans were also about building on the impressive achievements we have registered since the dawn of our democracy in 1994.

This year's address is taking place amid a devastating and deadly global Coronavirus pandemic. COVID-19 has severely impacted on our plans, honourable Members. The Coronavirus pandemic has forced schools to close, businesses to shut their doors, borders and other ports of entry to be sealed off, and millions of people to be placed under lockdown, restricting their movements in doing so and social interactions. All this was done in the interest of protecting life. COVID-19 presented a crisis unparalleled in recent history and memory.

We thank the visionary and judicious leadership of President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa – re be re tla ba kae ntle le Ramaphosa – for saving our country from going through the worst. The balance between saving lives, the economy and livelihoods was always going to be a very difficult task. Many people and institutions such as the World Health Organization have hailed our country and its leadership in its action against this deadly pandemic.

Indeed, we are people with an indomitable spirit. We are the children of great warrior men and women who have never retreated from battle. We will not surrender or retreat from the battle against Coronavirus. We are unconquerable, and we will emerge victorious in this battle. We are the children of Charlotte Maxeke. We are children of Mama Sisulu. Therefore, that resilience, that spirit of war will always be within us, because we inherited it from our forefathers and our ancestors. Our unity against this virus is our greatest strength. It is because of our demonstrated unity and solidarity that we were able to undermine what would have been an uncontrollable spread of this virus.

In this regard, I wish to thank political parties in our province, religious leaders, traditional leaders, leaders of academic institutions, leadership of the trade union movement, civil society and all people of Limpopo for their spirit of solidarity and partnership in the fight against this virus. I remember, in March last year, when we met as all political parties that are represented in this Legislature, the spirit there was one – of solidarity. The spirit there was one – of same spirit, same passion from all political parties, from the least represented party in the Legislature to the most or the ruling party in this Legislature. That unity, ladies and gentlemen and honourable Members, deserves to be applauded. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, together, we have made monumental sacrifices, which, in turn, have helped to reduce the burden on our healthcare facilities and saved more lives. This is the spirit that should carry us throughout 2021 and beyond. I wish to express our government's deepest gratitude to all health workers, our frontline troopers, in the battle against COVID-19, for their bravery, resilience, and unmatched spirit of sacrifice, Hon Ramathuba. This nation owes you an enormous debt of gratitude. We also extend our sincere gratitude to all the workers who delivered essential services and production during the period of this strict lockdown. This, honourable Members, includes police officers, emergency personnel, farmworkers, grocery store workers, cleaners, and many others. We can never thank you enough for being there for our country, our province and its people during the most desperate time of need. You are our heroes; you indeed have a special place in history, and of course, a special place in our hearts.

Hon Speaker – I am avoiding to say Madam Speaker because I'm not sure who is behind me – to move Limpopo forward to a destination of equality, prosperity and a better life for all, we have aligned our work for the year ahead with the four national priorities outlined by the President, Hon Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, in the State of the Nation Address. These priorities are:

- Defeating the Coronavirus pandemic;
- Accelerating our economic recovery;
- Implementing economic reforms to create sustainable jobs and drive inclusive growth; and
- Fighting corruption and strengthening the state.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, regarding the task to defeat the Coronavirus, there is evidence that we are beginning to win the war against this killer enemy. In January, the highest number of recorded daily infections exceeded 2 000. In the last few weeks, we saw a sharp decline. Our daily cases are now between 90 and 100. This certainly is a significant milestone. However, we are the first to emphasise that there are still many more battles to win before we can win this war. Part of these battles is the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

An overwhelming number of our healthcare workers are ready, willing, and excited to take part in the phase one of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. Our healthcare machinery is equally ready for the vaccine rollout in line with the national plan. We have also been at work to empower the people of Limpopo with correct information about COVID-19 vaccination. This is important to counter the conspiracies and misinformation perpetuated mainly in the social media space about the vaccines. As part of our phase one rollout:

- We will use all our hospitals, excluding specialised hospitals, as vaccination sites;
- We will use all hospitals as vaccination training centres for all the clinics in the catchment areas;
- Each district has established mobile vaccination teams attached to the hospitals; and
- Districts are working to ensure that all vaccination mobile teams are well-equipped to conduct phase one vaccination.

We have the capacity to conduct and complete phase one of the vaccination process within two to three weeks. We are working on increasing this capacity to reduce the phase one rollout period.

We aim to vaccinate around 44 500 healthcare and related services workers during the first phase. This includes workers from non-governmental organisations that provide healthcare-related services. Last week, we had a successful launch of the phase one of our COVID-19 vaccine rollout campaign. All indications are that our rollout of the first phase is a resounding success. So far, we have vaccinated over 4 000 healthcare workers.

As I have said earlier, the Coronavirus pandemic has severely impacted our economy. This was mainly on account of the lockdown measures and other restrictions which were necessarily adopted to bring the spread of the deadly virus under control. The adverse impact continues and is likely to remain with us for much longer. As Statistics South Africa correctly concluded, the personal, social and economic impact of Coronavirus is unlike anything experienced globally in the past 75 years.

Therefore, the focus of this address is on measures to alleviate the devastating Coronavirus or COVID-19 impact on our economy. We will focus on the programmes to reposition Limpopo on a trajectory of inclusive socioeconomic recovery, development, and growth. Through partnerships, focussed attention and hard work, our economy will rise from the ashes of the devastation caused by this Coronavirus. We will rebuild our economy. We will rebuild the destroyed livelihoods. Above all, we will forge ahead to a destination for a better life.

We remain committed to the idea of using the muscle of state procurement to transform and diversify our economy. This will assist us to allow more and meaningful participation of the historically disadvantaged people. During the year under review, we ensured that at least 19% of state procurement benefitted women-owned businesses. About 12% of state procurement benefitted enterprises owned by young people. Our target is to increase this number to at least 20% in the next financial year.

At least, not only to 20%, Hon Selane, which, therefore, implies that more than 20% must go to young people. We will also improve the participation of people living with disability in the provision of goods and services to our government.

Regarding our commitment to drive industrialisation, we are revitalising our industrial parks through a R40 million investment by the Department of Trade and Industry. We are refurbishing factories at the Nkowankowa Industrial Park. These factories are now 95% complete. This intervention has benefitted local small, medium and micro enterprises. This initiative has helped to create around 174 direct jobs. The Nkowankowa Industrial Park is currently at 88% occupancy rate. To date, the Nkowankowa Industrial Park is host to no less than 823 direct jobs.

The refurbishment of the Seshego Industrial Park has helped to benefit no less than 75 small, medium and micro enterprises. The Seshego Industrial Park is currently at 85% occupancy rate. The initiative has created approximately 1 300 jobs. The Thohoyandou Industrial Park is at 91% occupancy rate. The project has created over 300 jobs, and we are hopeful that with increased capacity and more investment, more jobs will be created.

Hon Speaker, I know that as we talk about this creation of jobs, somebody down there who has been retrenched, somebody down there who has been looking for a job for quite some time will say, e kae mešomo ye Mathabatha a bolelago ka yona. It will not be always possible to reach everybody, but as we increase and diversify the growth and economic participation of ordinary people in this economy, le wena mollo wo o tla go fihlela. We are bringing an end to unemployment. But somebody will then say, but an unemployment rate is increasing. I always say to people, as and when the unemployment rate increases, please re-examine the rate of the increase. Is it at an increasing rate or at a declining rate, because that is what is very critical for economic development, and ours is at a declining rate. The rate of increasing unemployment rate today, is at declining rate.

Honourable Members, the implementation of the Great North Transport Turnaround Strategy is in full swing. Just recently, the Great North Transport has acquired a fleet of new 75 buses which have since been distributed across the five districts. We are in the process of acquiring an additional 150 buses through a rental arrangement to supplement our existing fleet. There can be no doubt that the additional fleet of buses will go a long way in ensuring that our people have access to affordable and reliable public transport services.

In an effort to position the digital economy as a driver of growth and a creator of employment, we have made significant progress with the rollout of the Limpopo Broadband Network project. We have already established the Data Centre, the Network Operating Control Centre and the Contact Centre. We have connected a total of 52 sites to the network infrastructure, using both fibre and satellite technologies. These sites include Wi-Fi spots which enable our communities, particularly young people, to enjoy access to reliable connectivity.

We encourage the youth, particularly to use the connectivity provided productively. This can help those who are looking for employment, learning, research and other educational activities. The digital technological revolution also provides opportunities for young people to create employment and self-employment through their own initiatives.

There are already a number of young people in this province who are using the opportunity of the internet to empower themselves and others. Ms Mahlako Kgamed

uses her Facebook blog and a YouTube account for progressive social commentary. This young lady of Sekhukhune District enjoys the following of over 60 000 on her social media accounts. She has already secured several corporate endorsements for her online popularity.

Another one is a young man, Ntebatse Segodiso. This is a young man from Bolobedu, Hon Makhurupetje, in Mopani District who has developed a ride-hailing application. His app is called Pick-Up. The app is designed to allow users to request a ride through their mobile devices. This has allowed several young people to earn an income as Pick-Up drivers.

Jonas Lekganyane is the brains behind the much-loved The Adventures of Noko Mashaba animated series. Mr Lekganyane, Mohwaduba, grew up in the dusty villages of Mankweng in Capricorn District. This youngster has turned his hobby into a serious business, and he is now collaborating with some of Africa's biggest brands. These are children of this province. These and many other young people are using the power of the internet progressively, for personal development and for employment creation. When we talk about the Fourth Industrial Revolution, this is what we are talking about.

Young people in Limpopo are trailblazers who set standards at the highest level and dominate international stages. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate a young woman who is a perfect personification of the phrase 'Beauty and Brains'. I talk of our very own Miss South Africa, Shudufhadzo Musida. As a province, we support her campaign around mental health awareness and empowerment, especially children and women. We are confident that she is the incoming Miss World 2021.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic that has worsened the challenges of unemployment, poverty, inequality, and the associated difficulty of many families to support themselves, we have adopted the Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan. We have set aside an amount of R3,5 billion to augment the available resources to drive our response. A large sum of this allocation will go to the social cluster, which includes health, education and social development. This is in line with the caring and social content of our response. Human development and the wellbeing of our people are essential. From the R3,5 billion, we have allocated R500 million to support enterprise development, farmer support and road infrastructure. As part of this COVID-19 Relief Programme, we are providing relief through our existing financing facility to the value of R10 million to cooperatives, small, medium and micro enterprises.

The tourism sector in our province has been growing and flourishing since 2015. The tourism sector in Limpopo held pole position countrywide in domestic travel with approximately 22,2 million arrivals. For the period under review, Limpopo held a comfortable position 2 with regard to international travel. The impact of COVID-19 on our provincial economy was particularly devastating in the tourism sector. Accordingly, we are implementing a Provincial Tourism Recovery Plan, focusing on:

- Protecting the provincial share of the tourism market;
- Protecting the tourism infrastructure; and
- Implementing a revised Provincial Marketing Plan to rigorously promote Limpopo as a preferred tourist destination.

We have secured assistance to 294 tourism establishments from the National Tourism Relief Fund to the tune of R14,7 million. We supplemented this amount with R12 million to cater for those not covered by the National Tourism Relief Fund.

We are currently re-commercialising a number of Limpopo nature reserves through a Private-Public Partnership Model. We are confident that this initiative will uplift communities around the identified provincial parks. The first candidates for this initiative are Masebe, Rust de Winter and Lekgalameetse nature reserves. We will add more candidates in the next financial year. Lekgalameetse is a beautiful place. When you are at the top of Lekgalameetse, it is said that you can sleep outside. No mosquitoes can reach that place. No snakes can reach that place. That is Lekgalameetse for you. [APPLAUSE]

As part of the programme to revitalise rural and township economies, we have designed the Township & Rural Enterprise Programme (TREP) in collaboration with Small Enterprise Development Agency and the Department of Small Business Development. Numerous enterprises will be assisted with compliance, business development services, access to markets and structured finance as our focal points. Support schemes for qualifying enterprises include:

- Spaza shops support programme;
- Clothing, leather and textile support programme;
- Small-scale bakeries and confectioneries support programme;
- Autobody repairs and mechanics support programme; and
- Fruit and vegetables support programme;

The planning phase of the Northern site of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone has been completed. We have allocated R200 million to support the implementation phase of this project. This allocation will contribute to electricity, short-term water supply, and basic security infrastructure. Regarding the southern site, we are awaiting a decision on the approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This will pave the way for full implementation, including:

- The Smart City Project;
- Agro-Processing Project;
- Timber Beneficiation Project;
- A Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise Incubation Centre; and
- The construction of the Musina Dam.

Only if we can deal, Hon Smalle, with this EIA. This country is a very democratic country and democracy can also be cumbersome and costly. O hwetša Seshoka a bjetše dikhabetše mola kgauswi le SEZ, a re ka lebaka la dikhabetše tša ka le ka se kgone go tšwetša pele this huge project that is going to create about 55 000 jobs. Just because one person is benefiting out of a garden of cabbages. In this country because we are a democratic country, we must listen to this one person. Hence, we are seen to be so slow with this SEZ. We are dealing with those kinds of issues. In some instances, it is not even Hon Seshoka, but somebody who is staying somewhere in New York. Then, you ask yourself serious questions about the kind of democracy that we have in our country. Perhaps we need to come up with limitations here and there. I don't know. That's a personal view.

We are confident that the full implementation of Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone will go a long way to contribute to industrialisation, employment creation and improvement in the quality of life of our people. Development must always be about the improvement of the livelihoods of ordinary people.

We are repositioning the agricultural sector to take a leading position in our economic recovery for growth and development. Last year, I announced our government's plans to establish Farmer Production Support Units as part of our agri-parks. These units provide a cluster of services for primary production, post-harvest handling, storage as well as coordination of transportation logistics. Today I am able to report that:

- The Farmer Production Support Unit in Vleischboom has been completed and we are currently preparing for its operationalisation;
- The Masala Farmer Production Support Unit in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality is currently at 70% completion;
- The Mapela Farmer Production Support Unit in Mogalakwena has had to be moved to Witpoort because of issues relating to land ownership;
- The construction of Tshiombo Farmer Production Support Unit in Vhembe will commence very soon.

With regard to the progress on irrigation schemes, I am able to report that:

- We will be planting over 122 hectares of cotton in Mogalatjane Irrigation Scheme. Mogalatjane is next to Marble Hall. This will provide about 50 people in the area with employment opportunities;
- We have completed infrastructure designs for the Tšwelopele Irrigation Scheme. This project will be implemented in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development in this coming financial year;
- Progress in Elandskraal, Setlaboswana, Kolokotela and Phetwane irrigation schemes is being frustrated by conflicts and disputes amongst interested parties in those communities. We are working on resolving these disputes so that the work will commence soon.

The problem with our development projects in most instances ke go baka. In fact, ga ba bake borotho, ba baka di-crumbs. Batho ba rena o hwetša ba baka di-crumbs ba elwa ntwā ya mahlo a mahwibidu. When they can all support the project and at the end of the day share the bread equally amongst all of them. But, because of that, we end up frustrating projects. I remember, there is a road that goes to Stofberg. It is between Groblersdal and Stofberg. That road has been stalled for about five years now because our people ba baka subcontracts. They are not fighting for the contract itself. Ba baka di sub-contracts. Ba re rena re bana ba mobu. Ke mang yo e se go ngwana wa mobu?

The agricultural sector has been the most resilient, and as such saw positive growth during these difficult times of COVID-19 and lockdowns. Our exports have been doing

particularly well throughout the province. We appreciate the current good rains and we hope that they will help facilitate even more growth for the sector. We have since allocated an amount of R57,5 million to fund Farmer Support Relief Programme. We believe that this package will help support our farmers and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on agricultural production. This will also contribute towards food security in the province. Our projections are that this funding will bring relief to over 1 000 farmers in the province.

Over and above that, no less than 2 500 farmers in the province will benefit from a R1,2 billion relief support initiated by the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The support is in the form of production inputs to enable them to continue with production, covering areas such as livestock feed and medication, seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and soil correction. Hon Smalle and I will understand this very well.

In line with our provincial Industrialisation Strategy, we are prioritising the revitalisation of agriculture and agro-processing value chain as catalytic projects. This will contribute to job creation, foreign exchange earnings and more importantly, food security. At the end of everything, you must first eat. A human being must first eat before he can even think of politics. Before you think of being a member of EFF, DA, Freedom Front Plus and ANC, you must eat. [APPLAUSE]

Starting in the next financial year, we intend to increase agricultural production linked to agro-processing:

- We will commence with the infrastructure revitalisation at Zebediela Citrus Estate. This project is expected to create at least 350 jobs. We hope our people will cooperate this time;
- In the same vein, we will finalise the operational model and infrastructure planning for Limburg Citrus in the Waterberg District. This project will establish 500 citrus orchards and a packhouse. Through this initiative, we will create approximately 300 jobs;
- Furthermore, the 2 200 ha establishment of Macadamia Orchards at Tshivhase, Mphaphuli and Tshakuma will create around 1 500 jobs;
- We also aim to create 1 100 jobs in the 800 ha Avocado Orchards establishment in Afrupro, Makgoba and Morebeng in the Mopani and Capricorn Districts; and
- Working together with our farmers, we will develop value chains in respect of grain and cotton in Sekhukhune, vegetables in Mopani, red meat in Waterberg, and potatoes in Capricorn.

As part of the efforts to increase skills and knowledge base in the agriculture, we will, in collaboration with AgriSeta, colleges and the universities, implement a comprehensive capacity-building programme to 1 000 farmers across the province. Additionally, we will assist black smallholder farmers with mentorship as part of Black Producers Commercialisation Programme.

We will also be placing 120 young unemployed agriculture graduates in commercial farms to equip them with practical experience. As and when I speak of these schemes, remember, the first time when we took over in 2015 effectively – because we took over from the Administration in May 2015 – our emphasis has always been to “put up systems”. Once you put up systems, it is all systems-go, dilo e ba moretha o itiriša, and hence we are talking about these programmes. These are real programmes. They are actual. We are not fantasising about them. It is not a pipedream, but real projects.

Limpopo is largely a rural province with vast arable lands. It is in this context that we welcome the initiative led by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Hon Thoko Didiza, to allocate state land on a lease basis. This land allocation will go a long way towards transforming and expanding productive capacity of the sector.

In Limpopo, approximately 122 000 ha of state land is earmarked for this process. We are confident that young people, women and people living with disability will be amongst the first beneficiaries. On our part as the provincial government, we commit to provide the beneficiaries with the support and guidance they will need to succeed.

The relationship between infrastructure development and economic transformation cannot be over-emphasised. Infrastructure is a magnetic force that attracts investment. For us to breathe life into our struggling economy, we need a focussed investment in infrastructure. Ending the legacy of unequal development is a priority. Our goal is to upgrade rural areas through equitable distribution of development and investment to bring them on par with developed areas.

The Constitution enjoins the state to support the institution of traditional leadership. It is against this background that we continue to develop infrastructure to support traditional leaders to carry out their functions in an enabling environment. Therefore, I am delighted to report on the progress we have made in building offices for traditional authorities and these include:

- The construction of the offices for the Masia Traditional Council, which is at 90% completion;
- We have completed the construction of Mphaphuli Traditional Council office;
- The contract for the Mogashoa-Ditlhakaneng offices had to be terminated at 40% progress, and CoGHSTA is currently in the process of appointing a replacement contractor. The problems are known to us;
- Work at the Ditlou-Machidi Traditional Council office is at 45% progress and planned for completion in the next financial year; and
- Due to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, we could not proceed with the construction work of the Matsepe Traditional Council offices. However, I can confirm that the construction work will commence in the next financial year. Bakopa ba GaMatsepe ba tla re inela diatla meetseng.

In this connection, we call on the Legislature to expedite the process of the review of the Limpopo Provincial Governance and Traditional Leadership Framework Act. This

should enable us, working together with the institution of traditional leadership, to resolve all the issues that may be outstanding, especially the issue of the duration of acting. In an effort to deepen democracy and ensure a sound working relationship with the institution of traditional leaders especially on the issue of land, we also implore the Legislature to finalise the development of the provincial version of SPLUMA (Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act) legislation. It is very critical, Hon Speaker.

Regarding the improvement of our road infrastructure –honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, one of the attributes of good leadership, if you are in an area, a district, a region, a local or a province, is to be in a position to rally national resources to the province. You must be in a position to rally national projects to come to your province. In so doing, we were able to collaborate with Sanral for the completion of the much-awaited Polokwane N1 ring-road. Makarapa a a timela ge a etla mo gae matšatši a because of this ring-road. [LAUGHTER] These attributes I am talking about assisted us even when it comes to the development of the road project that bypasses Botlokwa. Botlokwa, lehono, GaMasubelele ke toropong because of this. We can point at a number of them. Even the access road to Moria – the ZCC that we also did it through SANRAL, and that alleviated a lot of congestion in that area. We are also delighted with the progress taking place at the R-81 between Munnik and GaSekgopo. The 10 km stretch improvements will go a long way in easing traffic congestion and reducing the number of road accidents in that area.

After the delays imposed by COVID-19 restrictions, I can report that road construction is now underway in the following areas – this is now RAL, Gobetse’a Phogole:

- A 13 km road from Tshikanoshi to Malebitsa;
- A 29,3 km road from Thomo to Hlomela;
- The road from Louis Trichardt to Albasini to Tshakhuma in Vhembe District; and
- The road from Steelpoort, Riba to Kokwaneng to GaMapodile; GaMapodile to Burgersfort in Sekhukhune District.

In addition, we will be embarking on a programme to rehabilitate some of the major roads across different districts in the province. These include and not limited to – Phiri Mmekoa a se ke a re a le kua gae a re kganthe ya Motlolo ba reng ba sa bolele ka yona. We are not limited to these ones are not limited to these roads that we are announcing:

- The D1589 from GaKgobokanang to GaMakgato and De-Vrede in the Capricorn District;
- The D2537 road in Penge and D5140 in Praktiseer in the Sekhukhune District;
- The D11 road from GaMamaila-Kolobetona connecting the R-81 in the Mopani District;
- The D3200 in Mohlabaaneng-Lebaka connecting R-81 in the Mopani District, and;
- The D3480 road from Giyani to Phalaborwa in the Mopani District.

Roads Agency Limpopo will also be maintaining several roads throughout the province including the flood-damaged roads across the province.

The delivery of healthcare infrastructure is well underway. Please allow me to report the following progress:

- The construction of the Out-Patient Department at Maphutha Malatjie Hospital is at 80%;
- Work has started for the renovation of the 36-bed female surgical ward at Letaba Hospital. This work is expected to be completed in the next financial year;
- We will be completing the upgrading of laundries at Tshilidzini and Letaba hospitals during the next financial year; and
- Pre-construction work has already commenced for the construction of Bosele and Lebowa kgomo Emergency Medical Services stations.

The delivery of water to our people remains high on the agenda of this government. It is in this context that through Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant, we are currently implementing major infrastructure projects across the province. In this regard, I will be having a meeting with the Minister of Water and Sanitation so that we resolve blockages in some of the following projects:

- The Giyani water services;
- Mameetja-Sekororo bulk water supply;
- Kutama-Sinthumule bulk water augmentation;
- Mogalakwena Bulk Water Scheme;
- Moutse Bulk Water Scheme;
- Mooihoek-Tubatse Bulk Water Scheme;
- Polokwane bulk water supply; and
- Bambanani pipeline, including the long-promised Nwamitwa Dam. We have been promised this dam long time ago, but nothing is happening today.

Currently, Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority is exploring funding options with the DBSA (Development Bank of Southern Africa) to facilitate implementation of Phase 2B of the Olifants River Water Resources Development Project. This project consists of a 70 km pipeline from Flag Boshielo Dam to Pruisen near Mokopane. Upon completion, this project will augment water supply for the surrounding mines and provide additional water for domestic users.

We are at the design phase of the Olifants River Water Resources Development Project. This project comprises a pipeline of raw water from Steelpoort pump station to GaMathipa Reservoir, a balancing dam, pump station; and steel pipeline from GaMathipa pump station to the existing Mooihoek Water Treatment Works. We are continuing with the construction of the 49 km bulk water pipeline to Giyani and Malamulele area. This project will benefit 55 villages in Giyani and 13 villages in Malamulele. Another water infrastructure project underway is the extension

conveyance system from Valdesia to Mowkop. This project will benefit 38 villages in Sinthumule-Kutama area.

The Mametja-Sekororo Bulk Water Supply of raw water pipeline, water treatment works, reservoirs, connecting pipes, and service tanks is under construction. This project will benefit four villages in the area.

The upgrading of Groblersdal Water Treatment Works is ongoing. This project includes the construction of bulk pipelines, reservoirs and pump stations to supply 40 villages in Ephraim Mogale and Elias Motsoaledi local municipalities.

Hon Speaker, this project in particular remains very personal to me. In December this year, Hon Seshoka, rena re sa nago le magagaborena, when I went to my hometown kua Motetema to see my mother ka gore ke sa na le mme; she said something that touched me deeply. She said: 'Stanley ngwanaka, ka nako ya Leboa, nna ka mo ga ka ga sa ka ke hloka meetse. Ka nako yela mmušo o sa swerwe ke boPhatudi, ga sa ka ke hloka meetse ka mo ga ka.' O be a bolela ka Motetema. Ka e nagana, Gobetse. ka gopola gore ka nnete, ke goletše Motetema gomme ga se ra ka ra hloka meetse. A re 'Eupša gonabjale ke tšofetše ka mokgwa wo le re ke tšee kane ke ye go fola laene ya meetse ka gore go buša wena, Stanley?' That impacted a lot on me, not because it was my mother; but because, there are so many Lesiba's mother, Matome's mother, and Simon's mother whose sons are not Premiers, ba sa tsebego gore ba llela kae. What about them? That is why I am saying, this project becomes very passionate for me. We need to up our game seriously when it comes to water provision.

Also under construction are the bulk pipelines, pump stations and reservoirs to supply water to 40 villages in the Nebo plateau. Another water infrastructure project under construction is the upgrading of Nkambako Water Treatment Works. This includes associated pipelines and pump stations, and the construction of a new pipeline to Babanana. The scheme will also ensure water supply to villages such as Nwamitwa, Mawa, Mookgo, and Hlohlokwe within Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality.

Capricorn, Mopani, Sekhukhune, and Vhembe district municipalities, and other water service authority municipalities are implementing access to water projects. These projects are yet another affirmation of the ANC-led government's commitment to ensure that our people have access to clean drinking water.

Investing in the education of our children is investing in the future of our province and our country. Education plays a significant role in the growth and development of society. It is for this reason that we will continue directing more resources to expand access to education and improve our education outcomes.

Using Grade 12 results as a yardstick, we are able to say that we have begun to earn dividends on our investment in education. Over the last three years, we have achieved a sustained improvement in the quality of our Grade 12 results. In terms of quantitative improvement, our results increased from 62,5% in 2016 to 65,6% in 2017. In 2018, we increased to 69,4%. The class of 2019 raised the bar to 73,2%. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 disrupted our quantitative improvement. For a vastly rural province such as Limpopo, the impact was always going to be disproportionate. It is

within this context that we should welcome the 68,2% performance from the Grade 12 class of 2020, Mahlako'a Gafela. [APPLAUSE]

Our message to the learners who did not make it is that we appreciate your challenges. Le se ke la itshola felo. Just pick up the spear and continue ka lebaka la gore ga se ka go rata ga lena. The conditions were so harsh. You were living under harsh realities of our times. This is not the end of the road for you. There are alternatives. To you we say, together let us try again. We wish to thank all the learners, educators, parents and guardians, school governing bodies, teacher-learner organisations and learner organisations for trying their best under difficult circumstances imposed by global COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst there has been a visible drop in the overall pass rate, as compared to the performance of the class of 2019, the quality of our results continues to improve.

I am able to report that the quality of our results has improved from 26,8% bachelor passes in 2019 to 29,1% bachelor passes in 2020. [APPLAUSE] Limpopo has also registered a performance increase in seven of the ten gateway subjects. Our performance in technology subjects on aggregate is above 90% currently. This, indeed, is something to be proud of. These results are also reflective of the hard work and commitment of our teaching staff across the province.

In this regard, I want to take this opportunity to commend and salute Ms Livhalani Bridget Sinyosi, a principal of Dzata Secondary School in Vhembe for bagging African Union Continental Teachers Award for the academic year of 2020. [APPLAUSE] We salute Ms Sinyosi and many other teachers who continue to labour beyond the ordinary call of duty. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has upset the progressive gains we have made in providing accessible quality education for all. It is an open secret that school closures imposed by the pandemic worsened the previously existing inequalities in education.

Distance learning, facilitated by access to connectivity, mobile communication data, technological gadgets and digital applications took the centre stage in learning and teaching. This was a great disadvantage to learners, more so black children from under-developed areas, working class and poor families. This is one reason why ending the legacy of unequal development and the digital divide is a key developmental priority for our province. We are preparing to rollout e-learning across the province. Our MEC for Education – our 'tekkie-wearing' MEC – Hon Polly Boshielo will give further details in her Budget Speech.

During the next two financial years, we will provide an additional 40 schools with adequate water infrastructure. We will provide 100 additional schools with proper sanitation facilities. We will build 250 more classrooms. We will build 45 new classrooms for Grade R. Additionally, we will build 17 brand new schools across the province. We will continue with our measures to expand access to education and to improve the learning and teaching outcomes. In this regard, we will continue to expand the network of our no-fee schools to ensure that no child is left out of the schooling system simply because of his or her family background. All doors of learning and culture shall surely be opened to all. As a measure of promoting access to schooling, the government will continue to expand on the network of our Scholar Transport Programme.

Our School Nutrition Programme remains one strategic intervention to support effective learning in poorer communities. We have been able to supply our eligible learners with food parcels during the period of lockdown. We were able to provide learners with their meals on the very first day of school reopening in this academic year.

Hon Speaker, the Employment Stimulus Relief Fund for Early Childhood Development will go a long way to ensure that our ECD centres continue with their operations. This will be done through a direct payment of an amount of approximately to R4 500 per qualifying staff.

Honourable Members, a literate nation is a strong foundation to support democracy and societal development. Empowering our children with literacy skills is essential for their development and allows them to become informed and well-rounded citizens. It is for this reason that we continue to invest and building new libraries and equipping existing ones to become reliable centres of knowledge and information. [APPLAUSE]

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the construction of libraries at Runnymede, Seleteng, Mavalani and Mulamula is progressing well. Progress at Mulamula Library is at 40%, Mavalani Library is at 63%, Runnymede Library is at 80% and Seleteng Library is at 59%. We are planning to build new libraries in Tshaulu, Makhuduthamaga, Botšhabelo and Vleifontein.

As part of our effort to preserve our history and heritage, we have begun working on the upgrading of the Schoemansdal Museum. We are continuing to invest in the state-of-the-art technology to improve the performance of our public healthcare system. In line with our commitment to move our public healthcare system to the new age, we have equipped all our regional and tertiary hospitals with cutting-edge radiology equipment such as fully-fitted computed tomography scans (CT scans). This will allow our facilities to gather high-quality images and data which will improve the quality of our clinical decisions. The equipment enables our radiologists to read and interpret scans remotely. This will certainly increase productivity and optimise asset utilisation.

We will also be procuring additional mammography equipment to improve our arsenal capacity in the fight against breast cancer. This equipment will assist in ensuring early detection of breast cancer.

Last year, we committed to build a trauma centre in Mokopane Hospital and a children's centre of excellence in Voortrekker Hospital. I am able here now to report that work is already under way with regard to these projects. Upon completion, the trauma centre will provide specialised care for patients suffering from major traumatic injuries such as car accidents or gunshot wounds. The children's centre will be complemented by an upgraded paediatric ward which will create 15 additional critical care beds at Voortrekker Hospital. Voortrekker Hospital is in Mokopane.

We will also continue to equip our emergency medical services to continue providing effective and reliable services to the people of Limpopo. In this regard, we will be procuring new additional ambulances, additional Planned Patient Transport and response vehicles as we have always done. Remember, this announcement was made in 2015, and we have consistently been doing that – buying ambulances every year.

Local government is an engine that powers the delivery of basic services to our communities. Our communities rely on this important sphere of governance for delivery of water, housing, electricity, sanitation, and other basic services. This important sphere of government was the hardest hit by the effects of Coronavirus. Even during the most stringent lockdown levels, the pulse of our municipalities kept pumping. During this period, our municipalities were still required to provide essential services such as water, sanitation, electricity and waste removal. Most of our municipalities, which already had strained cash flow, had to endure a significant negative impact on their revenues as a result of COVID-19. This is because during strict lockdown, a number of municipalities had to adopt considerate measures to assist struggling households. Part of these measures included:

- Temporary suspension of credit control and debt collection policies;
- Temporary suspension of interest on arrears;
- Writing some of the debts off; and
- Temporary suspension of rates collection.

Hon Speaker, we continue to honour the commitment to restore the dignity of our people by providing them with safer, well-located and decent housing. This will go a long way in improving the quality of life for our people, particularly the poor. In this coming financial year, we will deliver 5 000 houses across all the districts in the province. This will be further supplemented by 148 rental units for those who qualify to participate in the housing rental market. Through the construction of houses and servicing of sites, we aim to create no less than 3 000 additional jobs in the sector. This will provide the much-needed shelter for over 20 000 residents of our province.

As part of the programme to guarantee security of housing ownership in the coming financial year, we will present over 3 000 housing beneficiaries with title deeds, Hon Makamu, as the Freedom Charters says, “there shall be houses, security and comfort.” [APPLAUSE] Through Risima Housing Finance, we are finalising the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Polokwane Local Municipality for the development of a gap market housing in Polokwane Ext 72 and 79 projects. This project is expected to assist the municipality in reducing its housing backlog, whilst at the same time providing decent housing for middle income earners. Through this project, we aim to construct around 1 000 affordable housing units at an estimated cost of R750 million. Similar engagements are at an advanced stage with Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality for the construction of around 1 200 housing units at Extension 7 and 9 of Phalaborwa.

Again, we have, through Risima, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Anglo-American Platinum Mine for the Mokopane Mine to facilitate a partnership in the development of housing and integrated sustainable human settlements. The project will be delivered in Extension 14 in Mokopane. This partnership will create 314 housing units to the value of R280 million, and it is expected to contribute to job creation in the province. Various municipalities are being provided with support in different areas to ensure that they are strengthened to provide services to communities.

We have also begun to see signs of improvement in terms of administration, following the placement of Mogalakwena Municipality under section 139(b) Administration by the Provincial Executive Council. We wish the new Mayor and the entire leadership all

the best in their assignments. We commit to continue supporting the municipality to improve service delivery in that area.

This year is the year of local government elections. Our people across the country and in our province will be refreshing the mandate of public representatives in this important sphere of government. We encourage the people of Limpopo to participate in the forthcoming local government elections and choose councillors of their choice.

The question of road safety is paramount on the agenda of our provincial government. We are indeed committed to ensuring that our roads are both safer and accessible for all road users. More specifically, we are committed to reducing the number of accidents and fatalities on our roads. The Limpopo Traffic College continues to deliver on the mandate to train and produce ethical and skilled traffic officers for the province. We have recently completed phase 2 of the upgrading of the Limpopo Traffic College. This upgrading included the construction of 40-bed dormitories for traffic learners. We have already commenced with the phase 3 of the upgrade of this college. It is expected that this project will be completed within a period of 18 months.

To alleviate congestion and reduce the queuing period at our K53 stations, we are constructing K53 test grounds at Thohoyandou and Seshego. We will also be upgrading the Mampakuil weighbridge. In line with our commitment to reduce the cost of transport, particularly for the poor and the working class, we will continue with our Passenger Subsidy Programme. This subsidy also helps to sustain jobs in the public transport sector. For the 2021/22 financial year, government has set aside approximately R659 million to support the bus industry. This intervention ensures that workers do not spend substantial amounts of their wages on transport to work.

Hon Speaker, we continue to breathe life into our commitment to good governance, clean and accountable government. In this regard, last year, I announced that I was going to sign Service Delivery Agreements with MECs as part of the programme to make government open, transparent, accountable and ready to deliver. Allow me today, to announce, that I have since finalised and signed Service Delivery Agreements with all MECs. The deliverables contained in the agreements include improving service delivery, ensuring good governance, and sound financial management. These agreements will also help us to hold MECs accountable in relation to the work we have mandated them to perform.

The worst and perhaps most deplorable crime in recent memory is the alleged PPE corruption. We have seen shameless criminals masquerading as businesspeople and as public servants, motivated by nothing but the desire to loot public resources. To make matters worse, that was at the time when our country was in a desperate need for such resources. When this scandal broke, I immediately invited the SIU to investigate and report back to us on their findings. We are awaiting the finalisation of the investigations. However, we note that the preliminary investigation outcomes both by the SIU and the Auditor-General have not found any criminality or wrongdoing with regard to our procurement of the COVID-19 PPE in this province. The people of Limpopo can be rest assured that we will take appropriate action based on the outcomes of the final investigation. We are quite aware that the SIU has not finalised its investigations. But thus far, they have assured us that they have not found anything wrong. The Auditor-General – I think they have almost finalised because a number of

departments have already received their reports. Thus far, the Auditor-General did not find anything wrong or criminality in Limpopo. [APPLAUSE]

I also invited the SIU to investigate allegations of corruption relating to the R2,4 million Talana Housing Project in Tzaneen. Ba re ke mekhukhu ya Stan le Basikopo. Hon Makamu, ba re ke mekhukhu ya ka le wena. [LAUGHTER] The arrest of a company director in relation to this project is yet another practical example of our commitment to fight against corruption. [APPLAUSE] We hope that this case will send a strong message against those involved in corrupt activities. Today, we are sending a stern warning against elements involved in defrauding our government and delivering sub-standard work to our government.

The audit outcomes for provincial departments and entities are continuously improving. This should be credited to the adequate systems we have put in place during the Fifth Administration. Our systems and monitoring mechanisms are proving to be effective and producing desired outcomes.

I can speak with confidence in saying that today we are able to report that the provincial government has regained its feet with regard to the ethos of good governance and sound financial management. Based on the work we have done, we are confident that for the 2019/20 financial year, at least five or even more provincial entities will receive clean audits. This will indeed be a great milestone for this administration considering where we are coming from. Remember, it was in 2013/14 when we had 13 provincial entities all having disclaimer audit opinions. We had more than 60% of municipalities having disclaimer audit opinions, and we said this must stop. To date, in the past two or three years, we have never had a single provincial entity that received a disclaimer audit opinion. This shows that we are serious about cleaning this government. We are serious about effective and efficient government.

As a result of us not having disclaimer audit opinions, we are able to reduce even the qualified audit opinions. Watch the space! I am certain that in the recent past, you are going to have a much-reduced number of provincial entities with qualified audit opinions. There will be a huge reduction. Those that will not obtain a clean audit, Hon Smalle, will at least have unqualified audit opinions, and very few will be qualified. Watch the space and mark my words. [APPLAUSE] We are working, and we know what we are doing. If you deal with a disclaimer – Gobetse’a Phogole o rata gore batho ba gapa leswiswi ka sefepi – go ra gore o gapa leswiswi ka sefepi, because you don’t know. You are shooting in the dark. You don’t know what you are dealing with. That is why we were so impatient with disclaimer audit opinions. But, once you get a qualified or unqualified audit opinion, you at least now have an opinion from the Auditor-General. You have findings. You know what you deal with. Auditor-General o rile le se ke la dira ka mokgwa wo, ke ka lebaka la eng le dira. Ke ka lebaka la eng le sa phošolle. Ke ka lebaka la eng le e na le repeat audit opinions. As a result, people improve their accounting. That is why we were so impatient with disclaimers. Ga re nyake go gapa leswiswi ka sefepi.

In conclusion, the measures we outlined are centred around a vision to industrialise our province, through amongst others manufacturing development, agricultural expansion and agro-processing, mining expansion and mineral beneficiation, and lastly, revitalisation of tourism.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is defining industrial transformation, innovation, and broader social development. We have, therefore, made the Fourth Industrial Revolution a key pillar of our strategy. We envisage that there are other sectors such as the service sectors that will as well play a key role. Support for cooperatives and SMMEs to thrive is also a very central element in transformation and development vision. Linked to all of these, is the key role of economic and social infrastructure development.

In the period lying ahead, we will rigorously drive the public investment programmes we have outlined. We will also mobilise private sector investment into our province. Through this vision, we hope to create jobs, eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, and march forward to shared prosperity.

The past 12 months have been particularly punishing. We have seen our progress reversed, our plans disrupted, and our lives disorganised by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of us have not lived through difficulties of this magnitude before. The pain and the hardships were almost unbearable, but we have survived. However, we can now see the dark clouds of despair clearing; we can now see the blue skies of hope and prosperity beginning to emerge.

Indeed, the sun will soon be out, not only to warm our bodies which had frozen in the midst of a ravaging pandemic, but also to power us with the much-needed energy to get back to work. We need to and we shall get back to work to rebuild our economy, to regain the lost livelihoods and to recover all what has been lost during the last few months.

We will use this energy to build a capable, ethical and developmental state. We will use this energy to transform our economy and create more jobs. We will use this energy to expand access and improve the quality of our education, and health outcomes. We will use this energy to improve on the delivery of reliable and quality basic services such as water, housing, sanitation and electricity. We will indeed use this energy to move Limpopo forward to a destination of socioeconomic prosperity and a better life for all.

Indeed, like Thabo Mbeki would have said, “the frontiers of poverty shall be pushed back” in the hands of this ruling party. Working together, we will build the Limpopo we want. Ndo livhuwa. Ndza khensa. Re a leboga. Baie dankie. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

3. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Premier. This House is adjourned to Tuesday, 02 March 2021 at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thanks.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 02 MARCH 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 02 MARCH 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

We may all be seated. Hon Premier; honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members who are present here; honourable Members who are connected through a virtual platform, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. Let us proceed with our programme.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, I stand on a point of order. I apologise because my mic is not working. I would like to point out two things. Firstly, the Programming Committee did agree that Motions and Members' Statements will stand over, so I am not sure why you are calling for them.

Secondly, can you please advise if the Premier is connected virtually or not, because it is a response to the State of the Province Address and, if not, if the Leader of Government Business is then standing in for the Premier? Can you just clarify this august House on those two matters? Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, can you come back again? I did not capture the last statement.

MR SMALLE

The second one is that today's debate is a response by political parties to the State of the Province Address. This is where the Premier actually listens to the response by all parties in this House, and the Premier is not present today. We cannot connect through a virtual platform like you can, and I am asking if the Premier is in absentia on a virtual platform, if not, if the Leader of Government Business is then representing the Premier in that regard.

I would just like to have clarity in this regard, because otherwise there is a follow-up question in that regard, and I do not want to go into that session. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Okay. May I respond to the first statement? It is true we agreed during the Programming Committee meeting that we are not going to deal with the motions, but procedurally, Hon Smalle, I have to raise them for records sake. In response to your second statement, the Premier is connected through a virtual platform like we have indicated in your invitation that this Sitting is going to be a hybrid Sitting, meaning that some Members will be connected through a virtual platform and that others will be present.

So, there is nothing wrong with that, Hon Smalle. [INTERJECTION] Is he connected already? Okay, thank you very much. I would like to say that everyone who is going to speak or to debate must come to the podium so that those who are connected virtually must also be able to view. Thank you very much.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motion in terms of House Rule 146? There are none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements in terms of Rule 200? There are none.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports and papers? There are none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1: Motion for the Nomination of the Public Service Commissioner of Limpopo province. Hon Chief Whip, the floor is yours.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE NOMINATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE

(Motion without Notice)

The Office of the Premier notified the Limpopo Legislature about the vacancy of the Limpopo provincial Public Service Commissioner. The Limpopo provincial Legislature

initiated the recruitment process, and an advert was issued on 20 August 2020. Section 196(8)(b)(i) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa states:

- (b) A commissioner nominated by the Premier of a province must be—
- (i) recommended by a committee of the provincial legislature that is proportionally composed of members of all parties represented in the legislature;

In compliance with the above section of the Constitution, the recruitment process was referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration. Members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration scrutinised all the candidates that applied for the position. Five candidates were selected for the interview. The five candidates were Mr Sekonya M R, Adv Nevondwe L T, Mr Dubazana T C, Ms Mashamba P N and Mr Khoza R. Based on the scores obtained, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration recommended that the top three candidates who are Mr Sekonya M R, Adv Nevondwe L T and Mr Dubazana T C can be considered for nomination as provincial Public Service Commissioner in accordance with section 196 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. A commissioner nominated by the Premier of a province must be approved by the legislature by a resolution adopted with a supporting vote of a majority of its Members.

In compliance with section 196(8) of the Constitution, I, therefore, move that one of the top three candidates be considered for nomination as the Limpopo provincial Public Service Commissioner.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Aphiri, you are recognised.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, rise to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri. We are now on Item 7.2: Debate on the Premier's State of the Province Address. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker is the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier and honourable Members. We convene today in this Chamber to debate Premier Mathabatha's State of the Province Address – a well-crafted and comprehensive report on how the ANC-led government has toiled to improve the lives of the people of this province in the past year. Our obsession as the ANC-led government is still the advancement of our motive forces that are central to our national democratic revolution.

One of the basic policies of a national democratic state is to raise the living standards of the people, and in particular, to eradicate the centuries-old injustices perpetrated against the black majority. This applies to wages and job opportunities, education, housing, health and other amenities. Since the dawn of democracy, the ANC-led government has been tirelessly hard at work, waging a ferocious war to reverse the ramifications of a system that had disenfranchised our people for centuries and subdued them to the receiving end of the means of production in their own country.

A surge of optimism swept through the country, as we transformed government from a brutal apartheid system that ate its citizens to a more inclusive democratic state that became more responsive to the needs of its people.

While much progress had been made of aggressively dismantling abject poverty, through a number of policy frameworks, this had not made sufficient impact on social marginalisation, especially among the youth, women and people in rural areas.

There has been a fundamental improvement in providing access to basic services such as education, health, water and electricity. At the same time, levels of inequality in terms of income, ownership of the economy and access to opportunities had not much improved. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the entire globe, and continues to alter life as we know it.

COVID-19 is not only a global pandemic and public health crisis, it has also severely affected the global economy and financial markets. Significant reductions in income, a rise in unemployment, and disruptions in the transportation services, and manufacturing industries are among the many consequences caused by this pandemic.

As a province, we had been impacted by the pandemic, but it is pleasing to note that the COVID-19 gravity had been greatly subdued through collaborative efforts *that involved organs of civil society, and a sense of nationhood as demonstrated through Premier Mathabatha's leadership of the Provincial Command Council. On that note, we applaud the Limpopo provincial government on a successful launch of phase one vaccination rollout.*

The Premier's address should be viewed in the light of fulfilling an expression to the Freedom Charter demand and declaration that, "The people shall govern!" Where the people govern, Hon Premier, there is accountability and democracy.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, a viable and dynamic informal economic sector is no longer just a theoretical possibility; it has become an empirical reality. Recent trends in the relative size of the informal economy show a remarkable persistence, even rising patterns in certain parts of the province. It is for this reason that we want to welcome the announcement by Premier Mathabatha of the Township and Rural Entrepreneurship Programme.

According to the World Bank, "the virtual collapse of rural employment over the past decade has, among other consequences, severely increased the employment pressures on urban areas". Rural employment fell by close to 1,5 million in the past

decade because of losses in the commercial farm sector and the collapse of homeland agriculture, which sharply reduced self-employment opportunities.

It remains our wish that the rural and township economy, in the form of spaza shops, convenient stores and general dealers could be in the hands of rightful citizens who would make a meaningful impact on economic development and create direct jobs for our people.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, special economic zones are a global phenomenon established to explicitly enhance regional development, crafting a series of investment incentives designed to boost investment attractiveness in particular regions. The main objective of the SEZ is generation of additional economic activity, promotion of exports of goods and services, promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources, creation of employment opportunities along with the development of infrastructure facilities.

To this day, Hon Premier, we still have some amongst us who say, the taste of the pudding is in the eating, meaning that they are not sure that we'd be able to deliver on that objective. This, they say, despite this government having allocated hundreds of millions of rands towards the realisation of the Musina-Makhado SEZ. The emancipation of women is not an act of goodwill, but a deliberate move to redress structural imbalances festered by many years of repression and gender specific barriers. This is not just about creating more opportunities for women: it is about creating societies that are equal, fairer, and to ensure a future that is more economically inclusive.

The gender parity on the allocation of government procurement to a percentage of women, must encourage more female entrepreneurship participation. This, Hon Premier, must also reach out to the rural women whose cooperatives have been existing only on paper, for the longest time.

As the ANC, we have dedicated the year 2021 to the great Charlotte Manna-Maxeke, and in remembering her spirit, we should galvanise support for more women participation in the strategic sectors of the economy. The economy has been mainly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and this was compounded by an economic meltdown and a severe fiscal crisis.

Our economy was further battered by Moody's analysis, the only major rating agency that rated us at investment grade, downgrading the sovereign to subinvestment grade during the COVID-19 crisis. All these hampered our prospects of growth in the past year, Hon Premier.

The precise plans that you had presented will turn around our fortunes, and propel us to achieve our economic potential. Our most effective weapon in the campaign against poverty is the creation of decent work, and creating work requires faster and more inclusive economic growth.

Our undertaking to double our efforts to fight unemployment has also been dealt a huge blow by the subsequent announcement by Statistics South Africa, which purports that national unemployment rate has reached unprecedented levels of 32% of the

working population. This happens as we had just resolved, as the ANC, to double our efforts to aggressively address unemployment and inequality.

Hon Premier, while welcoming a series of water projects that you pronounced in the State of the Province Address, let me also heighten this concern on behalf of our people that water provision is still a challenge. Despite the recent torrential rains that befell us, we are still encountering interrupted water services, even in places where reticulation facilities are well in place. We are delighted that our people will eventually get this basic right, but we request your urgent intervention in areas where there are sources and facilities, but their respective municipalities still can't provide people with water.

Although South Africa uses a relatively high proportion of its available water, studies have shown that there is enough water to meet all the country's needs until 2025 and beyond. Present problems and future challenges are related mainly to limited financial resources and institutional capabilities, rather than to limitations of water resource.

The State of the Province Address took place hot on the heels of a resounding success of the 2020 matric results. Of course, we can't blame every catastrophe on the novel COVID-19 pandemic, but the 68,2% was a fair score. It also improved our standing as compared to other provinces, nationally. For this, we want to applaud you Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, MEC Boshielo, members of the portfolio committee, teachers, learners and all stakeholders involved in the sector for a job well done. Bearing in mind that we were at the bottom of the radar in the previous year, this should be hailed as a remarkable achievement.

The ANC's election manifesto reiterated the people's commitment to expanding access to education in the true spirit of the education clause of the Freedom Charter, "The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall be Opened!" We look at education as a means of promoting good citizenship and a tool for preparing our people for the needs of a modern economy, and a democratic society. Through education, our people can be empowered better to escape poverty and underdevelopment.

Hon Premier, while we await Parliament to conclude on the process of land reform and redistribution, with confidence that the ANC will lead this process with aplomb, we hope that the interim measures of releasing over a 100 000 hectares of land into the hands of civilians will provide the much-needed support within the farming communities.

Our people want to work the land, Hon Premier, but are constrained due to a number of challenges, which range from lack of land availability to no funding. We can assure you that what they just need is some form of a jump-start by their government. We expect that this approach will lead to increased participation by black people in the agricultural sector, and will improve its efficiency and impact on economic growth. It is pleasing to note that the programme is designed to be biased towards the youth, women and the disabled.

Hon Speaker, the ANC-led government is not ashamed of putting concerted efforts to level the playground for its people to participate meaningfully in the economy. We are biased towards the poor, women, the youth and the disabled, and this is no accident of history, but a well-orchestrated strategy to correct a societal imbalance. It is important to recognise that there are sectors within the disabled community which have

experienced greater discrimination than others. These sectors have experienced, and still experience, comparatively higher levels of exclusion from the social, economic and political environment. Now, if we are a government that prides itself as creating equal opportunities for all its citizens, then we must welcome such steps with open hands.

Special attention must also be given to understanding and addressing the conditions which have led to the extreme vulnerability of women and the disabled. South African society is still very patriarchal and discriminatory. Although attitudes are changing, women are still typically viewed as second class citizens, subservient to men and in need of protection. Their social role is, by and large, defined through motherhood and homemaking. Disabled women experience the same oppression as nondisabled women, but often without even the status that women traditionally receive as mothers or wives. The consequent isolation of disabled women means:

- disabled women are more likely to be poor or destitute;
- disabled women are more likely to be malnourished;
- disabled women are more likely to be illiterate; and
- disabled women have a lesser chance of finding a family.

So as we roll out this programme of allocating government land, Hon Premier, we must not be ashamed to put women, the youth and the disabled at the apex of our priority list.

The transport needs of our people are harshly met with the ever increasing charges of taxi fares, necessitated by surging fuel prices. What is pleasing, Hon Premier, is that ours is a responsive government that listens to people's concerns, and acts accordingly. We remember very well, an industrial action by fleet operators of the Great North Transport services who, at some stage, parked their fleet in a busy City of Polokwane, and left them sitting idle as a demonstration of their disapproval about the condition of their vessels.

Of course, we could not overhaul the fleet at once, but we have made serious inroads, to roll out a modern world class fleet, that continues to transport our people safely and conveniently. We are very much alive to the reality that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed additional pressure on the country's healthcare facilities, government continues to provide this service with distinction.

Allow me to use the words of one Nigerian publisher called Nduka Obaigbena, who is an editor of a newspaper called "This Day", who said: "A healthy nation is a wealthy nation, and every life matters. If you're healthy, you can wish anything. If you're not healthy, you only wish to have your health back. That's why health is the foundation."

The policy of the ANC as elaborated in its 1992 policy document "Ready to Govern", states that the provision of equitable healthcare should be guided by the aspiration of our people, as enshrined in the Freedom Charter and by principles which reflect the primary healthcare approach. We are forging ahead with our plans that should put our health infrastructure services on par with our private sector counterparts, in anticipation of the possibility of rolling out the National Health Insurance without hindrance.

Hon Premier, during the State of the Province Address you hinted that makarapa were getting lost, during the festive holidays, as they drove into Polokwane because of the recently completed N1 ring road.

In actual fact, even the majority of our locals, got lost upon the completion of that stretch. So, ga se makarapa fela, who got lost, but some of us here at home, are still in awe with that state-of-the-art road.

Driving around the province, one would have seen that there are numerous road projects currently underway, which are a demonstration that we are a government at work. We have now shed the image of being a province of bermuda roads, and we are being known as a province that is constantly building roads for its people.

THE SPEAKER

Please conclude.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Let me pause there, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Hon Seshoka, the floor is yours.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. Leader of the Official Opposition and EFF representatives; Premier; MECs and all honourable Members, receive our revolutionary greetings. Hon Speaker, the Premier talks about bold plans. There are no bold plans he has designed for the people of Limpopo. All he did was to recycle old stale speeches from previous years and deliver them as bold plans. The people of Limpopo are tired of these cut and paste speeches duplicated from the previous years in his desperation to become relevant to the poor masses.

Truth be told, the Premier has nothing new to offer to the people of Limpopo. Creativity and innovation have long left him. The people of Limpopo no longer feel him, and worse, they no longer feel his leadership. If someone has been consistent with being inconsistent, and all their actions not matching up with the things they say, then it is time that the people let them go. Leadership is a privilege to better the lives of others. It is not an opportunity to satisfy personal greed.

Hon Speaker, the EFF will take this opportunity to illustrate the point that the current administration was never anchored on the principles and values of good governance and the commitment to improve the lives of the people. We will further illustrate how this government continues to fail to deliver on its promises to the people of Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, to this day the people of Limpopo still do not have water for both drinking and domestic use. It is for this reason than we have recently seen service delivery protests erupting in communities around Seshego. If Polokwane Bulk Water Supply is 100% complete, why are Polokwane residents still struggling to have access to water?

Some areas have been struggling for more than five years without water subjected to water tanks and buckets system in the municipality. This is just but one example of the general water shortage problem in Limpopo. Despite the much-talked about De Hoop Dam project in Sekhukhune, the people of Fetakgomo-Tubatse still drink water with animals. The majority of our schools in deep rural areas like Kolobetona and Lephai Secondary Schools under Segosese Circuit have received water tanks that were never filled with water since the rollout of the water relief scheme during the COVID-19 programme.

Hon Speaker, the much-talked about Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone has been marred by nonconsultation with communities and other stakeholders, hence to date there is no Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approval. The Premier is now resorting to temporary measures with regard to access to water, while failing to take the people of Limpopo into confidence about the progress with regard to the agreement with the Zimbabwean authority. The availability of water is key to the development of special economic zones. Failure to secure sustainable resource will lead to another wild elephant project.

The EFF would like to know, how much has government pumped into the project to date? How many jobs have been created to date? How many are permanent and temporary? How many foreign nationals will be permitted to work on the project? How many projects were allocated to local companies? We suspect there might be some irregularities on the project which may lead to fiscal kickbacks where in the public funds are drained and project goals are shifted continuously.

We are not intimidated by investor conferences and the billion US dollar commitments which the Premier can't even translate or convert into South African currency for an ordinary person in this province to know value of such commitments of the billions which have been mentioned ever since. How much did the investors deliver and how much has the South African government invested to date in rand terms? The Premier talks about the initial implementation phase of the SEZ and later full implementation, but he does not take the people of Limpopo into full confidence in terms of the exact time when the full implementation will begin. He is afraid to commit himself because he knows he is presiding over a failed project.

Hon Speaker, at 1% the Premier proudly says we are a growing economy; he should be ashamed when jobs are lost everywhere and all his multibillion promises can't bear any fruit for our people. The EFF is demanding that the Premier should present the latest data on job losses in all sectors of the economy, the mining areas included as well.

The rural and township economy have been completely ignored. Government must improve access to information and bring economic infrastructure support closer to township and rural-based enterprises. Small businesses in villages and townships are drivers of business activities. They also provide employment to many of our people. These small enterprises need government support for sustainable socioeconomic development, and that support is currently not visible.

The much-talked about 80% occupancy at the industrial parks should be thoroughly unpacked to avoid people claiming easy victories. You will know that by the time COVID-19 hit us, we were already in recession. The fact of the matter is that the

majority of our industrial parks in the province remain white elephants. If the government is serious about growing these industries, how many of the tenants were exempted from paying rent and how many got government grants during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic? The answer should be specific to occupants of these industrial parks.

What is difficult about achieving 100% occupancy rate because this would ensure that the economy grows in order to create sustainable jobs? The amount of R40 million allocated for refurbishment of industrial parks is a drop in the ocean. This money is from the Department of Trade and Industry. How much did the provincial government budget for the resuscitation of these industrial parks? Can we really depend on national government to grow our own economy and create jobs? Of course, we can't expect much from the Premier who can't think outside the box.

Hon Speaker, the EFF needs a full report on existing irrigation schemes in the province, including those that have collapsed, revitalised and having disputes, not what was presented to us last Thursday. Surely, the reports will show that there is no progress as resources are pumped round the circle in the same schemes which collapses after funding is allocated.

The government has over the previous years pumped money into the Lebowakgomo Abattoir, Zebediela Citrus, Magoebaskloof tea estate, Norjax and many other agricultural projects in the province, promising people of Limpopo jobs from these projects, and yet the Premier fails to give an account on the millions of rands invested in these projects. Instead, the Premier talks about the farmer production support units (FPSUs) established without giving details on how much government allocates to kick-start the two finalised FPSUs. These as well will be other wild elephant projects like many of the 40 000 chick capacity environmentally controlled poultry houses in the province.

Hon Speaker, the Premier boasts about his government having bought new fleet of buses for public transportation. How many subsidised buses by the government are currently in a good state and how many are dilapidated? We know for a fact that the majority of these buses are wheels of death. When these buses drive on pothole-infested roads, roofs and other metals fall apart, reminding us of a novel by Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart. We see them on the road stuck every day because they are old and not properly serviced.

What disturbs us is when the Premier indicated that his administration will also enter into a rental arrangement of 150 buses for public transportation. We have been discouraging the Department of Public Works from renting buildings from their friends, and that government must consider building its own, and now the Premier he talks about renting buses. This does not make business sense. The ideal and sound transaction would be to buy these buses and dispose them off through auction once they have reached their lifespan or prescribed kilometres.

The Premier spoke about the R585 million Limpopo broadband network project, and yet he does not report to the people of Limpopo about what he did with the corruption in his office regarding this project. He chose not to say anything about this corruption involving officials in his office, which brings us to this question: Is he the beneficiary in this corruption? We are dealing with a Premier who is too mild, too soft, too

understanding and very accommodating on corruption. Instead of harshly dealing with corruption in your department regarding this project, you chose to suspend an official who blew the whistle.

The people of Limpopo have over the years been told that the Limpopo Provincial Legislature will move from Lebowakgomo to the City of Polokwane to make it more accessible and reachable to the people. This year the Premier did not even bother mentioning it to give a progress report. It is clear that this was just an empty promise to keep the people hoping for nothing. The people of Limpopo must know that the Limpopo Provincial Legislature will never be moved to Polokwane in their lifetime. They are being lied to by the lying government.

Hon Speaker, how many MECs has the Premier fired for incompetence since signing the service delivery agreement with them last year? Does this mean that there are no incompetent MECs in Limpopo? If we don't have them, why do some provincial departments continue to perform poorly as indicated by the Auditor-General? If there is no incompetent MEC in Limpopo, why does corruption continue to soar in government departments? Why have the SOEs collapsed under the watch of the MEC for Economic Development? It is a well-known fact that you, Premier and consequence management are not friends. You will never act on anyone because you embrace incompetence, maladministration and corruption.

Hon Premier, let me leave you with the wisdom words by Dave Ramsey which say: "True leadership is servanthood. Put the interests of others at the center of your decisions." I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

We shall now call upon Hon Florence Radzilani who is connected through a virtual platform. Hon Radzilani, it is your turn.

MS RADZILANI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Deputy Speaker; our Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana; Leader of the Opposition; chairpersons of portfolio committees of Limpopo Legislature; honourable Members of this august House; Director-General and all officials of the Limpopo provincial government; Limpopo community following us on social media, good morning.

Hon Speaker, I want to thank the people of Limpopo for renewing the mandate of ANC-led government during 2019 elections. They clearly demonstrated that they understand government priorities more than some of us who are called honourable Members in this House. We take part in the adoption of Annual Performance Plan and budget respectively, but the EFF, through Hon Seshoka, chooses to respect the opposition ticket that brought them to the House and undermines great achievements done for our people.

Hon Speaker, the Premier delivered his State of the Province Address during the month of February which marked the 31st anniversary of the release from prison of our first democratic President, Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Our international icon

reminds us: “As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.”

Owing to our history dominated by apartheid colonialism, we have set ourselves a journey to build a national democratic society which is nonracial, nonsexist, democratic, united and prosperous. This is the society which is an antithesis of the past society that was anchored on segregation and brutal oppression of the indigenous people. We are in the sixth administration that is anchored on democratic priorities as outlined by the Premier in his State of the Province Address. Necessarily, we have defined the main content of our national democratic revolution as the liberation of Blacks in general and Africans in particular from socioeconomic bondages bestowed to the people by the drivers of apartheid colonialism.

Madam Speaker, let me also salute the Premier of our province for delivering a comprehensive State of the Province Address and giving marching orders to all the departments and other government entities at a time our country and province are facing challenges brought to us as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. A catastrophic pandemic which is not only killing our people but also destroying livelihood and ravaging the economy. The Hon Premier has consistently articulated a vision of a province that we must build, a vision that must constitute our shared destiny; that is building a modern, dynamic and growing economy.

In the midst of all the challenges presented by COVID-19, I invite all of us to draw courage from the words of former President Thabo Mbeki who once said: “Gloom and despondency have never defeated adversity. Trying times need courage and resilience. Our strength as a people is not tested during the best of times. As we said before, we should never become despondent because the weather is bad nor should we turn triumphalist because the sun shines.”

Limpopo is an extraordinary province, full of precious mineral deposits, tourism attraction destinations, agricultural products and many other economic opportunities. Our urgent tasks are to work together across racial lines, political affiliation and geographic locations to protect our people, rebuild the economy and continue to develop our province.

In the words of the Hon Premier: “Together we have made monumental sacrifices, which, in turn, have helped to reduce the burden on our healthcare facilities and saved more lives. This is the spirit that should carry us throughout 2021 and beyond.” Government investment on industrialisation remains the driving force behind the economic growth in our province, and this was evident when the Hon Premier indicated that we are revitalising our industrial parks through the R40 million investment by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.

Accordingly, we call on the private sector as an important engine of economic growth to make a meaningful contribution. The refurbishment of industrial parks in Nkowankowa, Seshego and Thohoyandou provides the infrastructure relevant for manufacturing, production and processing of goods. It is a great milestone towards building a solid economic base.

Honourable Members, we are delighted that the ANC-led government has put in place policies that are presenting opportunities and also assisting previously disadvantaged groups of the society.

Honourable Members, we are elated that 19% and 12% of state procurement benefited women and youth respectively. It is our firm belief that this will go a long way in broadening and diversifying the beneficiation from the economy by our people.

The Premier's address was a clear call to all of us to recommit ourselves to the job at hand, to never deviate from our mandate and to be aware of the priorities that this sixth administration has set itself. It is in this regard that we need to applaud it for what it is, a bold and progressive call to roll up our sleeves. Simply put, it cannot be business as usual.

Hon Speaker, we are inspired by the experience of the Asian Tigers whose developmental states enacted policies that regulated the activities of the private capital to the benefit of the people. Enemies of the revolution will say this will chase away the investors, forgetting that investors are not in the country for charity work, but are here because they have identified opportunities to yield benefits.

A developmental state must, therefore, have capacity and the will to strike a balance between investors yielding their benefits and development of the people resulting from the presence of investors.

The coronavirus pandemic also reminded us as government and the private sector that, indeed, we need to invest more on technological facilities. A classic example is that we are now forced to do most of our work virtually, meaning that we need to increase our capacity as we are living in the times of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The digital revolution has transformed our lives and societies with unprecedented speed and scale, delivering immense opportunities as well as daunting challenges. New technologies can make significant contributions to realising the sustainable development goals.

In line with ANC national conference resolution which indicates that ANC must further encourage efforts by government and private sector to deploy broadband infrastructure and services and also ensure accessibility of free Wi-Fi as part of the development of economic inclusion. Access to digital infrastructure, or more specifically high-speed internet access must be considered a basic utility for South Africans.

The provincial government led by our own Premier has made significant strides in the rollout of the Limpopo broadband network project. A total of 52 sites have been connected to the network infrastructure, using both fibre and satellite technologies. These sites include WiFi hot spots that enable our communities, particularly young people to be part of the globe.

This quality services will go a long way in ensuring that the majority of South Africans have access to the internet platforms necessary for them to participate in mainstream economic activities; transact with each other, their government and the private sector.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, President Cyril Ramaphosa has on Sunday announced Cabinet's decision to ease the lockdown restrictions from alert level 3 to alert level 1. This must not allow people to be complacent. Government still wants to maintain low levels of infections and, in particular, to prevent superspreading events.

President Ramaphosa said: "The new variant – is now the dominant variant in the country. Because the new variant is transmitted more easily and faster than the initial one, it has the potential to infect more people, place a greater strain on our health system and lead to a greater loss of life."

Honourable Members, it is, therefore, still important for all of us to adhere social distancing, putting our masks on when we are in public spaces, washing and sanitising our hands regularly to help clamp down on the further spread of the virus.

Let me leave you with words of former President Thabo Mbeki when he said: "The immediate reality is that all of us know that the poor are knocking at the gate. If this gate does not open because those who have the key are otherwise involved, the masses will break down the gate."

All hands should be on deck to give practical meaning of the commitments you announced, Hon Premier. Let us grow South Africa together. People of Limpopo, I want to remind you that above all, with God nothing is impossible. Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ndo livhuwa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Ndo livhuwa, Hon Radzilani. We shall now call upon Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, allow me to start off by offering our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends that have lost loved ones to COVID-19. I would also like to thank and acknowledge the hard work and efforts of our healthcare workers that are on the frontline of our response to the pandemic. A year ago we heard about people being affected by COVID-19, today we speak about people and family members who lost their loved ones.

As a province, we are faced by mounting challenges such as astronomically high unemployment, poor service delivery, struggling education system, underresourced health system and poorly run municipalities. These issues have all occurred under the helm of the ANC and its inability to hold people accountable. Creating opportunities for our people and reinvigorating our economy has become critical and can no longer be held off.

The province currently has 3,176 million people who are unemployed, discouraged work seekers and not economically active, and last year we saw 119 000 people losing their jobs. These figures show we have a full-blown crisis in our hands, and this needs to be addressed urgently. Our nation is no longer healthy. Premier Mathabatha failed to outline strategies to tackle the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV) despite COVID-19 and the lockdown having highlighted it as a serious societal issue.

Limpopo recorded the highest increase (13,5%) nationally for sexual offences in the latest crime statistics and recorded 2 453 sexual offences. The province needs to consider setting up a 24-hour response system for GBV, identifying GBV hotspots and providing support such as social workers in those areas that are available to assist in the evening and weekends when support is most needed and collaboration with NGOs on ways to tackle GBV.

Hon Speaker, while we welcome the commitment to build 17 brand new schools, there is a desperate need to ensure some of the new schools are in Polokwane in order to deal with the pressure on school places for learners. The increase in bachelor passes in this year's matric exams was used as a red herring to distract from troubling facts from our results. The province has the lowest pass rate in the country (73,9%) when excluding progressed learners. There was an underperformance in key gateway subjects such as Mathematics (31,5%), Physical Sciences (38,3%), and Economics (36,0%). It is also deeply concerning that 134 schools failed to reach a 40% pass rate. There is a clear need for greater support for underperforming gateway subjects and schools.

While the Premier did address healthcare infrastructure projects in his address, he was not clear on details of plans on infrastructure and other measures meant to increase the province's COVID-19 capacity for the third wave that is now inevitable due to the slow vaccination rollout. We must use this time to consolidate so that we are well prepared. The command centre in the past was not transparent and forthcoming with information. We urge the Premier to take all political parties in confidence as we prepare for the third wave.

Hon Speaker, the reliance on a large number of projects being rolled out by Sanral and national departments like the Department of Water and Sanitation is a major concern. This simply shows the inefficiencies in our provincial entities like Roads Agency Limpopo and other departments such as Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. Senior management in these entities and departments must be taken to task and held accountable.

The Premier needs to offer more clarity on numerous projects that he mentioned in his address and others that he has gone silent on. Greater transparency is needed on the 150 buses being acquired by Great North Transport through a rental arrangement and what informed this decision, the rationale of disposing 4 of the more profitable bus depots and routes. Premier Mathabatha has long mooted the establishment of the Tubatse Special Economic Zone. It is important that we are updated on the status of that project.

During the 2020 SOPA, the industrial parks were at 80% completion. We question why they are not completed and are not yet completed. The amount of \$6,5 billion was committed during 2020 to the Musina-Makhado SEZ. We still await the terms of reference of these commitments and how the people of this province will benefit through a report to this House.

We cautiously welcome the R3,5 billion being set aside to drive the Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan with the bulk targeted at Education; Health; and Social Development. The commitments to support the province's tourism sector, COVID-19 relief to cooperatives, small, medium and micro enterprises are also encouraging and

will strengthen our economic outlook if they are effectively implemented, but more details on how it will be implemented is needed. Effective and efficient implementation, accountability and transparency are now critical in everything we do in order to move forward as a province and change the lives of the 3,176 million people seeking job opportunities and improving their social conditions. The time has come to support the private sector and take this province forward. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Hon Sekoati, it's your turn.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker of our provincial Legislature, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou; the Premier of our province Hon Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council – my colleagues; Members of this august House; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen. Allow me to join others by welcoming the State of the Province Address by the Hon Premier. The SOPA resurrected the hopes of the people of Limpopo in the midst of the continuing storm caused by the socioeconomic interruptions of COVID-19. Given the scale of its devastations that swamped our country and our province in particular, it is almost certainly true that the aftermath of COVID-19 will change the socioeconomic orientation of our people and their livelihood for good.

Your message, Hon Premier, has most certainly given hope that this government of the people will surely spare no effort in creating an enabling environment for their rise from obliterations of these pandemic. Also important to note from this experience is that victory over the pandemic depends largely on what we do as individuals and, therefore, our actions and decisions matter the most. We had our own share of grief, but there is hope on the horizon created by the vaccine rollout.

Madam Speaker, the motivating stories of Mahlako Kgamedji; Ntebatse Segodiso; and Jonas Lekganyane who took into their hands the opportunities that are created by our broadband network infrastructure rollout in the province have echoed the message by the songwriter and singer Josh Groban in his song, *You Raise Me Up*:

“You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders
You raise me up to more than I can be.”

Hon Premier, as the economic performance declines, it has certainly defined and characterised the agricultural sector as a very resilient sector during these economic turbulences. As you have asserted, our province in particular has had a satisfactory share in those productions and exports. We cannot, therefore, overemphasise the positive contribution that the revitalisation of the agricultural projects will make to the economy of the province and the country, particularly Zebediela Citrus, Limburg, and Makgoba's plantations. These projects will not only grow the economy, but will be a game changer in reducing unemployment and poverty in the province for both skilled and unskilled workers, including the various irrigation schemes we have. The development of various packhouses in our districts will not only add to the agricultural

impetus of our province, but will further ensure that there is a well-created value chain for the emerging farmers in the province.

Hon Premier, water is not only a right, but a major catalyst for development. Certainly, we need to up our performance in this regard. You have always asserted that water is a huge priority of the province, thus our endless joy in seeing Flag Boshielo raised, and De Hoop built. Engagement with the national Minister of Water and Sanitation will clearly yield more positive results to ensure the expansion of the services, while sustaining the existing provisions. Similarly, the speed of economic development and industrialisation will depend largely on water resource development. We cannot overemphasise that skills development equals industrialisation, and industrialisation requires relevant skills. This must be our inseparable approach to our goals for developing the industrial capacity of the province.

We thus take this opportunity to congratulate the matric class of 2020 for having shown character under difficult conditions, improving the grade through bachelor passes, while taking us out of the slippery dungeon which used to make us a skunk of the country. Hon Premier, infrastructure plays a major catalytic role in our underdeveloped areas. It is not so long ago that many parts of our province started seeing bakery delivery in their villages. Though now it is bakery in the main, but it has shown that any form of business is possible in the villages. We cannot take it for granted that access needs to be created, particularly in our rural areas. The road networks that we create through Public Works and Road Agency Limpopo must not be taken for granted as that is development that we need to take care of. We also need to take responsibility for maintaining the existing ones as we allow expansion of new ones. The destruction of these infrastructure must be frowned upon by our communities and people must be implored to refrain from vandalising public infrastructure and amenities. Our communities must identify perpetrators of such act and ensure that they are brought to the attention of law enforcement agencies.

Hon Premier, Section 100 was a dark, deep, slippery dungeon in our province, thus we are happy to assure this House that systems are now in place to ensure that such is a thing of distant past, hence good governance reins. The Premier said you must watch the space, at the right time, pronouncement on progress made with regard to good governance will be delivered. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Your time is up.

MR SEKOATI

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Hon Maritz, it's your turn.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; leaders of opposition parties; MECs and Members of this House, as was expected from the Premier's address to the province, COVID-19 was the escape route to blame for the ongoing corruption and poor governance in this province under the ANC rule. Like last year, we again listened to dreams and plans from the Premier, which are far removed from reality.

In times of big challenges such as these, we expect leadership that is creative, innovative and in touch with the needs of the people on grassroots level. Unfortunately, this is not the case in Limpopo as it is clear that the leaders in government are far removed from reality and the needs of the people.

Hon Speaker, elaborate plans without action are worthless. The biggest problem is that the Premier made no mention of the failures and reasons of so many projects which never reach completion. No mention or even intentions to act against corrupt officials who stole millions of rands and how this money will be retrieved was made. Instead, these officials are awarded deployment even to better positions despite their corrupt actions.

Hon Speaker, this situation leads to the dilapidation of municipalities and departments in the province. The hospitals in this province are not delivering on their mandate to the people as this department was not ready for the COVID-19 pandemic, and serious human rights are possibly being violated due to the lack of effective service. Water supply to the towns in the province is also in violation of basic human rights and is also the result of maladministration and lack of planning. Despite the projects in progress, a lot more needs to be done as several towns in the province are without water for days on end for years already. Roads in the province that are not maintained are causing economic damages to farmers and businesses, and this needs to be addressed on a far broader base than the few projects announced.

Crime in the province, especially crimes like farm murders and crimes against women and children, is too high and no solution to this problem is given. These are the realities that the Hon Premier needs to look at.

Hon Speaker, the SEZ is already such a controversial project and, therefore, we would like to suggest that all industrial areas in towns all over the province be declared as SEZs. This will stimulate investment and entrepreneurship in the province and will not put such strain on a specific environmental sensitive area such as the Musina-Makhado SEZ. The Premier failed to outline the specifics of plans to accelerating the economic recovery as prioritised. No plans are in place to stimulate entrepreneurship and to eliminate red tape that could hinder job creation and economic growth.

Hon Speaker, the FF Plus calls on the Hon Premier to start dealing with the ongoing corruption and poor service delivery in municipalities and provincial departments as a matter of urgency. The Premier with all due respect is mistaken by believing that there are signs of improvement in Mogalakwena Local Municipality. In fact, the situation is worsening. We welcome the signing of the service delivery agreement with MECs and would request that these contracts be made available to this House. The FF Plus will not allow the ongoing corruption and ineffective officials to stand in the way of clean administration and management of the province, and we will do everything in our power to hold such people responsible for their actions. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Hon Monama, it's your turn.

MR MONAMA

Speaker of our provincial Legislature, Hon Rosemarry Reneilwe Molapo; Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Jeremiah Azwindini Dinga Ndou; Premier of our province, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa; honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of this august House; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana, firstly, we want to take this opportunity as the ANC to appreciate the visionary and judicious leadership of our Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, for his stewardship of this province. Under his capable hands, this ANC-led province is poised for development trajectory that reflects the steady progress in infrastructure investment, building cohesive, sustainable, caring communities with improved access to social amenities, which is a precursor for sustainable livelihood.

The SOPA must be understood in the context that the Hon Premier comprehensively identified the substantial progress that the ANC-led government has made since 1994, the overarching challenges that still need to be overcome as well as meeting the objectives of rolling back the quagmire of triple challenges which are poverty, unemployment and inequality. This SOPA cannot be defined by hope alone, but by the evidence of the ANC-led government at work and in action that Hon Sekoati has already alluded to.

Albert Einstein is on record as having said: "Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labour in freedom. Nothing is as precious as one's freedom. Dreams, aspirations and ideals mean nothing if one does not have the freedom to pursue them."

The Hon Premier has explicitly outlined a multipronged turnaround strategy anchored on four pillars, viz.:

- Defeating the scourge of coronavirus pandemic;
- Accelerating our economic recovery through Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan;
- Implementing economic reforms to create sustainable jobs and drive inclusive growth; and
- Fighting corruption and strengthening the state.

Madam Speaker, undoubtedly, the coronavirus pandemic has severely impacted our economy and has imposed debilitating and deleterious impact on our normal way of doing government business. First and foremost, we want to applaud the leadership of the Hon Premier as the chairperson of the Provincial Coronavirus Command Council. We add our voice to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all health workers, our frontline troopers in the battle against COVID-19 for their bravery, resilience and unmatched spirit of sacrifice. Indeed, the ANC-led government owes you an enormous debt of gratitude. We also commend the Hon Premier for giving us confidence on pronouncement of R3,5 billion to augment the available resources to drive the response. We support the SOPA fully because our strong conviction is that it confirms our resolve and commitment in addressing the overarching triple challenges.

Unlocking of all the blockages like the approval of environmental impact assessment and construction of Musina water dam will assist in the full implementation of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, which is one of the catalytic projects aimed at contributing towards industrialisation, employment creation and improvement in the quality of life of our people. Implementation of all massive water projects implemented through RBIG (Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant) is yet another affirmation of the ANC-led government's commitment to ensure that our people have access to clean drinking water.

Madam Speaker, the dynamic nature of our province requires all of us as public representatives in this august House to comprehensively address the overwhelming needs and expectations of our people. As Members of this august House, irrespective of our political affiliation like Hon Smalle has indicated, we can't come here and behave like commoners with no responsibility, Hon Seshoka. It is our responsibility in this province to join hands, put all hands on deck and push back the frontiers of poverty. We can't speak of accountability as if it is only meant for the ANC. All of us are responsible for that as public representatives. [APPLAUSE]

It is against the presidium and decorum of our constitutional democracy to reduce ourselves to howlers as empty vessels which make the loudest noise. I think your constituencies are disappointed that you are failing to advance their aspirations, but instead becoming perpetual complainants without any alternative practical programmes.

This demonstrates lack of depth and intellectual bankruptcy, your inability to grasp the objective material conditions imposed by the novel coronavirus pandemic. You can't come with frivolous and vexatious political undertones as if things were normal unless during the outbreak of the pandemic you relocated to another planet and woke up from a nightmarish dream of utopian world. It is quite worrying and disingenuous that some Members are hellbent on focusing on a person, not the good ideas and vision presented through SOPA.

However, great scholars of servant leadership have taught us that an irresponsible leader offers no practical solution in the midst of crisis. The people of Limpopo have legitimate expectations of improved livelihood and dignity. Therefore, we are collectively committed to working tirelessly towards deepening efforts to transform the economic patterns of the present in order to realise set vision for our five years of office in this 6th administration and beyond and to ensure that we place service delivery at the centre of transformation and developmental agenda.

Through your targeted and focused interventions, there has been remarkable progress on the 2019/2020 financial year audit outcomes. We give accolades and kudos to those provincial entities which are candidates for clean audit opinions and that they have raised the bar worth emulating. This is indeed a great milestone for the ANC-led administration.

Notwithstanding your commitment, Hon Premier, to ensure that as part of your legacy Sekhukhune District offices are relocated to Sekhukhune not in "exile", we are steadfast in our support for the realisation of this project. As the ANC, we want to state categorically clear here and now that you have always shared your frustrations and

constraints in realising this dream and we want to refute any malicious allegation on the narrative that you are the stumbling block for the implementation of your legacy project of relocation and construction of Sekhukhune District offices, which are currently based in Lebowakgomo. Re molomo wa lehlabula ka moka gore bana ba Thulare ba nyaka diofisi tša bona ga gabo bona Sekhukhune. We need to contextualise this challenge.

We make an impassionate plea to all and sundry to assist us to unlock this unending conundrum. There have been various media statements by some tribal councils that they have given the provincial government land to construct offices. As the Legislature, we are on record demanding answers from the provincial administration about this alleged permission and tribal resolution for the construction of Sekhukhune District office precinct. It seems those correspondences are not there and if the objective reality is obtainable that we are wrong in our assumption, Hon Premier, tomorrow send the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs to collect the correspondences or at least copies. If this myth is not demystified, it has a propensity to undermine the leadership of our Hon Premier in the public domain.

The Premier has made a commitment, but he does not have land to implement this groundbreaking initiative. Batho ba tlo re ke Mahlatji a ganago. If we want to take our people down memory lane, taba ya ofisi e thomile ke Tonakgolo Ngoako Ramatlhodi, Mohlomphegi Sello Moloto a leka le Mohlomphegi Cassel Mathale a latela; and there is paper trail to these things. Bothata bo kae gabotse ka gore bana ba Thulare ba hlolana ka diolo ka lebaka la lešitaphiri le. Bjale ba bangwe ba nyaka go dira Tonakgolo ya rena ye re e ratago sehlare sa ntšhirela. Sepedi se re, kgomo e tswaletše mphorogohlong gomme e gana bašemane ba tšea mohlana. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, local government is at the coalface of service delivery, hence collectively we have to double our efforts to improve accountability and governance. Needless to say, if local government fails, service delivery fails and the province fails. We also welcome the concrete interventions to continue to lead the way in good governance and sound public resource management. We applaud your leadership prowess in providing direction and guidance in unlocking political logjam in troubled Mogalakwena Local Municipality. We need leadership that inspires and organises for our common purpose of improving services to our people. However, your impeccable leadership credentials can be ruined by the horrid state of dysfunctionality in two municipalities which are characterised by governance paralysis, i.e., Modimolle-Mookgophong and Thabazimbi municipalities that are led by the DA-EFF coalition. It does not need nuclear science or microscopic physics to see that the emperor is naked.

It is now incumbent upon the provincial Legislature to enhance oversight on how this SOPA is implemented for the benefit of the people of Limpopo province. We are inspired and propelled to work harder in ensuring that collectively we put all our hands on deck to push back the frontiers of poverty and to transform the socioeconomic landscape of our province.

Madam Speaker, the reality is that things have significantly changed when the Hon Premier tabled his 2020 SOPA in this august House. However, ever since then the scourge of novel coronavirus also known as COVID-19 has increased to a debilitating level, threatening to collapse the world economy. The current COVID-19, for all intents

and purposes, throws the script out of the window, there is now an urgent need for us collectively to find meaningful ways within this tight fiscal space, to boost the economy and protect jobs, curb poverty while reducing inequality.

We further applaud your decisive leadership in engaging the services of the Special Investigation Unit and other law enforcement agencies to investigate all allegations of corruption and malfeasance in the procurement of PPE. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Monama. Order, honourable Members! Hon Managa, it's your turn.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo. Hon Premier; MECs present here; chairpersons of different portfolio committees; leaders of opposition parties; honourable Members as well as representatives from different government entities, kindly receive revolutionary greetings from the only remaining legitimate revolutionary protest movement, the only hope for the hopeless, the voice for the voiceless and marginalised.

As the EFF in Limpopo, we convey our deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones due to COVID-19, GBV and other pandemics such as failure of the ANC to save lives in various medical and health institutions and poor dangerous roads across the province of Limpopo.

The EFF congratulates the class of 2020 matric which despite poor leadership and governance made this province proud. The fact is that had government invested more on learning in line with technological advancements and Fourth Industrial Revolution, we would be celebrating almost 100% pass rate.

The speech itself is no different for last year speech with slight omission of previous commitments and lack of progress and accountability thereof. The ANC and the Premier have negated the Freedom Charter which he wants to praise and celebrate. The sharing of the country's wealth remains rhetorical gymnastics as the ANC is delaying deliberately the expropriation of land without compensation and the nationalisation of mines in our country.

Therefore, the Premier must find another excuse as he attempts to remain relevant to the poor. There shall never be equality before the law when police brutality is always unleashed on innocent people who protest for services which you promised them and fail to deliver. There shall never be equality when your government officials and leaders are treated with kid gloves when it comes to corruption fighting, the ANC misleading public on the corruption cases and people involved being protected in the highest form.

Hon Speaker, let us hope the collapse of SOEs is not as a result of the looting appetite which was exposed at the Zondo Commission which occurred at the State Security Agency and other SOEs in the country. We know that corruption in the ANC is like a daily prayer, it's mandatory, as we speak. Did LEDA and your departments do any

market linkages for these emerging entities as part of creating an upwards mobility path into the economic mainstream? Just like President Ramaphosa, you have joined the elite in terms of always avoiding to accept failure and appoint experts to draft plans which are never implemented in the interest of the poor.

Hon Speaker, the socioeconomic recovery plan of the ANC-led government is a huge failure as government claims that it's exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We still have many people who go to bed hungry due to poverty lines growing, unemployment is at uncontrollable levels. RDP standard shelter has been replaced with shacks and corruption. It be noted that the Talana joke which the Premier made in this august House was so immature.

It is the EFF which exposed the Talana shenanigans wherein the Premier even proudly did a ribbon cutting. He comes to this House and laughs about it. He must be ashamed of himself. The ANC was in defense mode only to be disappointed when SIU confirmed there is something fishy about the project. The 10 456 housing units promised include the failures of previous financial years wherein houses were not built as promised. There is always rollover because this government can't do anything just in time. Decent shelter remains a major problem in this unpredictable weather.

The recent rains have caused more harm to our people, whilst ANC politicians are enjoying the comfort of their homes and protecting kickback paying contractors who can't build houses. Therefore, it is not true that with low-cost housing the tide has turned, as the Premier reported. Under Premier Mathabatha conditions of roads are in shame and high risk to the people of Limpopo and our visitors. Potholes all over are patched with substandard patchings, and the potholes reoccur. This is just to enrich the ANC elite with tenders the same way it's happening with water tankers all over the province.

The same way the Premier defended and celebrated Talana mess, he has done it again on the PPE tenders, jumping before time. He claims that the SIU and AG have not found anything on PPE corruption investigation, but investigations are not yet completed. In fact, they are still at their early stages. We shall be vindicated as soon as we are watching closely the investigations into the PPE of Limpopo and many tenders that are manipulated.

Most of the roads in Limpopo have been damaged long before the recent floods. The people have been driving like they are in a weeding on a zigzag mode trying to avoid potholes. The road from Ba-Phalaborwa to Giyani in Mopani has been damaged for years now with no intention to fix it. People die because ambulances can't reach their homes even when they are dead mortuary cars can't reach their places. Just like what happened in Vhembe, the scene is repeating itself in many parts of Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, we still have shortage of ambulances. To date government should have opened a factory to manufacture ambulances. Lack of support to EMS is worsened by closing of clinics in various areas as if the living conditions of our people have improved. The same energy that the Premier put when he was praising the completed ZCC road, he must invest such energy in giving us a report of how many youth have been employed since he announced the youth employment scheme and database. We need a report on the Moshate, Mapela and Tshamahantshi road and all the roads which the Premier presented in the last two financial years.

We call upon the people of Limpopo to claim from government all the damages caused to the vehicles from the Limpopo government. More than 26 years in government, we are still complaining about poor service delivery and lack of integrated planning. Our people need quality jobs. They can't be subjected to R350 grant forever, this amount can't even help them to go look for a job. The ANC's survival is based on creation of a welfare state dependent on government grants.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, the EFF is pleased to say that there is serious progress on the construction and improvements of facilities at Mohlakaneng High School in Seshego. This is the school which the CIC, President Julius Malema, has adopted. The MEC of education is better placed to report on this remarkable milestone and the contributions the CIC is making in this school. We call upon other leaders to learn from the CIC and adopt schools and develop them to be better learning environments.

Hon Speaker, the economy will never be diversified when deals are given to relatives of those in leadership. The EFF is the only hope for the people of Limpopo and South Africa. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Managa. We shall now call upon Hon Ramathuba.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Ke a leboga, Mohlompegi wena Mosepediši wa Dipoledišano le lena Maloko a Lekgotlatheramelao. Ntumeleleng ke thome ka go reta polelo ya Mohlompegi Tonakgolo yena Mna Mathabatha. Ge e be e le gore go na le kgonono ya gore re ka fenywa ntwaga kahlanong le Coronavirus, polelokgolo ya Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, yena Chupu Maremadipekwa, ya Labone la beke ya go feta, e teile ka ntahle kgonono yeo. Lehutšo le lona le kaaka legonono ge re lebeletše lenaneo la tšhabollo le tšošološo ya ikonomi le Tonakgolo a le hlathollotšego ka botlalo. [APPLAUSE] Polelokgolo ya Tonakgolo e hlathile gape mabapi le kabo ya ditirelo tša maphelo go batho ba gaborena gore profense ya Limpopo e ikgafa go kaonafatša seemo le go feta peleng. Re leboga polelo ya go hlweka, ya makgethe yeo e bontšhago maikemišetšo a mmušo wa go etwa pele ke ANC ya go fetola maphelo a badudi ba Limpopo. Tonakgolo o hlagišitše mananeokgoparara ao a nepilego go tšošološa moruo, a tšošološa tša boeti, go fenywa leuba la Coronavirus, le go iša ditirelo tša boleng bjo bo sa bapetšwego le selo. Mosepediši wa Dipoledišano, ka moka re mmone Tonakgolo a eteletše pele maano le lesolo kahlanong le Coronavirus. Gonabjale ka moka re a mmona o eteletše pele ntwaga ya go tšošološa ikonomi ya rena. Re na le tshepho le lehutšo la gore re le mmušo wa ANC re tla fenywa ntwaga ye, ge re eteletšwe pele ke wena Mohlompegi Mathabatha, ka gobane o monnatia, o ka fepela tau ya motswetši bana ebile o ka iša tau setswetši. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, Premier Mathabatha was correct to say that the progress we have registered in this war against COVID-19 is owed to the unity we have demonstrated throughout the many battles of this war. It is, indeed, because of this demonstrated unity that we have managed to halt the spread of the coronavirus from becoming an uncontrollable health and socioeconomic disaster. I, therefore, wish to join the Premier in expressing my gratitude to all our religious leaders, traditional

leaders, leaders of academic institutions, leadership of the trade union movement, civil society and all the people of Limpopo for their spirit of solidarity and partnership in the fight against this virus.

As the Premier has correctly said, our partnership and sacrifices have helped to reduce the burden on our healthcare facilities and saved more lives. Ka nnete le tlogile le bontšha gore mpša pedi ga di šitwe ke sebata. This is indeed the spirit that should carry us throughout 2021 and beyond. In the frontline of this battle against the novel coronavirus you will find our healthcare workers. These are our brave and committed soldiers. They risk their own lives to save more lives. They endure untold and unimaginable difficulties each day they go to work. Like true soldiers, they have never, even on a single day, tried to retreat from this battle.

I agree with the Premier that this nation owes our healthcare workers an enormous debt of gratitude. It is for this reason that as Limpopo we have spent a sufficient quantum of resources on procuring PPE for all our healthcare workers, and be rest assured these resources were spent according to the prescripts of our laws. Indeed, Premier, the current official reports by those qualified to investigate can attest to that. We refuse to be those generals who send their frontline troopers to war without necessary equipment for the war. The health and safety of our healthcare workers is non-negotiable. I must also take this opportunity to commend our healthcare workers for their overwhelming response to our COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Due to thorough planning, Hon Smalle, the province was the last one to launch but one of the first to finish all its allocated dosages. I can confirm that the response of our healthcare workers to this vaccination drive is both overwhelming and humbling. It is precisely because of their cooperation that our phase 1 vaccination drive is a resounding success as stated by the Premier.

We are, therefore, ready for the next batch of the procured Johnson & Johnson vaccine and also other vaccines that will be rolled out. In this regard, we will be introducing two additional vaccine rollout sites for the province. This will help us to improve the rollout capacity and reduce the rollout time. We want to quickly finish with the phase 1 rollout so that we can move to the second and the third phases of our campaign. As you know, the second phase of this rollout will focus on high-risk groups. This includes persons in congregate settings, people 60 years and older, persons with comorbidities, essential workers, such as the teachers, police, security officers, food and retail workers, workers in funeral parlours, employees of all the banks and mineworkers.

Madam Speaker, I'm not sure what Hon Seshoka means when he says the Premier lacks creativity and innovation. The Premier has spoken sufficiently about our commitment to enhance healthcare delivery through cutting-edge technology and embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Indeed, we have installed radiology equipment in both regional and tertiary hospitals as part of the commitments made by the Premier in last year's SOPA. CT scans fitted with PACS/RIS have already been installed. Gone are the days when a patient would be forced to travel more than 300 km from Ha-Tshikundamalema to Polokwane just for a scan. This technology will indeed help a patient from ka Makuleke to access a radiologist sitting comfortably in Polokwane or anywhere in the world. If this is not innovation, you must demand your school fees from your teachers.

During your last SOPA, Premier, you invited and congratulated Dr Dzivhani, the first radiology oncologist to be produced by the province. You further committed yourself that she definitely won't be the first and the last. As usual, you kept your word. This time around not only do we celebrate another young mbokodo Dr Mphahlele as our second product time, but we have also moved a step ahead to ensure that our cancer patients receive a major boost with the procurement of a linear accelerator in Pietersburg Hospital. Hence, you hear few complaints of cancer patients. We are excited and welcome your pronouncement on the procurement of additional mammography equipment to be at all our regional hospitals to improve our capacity in the fight against breast cancer.

The decentralisation of this service will see a patient from Moutse who travels 300 km to Mankweng having to be screened and diagnosed for breast cancer early since it will be done at their door step. Indeed, it will go a long way in improving the outcome early detection saves lives. Is this not creativity, Madam Speaker? The face of public healthcare in Limpopo is changing for the better. Gone are the days of horror stories coming out of our healthcare facilities. We continue to improve our healthcare delivery and education infrastructure. Hon Smalle, the Premier pronounced on healthcare infrastructure. Expect the Health MEC; and Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure MEC to outline the detailed plans.

These are foot soldiers whose responsibility is to give you details of those bold decisions that Hon Seshoka says they don't exist. Hon Smalle while we agree that schools must be built everywhere, including Polokwane, but resources currently at our disposal dictate that we must prioritise those areas where we still have to deal with school infrastructure backlogs in our rural areas, with dilapidated schools where the learners have no option except that school. Hon Managa, the e-learning strategy has been approved. The provincial government has allocated resources. Both the MEC for Treasury; and Education will give you details.

We continue to invest in the state-of-the-art technology to assist us to deliver our services effectively and efficiently. As the ANC-led government, we continue to invest in the human capacity development of our healthcare workers. Above all, we continue to make our healthcare facilities more accessible to the poorest of the poor first because the ANC-led government is biased towards the poor. The rich have been benefitting, and the rich have got alternatives. The poor do not have an option, their option is us. Working together, we can and must move our public health system to the new age. There is no doubt that this administration has put at the forefront of its objectives the issue of youth development. We will ensure that we bring as many young people into the mainstream economy as possible. Ka moka re a tseba Tonakgolo gore maoto a kgwale ke bana ba yona. Re a leboga. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. MEC, Hon Tandi Moraka, it's your turn.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker; Deputy Speaker; our Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; chairpersons of portfolio committees; honourable Members;

members of our communities who have joined this virtual Sitting through digital platforms that are available.

Hon Speaker, time will tell that when the pandemic fell on our shores we were under the leadership of our Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha. Our people know and appreciate your stewardship and foresight. Even when the COVID-19 pandemic is among us, you have given the people of this province the hope that in no time, we will return to normality.

During the State of the Province Address, the Premier indicated that the province should move to a destination of equality, prosperity and a better life for all under the following national key priorities:

- Defeating the coronavirus pandemic;
- Accelerating our economic recovery;
- Implementing economic reforms to create sustainable jobs and drive inclusive growth; and
- Fighting corruption and strengthening the state.

Hon Speaker, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the sports and the creative industry has been severe because most major sporting and entertainment events at international, regional and national levels are either cancelled or postponed – from marathons to football tournaments, athletics championships to basketball games, handball to ice hockey, rugby, cricket, and cricket, to name a few. The Olympics and Paralympics, for the first time in the history of modern games, have been postponed as a measure to curb COVID-19.

Hon Speaker, we have seen our own Mapungubwe and Marula Festivals, which are festivals aimed at driving social cohesion and nation-building, being put on hold in order for us to fight this pandemic.

Hon Speaker, this year we are celebrating 66 years of the Freedom Charter as we continue to make sure that all “The Doors of Learning and of Culture Shall Be Opened” as adopted during the people’s congress in 1955. We are making strides in the fight against illiteracy in the province and our 2020 matric results speak to that effect. The class of 2020 has achieved a provincial pass rate of 68,2%, which takes the province to the seventh place in the national ranking, which is two places above where we were in 2019. This is despite the fact that there were difficulties in studying because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Diana van Niekerk from Pietersburg Hoërskool who is the overall best performer in Limpopo province, Pearl Khosa from Collins Chabane Local Municipality who is a best performer in quantile 1. She will be going to the University of Cape Town to study Actuarial Science with a full bursary from the municipality that is led by the ANC under the able leadership of our Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha. We also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Nompumelelo Ngobeni from Rivoni School for the Blind in Vhembe West District who is the best performer in the public special schools category. She is going to study Psychology at Wits University. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, the recent rainfall provide our people with the opportunity to tilt the land and grow vegetables and fruits in order for us to make sure that there is food security in our province. Of paramount importance is to make sure that young people of this province swell the ranks of the agricultural sector. We see young people coming into this sector in every district of the province. We welcome the prioritisation of the provincial industrialisation strategy, and the revitalisation of agriculture and agroprocessing value chain as catalytic projects. The increment of agricultural production linked to agroprocessing in the next financial year is a step towards the right direction. The commencement of Zebediela Citrus Estate in Capricorn District, infrastructure planning for Limburg Citrus in the Waterberg District, the establishment of Macadamia Orchards at Tshivhase, Mphaphuli and Tshakuma project in Vhembe District are some of the projects that will help this sector grow. Government will continue to support this sector as it contributes to the pillar of our provincial economy, and priority should be given to youth of this province.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, I will quote words from the founder of the Bantu Women's League, Ms Charlotte Maxeke who once said: "This work is not for yourselves – kill the spirit of "self", and do not live above your people, but live with [the people] them. If you can rise, bring someone with you. Do away with that fearful animal of jealousy – kill that spirit, and love one another as brothers and sisters."

We would like to take this opportunity to say to the Hon Premier, continue to take this province to the greatest heights. We are here to support you, Hon Premier. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Moraka. You were the last on the Speakers' List. We shall move to item 8: Motion for the Ratification of the Appointment of Special Delegates who Attended the NCOP Plenary in Cape Town. Hon Chief Whip, the floor is yours.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

MOTION FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES WHO ATTENDED THE NCOP PLENARY (Motion without Notice)

House Rule 226(3) provides for the designation and appointment of special delegates when the House is not sitting. In line with this rule, the Hon Speaker has appointed special delegates on behalf of this House to attend a series of NCOP plenaries from July. The detailed information is contained in the ATC.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this House resolves to ratify the conferral of final mandate for the appointment of special delegates in line with the provisions of the above-mentioned House rule.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Hon Speaker, I, Sarah Monyamane, second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any announcements? Hon Deputy Speaker, you are recognised.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Honourable Members are advised to continue complying with the COVID-19 regulations, the virus is still there. We will continue with the hybrid Sittings, and others will be in the Chamber. The Hon Premier will respond on Thursday, 04 March 2021 and Members are encouraged to be part of that.

Furthermore, we are arranging a workshop on financial management for all honourable Members. We will announce the dates. We have proposed that the workshop be held in groups of 5 to 10 Members. We encourage Members to attend. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

9. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. This House is adjourned to Thursday, 04 March 2021, in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thanks.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 04 MARCH 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
THURSDAY, 04 MARCH 2021
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 all be seated. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Chief Whip, Members of this august House, and all Members who are connected virtually, good morning and welcome to our sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Honourable Members, are there any motions without notice in terms of rule 145? I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONCERN OVER THE FAILURE OF THE PROVINCIAL AMBULANCE SERVICES
TO RESPOND TO CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE
(Motion without Notice)**

I hereby move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes with concern the last week of the failure of the provincial ambulance services in Groblersdal to respond to the call to assist to children, a 14-months old child, with cuts to the throat and an 8-years old. This occurred after the mother had allegedly tried to kill the children with a knife.

This service is meant to offer reliable quality patient care; and in this case it is simply unacceptable that they were unable and unavailable to respond when the lives of vulnerable children were at risk.

Further noting that whilst we acknowledge the important role ambulance service has and continues to play in the province's, health response, we call on the MEC and the department management to address this type of challenges that can jeopardise the lives of our people in the province.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, hon Maharaj. Is there any seconder?

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Jacque Smalle, stand to second the motion as read by Hon Risham Maharaj. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further motions without notice? I notice Hon Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Speaker and greetings to the Premier, Members of the Executive Council, the Leader of the Opposition, colleagues and Members who joined on the virtual platform.

**BIRTHDAY WISHES TO THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, JULIUS MALEMA, ON
HIS 40TH BIRTHDAY
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the Houses note that the people of Africa and the diaspora are blessed to have a leader like the Commander-In-Chief Julius Malema with special attributes, who through time and trials has proven to be a blessing to the continent and the world; a leader of the only progressive revolutionary movement, which is the beacon of hope to all the people of the continent.

We are pleased that the Commander-In-Chief, President Julius Malema, turned 40 years of age yesterday on 03 March 2021. This important milestone deserves to be celebrated, given his contribution to Africa and the world.

Loved by young and old, he remains a symbol and hope of a successful united Africa.

The world is invited to celebrate this milestone and continue this important journey towards the attainment of economic freedom in our lifetime.

In his honour and celebration, you are encouraged to adopt a school and contribute to the education and wellbeing of those from poor families. It will be a good gesture to create a society where an African child is educated for the brighter future of this country and the world.

It must also be on record, Hon Speaker, that the gallant fighter that we are speaking about was the first youngest political leader to take a party into the parliament at the age of 33 by then. This therefore means that he was still in the youth stage of what is required per the stages of South Africa.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Jetrick Sehoka, stand here to second the motion as presented by Hon Mohlala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further motions without notice in terms of rule 145? I recognise Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier and the Leader of Government Business, members of the ANC, members of the opposition benches, allow me to greet you with this morning.

**CONCERN OVER THE RACIST BEHAVIOUR OF THE ENCA JOURNALIST,
LINDSAY DENTLINGER, AND STATEMENTS BY ENCA MANAGEMENT
(Motion without Notice)**

The ANC is appalled by the racist behaviour of the eNCA journalist, Lindsay Dentlinger, as well as the subsequent statements by eNCA management which sought to justify and condone this offensive and deplorable conduct.

It is also shocking that organisations such as the Democratic Alliance have not yet said anything regarding this incident and this proves our long-held suspicion that they are compatible with the state of affairs. Such barbaric acts are derailing any efforts towards building a non-racial society and if left without being rebuked, they might develop into a culture that South Africa has moved away from a long time ago. This nincompoop of a journalist whose, in her myopic thinking, has attached the COVID-19 pandemic to a particular race, black Africans in particular, has on more than one occasion conducted herself in a manner that is divisive, sowed discord and undermined the reconciliation efforts in a country that is teetering on the brink of hatred.

We are of the view that she should be fired because she has just turned itself into an apartheid ambassador and her sight will remind this vulnerable nation of the old order that we seek to move away from.

I so move.

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Matsobane Mathe, on behalf of the ANC hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Donald Selamolela. Thank you.

Thank you. Honourable Members, there is a request from IT that if there are any Members who are connected to the Legislature's Wi-Fi, may you please disconnect because it makes it difficult to [inaudible]

Is there any further motion without notice in terms of House rule 145? I recognise Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangabuthano Vho Rosemarry Molapo. Kha vha ntendele ndi dzhie tshifhinga hetshi ndi lumelise Mulangavundu wa Limpopo, Vho Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; ndi dovhe hafhu ndi lumelise Mirado yotha ya Khorotshitumbe ya vundu lino; ndi lumelise vhadzulatshidulo vha dzikomiti vhothe vha re fhando; ndi dovhe hafhu ndi lumelise na Zwimebi zwothe zwi re hone. Kha vha ri ndi lumelise vharangaphanda vhothe vha mahoro mahanedzi vhane vha vha hone na vho tumanywaho nga kha vhudavhidzani ha thekhinolodzhi.

Ndi na tshitatamennde tshe nda tshi fara tsha nga ha khakhathi dzi no itwa musi ho sedzwa mbeu. Ndi khou bva ndi kha lihora lihanedzi la tshiofisi la Economic Freedom Fighters.

A CALL TO LIMPOPO COMMUNITIES TO UNITE AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

(Motion without Notice)

The EFF in Limpopo calls upon society to unite against any form of abuse especially gender-based violence or intimate partner violence. When red flags are noted, it is important for communities to engage social workers and other professionals who might not realise that they are victims in the web of psychopaths who will endanger their lives.

The recent killings of women which occurred at Polokwane Ext 71 and Ext 44 and many parts of Limpopo are a matter of grave concern to us. Relatives, victims and communities are urged not to hesitate in reporting any form of gender-based violence. It is through unity and ubuntu that we can successfully defeat this monster called GBV.

The judiciary must be extremely harsh when sentencing such monsters masquerading as real men. Real men do not abuse women.

The EFF remains the only voice of the voiceless. Our people are welcome to communicate and get proper advice on how to deal with gender-based violence through our gender-based desk. We declare that enough is enough.

Police must also respond promptly when gender-based violence is reported; failure which communities will take arms and defend themselves against the perpetrators.

I so move Hon Speaker.

Thank you, Hon Managa. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

I, Manamane Charles Mohlala, stand here to second the motion as presented by Hon Lilian Managa. Thank you.

Thank you very much. Any further motions without notice? There is none. Thank you.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Are there any statements by Members in terms of Rule 200? I recognise Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONCERN OVER THE POOR STATE OF R511 AND R572 ROADS THAT LINK
SOUTH AFRICA AND BOTSWANA**
(Members' Statement)

This week in two separate road accidents four people were seriously injured and taken to the hospital when their vehicle was damaged beyond repair due to the potholes and tarred roads that do not exist anymore. This is the story of the R511 and R572 roads that link South Africa to Botswana through the border gates of Groblersbrug and Platjan. This 70 km road between Alldays and Swartwater also known to the people in the area as a death trap is the same road many of our residents in the Alldays area face on daily basis.

My question to the honourable MEC is: Why is it that we do not honour our international trade agreement between Botswana when South Africa agreed to fund the Platjan border bridge to the tune of R187 million, noting that the project is completed, and failed to honour our obligation from an agreement that stemmed of upgrading between the Platjan border gate of South Africa and Botswana, our responsibility was to upgrade and maintain the roads of Alldays to Swartwater and Platjan to Alldays. This border gate was also to upgrade and to alleviate congestion pressures to the Beitbridge border.

Honourable MEC, when will this department prioritise these roads? Put people's lives first for the people of Blouberg Municipality. Is the MEC prepared to take accountability for the state of affairs of the R511 and R572 roads and damages incurred by commuters in this area. Thank you.

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Shall I check from the Members of the Executive Council if there is anyone who wants to respond. I recognise Hon Masemola.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to respond to the statement as presented by Hon Jacques Smalle. A very good morning to Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council and colleagues and comrades present at this sitting and those who are attending online.

I just want to clarify and probably put to comfort of Hon Smalle that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is actually hard at work to respond to the roads he has mentioned. Two weeks ago, I had a meeting with both Sanral and Roads Agency Limpopo to discuss the roads that he has referred to particularly the road that connects Dendron to Bochum, Dendron, Vivo towards Alldays. There is a process underway between those two entities of government to try as much as they could to respond to that situation. I am just waiting for a report that will tell me exactly what is likely going to happen in the next financial year, because those roads have been severely damaged. It is not just a matter of filling a pothole here and there. They need major rehabilitation. I think by the time we come back to the House for the budget speeches and the APP, I should be able to make a thorough comment on that situation.

Secondly, there has been a Twitter message about R555, which has been making very serious rounds all over. I need to place matters on record that as I am speaking, at that road at that spot particularly around Roossenekal, both Sanral and RAL, the contractors are hard at work fixing those potholes. Most probably by the end of the week or early next week they would have concluded that works. So work is underway, the team of officials from the department and the entity, as I am speaking, they are on their way down to Roossenekal to go and see the extent to which the two entities have gone in dealing with this situation. Thank you so much, Hon Smalle. Thank you.

Thank you for the response honourable MEC. Let's proceed. Are there further statements by Members? I recognise Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings to the Premier, Members of Executive Council and all Members present in the sitting. I stand here to present on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters, the Members' Statement on the SAPS Provincial Office been captured by the white cabal.

THE CAPTURING OF THE SAPS LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL OFFICE BY THE WHITE CABAL (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, we bring to the attention of this House that the police flying squad in Limpopo is extremely under resourced to serve our people. There have no cars for highway patrols, no cars for attending to accidents and emergency response.

Recently the police bought new 18 Golf cars, which were supposed to be allocated to the flying squad in the province. A white man called Col Potgieter at the SAPS Provincial Office established a new illegal unit called the Limpopo Highway Patrol with similar roles as that one of the flying squad. The little resources in the flying squad including the budget were channelled to the new illegal and unlawful unit established

by Col Potgieter under the watchful eye of the Provincial Commissioner Lt Gen Nneke Ledwaba. Flying squad in the whole province uses three bakkies with worn out tyres, which are not even meant for highway patrols.

Mr Potgieter is responsible for the flying squad and Limpopo patrols highways, which is a structure strategically established by him to protect white farmers. New recruits in the so-called Limpopo high patrol unit, the majority of whom are Blacks, are instructed to patrol and protect white farmers instead of patrolling the highway and responding to accidents and emergencies. The supply chain, finance as well as the SAPS garage in Limpopo are headed by white people who make sure that whatever Potgieter requires he gets while other crucial units of SAPS continue to suffer.

We call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to investigate this matter and stop these illegal activities happening in SAPS in Limpopo. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Is there any response? I can see that the MEC is connected virtually. Over to you, MEC.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to greet you Hon Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Premier and all my colleagues, those that are in the House and those who are connected virtually. Let me acknowledge and indicate that we have heard the statement as presented by the Member to the House. We will investigate the issues that have been raised, and in the next sitting, Hon Speaker, will be given an opportunity to present a response to the statement made today in the House. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Can I check if there are still any statements by Members? There is none.

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, other reports and papers? There is none. Let's move to item 7: Orders of the Day.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

We shall now call upon the Hon Premier to respond to the debate by honourable Members on the State of the Province Address. [APPLAUSE]

THE PREMIER

Thank you, honourable Members. Madam Speaker, Deputy Speaker I suppose he is connected, Members of the Executive Council, the Leader of the Opposition, Chief Whip of the majority party, members of the opposition parties in the House, ladies and gentlemen. On Thursday last week in this very august House, I delivered a comprehensive account of the work of our government and the plans for the year ahead. I did this in a tradition known as the State of the Province Address.

As I said last week, our plans are about propelling Limpopo to the heights of socioeconomic prosperity. These plans are about overcoming the inherited yet deep seated legacy of unemployment, poverty and inequality. We base our plans on the impressive achievements we have registered since the dawn of democracy in 1994. I delivered this year's edition of the State of the Province Address amid a devastating and deadly global Coronavirus pandemic. Indeed, this virus continues to impact negatively on most of our major plans and programmes. However, like we have committed in the State of the Province Address, the work of government and our lives cannot be held hostage because of this invasive enemy. We have to learn to live with this virus and adjust our plans accordingly. The ongoing Coronavirus vaccine rollout is part of our concerted and multi-layered efforts to undermine the impact of this virus on our lives, particularly on our economy and livelihoods. This vaccine rollout is going on very well, honourable Members, and we are on the verge of competing our target for phase one. The rollout of this vaccine amongst healthcare workers will go a long way in providing a safety layer to our frontline troopers in this war. This will also contribute significantly towards undermining the spread of this virus. Our medium-term goal is to vaccinate over 60% of Limpopo population so that we can achieve what is known as herd immunity or population immunity. Once this is achieved, the virus will lose mobility. Once the virus can no longer enjoy uninterrupted mobility, it will be difficult for it to even reach the few that would not have even been vaccinated. This is our own, honourable Members, and we will definitely achieve this goal.

I must once again thank our healthcare workers for their sacrifices and commitment to the task of defeating this virus. As leaders, we must continue to remind our people that the war is not yet won. The war is not over. We will need and we will still need to wear our masks, practise social distancing, and ensure necessary hygiene practices.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, I feel I need to restate my respect for this House, because this is the people's House. It is for this reason that I always put on my best research lenses whenever I am to speak in this House, because indeed it is the people's House. A lot of people died, honourable Members, for us to have this House in this fashion and format. However, my experiences over the years have taught me that there are two types of people in life. There are those who will pray for the rain and those who curse the rain, because the rain will inconvenience them in one way or another. I always identify myself with those who will pray for the rain and work the land to take advantage of the rain they have been paying for. I also know that those who curse the rain are usually absent during planting and at the same time, are the first to be present during harvest. [APPLAUSE] Ge re rema dikgong ga ba gona; ge re fahlwa ke muši ga ba gona; ge re gotša mello, re tšhungwa ke mello, ga ba gona. Efela ge go solwa, ba thaola lekgeswa.

Honourable Members, we are prepared to work hard and this is the contract we have signed with the people of this province. You will never find us cursing the rain from the shades of the very same tree that gets its life from the rain. We are working and the

results of our work are actually talking for themselves. Before I talk about Great North Transport, honourable Members, mohlomongwe batho ba profense ba swanetše go tseba nnete. It is ironic that the issue on Great North Transport was raised by the EFF. Very ironic. Why? Because it took us years with Chris Luvhani and a number of other very good executives at LimDev to get Great North Transport to become a going concern. It took us years. But it took only two years for the people to collapse it. When it was a going concern, posting profits and running with lease buses, but hosting profits and giving our people optimal satisfaction in terms of the good that it was delivering to our people. Maybe, I must say to the honourable Members in red that it was your leader in this province, who was the Chief – not the Commander-In-Chief, because le a e rata Commander-In-Chief – he was the Chief of Staff in the MEC for Transport, Roads and Safety that time. He was a very critical person in the Office of the MEC when they collapsed Great North Transport. Maybe if our honourable members from the EFF want to know how Great North Transport collapsed, they must go and ask Hon Buthane. Go and ask him – under the watch of the MEC that time who was advised by him. Therefore, if you want to know about the collapse of this entity, go and ask your boss, not us.

Great North Transport is a major player in the public transport space. On monthly basis, GNT ferries millions of people to and from work. It pains me because we worked hard to get it where it was and we will do it again, because we are doing it for our people. What distinguishes Great North Transport from any other bus company is the fact that this is the people's company. It is a bus company that places the socioeconomic interests of its clients ahead of itself.

It is for this reason that we have recapitalised Great North Transport with an amount of R380 million over a period of three years. As a result, the company has acquired 75 new buses, thus far, and 150 buses will be leased, like we did with the Scania project, which was very successful before it collapsed. As a result, the company has acquired new buses. The decision for GNT to rent buses is a cost-effective measure if you have done project appraisals. This is what we should welcome and not curse, because if you want to understand how a transport company works, you need to conduct what is called a sensitivity analysis of that company. And when you conduct a sensitivity analysis of a company, you then identify where the company is bleeding, and then take a sober decision as to how do I stop the bleeding and ensure that it does not exist again. Where does this company tick? When we did with Great North Transport then, hence we were successful, we realised that the biggest loss in this company is in maintenance. And if we can come up with measures that can alleviate government from maintenance, this company is going to produce what you would call positive net present value (NPV). As a result, the company will thrive; and we did exactly that and the company thrived. O tlo kerea mokgalabje yo a lego gore o ile a ba le dipese kgale, a re nna ke nyaka gore dipese tše e be tša ka ka moka ga tšona, a sa lebelele taba ya gore ge di fihla mengwaga ye e itšego o swanetše gore a reke tše dingwe; gomme go reka tše dingwe ke tšhelete. That is not going to be very easy to be consistent. At some stage, you are not going to have that [inaudible]. If you say you are going to buy, pese e lahlegelwa ke boleng ka lebelo. Scania and many other buses, Marcopolo and other bus companies know how to revamp buses. [inaudible] ya kgale ba e tšee ba dire ye mpsha ba e rekiše. You do not have capacity; hence it does not make business sense to own a bus permanently. If you are a big company like Great North Transport, lease is the best option. And I am talking from experience in any event. It is important

for Great North Transport to become financially self-sustainable and not rely on bailout from the state like it used to be in 2009 until 2011.

I would love to see the evidence of the claims made by Hon Seshoka that some of the private bus companies, which are subsidised by our government operate unroadworthy buses. I would like to have that evidence. From where we are, there is nothing that can substantiate this allegation. Why? Because the private bus companies that are subsidised by government currently, in as far as we are concerned, are doing a great job for commuters in this province. Ask me about Bahwaduba Transport; ask me about Madodi, which we established as LimDev; ask me about Kopano Bus Company, again which we established out of small business bus owners, we identified the roads that were not making business sense to us and said these ones are not making business sense. Why are they not making business sense, because we are a big company, but a small company which does not have the kind of overheads that we have will be able to run those roads successfully. Hence, we have got Kopano and Madodi bus companies, which we pride ourselves with. However, let us give Hon Seshoka, a benefit of doubt, Hon Speaker, if there is a legitimate concern, and if indeed there is a legitimate concern government will not hesitate to take corrective measures. Please give us evidence.

Honourable Members, we have said it on more than one occasion that the Musina-Makhado SEZ is about the people of Limpopo and South Africa. We have said it before that opportunities that will present themselves at the Musina-Makhado SEZ are opportunities for the people of Limpopo and the people of South Africa. I can say with confidence in this House, Hon Speaker, that we are tailoring our trade agreements in such a way that they will ensure that opportunities are not lost to our people in this province. Currently we have allocated an amount of R200 million to support the implementation phase. This allocation will contribute to electricity, short-term water supply and basic security infrastructure. I think, only a visitor from another planet can be forgiven for suggesting that our industrial parks are white elephants, unless if the concept "white elephants" has acquired a different meaning. The truth is that our industrial parks are playing a significant role in industrialising our provincial economy. Remember that economics is a very simple social science and is about ways and means of satisfying human needs, and that is basically what we are doing here. We are thankful to the R40 million investments by the Department of Trade and Industry and Competition. On aggregate, our industrial parks currently are operating at over 90% occupancy rate. These industrial parks have created business opportunities for local businesses and have helped to employ thousands of people. This to me, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, does not look like a white elephant.

The provincial government has made visible progress with regard to good governance and fight against corruption. Those with eyes can see the progress we are talking about. Very soon the audit performance of the provincial government will be tabled in this House by the A-G; and I can assure Members that yet another significant improvement will be recorded. Remember what the Auditor-General said last year that Limpopo is on the right trajectory. You can be rest assured that the days of disclaimer audit opinions are a thing of the past. This progress is a product of many things, including our consequence management approach. It is therefore untrue for anyone to suggest that we are massaging corruption with velvet gloves. We are tackling corruption and mismanagement of public resources head on. It is just a pity that when action is taken against those who are favoured, it is no longer called action against

corruption but a witch-hunt. We will continue to act against corruption, maladministration and related tendencies, without regard to who it is involved. Re kama ka sekamo sa go swana. We have seen a tendency of people loud hailing against corruption while on the other hand pursuing corrupt activities. Whenever action is taken against such people, it is said to be a witch-hunt. Le tla feleletša le tšere le tšhelete ya disekerete tša go utswiwa. Our consequence management sword is sharp and does not have eyes.

Honourable Members, I am happy that this House does not forget the significance of the fight against gender-based violence. In September last year, I addressed a virtual gender-based violence imbizo. I want to repeat what I said during that imbizo, because what I said during that imbizo was as relevant then as it is relevant today. I said that as government we believe that this violence against women has become a serious problem that undermines the constitutional rights of women in our country. This demon of violence against women and children robs women and children of their inherent right to bodily integrity, dignity and the right to freedom of movement. In most instances, such violation of women's rights leaves permanent marks of physical and psychological scars, and in some instances such abuses leave women with infectious and deadly diseases. As we said it then, we are saying it today that we have had enough of rapes; we have had enough of physical abuse of women; we have had enough of economic abuse of women; we have seen enough of sexual harassment of women in the workplace; we have seen babies in nappies being raped and mutilated by men old enough to be their grandfathers. As government we are committed to working with police to ensure that there is no place to hide for perpetrators of gender-based violence. It is for this reason that we have developed a provincial gender-based violence action plan.

Madam Speaker, as I said last Thursday, the dark clouds of despair are clearing and dark days are almost over. We can now see the blue skies of hope and prosperity emerging. Indeed, the sun will soon be out and not only to warm our bodies which had frozen in the midst of a ravaging pandemic, but also to power us with the much-needed energy to get back to work. We need to and we shall get back to work to rebuild our economy, to regain the lost livelihoods, and to recover all what has been lost during the last few months. We will use the energy to build a capable, ethical and developmental state. We will use this energy to transform our economy and create more jobs. We will use this energy to expand access and improve the quality of our education and healthcare outcomes. We will use this energy to improve on the delivery of reliable and quality basic services such as water, housing, sanitation and electricity. We will indeed use this energy to move Limpopo forward to a destination of socioeconomic prosperity and a better life for all. Working together we will build the Limpopo we want, because we are not like those proverbial Australian miners, who said what should all labour be; so let us sleep. We chose to scorn delight and lived a laborious life. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Premier. The Premier responded to the debates.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? There is none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned to Tuesday, 09 March 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 09 MARCH 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 09 MARCH 2021
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 meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may all be seated. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Members of this august House, all Members who are connected through virtual platforms, members of the administration, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good morning to all Members present here.

**SEVENTY ORPHANED CHILDREN RECEIVE UNIFORMS FROM YOUNG
ENTREPRENEURS
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes the generous donation of school uniforms to more than 70 orphaned children of Takalani Children's Home in Siloam, Vhembe District. These visionaries and friends namely, Oriel Mukwevho, Dr Hulisani Nditwani, Khuliso Mukheli, Pfuluwani Nembambula and Tshume Tshindane, are from the same area of Siloam. What we have learned from these young people is that charity begins at home indeed.

These young people deemed it fit to donate school uniforms to destitute learners in their area to make a difference in their lives. We commend them for making this contribution in an endeavour to change the lives of those that cannot do much for themselves.

The EFF takes this opportunity to challenge big business in Limpopo to plough back to local communities. Obsession with making profit has always obstructed big business from fulfilling their humanitarian obligation towards poor communities. If these young people can make a difference with the little resources at their disposal, what can big businesses do with the massive resources at their disposal do?

We salute these young people from Siloam for making a difference in the lives of our children.

Finally, we call upon everyone to make a difference in their communities with whatever resources they have at their disposal to make the world a better world to live in.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Is there any seconder? Yes, honourable Member.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Selaelo Regina Mphahlele, stand to second the motion read by Hon Seshoka.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

LETABA TAXI ASSOCIATION REDUCES TAXI FARES FOR SCHOOL LEARNERS

(Motion without Notice)

Honourable Members, I rise on behalf of the DA to move that this House takes note that:

- The Letaba Taxi Association in Maruleng has reduced fares for learners in uniform from R15 to R10;
- The reduction will apply to learners who are in school uniform travelling to or from school between 06:00 and 08:00 in the morning and from 14:00 to 16:00 in the afternoon.

This initiative by the association will go a long way in promoting and ensuring access to schooling and maximum attendance for learners that do not currently benefit from the scholar transport.

We call on this House to appreciate the efforts of the Letaba Taxi Association to provide transport and reduce costs to our learners in the Maruleng area and to ensure that our learners get to school safely.

We call on the Department of Education to negotiate similar initiatives with taxi associations across the province for learners who do not qualify for scholar transport.

I so move. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Is there any seconder? Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Maharaj, hereby second the motion as delivered by Hon Smalle. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, and a very good morning to you and the House at large.

**CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING AWAY OF CDE AZWIFARWI DICK
RALUSHAI AND MS KARIMA BROWN**
(Motion without Notice)

On behalf of the ANC, we want to send a message of condolences on the passing on of Cde Azwifarwi Dick Ralushai who passed away on Friday, 05 March 2021. "Cde Dick", as he was affectionately known, was born and raised at Tshififi outside Thohoyandou. He completed his secondary education at Mphaphuli High School where he became politically active before proceeding to the University of Zululand. Cde Dick fought against apartheid bantustans and all their manifestations. He participated in various structures of the movement including the Northern Transvaal Action Committee, uMkhonto we Sizwe and the ANC. This led him to being detained countless times. Cde Dick counted President Ramaphosa amongst his contemporaries, but he has not shouted even once to the ruptures about his struggle credentials.

We also want to pass our motion of condolences to the family of Karima Brown, eNCA TV host and journalist, whose death is a huge loss to the media fraternity.

May their souls rest in peace!

I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Madam Speaker, I stand to second the motion by Hon Aphiri. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Mathe, your hand is up. Are you having a motion?

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and good morning to Members of this House.

**ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD AND TAX EVASIONS AGAINST JACQUES SMALLE,
THE LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE IN LIMPOPO**
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, we have been made aware that one of the esteemed Members of this august House seems to be a tax fraudster. He is doing the most unscrupulous things to evade paying tax of which that is an obligation that every law-abiding citizen with an income must fulfil. We have had tax fraudsters and evaders in the past, but we were just not aware that one of them could be one of us in this august House.

According to weekend media reports with special reference to *Sunday Times*, a certain Jacques Smalle has forced his subordinates to open a bogus bank account for his nefarious use and evading paying taxes. As the Legislature we may not have the legal muscle to reign in this con artist, but we will constantly remind him that it is hoodlums like him who drag the name of this House in the mud by undermining its oath.

We will keep an ear on this development to check on how ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, there is a point of order.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I have been raising my hand for a while, but I was ignored. Nonetheless, the honourable Member needs to submit a substantive motion, because the allegations that are in the paper like many allegations that have been brought against your Members are not yet proven. So please bring a substantive motion.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, if you don't agree with a motion, you rather raise an objection, unlike addressing the House. That was not the procedure.

Can we proceed, honourable Members? The motion was not seconded. Is there any seconder to the motion that was raised by Hon Mathe? No, honourable Member, I was advising you that if you want to object to the motion in future, not now. Can we proceed? I have ruled on that one. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Lekganyane.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and good morning honourable Members. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Mathe. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any further motion without notice? Hon Kekana, your hand is up. Hon Kekana just wait.

MR MAHARAJ

Madam Speaker, I rise to object to the motion.

THE SPEAKER

The motion is objected to. I now call upon the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, good morning. I, therefore, call for the division of the House on the motion.

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Honourable Members, the motion was objected to and the Chief Whip has called for the division of the House. I wanted to check from all Members those who agree with the motion to say "Yes".

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Those who disagree.

BACKGROUND

No. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

The "Yes" prevails. Thank you. [APPLAUSE] Hon Kekana, it is your turn.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and good morning to the House at large. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to present a motion without notice for the House to take note.

**THE ROBBERY OF EMS PERSONNEL AND PATIENTS AT GUNPOINT ON THE
N1 ROAD**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to condemn in the strongest possible terms an incident in which EMS personnel and patients were robbed at gunpoint by two unknown men on the N1 road not too far from Mantsole Weighbridge. This incident involved a Planned Patient Transport which was transporting patients from Nkhensani and Maphutha Malatji Hospitals in Mopani District to George Mukhari Hospital.

According to reports, the patients' transport vehicle got a puncture tyre and the driver went to inspect it. Upon stopping, he was confronted by two gunmen who then robbed them together with the patients' valuables. The vehicle was reportedly carrying four patients, two transferring nurses, and two EMS drivers who were all robbed off their belongings. This incident is linked to syndicates who operate along the N1 road by placing spikes and sharp objects to damage car tyres and rob travellers.

We are confident that the police will apprehend the suspects and make arrest soon.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Kekana. Is there any seconder? I notice Hon Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second the motion by Hon Kekana.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monyamane. We are still on item 3. Do we still have motions without notice? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, MECs, Chief Whip and Members of the Legislature, good morning.

CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

(Motion without Notice)

I, Makoma Makhurupetje, stand here on behalf of the ANC to put a motion that the whole world was celebrating the International Women's Day yesterday. The International Women's Day is a day that has been put there by the Socialist Movement in 1917 and the United Nations started celebrating the day in 1977.

As South Africans, we stand here to celebrate the achievements that indeed, through International Women's Day, the women of the world yesterday were celebrating with Pan African Women's Organisation that women are at the forefront. We take this

opportunity to congratulate all the movements or structures that celebrated the International Women's Day.

We wish to pronounce that we can't claim to be celebrating women's achievements by delegating responsibilities to women, and yet society does not accept that women are leaders in their own right.

We therefore call upon society in general to work together and ensure that issues of gender equality continue to be celebrated and supported. Patriarchy still exists in our homes and in society in general.

Let's all unite and deal with the demon of patriarchy. We cannot continue relegating the women' space to the kitchen. Women must be given the necessary space they need to prove themselves. By so doing, we will be honouring the life of mama Charlotte Maxeke. If she were still alive, she would be celebrating her 150th anniversary this year. Women, supported by the male counterparts, are encouraged to follow the footsteps of Charlotte Maxeke and other heroines to confront the challenges that young children face today, such as gender-based violence.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move the motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje. Is there any seconder to the motion? I notice Hon Selane.

MR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion presented by Hon Makhurupetje.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice?? I think we have exhausted all the motions without notices. Before we proceed to item 3 on notices of motions, may we all rise for a moment of silence for the departed.

[SILENCE]

May the souls of Cde Dick and Karima Brown rest in peace! Thank you.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions? There are none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MR RAPHELA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Ke be ke re ke rena fela re nago le mathata a SARS, eupša le ba bangwe e a ba palela.

**INCOMPLETE RDP HOUSES IN WARD 16, MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY IN SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT**
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, there is no political will on the part of government to change the lives of the people for the better. As it happened with all districts of the province, government started building RDP houses in ward 16, Makhuduthamaga, Sekhukhune District in 2013, but these houses were never completed to date.

The people of Makhuduthamaga have waited patiently for government to complete these houses, but they have since given up. By the way, we are talking about the poor masses who do not have a roof over their heads and who do not know where their next meal will come from. Heartless and unrepentant shoddy contractors just collected money and ran away without completing the projects. They steal taxpayers' money aided by officials and politicians – I hope they are paying tax these contractors. None of these contractors have been blacklisted by government as they continue to do business with the government on other projects. This problem is perpetuated by the fact that there is no consequence management in the current administration. The Limpopo provincial government is a banana republic, where the rule of law is completely absent. Ke ka lebaka leo ba agago le mekhukhu.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate not only this matter, but many other incomplete houses across the province.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Raphela. I call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to respond.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity and Hon Raphela for raising the matter on incomplete houses in ward 16 of Makhuduthamaga. I must indicate that we welcome the statement, but wish to report to this House that we have already started doing audit in the whole province on all incomplete houses including those that were abandoned in the 2013/14 financial year. This audit goes as far back as those houses that were left since year 2000, just to make sure that such structures are completed.

If you follow the social media and the programme of CoGHSTA, we were at Mogalakwena recently to complete houses which were not completed and handed those houses over to the families and beneficiaries that needed them most. The recipients were excited to have received completed houses.

I must also indicate that we have taken a decision as the department that any contractor who has left any incomplete house should not be allocated work in future even if that contractor is still in the database of contractors of the department. I think you were here and listened to the Premier when he spoke about what we call the mekhukhu or the Talana project. The Premier has called the SIU to do the investigations and they have made some arrests. As we speak, no less than six people

have been arrested in relation to that project. The Premier has taken action on corruption alleged to have occurred on that project and we hope that the arrested people will be convicted.

As government, we are attending to all those issues of incomplete houses. We can assure Members that we are busy dealing with this problem and we remain convinced that we will resolve these challenges.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC, for the response. Is there any other Statement by Members? Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised.

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker, honourable Members of this august House, good morning.

**CONCERN OVER THE DELAPIDATED BRIDGE BETWEEN MAHWELERENG
AND GAMADIBA**

(Members' Statement)

The bridge between Mahwelereng and GaMadiba is completely a mess interrupting day-to-day lives of the people. The bridge is small and not user-friendly at all, because the river water overwhelms it during the rainy season and it becomes completely invisible. It is difficult for poor people to travel between Mahwelereng and GaMadiba because of this small bridge. School children also find it difficult to cross the bridge to go to school, especially during rainy seasons.

The state of the bridge affects economic and social activities in the area, as a result the people continue to suffer. Taxis and cars also find it difficult to cross the bridge, while transporting people to work every day. This matter was brought to the attention of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure several times, but was ignored. How long must people wait for them to get a new bridge that will make their lives easy? How many people should die on this bridge before a new one is constructed?

By the way we are dealing with a reactionary government that waits for a tragedy to happen before they can provide services to the people. We need a proactive government that will put interests of the people first.

We call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to investigate this matter and find solutions to the poor people of Mahwelereng and GaMadiba.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Is there any Member of the Executive Council who wants to respond?

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I just want to take note of the statement as presented by the honourable Member. So far where I am standing, I would have expected the honourable Member before she could come and make this wild statement, most probably because I'm within reach, to first touch base with me in order to get clarity or make follow ups on whatever that might have been communicated to the department. I am not surprised by the posture that she is taking because she is not different from a proverbial fly trying to move a dunghill. Thank you so much. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Order Members! Is there any other Statement by a Member in terms of Rule 199? Are we done with Members' Statements? Your hand is up, Hon Seshoka. Do you have a Members' Statement?

MR SESHOKA

Thank you for the opportunity, Hon Speaker. If you remember in the previous Sitting in this House, the EFF presented a motion on the capture of the SAPS by the white cabal. In that statement the MEC responsible responded by committing herself that she will come and give a response. I am just checking with you if you are going to give her an opportunity to respond as she committed herself that she was going to investigate and then come to report to this House today. I just want to check with you if indeed you are going to give her an opportunity to give us a response on that statement, because it has become a norm that statements are presented and not responded to.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, sit down. Hon Seshoka, don't abuse this platform; we are on Members' Statements.

[BACKGROUND NOISE]

MR MATHE

Sit down!

THE SPEAKER

Your hand was up and I thought you were going to raise a Members' Statement. That is why I am saying sit down.
Honourable Members, order!

[NOISE]

MR SESHOKA

The MEC committed herself last week that she got our Members' Statement [inaudible] I was asking you if you were going to give her the opportunity to [NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Order honourable Members! Honourable Members, order! Honourable Members, I said order! Hon Mathe and Hon Seshoka, I am going to chase you out if you continue like that. I am saying order! Hon Seshoka, I wanted to remind you. I was checking the rules. It says that a Members' Statement is not an instruction to the Members of the Executive Council. It must not be seen as an instruction. If you raised a statement, it is not an instruction to the MECs. They will respond. If they don't have a response, they will arrange a date on which they will respond on. That is why I am saying to you that must not be perceived as an instruction.

MR SESHOKA

But, Hon Speaker, she is the one who committed herself. [NOISE] That's why I am asking you if you are going to give her the opportunity to respond.

THE SPEAKER

Yes, I'm agreeing, but it must not be seen as an instruction. I am saying just wait until the MEC is ready to respond. It is what I am saying. No, I am not going to allow you to argue with the Speaker.

MR MATHE

O nagana gore o mang wena? Who are you?

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, it is unfortunate because we are using this Hybrid Sitting. Unfortunately, I didn't see Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya. Her hand was up, she wanted to respond. Let's give Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya the space to respond, but I was reminding you that in future you must not instruct the MEC. A statement is not an instruction. You raised it and they will respond at the right time when they are ready. Let's afford Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya the opportunity to respond.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning to the House. Hon Premier, my colleagues in the Executive and honourable Members who are in the House and those who are on the virtual platform.

Madam Speaker, I also thought that by now Hon Seshoka is conversant with parliamentary processes that after dealing with Members' Statements on your programme, you were going to ask if there were any comments or presentations that Members of the Executive Council may want to make to the House. It is a painful situation that after being a Member of this House for all these months, he still thinks that we still do not have such a space.

In response to the statement made by the EFF with regard to the Limpopo Highway Patrol, the following serves as a response on the issue raised:

1. SAPS Limpopo Visible Policing consists of various departments which include inter alia Provincial Emergency Services, Social Crime Prevention and Visible Policing and all these departments have one budget under Visible Policing.
2. The Provincial Emergency Services consists of various sub-departments that include K9 Dog Unit, Mounted Units, those are horses, Hostage and Suicide Negotiators, Search and Rescue Unit, Road Accident Unit, Provincial Flying Squad, and Highway Patrol. All these sub-departments have one sub-budget under Provincial Emergency Services.
3. The Limpopo Highway Patrol was established and started operating on 15 June 2020. Members were recruited from stations specifically not to remove members from the flying squad within the Limpopo province.
4. The Limpopo Highway Patrol consists of 44 members with 15 Volkswagen GTI Golfs. All the vehicles are marked and are equipped with rotating blue lights.
5. The 15 vehicles were issued from the SAPS National Head Office from the head office's budget and these vehicles were issued with clear instructions which included, amongst other, that these vehicles should only be deployed on provincial highways and byways. The province strictly complies to these instructions. All provinces in South Africa received these high-performance vehicles dedicated to serve on highways and byways in the respective provinces.
6. The highway patrol vehicles are all high-performance sedans that cannot successfully operate on gravel or farm roads. These vehicles are not used in rural safety or farm areas. For this specific reason and in support of the National Rural Safety Strategy, LDVs and 4x4 vehicles were issued to all rural stations within the province in support of rural safety. It must be kept in mind, Hon Speaker, that rural safety does not include farms only, but also villages that cannot be easily accessible with sedan cars.

Colonel Potgieter is a white female with the rank of colonel appointed as the provincial head of the Provincial Emergency Services within Limpopo while Colonel M L Matsiba is the Acting Head of the Department for Supply Chain Management in the Limpopo province. All logistics items are procured within the approved procurement process. It must be mentioned that there were no special items procured for Limpopo Highway Patrol in the current financial year. The Limpopo Highway Patrol is an important unit dedicated to fight against crime in the province.

Madam Speaker, allow me to talk about the activities that the unit has been involved in. In the past nine months of operation the unit has achieved the following:

- Drugs: 236 arrests and drugs to the value of R9,2 million were confiscated.
- Illicit cigarette trade: 91 arrests and cigarettes to the value of R1,4 billion were confiscated.

- Possession of gold: One arrest and gold to the value of R70 000 were recovered.
- Firearms: 63 arrests were effected for the possession of illegal and unlicensed firearms and these firearms were confiscated.
- Possession of stolen properties: 32 arrests were effected and the value of stolen items recovered was R1,1 million.
- Theft of motor vehicles: 33 suspects were arrested and vehicles to the value of R3,4 million were recovered.
- Explosives: 3 suspects were arrested in possession of explosives used in CTI robberies and ATM bombings.
- Other arrests included housebreaking: 6 arrests were made in relation to theft at business premises; 16 arrests were made in relation to armed robbery; 12 arrests were made in relation to business robbery; 2 arrests were made in relation to house robbery; 7 arrests were made in relation to attempted murder; and 6 arrests were made in relation to other murders. A total number of arrests effected for serious crimes which include crimes not mentioned above is 634.

We wish to raise this concern in this august House that the Limpopo Flying Squad is under-resourced in all aspects and the provincial management is prioritising this sub-department in the coming financial year. Madam Speaker, since the nine months that this unit has been put in place, these are the success stories the unit has achieved.

I want to conclude by saying that with the report and the success stories I have just shared with the august House, the statement made by the honourable member of the EFF last week was based on false and unfounded information. It was based on issues that are non-existent and therefore, one can conclude by saying that the statement is unfounded and baseless.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity.

[NO RECORDING: TIMESTAMP: 0:50:10 – 0:51:18]

MR SESHOKA

She is out of order. Call her to withdraw that statement, please? [NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, I will check the *Hansard* report. Honourable Members, let us proceed. Honourable Members, let us proceed to item 5.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tabling committee reports, other reports and papers? There are none. Honourable Members, you are making a noise. I am calling you to order and you continue making a lot of noise.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

We move to the First Reading of the Third Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill [B02-2021] by the MEC for Provincial Treasury. MEC, you may take the floor. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

TABLING OF THE THIRD LIMPOPO ADJUSTMENT APPROPRIATION AMENDMENT BILL, 2021

(Address by Hon S C Sekoati, MEC for Provincial Treasury)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council present in the House and those on the virtual platform, my colleagues in this august House, ladies and gentlemen, I present herewith the Third Adjustment Budget to the 2020/21 Provincial Budget.

In compliance with the Division of Revenue Act, the national Department of Human Settlements has stopped the transfer of an amount of R50 million of the Integrated Housing, Human Settlements Development Grant to the Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, subsequently the National Treasury has effected these reductions. This has resulted in the Limpopo Provincial Budget reducing from R71,3 billion to R71,2 billion in the 2020/21 financial year.

The Provincial Treasury hereby tables the Third Adjustment Budget to give effect to these changes to the Provincial Budget.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Bill, together with its supporting documents, is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to the House.

7.2: First Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill also by the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

PRESENTATION OF THE LIMPOPO APPROPRIATION BILL, 2021

(Address by Hon S C Sekoati, MEC for Provincial Treasury)

Once again, thank you, Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; the Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Azwindini Jerry Ndou; Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council, Members of this august House, the Director-General of the province and all Heads of Department present, CEOs of our various entities, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Madam Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of this august House, and all the people of the great province of Limpopo connected to this session through various broadcasts and social media platforms, it remains my privilege yet again to present the second Provincial Budget of the Sixth Administration.

I therefore table before this august House:

- The Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021;
- Overview of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2021;
- Socio-Economic Review and Outlook 2021;
- Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2021; and
- The supporting gazettes of the Bill.

The Reconstruction and Development Programme adopted in 1994 asserts that no political democracy can survive and flourish if the masses of our people remain in poverty without land, and without tangible prospects of a better life. Attacking poverty and deprivation must therefore be the first priority of a democratic government. The tabling of this Budget is thus largely informed by the wisdom espoused in the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

On the other hand, the preamble of the National Development Plan declares that: “We know our leaders as we have elected them and pledged them into office:

- They are wise in the use of our wealth;
- Wise in knowing and understanding our wishes and needs;
- Wise in expecting us to express ourselves to them in any appropriate manner we have agreed to be allowable.”

It is, therefore, imperative to acknowledge that this Provincial Budget is presented during unprecedented and difficult economic times, with the national economy having declined by 7,8% in 2020. In fact, our economy was already performing relatively poor and only to be further compounded by the COVID-19 disaster.

I, therefore, table this Budget confidently with the conviction that our economy may be weakened and our confidence shaken. Though we are living through difficult and uncertain times, we will rebuild, we will recover, and Limpopo will emerge stronger than before.

In the 2021/22 Budget presented by the Minister of Finance, the National Treasury expects that the South African economy will increase by 3,5% during 2021 and by 2,2% in 2022.

The economic and financial shocks such as the global financial crisis have hindered the country from reaching full potential. These shocks have been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has slowed the process of faster economic development even longer. Equally, our provincial economic growth rate is in a downward sloping

trajectory since 2011. The 2010 World Cup fiscal expenditure could not sustain investor and consumer confidence for a protracted period, commodity prices slumped, and the surge in crude oil prices weighed down on the local economy.

The provincial economy has recorded two consecutive contractions from 2,2% in 2017 to 0,5% in 2018 and further declined to a marginal -0,1% in 2019. However, the projected increase in demand for commodities from emerging markets is likely to spur local economic growth and job creation.

Hon Premier, although global economic activity is gaining momentum again, it is not likely to return to business as usual for the medium-term when compared to the levels of economic output before the pandemic. The deterioration in confidence has undeniably dampened the investments.

It is of course disheartening to note that the official unemployment rate in the province has been rising even prior COVID-19. It rose from 18,5% in the first quarter of 2019 to 26,3% in the third quarter of 2020, while the national rate rose from 27,6% in the first quarter of 2019 to 30,8% in the third quarter of 2020. The expanded unemployment in the province rose from 41,1% in the second quarter of 2019 to 46,9% in 2020. Those that are hard hit and those who are bearing the brunt of this unemployment are young people.

Unemployment in the province is perpetuated by the general low skills base where the unemployed people possess lower than the prerequisite skills of different skills base than what the market requires. This, ladies and gentlemen, remains an indictment on us and needs urgent attention if we are to turn around the tide.

However, as the government of Limpopo, we remain committed to resuscitating the provincial economy to ensure economic and social prosperity for all our people. Our recovery will be underpinned by necessary structural reforms to augment sector productivity and overall accelerated economic growth. The Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan is now aligned to the National Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and it builds on existing government programmes that are outlined in the Limpopo Development Plan and the Revised Limpopo Industrial Master Plan 2020-2030. In the foreseeable future, the provincial government will implement mega programmes and projects guided by the Limpopo Industrial Master Plan.

The provincial government's strategic intervention to save lives and livelihoods encompasses:

1. Scaling public employment programmes;
2. Industrialisation through sector-led development and infrastructure development; and
3. Building the capacity of the state to implement the industrialisation programme.

We are pleased to announce that in the midst of the pandemic's gloom and doom, the number of employed people in the province increased from 1,151 million in the second quarter of 2020 to 1,266 million in the third quarter of 2020. The rebound is attributed to the relaxation of the lockdown regulations where most sectors of the economy were allowed to reopen.

The provincial administration continues to provide proper fiscal discipline in terms of expenditure of the Provincial Budget. During the 2019/20 financial year, audit outcomes of the provincial departments improved on an overall basis with four departments including this august House and one public entity receiving clean audits. The local municipalities in the province are also actively being supported to improve their audit outcomes.

In terms of expenditure priorities, except for the expenses to curb COVID-19, the focus of this year's Budget is on the promotion of economic growth and addressing the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. In this regard a key focus will be on preferential procurement from the local SMMEs and increasing the capacity of industrialisation in the province. The 2020/21 overall provincial expenditure, at the end of January 2021, is R55,4 billion or 77,6% spending of the R71,3 billion of the 2020/21 adjusted Budget. The low spending was mainly influenced by the State of the Nation Disaster declaration and COVID-19 lockdown since most of the activities were on hold during the lockdown periods.

This Provincial Budget is financed mainly from equitable share, conditional grants and provincial own revenue. Over the 2021 MTEF period, no amount has been drawn from the provincial reserves to fund this allocated Budget.

The 2021 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework reflects reductions from the Provincial Equitable Share baseline including a combination of the freezing of salary increases announced in the 2020 Budget and additional reductions to support fiscal consolidation.

The Limpopo Equitable Share receipts decreases from R63,3 billion in 2020/21 to R60 billion or -3,7% in 2021/22. The allocation further decreases to R59,6 billion or -0,7% in 2022/23 and R59,3 billion or -0,5% in the 2023/24 financial year. The provincial equitable share continues to contract due to data updates (mainly outward movement in population numbers) and fiscal framework reductions.

The reductions in the equitable share baseline are as follows:

- R465,5 million in 2021/22 and a further R2,1 billion over outer two years of the MTEF period due to the impact of new data updates used in the equitable share formula;
- R5,9 billion in 2021/22, R8 billion in 2022/23 and R5,4 billion in 2023/24 on Compensation of Employees due to the freezing of salary increases announced by the Minister of Finance; and
- The non-compensation of employees fiscal consolidation effected of R737,7 million, R970 million and R1,7 billion in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years respectively.

Due to increased tax revenue collection at national, an amount of R916 million has been added to the Department of Health's equitable share for COVID-19 response programmes in the 2021/22 financial year.

The province has also effected reductions amounting to R3 billion from the equitable

share allocations to departments to cater for the probable COVID-19 third surge. One billion rand of these funds have been ring-fenced in the Department of Health while the remainder has been retained in the Provincial Revenue Fund as a contingency reserve.

The conditional grant allocation for 2021/22 financial year is R10,5 billion, R10,1 billion in 2022/23 and R10,3 billion in 2023/24 financial year. New grants include components in the Comprehensive HIV/Aids Grant for Mental Health and Oncology Services in the Department of Health and the Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant in the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. The Department of Health is also allocated an amount of R167 million in the HIV/Aids grant for the rollout of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme in the province.

I will further outline conditional grant allocations later when I discuss the allocations per department. Provincial governments are mandated by the Constitution to generate own revenue to augment the of provincial share of national revenue allocated to departments. In the 2021/22 financial year, the province's own revenue collection is projected at R1,4 billion or 2,1% of the total provincial receipts with the Department of Transport and Provincial Treasury leading the collector's pack at 46,9% and 17,8% respectively.

Provincial revenue is expected to increase from R1,4 billion to R1,5 billion in 2022/23 and to R1,6 billion in 2023/24 supported by the provincial revenue enhancement strategies. In addition to own revenue, it is estimated that a total of R126 million will be received from donors during 2021/22 financial year.

An amount of R122 million will be received by the Department of Education as donor funding to assist schools with infrastructure delivery, including building of sport centres, boreholes, school furniture, etc. The Department of Social Development expects an amount of R4 million from Health and Welfare SETA for training and development of internships.

The provincial expenditure Budget declines from R71,3 billion in 2020/21 to R68,7 billion in 2021/22, but grows to R69,6 billion in 2022/23 and to R72,3 billion in 2023/24 financial years. This represents a decline by 3,6% in 2021/22 and growth by 2,6% over the MTEF period.

The provincial expenditure Budget is allocated for specific functional areas, namely: current payments, which include compensation of employees; goods and services; transfers and subsidies; and payment for capital assets; and are allocated as follows:

On current payments: an amount of R58,3 billion is allocated for the 2021/22 financial year, representing 84,8% of total provincial allocation. Included in the current payments allocation for the 2021/22 financial year is R46,8 billion for Compensation of Employees which accounts for 68,1% of the total Provincial Expenditure Budget and is expected to fund a staff complement of 118 971 employees.

A total amount of R11,4 billion, R12,4 billion and R14,6 billion is allocated to Goods and Services for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 respectively. The Goods and Services budget grows by 8,4% over the MTEF period. The increase is mainly influenced by savings realised from the Compensation of Employees and additional funding made

available for provincial priority projects that enhance economic growth within the province.

Transfers and Subsidies decreases from R8,8 billion in 2020/21 to R7,6 billion in 2021/22 and is set to increase from R8,2 billion to R8,5 billion over the MTEF period. The increase of Transfers and Subsidies budget is as a result of budget increases in Transfer Payments to other entities, NPOs and departmental agencies by provincial departments.

The provincial public entities are allocated an amount of R1,8 billion in 2021/22, R1,8 billion in 2022/23 and R1,7 billion during the 2023/24 financial years. Significant reductions are implemented in Limpopo Economic Development Agency and Gateway Airport Authority Limited due to phasing out of 3D entities from being allocated provincial equitable share. The Roads Agency Limpopo allocation decreases by 18,8% in 2021/22 due to the reduction of the once-off allocation in previous financial year.

Payments for Capital Assets has increased from R1,9 billion in 2020/21 to R2,8 billion in the 2021/22 financial years. This is an increase by 51,2% in the 2021/22 as well as an increase on average by 11,5% over the MTEF period due to once-off allocations for building and other fixed structures.

Included in the above expenditure Budget is an amount of R754 million that the province has allocated to priority projects. These allocations include an allocation of R200 million for the Musina-Makhado SEZ; R35 million for the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ; R30 million for the upgrading of resorts in the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; R100 million for the rollout of e-Education strategy; R58,1 million for ICT projects in the Office of the Premier; R40 million for the Emergency Medical Service computer-aided dispatch system; infrastructure projects in Roads Agency Limpopo and Department of Sport, Arts and Culture; R20 million for three agricultural revitalisation projects; the purchase of buildings and construction and maintenance of traditional council offices.

Also included in the above expenditure budgets is the funding for infrastructure projects. The province has allocated R20,6 billion over the 2021 MTEF period as follows: R7,1 billion in 2021/22; R6,5 billion in 2022/23; and R6,9 billion in 2023/24 financial years.

In the 2021/22 financial year, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is allocated a Budget of R3 billion or 42%, CoGHSTA is allocated R1,1 billion or 16%, the Department of Education is allocated R1,3 billion or 18% and the Department of Health is allocated R1,3 billion or 19%, respectively. The Limpopo Provincial Government infrastructure is mainly funded through conditional grants and some provincial equitable share.

The province has allocated R20,6 billion across various infrastructure investment categories. An amount of R5,2 billion or 25% is allocated over the MTEF period towards new infrastructure mainly for construction of new clinics, libraries, schools, upgrades of gravel roads to tar, centres for place of safety, nature reserves and houses, while R5,3 million or 2,5% is allocated for rehabilitation and refurbishment, R4,1 billion or 20% for upgrading and additions of existing facilities and R4,5 billion or

22% is allocated for maintenance over the MTEF respectively.

It is therefore trusted that that these allocations will stimulate the economy and contribute to economic growth.

Hon Speaker, the following are the 2021/22 financial allocations per department, including their allocations of conditional grants:

Vote 1: Office of the Premier is allocated R405 million in 2021/22, R424 million in 2022/23 and R464,8 million in 2023/24 financial years. Included in the allocation is R58 million earmarked funding for the implementation of the ICT-related projects in the province. The allocation increases on average by 5,6% over the MTEF period.

Vote 2: Provincial Legislature receives an allocated Budget of R395,5 million in 2021/22, R427 million in 2022/23 and R437 million in 2023/24 financial years. The Budget has increased by 11% in 2021/22 or 3,4% over the MTEF period due to an increase in the baseline allocation for political party funding.

Vote 3: Department of Education will receive 47,4% of the provincial Budget, with an allocation of R32,5 billion in 2021/22, R32,7 billion in 2022/23 and R33,5 billion in 2023/24 financial years respectively. Included in the equitable share allocation, as part of the provincial priority, is an amount of R100 million to kick-start the implementation of e-Education project in the province.

The department has further been allocated R34 million in 2021/22, R35,3 million in 2022/23 and R36,9 million in 2023/24 financial years for the Sanitary Dignity project.

The department's 2021/22 allocation includes R2,9 billion, with R2,9 billion in 2022/23 and a further increase to R3 billion in 2023/24 financial years for conditional grants and R660 million from own revenue. The allocation decreases by 3,5% in 2021/22 and increases on average by 0,9% over the MTEF period mainly due to budget cuts from salary increase freeze.

Vote 4: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is allocated a Budget of R1,5 billion in 2021/22, R1,9 billion in 2022/23 and R2 billion in 2023/24 financial years respectively. The Budget increases on average by 6% over the MTEF period.

Included in the departmental allocation is an amount of R20 million ring-fenced towards projects that are geared towards the revitalisation of agriculture and agro-processing value chain in the province. The department will receive conditional grants amounting to R327 million in 2021/22, R326 million in 2022/23 and R331 million in the 2023/24 financial years.

Vote 5: Provincial Treasury receives a Budget allocation of R364 million in 2021/22, R451 million in 2022/23 and R500 million in the 2023/24 financial years. The Budget allocation is increasing on average by 4,4% over the MTEF period.

Included in the departmental allocation over the MTEF is an amount of R10,3 million for municipal support and R5 million for infrastructure development improvement programmes.

Provincial Treasury has also been allocated additional funding of R10,3 million in 2021/22, R10,8 million in 2022/23 and R11,2 million in 2023/24 for municipal intervention. An additional R5 million in 2021/22, R5,2 million in 2022/23 and R5,4 million in 2023/24 has been allocated to Provincial Treasury for infrastructure development support.

Vote 6: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is allocated a Budget of R1,3 billion in 2021/22, of which R2,2 million is for a EPWP Conditional Grant and R663 million is for Transfers to Public Entities. The allocation increases by 6,1% over the MTEF period.

As the department responsible for economic development in the province and their allocation also include an amount of R265 million for Musina-Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zones, R40 million for the turnaround of Great North Transport and R15 million for Tourism Marketing.

Vote 7: Department of Health is the second highest recipient of allocations at 32% of the total provincial Budget. The total allocation of the department is R21,9 billion in 2021/22, R21 billion in 2022/23 and R22,1 billion in the 2023/24 financial years. Included in the 2021/22 allocation is R4 billion, R3,7 billion in 2022/23 and R3,6 billion in 2023/24 financial years for conditional grants and a R578 million from own revenue in 2021/22. The allocation decreases by 2,8% in 2021/22 and decreases by an average of 0,7% over the MTEF period.

Included in the equitable share allocation for the department is an amount of R1,9 billion ring-fenced for COVID-19 support and vaccine rollout programmes.

The department's grants frameworks were also amended to cater for the fight against the pandemic and is allocated R167 million as part of the HIV/AIDs grant in 2021/22 to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine programme.

Vote 8: Department of Transport and Community Safety is allocated R2 billion in 2021/22, R2,3 billion in 2022/23 and R2,4 billion in 2023/24 financial years respectively.

The 2021/22 allocation includes R406 million in 2021/22, R422 million in 2022/23 and R440 million in 2023/24 for a conditional grant, and R39 million for transfer to Gateway Airport Authority Limited. The departmental allocation is increasing by 3% over the MTEF period.

Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure receives a Budget allocation of R3,2 billion in 2021/22, R3,3 billion in 2022/23 and R3,6 billion in 2023/24 financial years. The allocation has a negative growth of 9,0% in 2021/22 due to a once-off allocation in 2020/21 financial year.

The allocation further includes R1,3 billion in 2021/22, R1,2 billion in 2022/23 and R1,2 billion in 2023/24 financial years for conditional grants to be used on road maintenance and EPWP, and the overall improvement of infrastructure delivery in the province. The department will transfer R1,1 billion to Roads Agency Limpopo for operational costs and roads maintenance and upgrading.

Their allocation also includes an amount of R80 million earmarked for procurement of a building for office accommodation, R43,4 million for programmes geared towards improvement of infrastructure delivery, roads in the province and an amount of R42,5 million for new off roads in the province.

Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture receives an allocation of R473 million in 2021/22, R519 million in 2022/23 and R513 million in the 2023/24 financial years. The allocation for 2021/22 includes conditional grants allocation amounting to R205 million in 2021/22, R212 million in 2022/23 and R211 million in the 2023/24 financial years. The allocation increases by 10,5% in 2021/22 and increases on average by 6,2% over the MTEF period.

Included in the departmental allocation is an amount of R38,5 million for the Provincial Theatre and refurbishment and improvement of the Schoemansdal Museum.

Vote 11: Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs is allocated a Budget of R2,3 billion in 2021/22, R2,4 billion in 2022/23 and R2,5 billion during the 2023/24 financial years. The allocation makes provision for the delivery of quality housing through the Human Settlement Development Grant and a newly introduced Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant amounting to R1,1 billion in the 2021/22 financial year, and R1,1 billion in the 2022/23 financial year. The grant will increase to R1,2 billion in the 2023/24 financial year.

Also included in the allocation for 2021/22 is an amount of R62 million for construction, maintenance and furnishing of traditional council offices and a further R15 million for the Kingship Project. [APPLAUSE]

Vote 12: Department of Social Development will receive R2 billion in 2021/22, R2,2 billion in 2022/23 and R2,4 billion during the 2023/24 financial years. The allocation decreases by 11,6% in 2021/22 and increases on average by 1,9% over the MTEF period.

Included in the Budget allocation for 2021/22 and over the MTEF are funds made available by the national government for employment of social workers, food relief function shift and gender-based violence as follows:

- R7 million in 2021/22, R7,4 million in 2022/23, and R7,7 million in the 2023/24 financial years have been made available for Food Relief Function Shift.
- R61,5 million in 2021/22, R64,4 million in 2022/23 and R67 million in the 2023/24 financial years for Social Workers' Grant conversion for employment of social workers.
- R13,9 million in 2021/22, R14,6 million in 2022/23 and R15 million in 2023/24 for employment of social workers;
- R14,9 million in 2021/22, R15,6 million in 2022/23, and R16,7 million in the 2023/24 financial years respectively for HIV, TB, STIs and gender-based violence; and
- R155 million in 2021/22, R146 million in 2022/23 and R154,4 million in the

2023/24 financial years for Early Childhood Development, EPWP, and social sector EPWP. The Early Childhood Development Grant has two components: one component for maintenance of the ECD centres and the other component for subsidies.

Allow me to assertively say with utmost humility that indeed this Budget has struck light at the end of the dark tunnel. The Budget therefore sets to reaffirm the people's trust and confidence that as leaders we will do all in our power to use the resources of their state wisely and with a full understanding of their wishes and needs.

It presents to us as people of Limpopo an enabling opportunity to rebuild our economy and livelihoods, as we reset our beautiful province in the path of a better life and prosperity for all. In the words of one African poet, novelist, and playwright, Ben Okri: "The most authentic thing about us is our capacity to create, to overcome, to endure, to transform, to love and to be greater than our suffering."

Hon Premier, allow me to express words of gratitude for your patience, guidance and visionary leadership during these challenging times, and Members of the Executive Council for your support and cooperation. To Hon Rudolf Phala, the chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, your continued oversight and support are appreciated at all times and I sincerely thank you. I wish to take this opportunity to thank my wife and our children for your never-ending support. Your prayers truly give me new strength every time I wake up.

To the HOD, Mr Gavin Pratt and Team Treasury, thank you for the efforts and commitment in these difficult financial times and I believe we have surely managed to develop and distribute an equitable Budget that will encourage economic recovery and support the developmental state in the province.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the community of Limpopo for your trust, solidarity and cooperation during these challenging times. Mošomo ga o tšhabe diatla. All hands on deck. Ke a leboga. Ro livhuwa. Ndza khensa. Baie dankie. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Bill, together with the supporting documents, is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and for report back to the House.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? There is none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned to Tuesday, 16 March 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 18 MARCH 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
THURSDAY, 18 MARCH 2021
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]

We would like to welcome the Minister who is connected through virtual platform, good afternoon and you are welcome to this Sitting.

2. SUSPENSION OF HOUSE RULES

Item 2 on our programme is the suspension for House Rule 5(1) to accord the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr Emmanuel Nkosingithi Mthethwa, the opportunity to address the House. I call upon Hon Chief Whip.

MS LEBEA

Hon Speaker, House Rule 5(1) provides that the business or proceedings of the House or a committee may be suspended by the resolution of the House.

I, Kedibone Lebea, the Whip of the House, therefore, move accordingly in terms of the abovementioned rule that House Rule be suspended to allow the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Emmanuel Nkosingithi Mthethwa, to address the House.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. Is there any seconder to the move? I call upon Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

We thought someone else was acting there as the Chief Whip. [LAUGHTER] Thank you very much, Hon Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, for this opportunity.

I, therefore, rise to second the motion for the suspension of the Rules of this provincial Legislature as moved by the Hon Chief Whip. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. We shall now call upon the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr Emmanuel Nkosingithi Mthethwa to address the House. Minister, you are welcome.

3. ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR HERITAGE LANDSCAPE

(Address by Mr E N Mthethwa, Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture)

Thanks, Hon Speaker, Ms Reneiloe Rosemarry Molapo. To Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, Premier of the Limpopo province; Hon Thandi Moraka, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture; MECs here present; honourable Members; members of the media; ladies and gentlemen, I extend my warmest greetings to all of you present in this august gathering.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has far-reaching implications in every area of human endeavour, from education to health, from food security to poverty alleviation, from the empowerment of women to social stability, from creative and sporting sector to nation building. Our country had immense challenges for several years before COVID-19. This pandemic, honourable Members, has worsened these challenges. We continue as government to urge all in our community to stick to health protocols at all times of our engagement with others so that we protect ourselves and protect others. You will know that government is now in the process of rolling out vaccination in the country as part of the endeavours to deal with the scourge.

Let me turn to the issue at hand: the transformation of our heritage landscape. As we journey back to the advent of our democracy in the last 27 years now, we can reflect on how the heritage sector has transformed and evolved and reflect on challenges along the way with the aim of revisiting our approach and strategy. As many would say, hindsight is the best science, but life must be lived going forward.

In this presentation I will flag the transformation of the heritage landscape with the aim of critically reflecting on strides made as well as gaps that remain and even more importantly, the steps being taken to complete the unfinished business of heritage transformation in our country.

In a complex environment of our democratic transition and within the context of contending forces, those fighting for transformation and those that seek to preserve their cultural dominance, it is easy to take a simplistic view of saying this project of transformation has been a total failure or a total success. And yet, reality is sobering in its complexing and nuances as the picture that emerges is a mixed one of successes and shortcomings, of effort to change and resistance to change thus producing the dynamic situation that we are confronted with today.

More recent anti-racism protests and campaign themed 'Black Lives Matter' across the world have reignited debate about the symbols that dominate and define our public spaces as well as place names and dominant hegemonic cultures that have defined our societies and reinforced dominant narratives that directly or indirectly sustain and oil the wheels of racism and colonial legacies.

Back in early 1990s, the ANC crafted a blueprint for its transformative programme, a document titled 'Ready to Govern' which influenced many policies and programmes especially in the initial years of our democratic transition. More important for this context is the fact that this document clearly pronounced on heritage transformation

issues as it observed that: “The monopoly over symbols and names should give way to a diverse range, representative of our whole population. Arts and culture are not the property of any one political party or group. Consequently, the ANC believes that the state funded cultural institutions should be non-sectarian.”

These ideas from the Ready to Govern document made their way to and find expression in various sections of the interim Constitution of 1993 and the 1996 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. It was this policy position that informed the 1996 Arts and Culture White Paper. Later, there was a number of policies such as the South African National Geographical Names Council Act of 1998 and the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999. A range of initiatives emerged from the aforementioned policies, and these are amongst others:

- Renaming of major national landmarks such as street names, international airports and cities.
- Declaration of several previously marginalised heritage and liberation sites as national heritage sites, with some elevated to world heritage sites such as Robben Island.
- Some iconic heritage sites worth billions of rands have also been added to our heritage landscape. These include, though not limited to, the Steve Biko Centre in Ginsberg in the Eastern Cape, Liliesleaf in Rivonia, Nelson Mandela Museum in Mthatha, Ncome Museum and Luthuli Museums in KZN, the Freedom Park in Tshwane, the list is long. These add to other natural heritage sites developed across the country with some elevated, as we said, to world heritage status.

I must say that during this period, Limpopo was leading in renaming our public spaces to be in line with the letter and the spirit of the Constitution. I must go back and check whether it is still leading, but I have sense that there has been a lapse or lull to a certain degree in the province of Limpopo. With all the above achievements, a South African formerly oppressed majority is still a cultural minority as apartheid and colonial symbols and heritage still dominate our landscape hence periodic protests agitating for more and rapid changes.

Some of the name changes have been successfully challenged in courts due to procedural flaws, a reminder that any action in a revolution will be countered with reaction. In mind here I have a place called Louis Trichardt which was supposed to have been changed to Makhado, it has not been changed to this day because of what I have just raised about processes and following them to the letter.

Also, it is important to note that as a constitutional democracy, we have had to embark on extensive, slow, and costly nationwide multi-stakeholder consultations, something that is painstakingly slow for my liking but must be followed to avoid court challenges. On the issue of statues, we have engaged services of experts, consulted stakeholders and conducted international studies on best practices to ensure sustainable solution of what we do with some of these colonial and apartheid symbols whilst also balancing this with need to have reminders of what our past had been like.

In every revolution, military coups or where popular insurrection has led to change of regimes the sudden toppling of statues and symbols of the ousted regime or system

is the hallmark of these transitions. If I may make an example here, you would know with the fall of the Soviet Union, for instance, in the late '80s and early '90s, there were a number of these statues which were taken down. Your intentions sometimes are not fulfilled by doing so. When they did with the statues of the likes of Lenin, Karl Marx and so on, they decided to put these statues in museum and they called it a museum of shame; but the world, tourists coming to Russia demanded to see these statues. As we speak now, they have got a facelift and are part of the tourist attractions in that part of the country.

This is, however, not the same case with constitutional democracy that was born out of a negotiated settlement between the contending parties. It is for this reason that we may have experienced a slow pace of change, and this compounded by the initial phase of our transition which may not have prioritised arts, culture and heritage with resources to achieve some of these goals on a grand scale.

It will be a careful and complex balancing act with sustainable results that assist social cohesion and nation-building that we must embark upon. In such instances, we must answer the critical questions: Do we topple and destroy all statues deemed offensive by the fact that they represent colonialism and apartheid, or do we reduce their prominence and still preserve them for lessons of history? Do we create a concentration camp of unwanted statues with a narrative, or do we leave it to those who still value them to preserve thus running a risk of reigniting old right-wing nationalisms by privatising what is public property? Do we allow for juxtaposition of these statues as it is the case in front of the Union Buildings, for instance, where Mandela is given prominence and centrality while Hertzog was moved to a less prominent space? He is still there, but you might not see him. What could be more sustainable for nation-building and stand the test of times even if future regimes change? What are best cases around the world?

Talking of best cases around the world, Rwanda which experienced a gruesome genocide that saw around a million people exterminated and millions more displaced in a civil war that ensued, they managed to preserve remnants of that war including the skulls to preserve that history and yet they are moving towards nation-building with those as reminders of lessons of history not to be repeated.

As time passes, new debates are coming up and new interpretations to historical events are coming to the fore, so history itself is not static as historian E H Carr observes "What is history? Is that it is continuous process of interaction between the historian and his facts, an unending dialogue between the present and the past." that is E H Carr on "What is history?" Whereas Friedrich Nietzsche says, "the facts of history are nothing, interpretation is everything."

This applies not just in a scholarly examination of history and all what it means, but it is part of politics and people's perceptions of history which often undergo subtle and visible changes all the time. This, honourable Members, affirms the point that everything is in a constant motion of change except change itself. The challenge of public policymakers like ourselves is to strike a balance in transforming the landscape by making sure that future generations will never doubt our well-intentioned programme and bona fides. This is easier pronounced than practised in an argumentative and robust democracy as ours which still have previous contenders holding to their positions.

Nation-building in a post-apartheid era is about making sure that transformation is affected whilst at the same time national unity is achieved. These at face value look contradictory but ultimately our mission is to reconcile them without bending our principles and goals of emancipation.

Consistent with this objective and best practices from around the world, Cabinet took a decision that all those monuments and symbols that are anathema to the founding principles of our democracy in the letter and spirit, will be relocated from prominent public space to what will be known as Regional Cultural Nation Building Parks. These nation building parks would be found in provinces, and because some of them in some provinces they are too many they would be found in regions or districts and these parks would be foregrounded by the theme: Lest we Forget.

Two years ago, I set up a task team to look at the matter of the heritage landscape in a holistic manner and make recommendations and this task team made recommendations which were in four clusters.

- Cluster 1 – Public Education, Awareness and Mobilisation: It recommended the importance of intensifying popularisation campaigns about South Africa's key national symbols in schools for greater civic awareness and national consciousness. It is this very cluster that see us interacting and engaging with honourable Members today.
- Cluster 2 – Legislative Efficacies: It recommends that legislation, which were perceived to be impeding the implementation of the recommendations, should be reviewed or amended. You should realise honourable Members that the pieces of legislation we are talking about here are the ones of 1998 and 1999, it has been a long time ago.
- Cluster 3 – Institutional Capacity. With this one, the recent events that have demonstrated impatience with colonial and apartheid iconography showed that although there are systems in place to apply for name change and relocation of any statue or monument, the capacity in the relevant institutions was only ready to deal with limited requests within a limited period. We see this most particularly at the provincial level in all our provinces.
- Cluster 4 – Fate and Future of the Heritage Landscape: This cluster recommended that an audit of offensive statues, names, symbols, and monuments be conducted, and likewise advised the department to develop a framework which will provide guidance on the relocation of statues/monuments that are inimical to the Constitution and the founding values of the new democratic South Africa. On this process, already this process of auditing these statues has started under one of our entities, namely, the South African Heritage Resources Agencies and in all provinces the youth under the leadership of heritage experts have started with the work of auditing in the provinces. But also, anybody who has a question as to what the criteria for relocation of the statues is, the simple thing is the democratic constitution and its values that of any person or any symbol stand against that, it is a candidate for the relocation in occupying prominent spaces in our country.

The question then that I know honourable Members will then ask is why we still have colonial and apartheid statues in our public spaces? Honourable Members will appreciate the fact that the national and provincial governments are not custodians of most of these statues, if we talk about statues for instance. Most of them are under the custodianship of municipal authorities. For a statue to be considered for relocation, a public consultative process should be undertaken at a local government level. This also applies to the name change. An application needs to be lodged with a Provincial Heritage Resources Authority, who will consider the application and take a decision on granting the permit after the required public consultative process.

If a statue is on a property declared a national heritage site, the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority will submit the application to the South African Heritage Resources Authority, who will consider the application and take a decision on granting the permit after the required public consultative process. The main thing here, which we need to bear in mind, is that a consultative process must happen at a local level. The department is not able to engage in the relocation of colonial and apartheid statues, as the Minister is the Executive Authority for the South African Heritage Resources Agency, who will take the decision on the application for the relocation of a statue or symbol.

If an appeal arises in the change of names or relocation of statues, the decision of the South African Heritage Resources Agency on the application for the relocation of a statue or symbol, the Minister is the appeals authority who will appoint a tribunal to consider such an appeal and make a recommendation to the Minister. You can see here that it is incumbent upon us as Members of the Provincial Legislature, as public representatives, to engage with the communities to ensure that there is this public awareness so that we protect the Ministry and the Minister who is this appeals authority in this whole process.

We can, therefore, only make the point in the House that honourable Members can raise the matter with municipalities that the discussions on statues, street names and other symbols that celebrate colonial figures be discussed as a matter of urgency. I want to emphasise this point honourable Members: We must accelerate the process of transforming our heritage landscape. Our public places, and our public spaces should depict most of our people and it should depict the people who are in line with their perspective during their lives and in line with the constitutional principles and values of this country; and those who are not in line with that we should follow the due process that they should not occupy prominent spaces in our public life.

Honourable Members, let us be the champions of the heritage landscape that we wish to bequeath to our children and grandchildren to live in. Thank you for your attention, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Minister, for the presentation. At this moment, I shall allow all the political parties to make some remarks on the presentation made by the Minister, if there are any. I recognise Hon Raphela.

MR RAPHELA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. We would just make some remarks from what the Minister has said. Amongst the issues he has raised, there are some issues which I think that our department here in the province will take forward some of these issues he raised, amongst them the lapse in the process of renaming other institutions. I hope we will start from there. But I am also not happy with this intention and a sense of being apologetic about what happened previously and the apartheid statues where he justifies that maybe there should be a debate about whether to remove or not to remove them. He interestingly quotes the Russian statues which when the leadership changed in Russia, they were decisive and removed the statues without consultation. We cannot compare the statue of Lenin and the statue of Verwoerd to justify a certain course. That is the concern we are raising.

One of the problems that maybe he was schooled under the [inaudible] so we cannot compare Lenin and Verwoerd [inaudible]. We will assist them to speed up the process if the process is slow. We must lead them to speed up the process of removing statues that symbolise the injustice of the past and the oppression of our people. We will go there physically like what other revolutionaries have done and the Fees Must Fall campaign, learning from the youth. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

I call Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As the ANC in this Legislature, we want to take this opportunity and welcome your address to this House. We believe that the address you gave today was enlightening and will go a long way in emboldening the work of MEC Hon Moraka and the committee in executing those responsibilities. We therefore take this opportunity to thank you for your availability and we acknowledge and understand the difficult task [inaudible] in changing and reversing the legacy of apartheid. Thank you, honourable Minister. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Are there any further comments? There is none. Thanks once more, honourable Minister.

THE MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

4. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

THE SPEAKER

Motion without Notice in terms of Rule 145. Let me acknowledge Hon Mathe. Maybe before Hon Mathe proceeds with the motion, I would like to remind honourable Members about the time allocated to motions in terms of Rule 145(2)(i) which says that a motion may in any event not take longer than 90 seconds to read out. Thank you very much. You may proceed.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING ON OF KING GOODWILL ZWELITHINI
(Motion without Notice)

I, Simon Mathe, on behalf of the ANC hereby table a motion without notice that the House joins the people of South Africa and the Zulu Kingdom in mourning the unfortunate death of King Goodwill Zwelithini who passed on last week Friday, 12 March 2021. His Majesty King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekizulu died in hospital from COVID-19 complications.

King Zwelithini was a courageous leader who did not only care about the wellbeing of his people, rather the nation as a whole. He took centre stage in calling for an end to politically motivated killings which have resulted in unwarranted loss of innocent lives, especially in Kwazulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces.

King Zwelithini will be remembered for his tough stance on HIV/Aids, challenging the international community to avail more funding against the pandemic and the South African government to provide medication for the poor.

As the ANC, we applaud the progressive role played by King Zwelithini in the development of this nation and for upholding the culture and traditions of the Zulu nation. As the ANC, we hereby send our heartfelt condolences to the royal family and the Zulu nation.

In conclusion, we raise this motion as the ANC so that we avoid political opportunism that normally arise from our friends in red.

Thank you so much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Honourable Minister, you are released after the presentation but if you do not mind you can be with us.

Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Are there any further motions in terms of Rule 145? Let me recognise Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings to each one of you present in this sitting.

**EFF STUDENT COMMAND WINNING ELECTIONS DESPITE ANC'S
INTIMIDATION**

(Motion without Notice)

I, Managa, rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move a motion without notice that the House notes that the EFF Student Command won elections in Sekhukhune CS Barlow TVET College taking all the nine seats. This victory was achieved despite the intimidation by the ANC to EFF Student Command in the students' elections mainly in TVET colleges in Limpopo.

Once the ANC hooligans sense defeat, they resort to all manner of anarchy to scare the students from voting for the EFF Student Command into office. Just recently, there were incidents of intimidation and political intolerance by the ANC in Sekhukhune TVET College. Sasco students were instructed by no so mature ANC members to beat EFF student members.

The student body elections will never be freely and fair as long as the ANC continues to intimidate political opponents like the way they did. This is a complete sign of power [inaudible] and the reality that the ANC has lost appeal and popularity among our people, especially the youth. [inaudible] themselves to the students who have outrightly rejected them. [inaudible] they now follow a political party that has a manifesto that speaks to ordinary masses and that political party is the Economic Freedom Fighters.

The truth is that the ANC is scared of the EFF. We are the only real alternative to the ANC, and you know it. They do not care about the DA, because the DA is not a threat to them. The DA is weak, and the ANC spends sleepless nights tormented by the thought that the EFF is fast gaining popularity amongst the masses of our people, especially the youth. The EFF is the only hope for the people of South Africa.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. Is there any seconder? Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members present today, I greet you all. I stand here to second the motion presented by Hon Lilian Managa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Mathe you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Mathe Simon Matsobane, hereby stand on behalf of the ANC to object to the motion as presented by Hon Managa and through your permission [inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

The motion is objected to. Is there any seconder to the objection? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand to second the objection of the not so hot motion. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Let us proceed. The motion is objected to. [APPLAUSE] Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Mitileni, you are recognised.

MR MITILENI

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO DR PATRICE MOTSEPE ON HIS ELECTION
AS THE NWELY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CAF**
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, the ANC congratulates Dr Patrice Motsepe for being elected unopposed as the President of the Confederation of African Football. We believe that Dr Motsepe is the person to take African football to greater heights and will transform African football and turn it into a force to reckon with.

In the same vein, he turned Mamelodi Sundowns into a formidable and winning machinery on the African continent. He takes over the reins at the time when African football is in desperate need of commercial and business acumen as well as good governance. A huge responsibility has thus been placed on his shoulders.

The ANC is confident that this son of the soil will not disappoint but will successfully discharge his responsibility with tenacity.

We wish Dr Patrice Motsepe and CAF the best. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mitileni. Any seconder to the motion? Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, rise to second the motion by Hon Mitileni. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions? I recognise Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

VIOLENT PROTEST IN TUBATSE CLAIMS THREE LIVES
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I, Kedibone Margaret Lebea, rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes the violent protests that took place in Tubatse where three people lost their lives on Monday, 15 March 2021. According to reports, community members of Serogong village marched to the Annesley Mine where they demanded to see management. However, this erupted into a scuffle which resulted in the death of two security guards and a protester.

Hon Speaker, while we condemn this type of violence in our communities, we also want to encourage a dialogue to address issues between the mining companies and their feeder communities throughout the province.

We have lost a lot of jobs because of COVID-19 pandemic, and we cannot risk the few jobs that we can keep as the province. It is our firm belief that government must also intervene with a view to find a workable solution for both parties as we patiently wait for the ANC to implement radical economic policies to transform strategic sectors of the economy.

We believe the contradictions that emanate between the mining bosses and the communities will only be resolved by implementing the economic clause in the Freedom Charter that the mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people.

I move accordingly. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. Is there any seconder? I call upon the Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I thought that Hon George will come and second the motion. Nevertheless, I am here to second the motion presented by Hon Lebea.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further motions without notice in terms of Rule 145?

5. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

6. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any statements by Members in terms of Rule 200? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thank you very much. Once again greetings to the colleagues in the House.

**ANC IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SLOW PACE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
FREE EDUCATION RESOLUTION**

(Members' Statement)

As the ANC in this House, we are concerned with the slow pace of the implementation of free tertiary education as in the Freedom Charter, one of the progressive resolutions that was taken by the 52nd ANC Conference that took place in Polokwane, Turfloop Campus in 2007.

We are today faced with the predicament of national university shutdown because we have been too slow to implement this one important resolution. The current situation compels us to ponder numerous ways and means of addressing this issue.

Let us all take this opportunity to send messages of condolences to the family of Mthokozisi Ntumba, a passer-by who was caught in the crossfire between the police and the students who were protesting for free education. This position is the stance that we took as the ANC and what is left for us is to implement it and no person must die in order for free tertiary education to be realised.

We know that the law will take its course and ensure that those who are responsible for the death of Mr Ntumba will be brought to book. By now we should work on the modalities of free education and how it will benefit the people of South Africa. By now, we should be covering the 1% of the national GDP on funding tertiary education which is possible for an economy of our size.

The biggest challenge we have today is the historic debt and the inherent phenomena that continue to haunt most black students and makes them impossible to register or fail to complete higher education. This is a worrisome and requires us, as the leaders of government and the leaders of society and the leaders of our people, to take bold decisions in the interests of the future of this country and in the interest of our people. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Is there any response from the Executive? I call upon the honourable MEC for Education.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and greetings to the Members. As the ANC, we are the government hard at work. We are busy implementing the free education in our country. If you check, from 1994 to date we have made some strides.

At the moment, there are 750 000 students that are receiving support from the state to study in TVET and universities, and 90% of all the TVET colleges students are studying for free and the student funding has grown from R5 billion to R35 billion in the last three years.

We are implementing the free education including higher education for the poor and working class of our country covering more than 90% households.

The current challenges relate to the students' historic debt of the missing-middle, those that earn more than R350 000 and arrangements are made with universities for students to be registered.

We are on course, Hon Selamolela, to make sure that our learners are studying, and we will realise the dream of our free education.

We send our heartfelt condolences as Cde Donald has said, but also condemn the violence that is taking place in our institutions. We can't improve incrementally if you vandalise the little resources we have. We need to protect our institutions so that others who come can also get those institutions in the right condition. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. I could see Hon Maritz has connected through virtual platform and her hand is up. Hon Maritz, I would like to recognise you and give you an opportunity to speak.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On 21 March 2021, we will be celebrating the Human Rights Day. Unfortunately, we would not have much to celebrate about it as this ANC provincial government ignores the human and environmental rights embedded in the Bill of Rights on daily basis. [inaudible] is polluting our natural resources and that the officials are not bordering [inaudible]

On 22 November 2020 a hearing took place in Modimolle by the Human Rights Commission to make findings following [inaudible] and has been ongoing for the past two years. None of the provincial departments were present although being notified to do so the Human Rights Commission in Limpopo.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, it is like you are not audible enough. I do not know whether it is the system or what?

MS MARITZ

Must I wait or should I continue?

THE SPEAKER

Can you start afresh Hon Maritz so that we can capture what you are saying?

MS MARITZ

I will do so. Should I start again, Hon Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On 21 March 2021, we would be celebrating the Human Rights Day. Unfortunately, we would not have much to celebrate about it as this ANC provincial government ignores the human and environmental rights embedded in the Bill of Rights on daily basis. [inaudible] is polluting our natural resources and that the officials are not bordering [inaudible] On 22 November 2020 [inaudible] [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Can I check with you, Hon Maritz, are you on item 6: Statements by Members?

MS MARITZ

That is correct.

THE SPEAKER

I want to check, are you still on motions?

MS MARITZ

No, I am on statements by Members, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is that statements by Members?

MS MARITZ

That is right, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Can you hear me, Hon Maritz? In the meantime, can we proceed? Any other statements by Members? Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised.

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker, greetings to all Members present in this sitting. I, Selaelo Regina Mphahlele, hereby wish to make a statement about nepotism and unfair treatment of workers.

**NEPOTISM AND UNFAIR TREATMENT OF WORKERS BY THE DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF brings to the attention of the House that the Department of Social Development encourages nepotism and favouritism when it comes to employment. We thought that these things ended with apartheid government and that they are things of the past, but it is sad to see them continuing under the democratically elected government.

Last year on 21 October 2020, the Department of Social Development terminated the contracts of 17 workers in the secured care sections who were stationed at the Place of Safety in Polokwane and advertised 69 posts, of which the same workers were encouraged to apply. Almost all of them applied and only one was shortlisted from the group but not employed.

Instead, families and friends were employed on those 69 posts. These posts were created and advertised to benefit family members and friends while the much deserving experienced workforce is being excluded from the public sector job market. This nepotism and unfair treatment of workers by the Department of Social Development must stop.

We are of the view that service delivery is compromised by appointment of people who are not qualified for certain positions by merely appointing on the basis of favouritism. Limpopo has a serious service delivery backlog, and it will not be addressed as long as this kind of challenges continue to happen.

We call upon the MEC for Social Development to investigate this matter and find a lasting solution to the workers who are now sitting at home without their [inaudible]. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Mphahlele, I am not sure how to proceed, we have received an apology from the MEC for Social Development, Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale. I do not know if ever there is anyone who wants to respond.

BACKGROUND

She is there, o gona. Ke technology. Unmute.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, I am not sure because I was told that you tendered an apology, maybe if you can clarify that.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Good afternoon to you, Hon Speaker, and to the Members. Speaker, my apology was that I won't be able to join the House physically but will join virtually. That was the apology, Hon Speaker. My apologies for the misunderstanding.

THE SPEAKER

Alright, you can proceed. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Speaker, on the matter raised by the EFF, I will advise the EFF that next time when they want to raise matters, they must first do a thorough research. I must indicate that what she is talking about was the staff that was appointed by the then Bosasa, and when we were to take over as the Department of Social Development, I must indicate that Bosasa as a private company did not follow the law when appointing personnel. For instance, a person would be appointed a manager but not having relevant qualifications for that position.

I must indicate that when we advertised as the department, we must follow all the prescripts that guide appointments of officials. Now, because the instruction was that every person that was appointed by Bosasa, because of the experience, we make sure that we retain [inaudible]. I must indicate that most of those people did not have the prerequisite qualifications for the positions that they were holding. I am sure that the EFF would agree with me that you just do not wake [inaudible].

What we did was to follow the procedure and make sure that the people with relevant qualifications are appointed. I must also indicate that those that were not satisfied with the process reported the matter to Public Service Commission and others took the matter to the Public Protector. We are awaiting the report in terms of the appointment, and I am sure the House will be briefed of the outcomes of the investigations. Already the matter is being investigated by the [inaudible] and the report will be shared. However, if there is nepotism the report will also indicate.

Perhaps, I should also indicate that it would be best to talk with the department before they come here and want to say things that they are not sure of. You just do not wake up and say people must just go home. We understand that it's elections time [inaudible]. Thanks so much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you for the response.

7. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Let us move to item 7 on Executive Statements and call upon Hon Boshielo, the MEC for Education.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Hon Speaker, last year during the presentation of the Budget Speech of the Department of Education, we committed ourselves in terms of excellence in the provisioning of innovative and quality basic education. We are called upon by the National Development Plan Vision 2030 to use what is allocated to us to produce learners who will add value in taking the Limpopo's economy to greater heights.

We also mentioned that the department has entered into an agreement to equip 106 schools with smart classrooms in 75 secondary and 31 primary schools. The academic year 2020 as you are all aware, was not just any other year in South Africa and worldwide. It is in this regard that the establishment of smart classrooms in our schools could not have come at a more opportune time. It was a year which have seen countries take urgent and aggressive actions to stop the spread of the Coronavirus and ultimately save lives like our MEC for Health in our province did. Teaching and learning changed in fundamental ways, and we were forced to adapt to new ways of doing work in our schools.

COVID-19 also forced us to be creative and innovative in our delivery of curriculum and schooling approaches. One of the innovative strategies we have introduced in our programmes is the blended mode of delivery, which is central to eLearning Strategy.

One of the flagships of the eLearning strategy is smart classrooms, which are classrooms with a focus on ICT hardware and software and in particular the use of interactive smart white boards and the audio and visual equipment. These smart classrooms have now been introduced widely in Africa from primary to higher education level. We, as a Limpopo, have turned the corner. Each smart classroom comprises the following:

- English, Mathematics, Physical Science, Natural Science and Life Science curriculum delivery platform loaded on all devices and connected to all the smart classroom and the school server.
- Fifty (50) learner tablet/laptop with e-content platform and enhanced eContent.
- Interactive boards for lesson presentation tools with e-content platform and Wi-Fi connection to the schools.

As a start, 106 smart classrooms are distributed around the 10 education districts as follows: Capricorn North x 10, Capricorn South x 18, Mogalakwena x 11, Waterberg x 2, Mopani East x 13, Mopani West x 8, Sekhukhune East x 16, Sekhukhune South x 9, Vhembe East x 10, and Vhembe West x 9.

Having the hardware in the form of ICT resources is one thing. It is people who will make these classrooms smarter. The e-Learning strategy has a two-legged foundation. The first leg is the provision of ICT hardware, software and connectivity while the second leg is the provision of ICT skills to our learners and educators. To this end, the department has trained 658 end-users, that is 578 educators and 39 officials, on the use of smart classrooms.

The smart classroom makes it possible for the learners, teachers, principals, circuit managers, district directors, including the MEC for Education to monitor if there is effective and efficient learning and teaching in our schools. Educators and learners

log-in with individual passwords and the progress can be monitored with a press of a button. Homework, classwork and tests are written electronically and marked instantly. The good thing is that it enables us to implement relevant and targeted intervention to learners who are struggling. We can no longer just average or guess what the learner is finding difficult. Feedback is instant and the intervention is also individually tailored.

On Tuesday, 16 March 2021, we officially launched the smart classrooms project at SJ Van Der Merwe Technical School in Lebowakgomo. We observed the smart classrooms usage in action during the Life Science Grade 12 class and Mathematics Grade 11 class. Teachers and learners were using the white interactive boards with confidence, and they informed us how their lives have changed for the better with the introduction of the smart classrooms at their school.

One learner, Oratilwe cried and later wrote to me this message:

“Evening Ma’am, I am Oratilwe. We spoke today. I just wanted to tell you that you inspired me to work 10 times harder. You are really doing a great job and you are one in a million. May the Almighty bless you for the rest of your life. I hope you will not mind if I call you my ‘Mama’ because you play a mother figure role in our lives as learners. If you do not mind again, I would like you to be my mentor and I’ll keep you updated regarding my progress in life and at school.”

Honourable Members, I agreed because I was promoted from being a deputy mother to a real mother. [APPLAUSE]

This is a testimony that the government of Limpopo under the leadership of Premier, Bra Stan Chupu Mathabatha, is hard at work. Bana ba Limpopo le bona ke batho. We cannot keep on talking bana ba Limpopo only when we talk about pit latrines. We are rolling out our e-Learning strategy, and our goal is to make sure that all the learners and educators of Limpopo have access to the smart classrooms, budget allocation. [inaudible]. We want to prepare and equip our learners with relevant ICT skills that are relevant to the acceleration of our economic growth and to creating more jobs. We always say, Limpopo will never be the same again.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, education is a societal matter. We are appealing to our learners, teachers, SGBs and our communities to take care of this valuable investment. This is for the development of our own children and stealing or vandalising them will take us 10 steps backward. Please report any vandalism to the nearest police station. I was impressed that the Maths and Science Centre at SJ Van Der Merwe, was built by prisoners from correctional services.

We want to ensure that all the learners of Limpopo have access to e-Learning, and we are pleased that the Exco of Limpopo is well behind the success of this project. Additional resources were allocated to the department to roll out the e-Learning strategy and we can assure the Members of the Legislature that all hands are on deck and that the government of Limpopo is hard at work to ensure success of this project. I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. I shall now allow each of the parties to comment on the statement made by the MEC, if there are any.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Democratic Alliance welcomes the use of technology and the use of smart classrooms. We want to applaud the MEC and the team for pioneering this in the province and we believe that it is a step in the right direction and technology is the future and it is the way go. Well done! [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Maharaj. Are you provoked, honourable Member?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We would like to welcome the presentation made by the MEC for Education. As you have already mentioned that education is a societal issue, we appreciate the good work that you are doing. Know that we are behind you all the time as the EFF. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

The EFF, CIC o le lebeletše.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I recognise Hon Mathe.

BACKGROUND

Mathe! Which Mathe? Is she referring to the chairperson?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We want to applaud the good work done by the honourable MEC. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you for the positive response that you gave, and I think it should always be like that.

8. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

We shall now deal with the tabling of the Departmental and Institutional Annual Performance Plans for the financial year 2021/22. Over to you, the Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In compliance with the dictates of section 27(4) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) as well as Chapter 5 of Treasury Regulations, I, Seaparo Charles Sekoati, the Leader of Government Business in this House and on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Council, hereby table the Departmental and Institutional Strategic Plans and the Annual Performance Plans of the following departments and entities for consideration by this honourable:

1. The Office of the Premier,
2. Department of Education,
3. Department of Provincial Treasury,
4. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development,
5. Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and the following entities: Limpopo Tourism Agency, Limpopo Gambling Board, Limpopo Economic Development Agency,
6. Department of Health,
7. Department of Transport and Community Safety and its entity: Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL),
8. Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and its entity: Roads Agency Limpopo,
9. Department of CoGHSTA, and
10. Department of Social Development,

Hon Speaker, I wish to inform the august House that the only strategic plan and APP which are outstanding are for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Leader of Government Business. The Annual Performance Plans are referred to the relevant committees for consideration and to report back to the House. Let's move to the tabling of the Legislature's Annual Performance Plan for the financial year 2021/22. Over to you, the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Bonnie David Selane, rise to table the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan for the Limpopo Provincial Legislature for consideration by this honourable House. The Annual Performance Plan is tabled in compliance with section 13(b) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009 (Act 10 of 2009) which states categorically, unambiguously, and vociferously clear that the Executive Authority must table the Annual Performance Plan in Parliament. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. The Annual Performance Plan of the Limpopo Legislature is referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and to report back to the House.

9. ORDERS OF THE DAY

9.1 Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill

I call upon the committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, for this opportunity. On behalf of and in the name of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, I table the report of the Portfolio Committee on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B02-2021] as tabled by the MEC in the Limpopo Provincial Legislature on Tuesday, 09 March 2021.

We have since held a lengthy briefing with the department on Thursday, 11 March 2021 in which we held a lengthy briefing. We have in that meeting adopted this report that we are tabling.

I therefore take this opportunity to table that report for consideration and adoption by this honourable House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any seconder to the proposal? I recognise Hon Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Hon Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, ke ema mo go thekga pego ye e beilwego ke modulasetulo wa komiti ya ditšhelete mo Limpopo, Hon Phala. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Makhurupetje. We are on the Second Reading Debate of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill. We shall refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Maria Lekganyane. Honourable Members, we are also reminded to stick to the allocated time.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; Minister for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Nkosinathi Mthethwa; our Hon Premier; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; portfolio committee chairpersons; all honourable Members present and Members of the Limpopo Legislature, ntumeleleng ke le dumediše ka moka ke re kgotso ya Modimo ga e be le lena.

BACKGROUND

Ga e ate.

MS LEKGANYANE

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, let me take this opportunity and thank you for affording me this opportunity to stand before this august House today on 18 March 2021.

I, Hon Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby debate the Second Reading of the Third Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill, [B02-2021] which was tabled in this House by the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, on 09 March 2021.

In compliance with section 19 of the Division of Revenue Act, 2020 (Act 4 of 2020) as amended, the national Department of Human Settlement has stopped the transfer of funds to the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) an amount of R50 million subsequently. The National Treasury has effected this reduction in Gazette No. 44207. The Provincial Treasury, in section 31 of the PFMA as amended, must table the said adjustment budget to effect these changes. This has also resulted in the Limpopo provincial budget reduced from R71,3 billion to R71,2 billion in 2020/21 financial year.

Hon Speaker, on the occasion of manifesto launch in April 2016, the former President of South Africa and the ANC, Mr Jacob Zuma said: "The Constitution of the republic calls for the improvements of the quality of life of all citizens of a united and a democratic South Africa. It also outlines the socio-economic rights that the citizens are entitled to such as the rights to water, the rights to social security, the rights to housing, the rights to education, health, and other service delivery. As the ANC, we must ensure that we work with the people to ensure the enjoyment of these rights through quality services. Local government is an important sphere of government through which these services are delivered in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner because it is closest to the people." As the ANC, we are concerned that R50 million has been taken out of our provincial budget because our department could not spend it. This implies that the department could not provide documentary evidence either in the form of business plans or progress reports to justify the use of the money to the province.

This goes against the commitment we have made in the local government manifesto to the people of Limpopo and the commitment that was reiterated by MEC Hon Makamu when he delivered the departmental Budget Vote for 2020/21 financial year when he said: "In tabling this budget, the department would like to realise our four components entailed in the 2020-25 Strategic Plan aligned to the medium-term strategic framework which provides the following priorities: Spatial integration, human settlement and local government, a diverse social cohesion with a common identity and capable ethical and developmental state."

The following are departmental mandates that must be achieved, honourable Members, from the Department of CoGHSTA: Productive and effective leadership in strategic planning of the department; management and administrative support to the core functions of the department; ensuring spatially transformed human settlement by providing access to adequate accommodation relevant well located areas; access to service delivery; access to social infrastructure and economic opportunities; providing technical and oversight support to municipalities in terms of implementing their mandate, supporting the institutions of traditional leaders to operate within the context

of cooperative governance. We implore the department to up their game and get their accounts in order so that there could be effective and efficient service delivery.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, changes for the 2020/21 financial year are as follows: We are subtracting R51 million from the R71,3 billion and are left with R71,2 billion. Those are our changes.

Honourable Members, the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury recommends that we [inaudible] from stopping the Human Settlement Development Grants amounting to R50 million to CoGHSTA and consider and recommend the 2021 Amendment Appropriation Bill to adjust the provincial appropriation from R71,3 billion to R71,2 billion to the Legislature for approval.

In conclusion, the committee considered and acknowledged the adjustments made and hereby move that this report be adopted as the report of this House. I thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. Motšwagabo ga a laele. A e be kgotso. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Lekganyane. Hon Raphela, you are the next speaker. Your twelve minutes starts now.

MR RAPHELA

Hon Speaker, thanks for this opportunity and greetings to honourable Members and the parties present here. Hon Speaker, the EFF is worried because money keeps on flowing to the department and entities and there is no value for money because there is no capacity to use it. It is our view that money allocated to various departments and municipalities must have [inaudible] on service delivery to our people but the department is failing our people.

Unfortunately, what we see happening is that the money is allocated to the departments only to be mismanaged and stolen by the heartless thieves masquerading as genuine politicians and officials because they know that nothing will happen to them. The sad part is that there is no consequence management in this province. People do as they please and get away with murder. That is why we continue to lose money in the province from the same CoGHSTA department continuously, which was once of the best departments.

In fact, we are in this mess and facing these challenges because of the same wrongdoings that are happening in that department and we are not being decisive. Wrongdoing has become acceptable and an engraved culture in this government. The incapacity of the department must stop for the sake of our people, and we must do something. We must clean that department and hit hard on the leadership so that they in turn could clean up that department seriously; because if you don't do that, they will continue doing the same mistakes [inaudible] giving the same reasons that have been given to us such as challenges in supply chain, contracts and not complying with what is expected of them. We are going to ensure that the MEC seriously does something in that department. If he does not do that, we are going to ask him to resign, because we cannot continue to have these challenges in that department.

One of the things why these challenges continue to happen is because they gave our people shacks in Tubatse and Venda and the worst thing they would do is to come here and justify by saying that people were disciplined in that process. Why the MEC himself went there and cut ribbons and handed over those things. It shows that there is a challenge in that department. Basically, we are passing the blame on them because it is one of the things that went through all the processes of education, and they want misery and mislead the province. There is no capacity, but the worst part of it is that we are being undermined here as political parties and ourselves in this House because we continue giving speeches but there is no action. We must stop this kind of reaction. We are not like other political organisations that come here and use this institution as a forum for debate without taking action.

We are going to ensure that this call is implemented and further that those challenges and justification that were given to us about how they lost money do not happen again going forward. That must stop. Contractors were undermining the state and we must be hard on them because they are providing service to the department. This narrative that the state doesn't have the capacity is unacceptable. The DA and the ANC represented in this House are colluding with the private sector. That the narrative of state spending apply very well that you don't believe in it.

So, because you don't believe in the state [inaudible], it's you who must make sure that how far this institution does go. In fact, it's a sabotage because you come into the institution and not believing in it and collapse it from within. Projects are awarded to contractors as I have mentioned earlier on [inaudible] are other accused as being followed to make sure that things are done properly on time. Contractors take advantage of the situation by doing shoddy work and leaving projects incomplete and running away with money because they are aware that government is not going to do anything to them. After messing up everything, government will go and clean their mess with taxpayers' money. This is the government that always sit with huge contingency of money for various reasons including ... This government has run out of ideas and with serious [inaudible]. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Raphela. I call upon Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

[OFF MIC] ... hide nothing from the masses of our people, tell no lies, expose lies wherever they are told. [inaudible] Claim no easy victory, Hon Raphela.

Hon Speaker, Hon Minister and Hon Premier, honourable Members in this august House, and those on virtual platform, distinguished guests, blessed afternoon. On 09 March 2021 the MEC for Provincial Treasury in terms of House Rule 164 tabled the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill [B02-2021] in this august House and the Bill was referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for scrutiny.

The Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill is a Bill that seeks to amend the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Act of 2020 and the schedule thereof which appropriated an adjusted amount of money on Provincial Revenue Fund on the

requirements of the province in respect of the financial year ending 31 March 2021. The adjusted R50 million is part of the Integrated Housing Human Settlements Development Grants to the Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.

Consequently, this reduction has resulted in the Limpopo provincial Budget reducing from R71,23 billion to R71,82 billion on the 2020/21 financial year. Due to the stopping of those funds, Provincial Treasury has, in terms of section 31 of the Public Finance Management Act, tabled a further adjustment budget to effect the changes to the provincial budget, something that the ANC strongly condemns in the strongest possible terms. The Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG) is a schedule 5 grant; a grant with conditions of which the objective is the creation of a sustainable and integrated human settlement that enable improved quality households and access to basic services.

The HSDG supplements the provincial equitable share allocations, and its outcomes are to ensure the facilitation and the provision of household opportunities and improved good quality living environment, a functionally equitable and integrated residential property market and enhance institutional capabilities for effective coordination of spatial investments.

As the province, we have lost this money due to the slow and underperformance on the Human Settlements Development Grant. Some of the challenges were attributed to the national lockdown regulations which necessitated changes in operations that was due to the reprioritisation of the budget adjustments made during the first quarter of 2020/21 financial year. We were also informed of the delays in the appointment of contractors which subsequently led to the delays in the finalisation of projects. The scarcity of building materials which affected the construction of houses thus aiding to [inaudible] purchase and the adjustment on areas of development which led to the change of beneficiaries. The supply chain inefficiencies which led to the lapsing of contractors and poor performance of contractors was due to poor monitoring by technical support staff. Moreover, notwithstanding the explanation regarding the impact of Coronavirus, the MEC for Treasury, MEC Sekoati, [inaudible] it is our considered view that if reprioritisation was given much thought and spending was prudent, such surrenders could have been avoided. Now heads must roll. People must be accountable because this unfortunate scene takes us back to the 2017/18 financial year where R150 million left the province and was allocated to other provinces. About R150 million was from Human Settlements Development Grants and R50 million was from equitable share. Unfortunately, honourable Members, this cannot be business as usual.

The decision to stop the transfers come also as a direct result of non or poor spending on our conditional grants to the direct detrimental of our people, the auxiliary and subordinate classes. The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs plays a critical role in the provision of basic services to the people of Limpopo. Services that are either directly provided by the department or the support that the municipalities provide to district and local municipalities in their mandatory provision of services.

It is in this context that as the ANC we are deeply concerned by the stoppage of transfers as it directly hits the poor of the poorest the most and even directly. What is

even hard to comprehend is the fact that these grants that are taken from provincial fiscus is simply sailing into the welcoming hands of other provinces like Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the most heart throbbing and painful one is the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, in our manual check to the local government manifesto, as the ANC, we committed that in the next five years all ANC-led municipalities will invest in upgrading and integrating informal settlement to further improve the quality of life. Furthermore, we committed ourselves to mobilise funding for the rehabilitation, refurbishment, and replacement of the aging infrastructure. This is what the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha reiterated when he said: “We continue to honour the commitment to restore the dignity of our people by providing them with safer, well located and decent housing. This will go a long way in improving the quality of life of our people particularly the poor. In this coming financial year, we will prioritise the houses in our districts of the province, and this will be further supplemented by 148 household units for those who qualified to participate in housing rental market.

Through the construction of houses and services off site, we aim to create not less than 3 000 additional jobs in the sector. This will provide the much-needed shelter for over 60 000 residents of the province. As part of the programme to guarantee the security for housing ownership in the coming financial year, we will reserve over 3 000 household beneficiaries with title deeds. We are now gravely concerned that with the reduction of the provincial fiscus, objectively we are worried that [inaudible] by the people of this province and this might not be realised.

But not all hope is lost. I'm pleased to announce here in this House that as part of effecting consequence management, it was found that two senior officials who have been identified as possible contributors to that loss of R50 million of the Human Settlements Development Grants were afforded an opportunity to submit explanatory reports regarding [inaudible] as supply chain management related matters. Informed by the submitted explanatory reports from those two officials, the department reportedly appointed the Director on Labour Relations in the national Department of Human Settlements to assist with investigations on all those allegations and sessions with the investigators have since commenced, Hon Raphela.

Let us applaud you, MEC Hon Makamu, for the corrective measures that you put in place for [inaudible] of grants that the [inaudible] wants to achieve; that of giving quality houses to the people of Limpopo. As the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, we are happy to see heads rolling.

Finally, honourable MEC, people and officials who were found sleeping on duty are now held accountable – job well done!

Honourable MEC, let me lash out Hon Raphela on your behalf when you said, “Action will be taken to ensure that what is termed as miscommunication is not reported, you religiously meant every word, because since we have seen and welcome the arrest of seven suspects where some of them are members of the bid evaluation committee, Hon Raphela, for the Talana project that has turned into a broken record in this House from the honourable Members on my left-hand side. We are raising this issue because it is also part of the HSDG.

You must clean the department, honourable MEC, and make sure that corrective measures through your leadership are in place and that they yield tangible results. Then, unfortunately their status of being an opposition in this House to them definitely and hypnotically opposed meaning that they must oppose everything even where they must give credit, because they are not only in this House to oppose, but also to assist the government of Limpopo to better the lives of everybody in the Limpopo province including that of [Inaudible] and then the EFF.

Honourable Members, when we depart from this august House today, let me borrow from the radical mind of Amilcar Cabral when he cautions the world: “Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.”

Ndza khensa swinene. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. I call upon Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council; can you hear me Hon Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

Yes. May you please switch on your video?

MS MARITZ

[TERRIBLE RECORDING: 1:53:40 – 1:58:00 – POOR NETWORK CONNECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Over to you, Hon Phala, the committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, for this opportunity to debate the Limpopo Third Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2021 [B02-2021] as tabled in this House by the honourable MEC on Tuesday, 09 March 2021. You will, of course, note that a Bill is essentially a one sentence Bill and the MEC took the shortest time to table the Bill. It should be in the Book of Records if the MEC and the department applies to the Guinness Book of Records, it will be the shortest tabling in the Records of Tablings ever where the MEC took less than two minutes to table the Bill because the entire Bill is composed of only R50 million that is leaving the province, because it was not spent in the Department of CoGHSTA in what is called the Human Settlements Grant, otherwise referred to as the building of the RDP houses.

As the committee, we have exempted the Bill, that's why we have brought it here. If we have not exempted it, we would be acting otherwise. The MEC, Hon Sekoati, knows very well that in March 2013, he was the Chairperson on the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury. At that time the then provincial government brought an adjustment, what was called the Second Adjustment Bill which when the committee, chaired by the MEC Hon Seaparo Sekoati, looked at it, it smelled very fishy. [LAUGHTER] I'm sure it is the name of a restaurant called Something Fishy. There was something fishy with the Bill. Because there was something fishy in that Bill, Hon Sekoati will tell you after the Sitting that we ensured without opposing it that time elapsed without it being passed. This one we brought it because we are convinced that it is R50 million only that is leaving the province. It is the shortest Bill of this third adjustment appropriations.

Honourable Members, we have already talked about the issues that are there as Hon Lekganyane and Hon Lebea said emphatically that as a province, we are unhappy that we are losing that money which should be helping the people of the poor province of Limpopo with human settlements. We are a province that has a history in the past decade where we were a receiving province of moneys that other provinces were losing because of non-spending.

I think it was in 2010 or 2011 when we received around R350 million or so from the Free State province and other provinces that could not spend because we were spending very well in this portfolio of human settlements. That is why as the portfolio committee and as the honourable Members have already said a mouthful, we are very unhappy and very disappointed that this money is leaving the province instead of enhancing service delivery to the people of Limpopo and building human settlements for them and this money is leaving the province for other provinces.

We have raised our concerns sharply about that R50 million. We have already indicated that we hope that in the coming period [inaudible] for the money that the department will get in the 2021/22 financial year it will spend it, Hon Makamu, to the last cent particularly the one dedicated to human settlements. We hope that when you give the Budget Speech you will indicate that point. We will be listening attentively to you to hear what you say in that regard specifically, because that is the point that we have raised that in the coming period that this R50 million that has left Limpopo, we must spend every cent that has been dedicated to human settlements in the 2021/22 financial year.

Hon Lebea has already emphasised that we are also looking at consequence management; because Hon Mitileni, from another portfolio will tell you that as the Legislature we are about consequence management! Consequence management! Consequence management! Where there are officials who are responsible for any category of negligence that results in us losing this R50 million for human settlements, action must be taken against them.

We will listen to MEC Hon Makamu when he tables his Budget in the coming week to hear what he says in that regard. We will be listening attentively. He won't speak today, but the MEC for Finance will speak. As the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, we will be listening to Hon Makamu when tabling the Budget to hear what he says in that regard in relation to consequence management! Consequence management! Consequence management!

I, therefore, take this opportunity to thank the Hon Speaker for this opportunity. I would, of course, because of the programme that has been adopted by the Programming Committee and circulated to Members, sit here, and wait for the next item. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable chairperson.

9.2. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on the Limpopo Appropriations Bill [B01-2021]

Over to you, committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

I take this opportunity to thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to table the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Appropriations Bill, 2021 [B01-2021] as tabled by the MEC in this august House on Tuesday, 09 March 2021, the Bill which we debated with the department and thoroughly explained it and followed them on Thursday, 11 March 2021. We have since compiled a report on what we observed in that Appropriations Bill. We wish to this opportunity to table this Bill before this august House to adopt it so that we can move forward with the Second Reading, Hon Speaker.

I therefore take this opportunity to table the report accordingly. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, the committee chair. Is there any seconder to the proposal? I recognise Hon Lekganyane.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby second the adoption of the report as presented to this august House by Hon Phala. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker is Hon Makhurupetje. [APPLAUSE]

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Madam Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker in absentia; Hon Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; and all Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the majority party; honourable Members of this august House, good afternoon. Madam Speaker, this debate takes place during the month of March in which South Africa celebrates the Human Rights Day, we just celebrated the International Women's while

on the other hand it was this month in 2020 when South Africa discovered its first case of COVID-19. It is indeed devastating that a year later the whole world is still experiencing the socioeconomic meltdown which has left many affected by unemployment, poverty, and inequality. Limpopo was not spared a brunt of job losses and other social ills facing the country. As the ANC, we welcome the budget tabled in this august House and the transformative budget to ensure economic recovery that shows government's efforts to inject life into the economy of this province and continue to provide the much-needed basic services to our people.

MEC Hon Sekoati, in his speech quoted from the important document, the ANC RDP document, and I would like to reiterate that indeed, Hon Sekoati, you were correct that the Reconstruction and Development Programme that was adopted in 1994 asserts that no political democracy can survive and flourish if the masses of our people remain in poverty and without land and without tangible prospects of a better life. As our provincial economy emerges from the devastation of COVID-19 pandemic, it is critically important that as the province moves towards the next pandemic free era, our government must create an environment for a competitive fast-growing economy which creates sufficient jobs for all jobseekers, a redistribution of the economy and opportunities in favour of the poor, a society with sound health, education and other services available to all and environment in which homes are secured, and places of work are productive and a gender inclusive budget.

Against the background of challenges imposed on our people and the economy by the COVID-19 pandemic that saw our economy struggling and abrogating of jobs in the last 12 months, we are sitting here today without doubt that this budget ushers in the beginning of the new economic dawn.

Hon Speaker, in line with the adopted Provincial Economic Recovery Plan, a considerable progress has since been made in securing a return to a long-term growth trend in excess for population growth, opening of economy to international competition without compromising local manufacturing and securing access to new markets through speedy developments of Musina-Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zones.

Continued efforts of upskilling to local labour markets through the collaboration with local TVETs, integrating the civil service and transforming the public sector institutions and state-owned enterprises, and establishing the policy framework for the delivery of social service that will ultimately facilitate the development of rural economy. The 2020 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework reflects the reduction of R1,8 billion in provincial equitable share allocation due to the impact of a new and updated equitable share data, 2% fiscal consolidation deduction of [inaudible] compensation of employees.

The 2021 MTEF reflects a further reduction on the baseline including the freezing of salary increases and additional reduction to support fiscal consolidation. This therefore brought the overall budget of the province for the 2021/22 financial year to R72 billion, own revenue to the amount of R1,4 billion and on conditional grant to an amount of R10,5 billion. The committee noted an allocation of R5,2 billion for the new infrastructure development mainly for construction of libraries, schools' upgrades, upgrades of gravel roads to tar, centre for the place of safety, nature reserves and houses.

The committee also noted that an amount of R753 million for provincial priority funding and R3 billion was set aside to guard against the third wave of Coronavirus. The 2021 MTEF reflects an additional reduction to the existing 2020 MTEF on the baseline thus posing a threat to the economic growth and employment opportunities. Regarding the expenditure on conditional grant, the committee raised a concern about the history of under-expenditure on the conditional grant and the intention by the provincial government to assist in that regard.

The Provincial Treasury informed the committee about the bilaterals which were held regularly with the department on conditional grants expenditure including expenditure on infrastructure spending. The committee has noted the reprioritisation in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture's library services and we recommend that this should not undermine the intended outcomes on provision of grants which are, amongst others, to improve the culture of reading and literacy development particularly for our learners.

The R1,5 billion allocated to the Department of Agriculture was allocated R1,5 billion. The money is mostly for conditional grants, that is R327 million and R20,5 million for revitalisation on agriculture and agro-processing value chain in the province. Provincial Treasury allocation as well we are happy, Hon Speaker, that it has been put aside. There was as well an amount of R10,3 million for municipal support. While allocation to Provincial Treasury were appreciated, the current economy pressure was noted. A concern was however raised on the matter that were put in place by the provincial government to enhance provincial revenue, economic recovery and employment in the province. There is indeed an effort that is required to support municipalities and they must be attended to as a matter of urgency with the efforts by the Provincial Treasury, CoGHSTA and the Office of the Premier.

While we acknowledge impatience by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, the committee welcomes the budget with a concern on the reduction and allocation of 18,8% to Roads Agency Limpopo. The centrality of roads development and maintenance by government efforts to develop and improve rural economies cannot be overstated.

For industries to start up shops in small towns, they need well developed roads. Our people who run and operate transport business need well-maintained roads for their businesses to flourish. The Premier, in his SOPA said: "As part of the programme to revitalise rural and township economies, we have designed the Township & Rural Enterprise Programme (TREP) in collaboration with Small Enterprise Development Agency and the Department of Small Business Development.

Numerous enterprises will be assisted with compliance, business development services, access to market and structured finance, support skills qualifying enterprise includes spaza shops support programme, clothing, leather and textile programme, small scale, bakeries and confectionaries programme, auto body repairs, fruit and vegetable support. If these programmes indeed were to be implemented as the Premier has indicated, Limpopo province will go a long way in improving the economic growth of the province.

In the budget of the Department for Economic Development, the MEC for Provincial Treasury announced that some of the provincial state-owned enterprises need more serious oversight while there is a phasing out of 3D entities from being allocated provincial equitable share, in particular, the Limpopo Economic Development Agency and GAAL.

However, we welcome the budget allocation for the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism whereby R2,2 million is for EPWP conditional grant and R663,9 million is for transfer of public entities. That allocation will increase by 6,1% over the MTEF period which indeed continues to increase and create jobs in those areas.

As the department is responsible for Economic Development, the allocation includes an amount R265 million for Musina-Makhado and Tubatse-Fetakgomo Special Economic Zones. About R40 million is for the turnaround strategy of Greater North Transport. The committee requests that LEDET should furnish the Legislature with the details regarding the development of Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone including the expenditure reports of the project.

The committee wants to reiterate that the little resources that we have as a province can only do the desired impact to the community when you remember at all times that the use of good governance principle can decrease corruption, misuse of resources and ensure that the views of the minority and the vulnerable are included.

Good governance practices can enable responsible and responsive governance. They have leaders to make the right decision with most effective outcome and public officials must be answerable and accountable at all times while we ensure that there is always consequence management system in place.

The committee welcomes the principles of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B01-2021] and I hereby move that this report be adopted as the report of this august House. I thank you. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje. I call upon Hon Raphela.

MR RAPHELA

Thanks, Hon Speaker, once again. Before I start, let me just say I hope that Hon Dikeledi will understand what she quoted from the Freedom Charter but later understands that there might be some challenges. She just quotes for the sake of quoting; but anyway, re ile go mo agela mokhukhu gore a ye go dula go wona

Hon Speaker, we hold a strong view that Limpopo Appropriation Bill must be people-centred. The Bill must change the lives of the people drastically. The Bill in its current form is not progressive enough to an extent that it can impact meaningfully in the lives of ordinary people on the ground. The reality is that the Bill is not pro-poor and does not show elements of a developmental state and improving the lives of the people. Moving from the fearless point of view, whose values and put the people of this country at the centre of any form of development.

Based on this background, it therefore becomes difficult to support the Bill that is anti-poor which advocates [inaudible] policies. The EFF notes the shifting of equitable share of R3 billion from other departments to the Department of Health in preparation for the third wave. While we support that more funds be allocated to Health, we maintain that the balance must be struck to avoid compromising service delivery in other departments. We are not even sure that billions that were allocated to the Department of Health will be distributed as one would expect. The EFF wants to see vaccination rollout fast-tracked to reduce the number of people being infected with the virus – we hope that this is the real vaccine and not something on trial.

An amount of R32 billion allocated to the Department of Education is a drop in the ocean and even the backlog in terms of infrastructure delivery and more importantly, the adaptation to the new norm in the education sector as the MEC has said. We are also worried that schools are advised to use their norms and standards allocations to buy PPEs. Schools are then forced to compromise other needs and demands as there is little or no money at all. By the way, we are now nearing the end of our financial year, and will schools get more money to buy PPEs and they will have no money left. Since we speak about industrialisation, maybe this can be a programme to produce some PPEs and related resources. [inaudible] focused and say it is people-centred, let us utilise these industrial parks.

This is a direct indication that the government is not committed to fight COVID-19 in schools to protect teachers and our children. We are dealing here with government that does not care about children and teachers in the process. It is a pity that the big chunk of money only goes to the litigation cases on an annual basis as these cases keep piling up.

An amount of R1,8 billion has been allocated to entities but the question is: What are we getting from these entities? It is difficult for these entities to be productive and self-sustainable because people do as they wish seeing that there is no consequence management as the latter speaker has spoken.

We want to put it clear here that this is a clear sabotage of the state so that it can fit the narrative that the state does not have capacity while individuals fail the state without being punished. Because of this clear collusion with criminals, the private sector, to weaken the state for profit making. We will continue to speak out about these things and maybe one day you will come to realise that what is happening is wrong. All the taxpayers' money channelled towards the entities has been flushed down the drain each year. Can the MEC for Public Works and the MEC for LEDET explain what is going on at RAL and GAAL respectively?

What happened to the service level agreement between Premier and the MECs? Was it just public stunts to play with the taxpayers' money? The funds allocated for the Musina-Makhado SEZ and Fetakgomo SEZ are not justified because we don't see what is happening; we don't see progress. We only hear about progress, but physically we have not been there to see what is happening. The government keeps on pumping money in the project while there is no progress at all. These priority projects are submitted, and nothing is happening. About R58 million for ITC project in the Office of the Premier cannot be guaranteed that it will be used for the purpose for which it was intended. If you remember about the corruption of broadband in the Office of the

Premier, you will know what we are talking about. About R2,3 billion allocated to CoGHSTA is obviously going to fund another corruption in that department or will be taken again because there is no capacity there. They are unable to utilise their funds and we are debating the adjustments today because of them.

There are challenges in CoGHSTA and yet the MEC comes here and justify that they are dealing with people in that department. But he was excited when he was cutting ribbons and singing and unveiling those things. It is part of shifting the blame. We must deal with the MEC so that can turn around the department. We challenge the department to conduct a proper audit and tell the people of Limpopo as to how many RDP houses have been abandoned by the scrupulous service providers and nothing has happened to them? Instead of blacklisting these contractors, they are being given new contracts in other departments, simply because they are friends to some ANC officials.

The poor masses are going to suffer with no roof over their heads. Ba ba file mekhukhu to stay, under the ANC government. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The budget presented to this House last week goes somewhere in trying to address some of the province's challenges. However, realistically, it will not address the high level of unemployment, the poor economic growth, or the challenges of inequality. About 79,2% of the 2021/22 provincial budget will be spent on Education and Health Departments in the province. These two departments received the lion's share of the budget, yet they are still failing to eradicate pit toilets, provide appropriate sanitation, sufficient classrooms, address healthcare workers shortages, build as well as maintain infrastructure. There needs to be greater planning and monitoring to ensure that we efficiently use the resources in these departments to ensure that residents receive services.

Hon Speaker, it is very concerning that 68,1% of the total provincial expenditure budget is for the compensation of employees. This remains high and consumes much of the equitable share allocation. At least the limited resources from the provincial government should provide services and address inequality in our society. The compensation of employees needs to be cut further.

Many of these departments have lots of poor performance and of senior positions that are redundant. The MEC made mention of reduction in equitable share for the province mainly due to outward movement in population numbers and this points to a province failing to create opportunities. This forces many of our residents mainly youth to seek greener pastures in other provinces. We need measures and plans to increase economy growth and create employment. The Budget Speech mentions strategic interventions to save the [inaudible] centred around the scaling of public employment programmes and building a state capacity to implement an industrialisation programme.

There was no mention of plans to attract and increase private sector investment in the province. This is key in stimulating economic growth and job creation, because as the province we cannot rely on a state to create employment opportunities.

Hon Speaker, there was no emphasis on plans or strategies to address accruals, corruption, and a serious issue of the lack of consequence management within Limpopo provincial departments, entities and municipalities. Without these strategies, the R40 million for the turnaround of GNT and R1,1 billion for RAL for road maintenance will be in vain.

The other issue which we need to address as a province is the need for municipalities and entities in our province to have effective strategies to ensure that they are sustainable. It is encouraging to hear that R1,9 million has been ringfenced for COVID-19 support and vaccine rollout. This will be beneficial to the people of Limpopo [inaudible] the province's COVID-19 response. The other positive in the speech are the R34 million for the EPWP projects. About R25 million was for the revitalisation of agro-processing value chain in the province and R10,3 million for municipal intervention and municipal support. The R14,9 million for HIV, TB, STIs and gender-based violence is welcome but is insufficient to effectively implement steps seriously tackle the impact of gender-based violence on women and children in the province.

Speaker, there is a need to have a clear picture on the detailed progress on the expenditure on the multi-year projects such as the provincial theatre, Musina-Makhado SEZ and the academic hospital to ensure that there is value for money stands so far.

COVID-19 has brought new challenges and priorities and the budget presented attempts to deal with them, but it also leaves much to be desired as it doesn't seem to address the challenges of unemployment and inequalities. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Over to you, Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much. Hon Premier in absentia, the MEC for Provincial Treasury, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, fellow legislators, friends and compatriots, we greet you today in the name of free education, human rights and better life for all.

Perhaps, I must start my debate by borrowing from one of the great scholars, the pioneer of psychosocial analysis, Sigmund Freud who describes the character such as this one of Hon Raphela and his cohort in this manner: "... have never thirsted after the truth. They demand illusions and cannot do without them. They constantly give what is unreal precedence over what is real; they are almost as strongly influenced by what is untrue as by what is true. They have evident tendency not to distinguish between the two."

We, of the ANC, have over the years entered the contract with the people of South Africa, Africa and the world, in which contract we committed to strive to build a society in which all persons live together in harmony. We committed to spare neither strength

nor effort in building a united, non-racial, non-sexist, and prosperous society. We have never wavered in this long-term contractual obligation we have entered with the people since 1912.

Honourable MEC, today we take delight as we congratulate you and your ever-hardworking team for having delivered such a well-thought pro-poor people-centred and people-driven budget to and for the people of our province.

We draw inspiration and comfort in the fact that this budget will go a long way in advancing our journey towards the creation of a national and democratic society, a society we all yearn to live in. Correctly so, at the apex of this budget to the Department of Education and the Department of Health with a total allocation of R25,68 billion and R21,97 billion respectively. This is indeed a commitment to the determination we have made in the people's charter, the Freedom Charter, that the doors of learning shall be open for all.

We take delight, honourable MEC, in this regard on the specific allocation of R100 million that we have made for e-Learning. Today we know that more than any time ever before, our children will be positioned to compete with their equal partners. Our determination to educate our nation and our people is the foundation upon which our development agenda is set. We know, including these noisiest ones on our left-hand side, that a thriving society is a society with increased life expectancy and significant reduction in the burden of disease. The allocation to the Department of Health doesn't only show the commitment by the government to this imperative, but equally shows that the people's interests remain at the heart of the government. We equally salute the allocation of R960,5 million for the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, indeed the health of our people shall be taken care of.

On the occasion of the opening of this august House, the Hon Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, said: "We will focus on the programme to position Limpopo trajectory of inclusive socioeconomic recovery growth and development." This is sad because in all our daily endeavours liberating our people particularly our youth from the scourge of poverty and unemployment must be our top priority. The budget we are here today debating has given light to the words of our Premier.

The allocation to the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism of R1,39 billion and most importantly, the R265 million to Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone and Tubatse SEZ is indeed proof that your government, honourable MEC, is the government that walks the talk.

We are concerned, of course, and other honourable Members have belaboured on this point that we are concerned about the trends of spending conditional grants especially the losing of R50 million, Hon Makamu, in relation to human settlements. It is our view that if we are to lose resources in this way, we are not only doing a disservice to the total [inaudible] of these services, but equally so, we are denying our provincial economy an injection that it so much needs.

We take comfort, Hon Makamu, in the steps that you have already taken insofar as consequence management is concerned on this matter. We implore on you as a committee that will from time to time be monitoring progress on the implementation of

those consequences. And to you we want to say, soldier on in as far as implementing that consequence management.

As we stand here before you today, we are saying in one united voice that the reflected amounts on the schedule of the Bill should be appropriated accordingly, and the principles of the Bill should be accepted by this august House. In the same vein and the same spirit, we call upon the Hon Premier and all of you Members of the Executive that the entire team must ensure that these funds are indeed spent. Where there is unjustifiable lack of spending, let there be consequences, consequences, and consequences as the chair of the portfolio committee emphasises always.

Never and never shall our actions be to the detriment of people in whose name we serve. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. I call upon Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

[TERRIBLE RECORDING: 1:43:40 – 1:47:10 – POOR NETWORK CONNECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. I recognise the honourable committee chair, Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to debate the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B01-2021] as tabled by the MEC for Finance in our province, Hon Seaparo Sekoati, on Tuesday, 09 March 2021. As Members have reported, we have met as the committee and discussed the Appropriation Bill which is a tough budget for the province of R72 billion of all the departments in the province including the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Legislature.

Honourable Members have spoken well and represented the views of the committee. Hon Maharaj has spoken very well; Hon Makhurupetje opened the debate and spoke very well, and Hon Selamolela came out very well. [LAUGHTER] We had a meeting with the department to discuss this Appropriation Bill and honourable articulated their views in that meeting. Some of the issues that they raised, honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury, are that we must ensure that the budget must help the province to focus on economic recovery and job creation because during the lockdown, Coronavirus affected our people in relation to job creation and unemployment and rising poverty to an extent that we hope that the budget should help us to ensure that we don't have socioeconomic calamities as a consequence of COVID-19 that impacts on our people.

The budget must respond to that, and we hope that particularly LEDET and other departments that are draining the economic recovery must work on that so that we focus on economic recovery and job creation. We emphasise that point, MEC Hon Sekoati, because in the Limpopo province and not elsewhere, the provincial

government is the biggest sheriff in town. Even people who call themselves businesspeople most of them are indirectly government workers, because once they don't get tenders, they cry because they are out of business. I am sure you will know that most of the MEC and Mayors will tell you exactly that, because the provincial government with the R72 billion for this year is the biggest sheriff in town and how we act as the provincial government to fast-track the economic recovery of the province and job creation will enhance the lives of the people of the province and ensure that COVID-19 does not result in socioeconomic calamities for the people of our province. Related to that, we must leave the budget to enhance intergovernmental fiscal relations.

We have seen in the recent years when municipalities illegally investing R1,2 billion in a mogodišano, a non-bank institution called the Venda Building Society Mutual Bank, in contravention of section 17 of the Municipal Finance Management Act. We now know that municipalities have lost that R1,2 billion which was supposed to be focused on service delivery for the people of the province. We can't go there again and therefore those departments (i.e., Provincial Treasury, Office of the Premier and CoGHSTA) that work with municipalities must enhance their area of intergovernmental fiscal relations so that municipalities are able to perform better and serve our people better and they are able to spend moneys that they get from national government in various forms, including municipal infrastructure grants in various kinds.

We have also raised the issue of provincial key projects that they have been announced by the provincial government in the recent few years. When we were talking as the committee, we couldn't get ntlha le thito on how far those projects are. Members would know that there is no English translation for the Sepedi phrase "ntlha le thito", and therefore we mention it in Sepedi because Sepedi is not supposed to be translated into another language. There is no ntlha le thito for those projects, Hon Sekoati. I want to mention those projects and we will be listening as the Portfolio Committee for Provincial Treasury when the MECs in the coming two weeks will be tabling their Budget Speeches on whether they are talking about those projects and how far is progress in relation to those. They are as follows: the provincial theatre, the provincial medical school, the Musina-Makhado SEZ and the Tubatse SEZ, the strengthening of Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) to be able to perform its job, and the turnaround of the Great North Transport. These are but some of them. There are lot of others which were announced by the provincial government by the recent few years and as we were with the Provincial Treasury, we couldn't get ntlha le thito about those so-called mega-projects.

We hope that the provincial government will enhance its spending on infrastructure delivery in the province so that more money is spent on delivering infrastructure for the people of the province in the form of roads, bridges, schools, clinics and hospitals and other categories of infrastructure of all kinds that will serve the people of Limpopo going forward. This relates to the matter that was raised by honourable Members about the reduction of compensation of employees' budget so that we can spend more money on infrastructure as much as possible to serve the people of the province in various ways.

We are also talking about the point of increasing the spending on conditional grants. We have noticed that some departments do not spend all their money dedicated to conditional grants. Conditional grants are those moneys that come from the national

government with conditions and, if not spent, they end up going back to national government or other provinces. One of the best examples – in fact there is nothing called the best example in this regard – one of the worst examples is the fact that few minutes ago we were debating the return of R50 million to national government and other provinces of what is called Human Settlements Grant which we couldn't spend as a province. It is one example and not a good example, but a bad example. There can never be a good example with an example of this nature where we couldn't spend money dedicated to service delivery to the people of the province.

We also hope that the provincial government will continue to enhance the clean audit campaign. We have noticed that there has been an improvement in relation to clean audits that the provincial departments and entities have got in the financial year 2019/20 and the reports that were tabled here indicating that there have been some improvements in that regard. We look forward to a continued improvement. We have noticed that the Provincial Treasury has been sitting on a clean audit for more than four consecutive years, which means four years in succession in ordinary English and not in bombastic English, Cde Che. Therefore, we hope that this achievement will not only happen in Provincial Treasury, but also expand and reach most of the departments going forward and that include the emphasis on the payments of service providers within 30 days as instructed by the Public Finance Management Act.

On the implementation of the investigation reports, we saw a lot of departments where there were investigations undertaken and reports come out with recommendations, but the recommendations thereof gather dust without any implementation. We have seen that in many departments including LEDA in relation to irregular expenditure. We have seen that in the Department of Transport; we have seen that in the Department of Agriculture; and we have seen that on several cases where investigation reports come, and their recommendations were not being implemented by anyone. Once you get an investigation to do work, you should implement what the investigation recommends should be done to turn the situation around. Otherwise in reality it means that the money that was spent for that investigation, Hon Sekoati, is fruitless and wasteful expenditure. It means that, because you spend money in investigation, the investigation brings a report and report gather dust. In practice and, it means the money that was spent in that investigation should be regarded by the Auditor-General as fruitless and wasteful expenditure and someone must pay back that money to the state. The clean audit campaign includes dealing with irregular expenditure and fruitless and wasteful expenditure which is still a challenge in the province. It also includes the fact that we should implement, as we said earlier in relation to the R50 million of the Human Settlements Grants that is going back to the national government, consequence management, consequence management, and consequence management! That include, Hon Sekoati, which is the point that we raised as the portfolio committee that, effective and appropriate disciplinary steps must be taken against officials who misuse, abuse, or mispend public resources.

Consequence management! Consequence management! Consequence management and that include the people who are found in the cookie jar in relation to the PPE corruption in the province; that includes people who are found in the cookie jar in relation to Talana Housing Project; and that includes people who are found in the cookie jar in relation to the houses in [inaudible] and the people who are involved in many of the Mapungubwe Arts Festivals and also that includes hundred other people in hundred other places who are involved in irregular, fruitless and wasteful

expenditure and people who misspend, misuse and abuse financial resources of the state. Consequence management! Consequence management! Consequence management! [APPLAUSE] When we say consequence management, we don't just point an ordinary official, we also mean those at the top.

We must also deal with these wastages and inefficiencies such as fraud, corruption and maladministration that happens in the state systems from time to time. We must use this budget, honourable MEC, to deal with that as much as possible. Those are the points that we raised. The honourable Members have represented the committee very well by raising issues that were raised by the committee.

I take this opportunity, Hon Speaker, to thank you for this opportunity to debate the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B01-2021]. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Chair. We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, to respond to observations made by honourable Members.

[END OF RECORDING BUT NOT PROCEEDINGS]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

NO RECORDING: [TIMESTAMP: 0:00:00 – 0:05:30]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MR SESHOKA [MOTION SOURCED DIRECTLY FROM MEMBER]

MINING COMPANIES A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes the conduct of mining companies in Limpopo which behave like mafia gangs whose aim is to deepen further the plight of communities.

First of all, most of these companies are foreign companies which are not even prepared to comply with the laws of this country including the mining charter. They do not comply with social labour plans as prescribed by the law and therefore their workers continue to suffer instead of enjoying better working conditions and benefits.

A region like Sekhukhune which has more mines than any of the regions in the province remains poor despite been endowed with minerals. The majority of people still live below the poverty line and are being ravaged by poverty as their situation has worsened rather than improving.

The majority of people in the regions where mining operations are taking place are sick because of the dust emissions coming out of these mines and there is no form of compensation or medical assistance.

Most of these mines are arrogant. They bully and remove people's graves as and when they want without any fear of government wrath. Instead of leaving behind the legacy of economic growth and development, all they leave is diseases and underdevelopment. Worse off, these companies don't pay tax as they move their profits offshore where there is little or no tax regimes. No one holds them accountable. SARS and other entities just sit there and do nothing as our country continues to be undermined by these rogue and racist companies.

The coward government is not doing anything in terms of policy directives to force these companies to comply with our laws because they are shareholders in these mining companies.

The people of Limpopo must not expect any progressive leadership from this government. It is evident that they are weak and scared of white monopoly capital.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Manamane Mohlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

I, Manamane Charles Mohlala, stand to support the motion as tabled by the honourable Member. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, honourable Members of the Executive Council, chairpersons of the portfolio committees and standing committees, honourable Members of this august House, the Chief Whip of the majority party and the Whippers, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you.

CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING ON OF THE PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC, as we join the fraternal people of the Republic of Tanzania and the entire continent in mourning the untimely death of a great son of Africa and the President of Tanzania, His Excellency, Dr John Pombe Magufuli, who died on Wednesday, 17 March 2021 at Emilio Mzena Memorial Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

His passing marks the end of a distinguished life that was committed to serving the people of Tanzania. He was described as a pragmatist, a Pan-Africanist and a visionary. President Magufuli, who was affectionately known as Bulldozer, became the fifth President in 2015, and he was seen as an incorruptible leader who was efficient and result-oriented.

Africa and the world have lost an illustrious leader whose vision, passion and immense leadership propelled our continent. The ANC and all freedom loving people across the globe have lost a dedicated and loyal friend. It is no secret that the people of Tanzania supported our liberation struggle during the dark days of the atrocious apartheid regime. We remain eternally grateful for the sacrifices that they made for the achievement of our democratic breakthrough.

It is in this context of our cordial relations with the people of Tanzania that our President, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, delivered a keynote eulogy during the memorial service that was held yesterday, that South Africa is united and [inaudible] government and the people of Tanzania, as they go through this difficult moment of losing their president.

The ANC conveys its heartfelt condolences to the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi political party, the Government and the people of Tanzania.

I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Monama. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Seono. Are there any other motions? I recognise Hon Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council and Members of the of the Legislature, good morning.

COMMUNITY PROTESTS IN VILLAGES AROUND KNOBEL HOSPITAL CAUSED CLOSURE OF THE HOSPITAL (Motion without Notice)

The ANC in this House is perturbed by reports of community protests in the villages around the Knobel Hospital that turned violent and resulted in the closure of the hospital. We understand that community members were engaged in a service delivery protest which had the construction of a road as their key demand, but the protesters somehow found their way into the Knobel Hospital and started vandalising the facility and attacking its personnel. We understand that community members [NO RECORDING]

This is uncalled for, Hon Speaker, and should be rebuked in the best possible terms that legitimate community demands cannot be contaminated with that of hooliganism and vandalism of a health facility that is taking care of the unwell [inaudible] of the community.

While we stand for legitimate community and public demonstrations and protests, the rights enshrined in the country's Constitution, we frown upon public violence and people attacking public servants in the line of duty. In the name of democracy, there is no record of an attack of this nature where protesters vandalise a facility that houses their fellow citizens who are on their sick beds. It is unheard of and the perpetrators of such must meet the [inaudible] of the wrath of the law.

I move accordingly. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Monyamane. Can we have a seconder? Hon Lekganyane, you are recognised.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and my colleagues. Hon Speaker, I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby second the motion as presented by the honourable Member. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Hon Kekana, you are recognised.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip, honourable Members, officials and the House at large, I greet you.

DROWNING INCIDENT OF TWO BOYS IN GREATER GIYANI MUNICIPALITY

(Motion without notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC and this House to note a drowning incident on Sunday afternoon, 21 March 2021 in the Greater Giyani Local Municipality, which sadly claimed the lives of two boys aged 13 and 15 respectively.

The two boys both from Maswanganyi Village were swimming in the Greater Letaba River between Maswanganyi and Siyandhani villages at the time of the accident, which ended their young and precious lives. The two fatalities bring to 13 the death toll because of drowning since the tropical cyclone Eloise and thunderstorms, which ripped the province in recent months. I appeal to this august House to extend its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

The Disaster Management Team in the Mopani District has arranged psychological and other forms of support to the bereaved families to help them cope with their tragic loss of their beloved children.

The House must reiterate the call to communicate across the province to treat with caution in flooding situations caused by the recent heavy rains as this can save lives. We have lost too many lives in the province up to so far.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Kekana. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, stand to second the motion by Hon Kekana. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Monyamane.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? In the absence of any notice of motion we proceed to item 4.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MR MOHLALA

Greetings to the Premier, leaders of the opposition parties, the Speaker, Exco and committees in the House.

LACK OF GRADE R INFRASTRUCTURE IN SCHOOLS (Members' Statement)

Hon Deputy Speaker, the current government does not take the education of our children seriously. As we speak there is no specific infrastructure and learning material for Grade R learners in schools that suits their educational needs. These resources include toys and other relevant resources that the Grade R curriculum requires. Who would have thought that we still have multigrade classes in this day and age especially in the democratic dispensation?

There are also no toilet facilities meant for Grade R learners as they still use enviro-loo toilets which carry the risk of children falling into the pit. It is clear that this government did not learn anything from the Michael Komape incident.

Grade R learners need to have their own playing areas because a lot of their activities are outside as the curriculum dictates. Schools are expected to use their last cents of their Norms and Standards allocations to buy things the government should be providing for them. This leaves the School Management Teams and SGBs frustrated especially in relation to how they should provide quality education to the children.

There is a serious shortage of Grade R teachers in our schools hence our children start on a shaky and poor foundation, which affects the whole education system. The few teachers that we have are subjected to poverty and slavery wages with no benefits and they still work under appalling conditions.

All that the department does on an annual basis is to go to schools, take statistics on infrastructure, make promises and then leave for good. Schools wait for years and years for empty promises that never come to pass. This shows lack of commitment and interest on the part of government in the education of a black child.

We call upon the MEC for Education, Hon Polly Boshielo, to investigate this matter and promptly intervene in the best interest for the benefit of our children. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Manamane Mohlala. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

HORRIBLE GRAVEL ROAD BETWEEN MULIMA AND NTHABALALA (Members Statement)

Hon Deputy Speaker, the gravel road between Mulima and Nthabalala in Makhado Municipality is horrible. This road is seriously damaged and poses a serious risk to motorists. This area covers ward 5, 18 and 19 and the matter was raised several times with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and still nothing happened. There is also no response from the local municipality of Makhado as the matter was also raised with them a couple of times.

Some of the car owners are forced to use public transport in particular buses and taxis as their small sedans cannot travel on this road at all. What can we say about this government?

This is a reactionary government, which only listens through protests and burning of tyres. NO RECORDING: [TIMESTAMP: 0:18:50 – 0:20:26] [PRESENTATION SOURCED FROM MEMBER'S SPEECH] They never act on community concerns unless the community goes to the street to protest. This is the language they understand better. Writing of letters, meetings and all sorts of peaceful approaches never work. They are just a waste of time.

Now that we are approaching local government elections, they are going to unleash few projects to pretend like they care while we know they just want to garner votes.

Why must the people suffer when there are means and the resources to improve their living conditions? How much money do we lose on contingent liabilities, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and irregular expenditure? This money could go a long way in addressing service delivery challenges in Limpopo.

We call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to find a permanent solution for the people of Mulima and Nthabalala.

I so move. Thank you.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you very much, Presiding Officer, for today's sitting. I just want to take this opportunity to pass my greetings to my colleagues in the Executive Council who are

here this morning and honourable Members both online as well as those present in this sitting.

I have one comment to respond to what Hon Seshoka has just indicated with regard to the road around the area of Mulima. The unfortunate part of what the honourable has said is that he laments the good work that the government of the African National Congress [inaudible] is very clearly when it says that it is going to be launching a lot of projects going forward to respond to the needs of our people. We will not be going back for purposes of electoral [inaudible] but we will be continuing with our infrastructure rollout [inaudible] and I am very happy because it can't compare with the good work that this government of the ANC led by Premier, Hon Stanley Mathabatha, [inaudible] for the people of this province.

Thank you very much, Hon Seshoka, for that confidence [inaudible] Taking advantage of the work that he knows together with the leadership of the Mulima Traditional Council [inaudible] I visited that area ... We met with the Chief together with the people. There was a [inaudible] main road up the hill. It was a village.

We have started with that work. Work is con[inaudible] going on. This coming financial year we should be in a better position to continue with our work. So he knows very well that the ANC will be doing work that side so that when that work continues he can claim that there is a matter here that is the reason we are responding.

Thank you so much for agreeing with us that we are rolling out a very good programme. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Gobetse. Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Hon Presiding Officer. Thanks for the statement by Hon Mohlala. What I want to say is that as the ANC government, we are taking the infrastructure especially of the Grade R seriously and I must say that we even visit them to observe the conditions they are in.

I went to Bolobedu when the schools reopened to monitor the Grade R specifically. They were very happy to be at school. Some, of course, were sleeping because they have just started Grade R. Remember, as this government we took a decision that in terms of the Grade Rs, the masks should cover the entire face and we therefore decided to buy them face shields. As from last year and even this year, we bought all Grade R learners face shields.

In terms of the Presidential initiatives the Education Assistants that have been allocated to Limpopo, assist the Grade R teachers. In terms of developing the infrastructure Grade R is our priority and what you are saying Cde Mohlala is not necessarily plausible.

Please go to ground level and see how those Grade R learners are faring and how they appreciate getting into a feeder school for the first time. Remember we are still

on course in terms of migrating the ECD to the Department of Education so that we can start them young.

In terms of the toys that you are referring to, they are called educational equipment; we are busy ensuring that each and every school that has Grade R, has those educational equipment or toys as you say. So, there is no truth in saying that we are neglecting them.

We are tabling our budget speech on Thursday, I think you should listen carefully as some of it would be made clear and you will understand that we are serious about Grade R. Thank you very much, Presiding Officer. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Boshielo.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of rule 200(1)? Hon Rakgoale Chritian, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present here today, Chief Whip of the ruling party, chairpersons of various portfolio committees, esteemed Members of the House.

COMMEMORATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY. 'THE YEAR OF CHARLOTTE MAXEKE PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF COMMITMENT'. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE (Executive Statements)

Allow me to first indicate that we are gathered in this august House a day after we have commemorated the Human Rights Day. As we are continuing to commemorate the month of March, which is reminding South Africans about the sacrifices that accompany the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa, Human Rights Day, 21 March falls within this period. 21 March 1960 marked the fateful day of the so-called Sharpeville Massacre. A day in the history of this country we will never forget and never want repeated. The 1960s were characterised by the systematic defiance and protests against apartheid and racism across the country.

On 21 March 1960, the community of Sharpeville and Langa townships like their fellow compatriots across the country embarked on a protest march to protest against pass laws. This eventually led to the violent killing of 69 protesters. We all know that the democratic government declared 21 March Human Rights Day, which was commemorated on Sunday to honour those who fought for our liberation and the rights we enjoy today.

This year we commemorate Human Rights Month under the theme: "The year of Charlotte Maxeke promoting Human Rights in the age of commitment". It simply

means that we are now facing a new enemy that is stripping our people of their dignity and creating mass socioeconomic challenges. However, the government in cooperation with NGOs, business and civil society is doing all in its power to bring relief to our beloved citizens in this trying time in the form of donations of food parcels, PPEs and other relief strategies.

Hon Speaker, it must be stated that Human Rights Month cannot be fully celebrated when we are still experiencing horrific acts of gender-based violence and femicide that are reported or sometimes even go unreported in some parts of our province. We cannot claim to have attained full freedom when the vulnerable people of our society still have their right to dignity and right to life stripped away and violated by some male perpetrators and in a few incidents, female perpetrators.

As the MEC for Social Development I must say that my heart is bleeding to hear that an 11-year old girl was raped twice in Praktiseer outside Burgersfort and that a 13-year old was impregnated and gave birth to a child of an unknown rapist in a village outside Elim in Vhembe District.

Ivy [inaudible] from Grootkraal in the Blouberg Municipality in the Capricorn District was hacked to death by her partner in full view of their four children. I have deliberately highlighted these three incidents because it paints a picture of what kind of society we are running into. It is however important to see to it that the scourge of gender-based violence comes to an end.

Everyone in this House really need to do something without pointing any fingers at each other. Let us all join hands from our different constituencies across all the party lines to fight GBV.

We are also closely monitoring the trial of Lucas Phasha, which has resumed at the high court in Polokwane. Phasha allegedly killed his own four children aged between 3 and 9 at Ga-Phasha last year in February. We are calling on the judiciary to deal decisively with the perpetrators of gender-based violence and femicide.

Let us not forget that our Constitution is hailed as one of the most progressive in the world. The Constitution is the ultimate protector of our human rights, which were previously denied to the majority of our people under apartheid.

On Sunday, as I alluded to, we commemorated Human Rights Day to reinforce our commitment to the Bill of Rights as enshrined in our Constitution. I, therefore, want to implore you to not be deterred by the alarming rate of GBV cases. It is not time to fold arms and shrug our shoulders but to join hands, unite and work together in finding a long lasting solution to these escalating scourges.

I am sharing President Ramaphosa's sentiment during his State of the Nation Address: "So long as women are being harassed, abused, beaten, raped and murdered, we cannot say we are a civilised society. Abusing women is not our tradition, nor is it our custom." Allow me to indicate that the Limpopo Provincial Government under the stewardship of Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, is still determined to deal with the negative effects as brought about [inaudible]. Just to mention but a few, the Department of Social Development continues to roll out COVID-19 food relief programmes to families that were seen by our social workers and are identified as

food insecure. We are also moving speedily on the payment of early childhood development potential, presidential stimulus package to qualifying ECDs.

Just last week Social Development, the Deputy Minister, Hon Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu in collaboration with the National Lottery handed over PPEs and other basic amenities to 12 ECD centres found in different parts of this province.

Delivering the State of the Province Address on 25 February the Premier, Hon Mathabatha, indicated that: "Investing in the education of our children is investing in the future of our province and our country. Education plays a significant role in the growth and development of society." Relevant departments will be moving from this premise to see to it that children are empowered from ECDs to the mainstream schooling system as a way of investing in the country's future.

Honourable Members, it's only through healthy, efficient and effective governance that we will be able to ensure that our people's basic human right to life, shelter, protection, food and education and more as enshrined in the Bill of Rights can be protected and advanced. Let us therefore today and in the coming weeks of delivering our Budget Vote and planning our activities for the next financial year, keep this in mind and ensure a better life for all of our people. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Rakgoale. Is there any other executive statement? Thank you, honourable Members. We shall now call on political parties for comment.

In the absence of any, we shall move to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Item 6.1: Tabling of the 2020/21 Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. The honourable MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, over to you.

Hon Monama, it is time for the tabling of the Annual Performance Plan.

MR MONAMA

[inaudible]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can you amplify your voice?

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, you didn't recognise me. I wanted to [inaudible]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I thought that the honourable Members and political parties were fine, but for the benefit of the House, we can go back for political parties to comment because from the opposition's side they have indicated their satisfaction. You can continue.

MR MONAMA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the ANC to applaud the Department of Social Development and the MEC Hon Rakgoale on her programmatic actions and measures in place to ensure that they root out the demon of gender-based violence and femicide. We really condemn these actions that are happening and all the perpetrators must find their time in jail and ensure that as a society collectively we deal with these insurmountable problems. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Monama. Can the honourable Members assist the Hon Speaker here? When we call upon the honourable Members, let us raise our hands so that we are able to notice you. It will be unfortunate if we call and we don't see or maybe you have raised a hand which is not very visible and the item passes. We do not want to be prosecuted or persecuted by the political principals or political parties. We would want to give all parties equal opportunities to raise any comments.

We shall then call upon the honourable MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture for the tabling of the 2020/21 Annual Performance Plan.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, the Presiding Officer. Greetings to our colleagues in the Executive Council, various chairpersons of portfolio committees who are here, Members of this august House.

Speaker, in compliance with the dictates of Section 27(4) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999), as amended by Act 29 of 1999, as well as Chapter 5 of the Treasury Regulations, I, Thandi Moraka, the MEC responsible for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, do hereby table the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I move accordingly, Presiding Officer. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture. The Annual Performance Plan will be referred to the Portfolio Committee of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and to report to the House.

Item 6.2 is the tabling of the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Department of Social Development together with a written explanation for non-submission on time by the MEC for Social Development.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present, chairpersons of various portfolio committees, esteemed Members of the House, allow me to table before this Legislature the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department of Social Development as well as the audited report on those statements for consideration by this august House.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Social Development apologises for not complying with the provision of section 65(2) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 1999) as amended by not submitting the 2019/20 financial year Annual Report on time. The late submission was caused by the delay in finalising the audit on the side of the Auditor-General due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, MEC for Social Development, Hon Chritian Nkakareng Rakgoale. The annual report will be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development and Scopa for consideration and to report to the House.

Item 6.3: Tabling of the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development together with a written explanation for the non-submission on time by the honourable MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, as the Executive Authority of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, allow me to table the 2019/20 Annual Report of the department.

Hon Speaker, I acknowledge that my department did not comply with section 65 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999) as amended. The delay was due to the late finalisation of the audit processes by the Auditor-General, which delayed the finalisation of the audit report.

The department extends its apology to the Legislature and promises to improve on this compliant matter moving forward. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Nanda Ndalane. This Annual Report will be referred to the Portfolio Committee of Agriculture and Rural Development and Scopa for consideration and to report to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Item 7.1: Motion of the Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2021 [B02-2021] by the MEC for Provincial Treasury, 'Hlabirwa' Hon Charlie Sekoati.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Ke a go leboga, Mospikara. My colleagues in the Executive Council, Members of this august House, now that the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2021 [B02-2021] has gone through all the relevant stages of the legislative processes of this House, I now move that the Bill be read for the third time in terms of the provisions of House Rule 170. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Hlabirwa Charlie Sekoati, the MEC for Provincial Treasury. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Gobetse Tau Namane Dickson Masemola, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ke a go leboga, Mosepediši wa Tulo ya Lekgotlatheramelao la profense ya Limpopo. Ke rata go tšea sebaka se, ke dumelelane le pego ye e tlišitšwego ke Molekgotlaphethiši, Mohlomphegi Charles Sekoati. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Namane Tau Gobetse Dickson Masemola. Item 7.1.1: The Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2021 [B02-2021]. We are going to adopt the Schedule of the Bill. Those who will be agreeing will say “Ayes” and those who disagree with the Bill will say “Nay”.

Schedule 1 of the appropriation of adjusted amounts of money, those that are saying “Ayes” and those that are saying “Nay”. Those that are saying “Ayes”?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Those that are saying “No”?

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

The House unanimously agree with the appropriation of an adjusted amount of money. Schedule 2 of the amendment of the schedule. Those that are saying “Yes” will say so and those that are saying “No” will say so. Those that are saying “No”?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

In the absence of any, it means the honourable Members unanimously agree in the House. Schedule 2 of the short title. Can we allow the Secretary to read the short title?

MR MAPHAHA [ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY]

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This Act is called the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Act, 2021. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Secretary. Can we hear those that are saying “Nay”, or those who are saying “Ayes” on the agreement of the short title.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, honourable Members. We are going to adopt the Bill vote by vote. The same applies to those that are saying “Nay”, will say “No” and those that are saying “Ayes”, will say “Ayes”.

Vote 1, can we have an indication of those that are saying “Yes”?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can we also have an indication of those that are saying “No”?

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, honourable Members. Vote 2, those that are saying “No”? We will only give an indication if we are saying “No”.

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much for that adoption. Vote 3, those that are saying “No”.

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you for that progressive move. Vote 4, those that are saying “No”?

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you for that particular progressive move. Vote 5, those that are saying “No”?

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you for that particular progressive move. Vote 6, those that are saying “No”?

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you for that particular progressive move. Vote 7, those that are saying “No”?

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

In the absence of “No”, it means that the honourable Members unanimously agree on vote 7. Those that are saying “No” to Vote 8?

[SILENCE]

Vote 9?

[SILENCE]

Vote 10?

[SILENCE]

Vote 11?

[SILENCE]

Vote 12?

[SILENCE]

Thank you for that particular progressive move honourable Members. We shall now go to item 7.2: Second Reading of the presentation of the Budget Vote and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021.

Honourable Members, can we get the necessary advice. [SILENCE]

Thank you, honourable Members. We are now going to allow the Hon Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature for the Budget Speech for Vote 2. Hon Speaker, the platform is yours. [APPLAUSE]

TABLING OF THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

(Address by Hon R R Molapo, Speaker of the Legislature)

The Presiding Officer, Hon Che Selane; Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the House, Hon Mokgonyana; Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati; leaders of the opposition parties; Chair of Chairs, Hon Mashamaite; Chairpersons of Committees; Chairperson of Oversight Mechanism, Hon Maria Lekganyane; honourable Members of this House; Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature, Mr Simon Mothoa; officials of the Limpopo Legislature; distinguished guests; media houses; ladies and gentlemen; ke a le dumediša.

It is an honour and privilege to be afforded an opportunity to table the Limpopo Legislature 2021/22 Budget Speech before this honourable House. Today marks exactly two days after our country has celebrated the Human Rights Day. This is a significant occasion in our history and represents the restoration of our main dignity. It is commemorated annually in order to reflect on the progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights.

The 2021/22 Budget Speech is presented when our country and the world is fighting the battle against a global pandemic. COVID-19 has taken the precious lives of our friends and relatives and continues to cause havoc in our society.

Coronavirus poses serious challenges to all sectors of our society. It has led to an increase in unemployment and brought economic as well as social hardships to our communities. It has further brought a new normal of learning, working and socialisation. We, unfortunately, have to adjust and adapt to the new norm of doing things. We have to conduct our business virtually to minimise social interactions. All these efforts are done to save lives.

As Members of this House, we should not despair, but rather gather more strength to defeat this deadly virus. This requires us to commit ourselves and do everything within our means to save the lives of the people of Limpopo. It further necessitates a need to come up with unprecedented measures to minimise and suppress COVID-19 transmission.

We should commend our healthcare workers, led by the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for their sacrifice and resilience in the fight against the Coronavirus. It was through your leadership Hon Premier that we avoided the worst as a province.

We further applaud President Cyril Ramaphosa, the National and Provincial Command Council teams for the progress made thus far with the acquisition of a Coronavirus vaccine, despite numerous challenges.

The vaccine rollout in our province brings hope to humanity. It brings a sigh of relief to the society. Our task, as an institution, united in our diversity, is to demystify the myth

around the vaccine, and support its full rollout to the people of Limpopo. Working together, across our political spectrum, we can overcome this global pandemic.

Our task as an oversight body is even more complex and demanding because it is carried out in the midst of a raging pandemic where there are competing interests. Striking a balance in terms of managing these competing interests could be tricky. As an oversight institution, we will do our best to oversee the rollout of the vaccine and other government programmes. We should also ensure that there is effective accountability to the people of Limpopo.

Honourable Members, the complexity of the situation in which we find ourselves has been captured clearly by the Premier of Limpopo, Hon Mathabatha, who alluded in his State of the Province Address that “the balance between saving lives, the economy and livelihoods was always going to be a difficult task”.

While we strengthen efforts to control and contain the spread of the virus, we should also be mindful that our economy is in a precarious position. Jobs have been lost, poverty and unemployment continue to be the key challenges confronting the people of Limpopo.

In the light of the challenges facing us, it will be crucial for our committees, especially in the economic cluster, to ensure that the departmental plans have targets aimed at creating jobs and revitalising the local economy.

The revival of the local economy can be realised inter alia by supporting small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and cooperatives, effective local economic development strategies, the revitalisation of our local industries and investing in projects that are likely to yield sustainable growth of the economy.

We also need to increase the ease of doing business to facilitate the establishment and growth of new businesses. It is also vital that we promote the procurement of locally produced materials and products.

The implementation of the identified strategic mega-projects, as outlined by the Premier during the State of the Province Address, will go a long way in attracting further investments and creating job opportunities. Our committees have to ensure that the identified projects are indeed implemented. Oversight visits and monitoring remain critical to ensure the successful implementation of development programmes. The Legislature will need sufficient resources to carry out these functions.

Honourable Members, the year 2021 marks the 150-year anniversary for our struggle stalwart, Mama Charlotte Maxeke. Mama Maxeke was a women rights campaigner and the founding President of the Bantu Women’s League. She led the women’s march against apartheid laws in 1913. She was an activist who devoted her time to the fight for women’s rights and equality. She was a pioneer of the women’s movement and the struggle for a non-sexist society. We should dedicate this year in honour of her exceptional contribution to the struggle for the liberation of women and a non-racial society. Our committees should use this year to evaluate progress made by the provincial government with regard to women emancipation. By so doing, we will be honouring her and many other women in our country who continue to wage the struggle for survival today.

Honourable Members, although we have made great strides in building a non-racial society, the resurgence of racial tendencies in certain quarters of our society is worrisome. It clearly shows that there are certain individuals who are still struggling to come to terms with the reality of a democratic and non-racial society. We will not give up our goal based on a few individuals who want to take us back to the dark days of apartheid.

We are taking courage from the words of wisdom by our struggle hero former President Nelson Mandela when addressing the United Nations General Assembly. He alluded that: "In all we do, we have to ensure the healing of the wounds inflicted on all our people across the great dividing line imposed on our society by centuries of colonialism and apartheid. We must ensure that colour, race and gender become only a God-given gift to each one of us and not an indelible mark or attribute that accords a special status to any".

In honour of Tata Mandela, we should all contribute to this non-racial society. We should not tolerate any racial remarks or practices within our society. We should fight against racism in all its manifestations. We should do anything within our means to lay the scourge of racism to rest. Those who perpetuate racist tendencies in our society should be prosecuted. We should heed the call by Tata Nelson Mandela and create a free society in which we can live together in harmony and with equal opportunities.

Honourable Members, corruption has become one major developmental challenge in South Africa. During his State of the Nation Address in 1999, the former President Nelson Mandela had this to say: "Our hope for the future depends also on our resolution as a nation in dealing with the scourge of corruption." As Members of this House, we must fight corruption because it robs the future of the current and future generations by perpetuating generational poverty. We have to uproot corruption in whatever manner it manifests itself. We will continue in the current financial year to work closely with all relevant institutions in our quest to eliminate corruption.

Honourable Members, our mandate, as enshrined in section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, is to oversee the implementation of government programmes, to hold the Executive accountable for the use of public resources, and to ensure that there is effective public participation and engagement in legislative processes.

Our priority for the year under review is to strengthen oversight and accountability over the Executive, enhance public participation and involvement as well as strengthening law-making processes. Our standing and portfolio committees play a critical role in ensuring that there is effective oversight and accountability over the Executive. This is essential in ensuring that quality services are delivered to the citizens of Limpopo.

The outbreak of Coronavirus compelled us to hold our sittings and meetings virtually. We are amongst the first legislatures to hold our sittings and meetings virtually. We are also amongst the first legislatures to hold successful hybrid sittings. We should therefore applaud ourselves for succeeding in this technological venture despite the limited resources. [APPLAUSE]

Though we have been successful with regard to holding virtual sittings and meetings, the oversight visits to government projects were negatively affected due to the complexities created by the pandemic. Most of our oversight visits had to be postponed in compliance with COVID-19 lockdown regulations.

As part of ensuring that the public receives quality services, we will develop safe mechanisms in the current financial year to oversee the implementation of government projects and programmes.

In an effort to strengthen oversight over the Executive, we will also continue employing hybrid sittings and meetings in the current financial year until the situation dictates otherwise.

As part of strengthening accountability as well as a quick feedback mechanism to the electorates, we have sent questions in the previous financial year to the Executive for written responses. We are concerned that the departments are not responding to parliamentary questions despite several reminders sent to them. We will also introduce question sessions in the current financial year to afford the Executive to provide oral responses in the House.

Honourable Members, the Limpopo Legislature will continue to engage communities in the legislative processes in a manner deemed safe in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The citizens of Limpopo need to get involved in decision-making processes on matters affecting them. In this way we will be deepening our participatory democracy. Our democracy requires that citizens should be engaged continuously on matters of their interests.

In the midst of the pandemic, we have relied on technology to hold virtual public hearings. We will continue holding virtual public hearings until it is safe to hold physical gatherings. We will explore practical ways of ensuring that the public connect to our virtual platforms without any hindrances.

Finding solutions to the petitions referred to the Legislature remains our priority, and it has proven to be a critical vehicle towards addressing challenges faced by the citizens of Limpopo.

Despite the outbreak of the virus, we have received and processed 13 petitions. When we resolve petitions, it creates public confidence in government and enhances the delivery of services to the electorates. The following are some of the petitions that the Legislature has resolved successfully in the previous financial year:

- Mr Ngoasheng Pitsi requested an urgent intervention to speed up his surgery after he was involved in a car accident and had a broken hip. After the committee's engagement with the CEO of Mankweng Hospital, his emergency surgery was approved and expedited.
- Again, Mrs Madie waited for almost a year for her child to get a birth certificate. After the committee's engagement with the Department of Home Affairs, the birth certificate was issued.

We are impressed by the work of our committees and the confidence that communities are demonstrating in the Legislature. Our Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, as led by Hon Mdaka, will continue its work of ensuring that petitions referred to the Legislature are resolved speedily.

Honourable Members, we are the representatives of the people and should therefore not rest until the interests of children, youth, women, workers, people with disability, and the elderly are adequately advanced. As an institution, we will champion their interests through the implementation of sectoral parliaments.

Our approach to sectoral parliaments revolves around citizens playing a major role in their own development. However, the outbreak of Coronavirus affected the implementation of most of our sectoral parliaments. We were compelled to cancel all our physical sectoral parliaments, but where possible, the virtual platform was employed to host some of our events. This was done to avoid the spread of the virus and to save the lives of the people of Limpopo.

With regard to youth sectoral parliaments, we have created a platform for youth to raise issues directly affecting them, share practices and experiences on issues affecting their lives. It is also an ideal platform for youth to propose solutions to the current societal challenges.

In recognition of youth contribution to our democracy, the Limpopo Legislature hosted a virtual youth summit to provide feedback mechanisms on the implementation of previous resolutions. This was also a platform to reflect on the progress made thus far by the executive in empowering young people of Limpopo.

The empowerment of young people will continue to be our priority in the current financial year. Our committees should continue to hold the executive accountable on the implementation of youth programmes.

The implementation of the workers sectoral parliament also remains one of our interests. This is because workers are the key drivers of production and a cornerstone for economic development. Workers are also the main contributors for social cohesion and motive forces for strengthening democratic processes.

In recognition of the contribution of workers to our democracy, and in the light of the outbreak of COVID-19, we held a virtual workers summit in the previous financial year. We will continue in the current financial year to provide workers with a platform to raise issues confronting them.

Furthermore, the women sectoral parliament remains one of our key priorities. We annually hold a women parliament in recognition of women's contribution to our democracy. Through a virtual platform, we held the Provincial Review on Women Charter. This was an in-depth review of the systemic weaknesses in the National Gender Machinery. This was done to effect the necessary improvements towards an effective and fully functional gender machinery.

Our role as Members of this House is to ensure that the resolutions in the Women's Charter are implemented fully in all spheres of government. By doing so, we will be affirming the principles of women empowerment and gender equality, and further

recognising the prevention and reduction of gender-based violence as a catalyst for attaining an environment that is conducive for peace and security.

In the interest of saving lives, we will explore technological means to host our sectoral parliaments in the current financial year using virtual platforms until it is safe to host physical events.

Through our Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and Disability, as led by Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, we will track the implementation of resolutions taken during our sectoral parliaments until they are implemented fully.

Honourable Members, in the previous financial year, our plan to host the Provincial Speakers Forum was affected by the outbreak of Coronavirus. We will in the current financial year explore ways to host the Provincial Speakers Forum in a safe manner.

As announced by President Ramaphosa, this year is the year for local government elections. We will partner with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) during the voters registration programme. The partnership programme is essentially aimed at educating and encouraging the people of Limpopo, particularly the youth, to register and vote during the local government elections.

During the previous financial year, we have trained all honourable Members on the rules, oversight and accountability as well as public participation framework. We remain committed to the empowerment of all Members through training and professional development programmes with recognised institutions of higher learning.

We have reported in the previous financial year that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will refurbish our Block 3 offices. We are happy to report that the refurbishment has been completed and the building has been handed over to us. Our staff will occupy the renovated offices as soon as all necessary resources have been put in place.

Furthermore, due to the budget cut, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has deferred the implementation of the National Key Point project from 2020/21 financial year to the current financial year. We will engage continuously with the department until we comply fully with the National Key Point requirements.

Honourable Members, the outbreak of Coronavirus propels us to use technology during our operations. In our quest to align our operations to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we have rolled out fibre network to promote faster, reliable and efficient connectivity to the internet. As we speak, there is WiFi access at the Legislature precincts.

We are gradually moving away from paper-based to electronic distribution of documents in line with the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and COVID-19 regulations. At the moment Order Papers, Minutes and other reports are provided to honourable Members and staff electronically. This implies that we have to enhance our IT infrastructure and human resource capacity in order to withstand the growing demand on the use of technology in our daily operations.

Furthermore, in an effort to be abreast with technology, the institution has to purchase a chamber system to replace the current old and outdated system. The procurement and deployment of the system will be done after the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure would have completed the refurbishment of the Chamber.

Past experience prescribes that we should urgently insure the lives of all our honourable Members and staff. We will introduce a Group Life Scheme in the current financial for all our Members and staff. This scheme will allow us to secure more benefits at a reasonable cost as compared to the cost of an individual policy.

In the current financial year, we will also ensure that the process of updating our organisational structure is prioritised. This will assist in addressing various existing human resource-related challenges and gaps.

Honourable Members, the audit outcomes for the Limpopo Legislature continue to improve on a yearly basis. This stems from control measures that we have put in place, which have proven to be effective in addressing the Auditor's findings.

In the previous financial year, we have reported before this House that we will work hard to improve our audit outcome. We are happy to report before this House that we have for the first time in the history of this institution obtained a clean audit. We will work harder in the current financial year to maintain our clean audit status.
[APPLAUSE]

The 2020/21 budget was cut and reprioritised accordingly to assist in the fight against Coronavirus. As the institution, we contributed R21 million towards the COVID-19 fiscal response support package through the baseline reprioritisation. The Provincial Treasury also advised us to ring-fence R1 million for COVID-19 related expenses. We have to embark on this journey in this manner in order to save the lives of the people of Limpopo.

We table the 2021/22 budget being conscious and awake to the reality of the financial challenges ahead when considering our needs against the allocated budget, especially in the light of the economic meltdown triggered by the COVID-19 situation. The virus has also put enormous pressure on public finances and health services. This propels us to apply prudent financial management measures in pursuing our core mandate as stipulated in the Constitution. It further propels us to reprioritise our plans in accordance with the funds allocated to us. We need to use the allocated funds effectively and efficiently in realising our constitutional mandate.

The Limpopo Legislature has been allocated a total budget of R395,5 million in the 2021/22 financial year. The allocation represents an increase of budget by 2,7% in the 2021/22 financial year compared to the 2020/21 main appropriation budget. The allocated budget to our three programmes is as follows:

Programme 1: Administration has been allocated R116,1 million in the 2021/22 financial year, in order to provide strategic leadership by the Office of the Speaker and administrative support by the Office of the Secretary.

Programme 2: Facilities for Members and Political Parties has been allocated R189,5 million in the 2021/22 financial year to provide compensation and support for

Members. In compliance with the requirements of section 34(5) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009, a total of R125 million has been allocated to political parties represented in the Legislature during the 2021/22 financial year. The funds are for constituency allowance and political party support. The amount included R44 million which was prioritised for political party funding.

However, President Ramaphosa has announced during the State of Nation Address that the Political Party Funding Act will come into operation as from 01 April 2021. The Act establishes funds to be provided to political parties represented in Parliament and Legislatures. It further regulates funding mechanisms for parties. The implementation of the Act implies that Legislatures will only release funds for constituency allowance and political party support, but will no longer be responsible for political party funding. The political party funding will be allocated by the Independent Electoral Commission.

The announcement by the President therefore compels the Legislature to engage the Provincial Treasury on how the R44 million earmarked for political party funding will be reprioritised. Political parties represented in this House need to be fully prepared for this new political party funding system.

Programme 3: Parliamentary Services has been allocated a total of R89,9 million in the 2021/22 financial year to provide services related to oversight, public participation and law-making.

Honourable Members, if we have to count the cost and loss brought by COVID-19, we may be tempted to lose faith and hope given the negative impact the virus has had on our economy and society in general. If we are united, we can rise again and rebuild our economy. We can rise again and together defeat this deadly virus. We can rise again and create jobs for the people of Limpopo. We can rise again and ensure that quality services are delivered to the citizens of Limpopo. We can rise and fight against racism, corruption, inequality and injustice. We can rise again and defend humanity against the challenges facing not only our country, but also the globe.

The electorates have elected us to represent their interests in this House. We need to work together to build the Limpopo Legislature that responds to their needs and aspirations. Working together, despite our different political affiliations, a better life for the people of Limpopo can be realised.

I express my thanks to the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon Jerry Ndou, for the unwavering support in ensuring that the daily operations of the Legislature run smoothly. I also express our gratitude to the members of the Oversight Mechanism Committee, as led by Hon Maria Lekganyane, for their dedication and commitment towards ensuring that the Limpopo Legislature realises its constitutional mandate. The support provided by the Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature, Mr Simon Mothoa and Team Legislature, is highly appreciated.

It is my honour and privilege to table the Limpopo Legislature 2021/22 Budget Vote before this august House. I thank you. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

E tla ke go leboge Mospikara, Mme Reneiloe Rosemarry Molapo. The Budget Speech will be referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and report back to the House. Re a leboga.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honourable Members, we shall now move to item 8 and check if there any announcements?

9. ADJOURNMENT

In the absence of any announcements, this House is adjourned to Thursday, 25 March 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. I thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 25 MARCH 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
THURSDAY, 25 MARCH 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

[NO RECORDING: TIMESTAMP: 0:00:00 – 0:05:30]

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.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to all honourable Members in the House.

UNITY AGAINST CRIME IN OUR COMMUNITIES
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF commends the Department of Justice for the successful sentencing of the murderer who has terrorised the community of Seshego for the longest period. It was the EFF led by the Provincial Chairperson who intervened and intensified the fight against crime in the communities. The Provincial Chairperson was even detained with other community leaders for fighting against crime and police who were conniving with criminal at Seshego. [NO RECORDING] and isolates those who are such thugs in our society. We must intensify the fight against crimes of gender-based violence.
- We call upon the Department of Social Development to continue to support the child who was raped by the thug who was acquitted on the rape matter due to some technicalities.
- Let us all unite against crime in our communities.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Is there any seconder? Hon Mohlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings, I, Hon Manamane Charles Mohlala, stand here to second the motion as presented by Hon Seshoka. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. There is a request that if you are connected on a virtual platform, please switch off your mic. Thank you very much. Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Mathye, you are recognised. [LAUGHTER]

MS MATHYE

Madam Speaker and the House at large, good morning. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise on behalf of the ANC to present a motion without notice.

**CONCERN OVER TAXI ASSOCIATIONS' VIOLENT PROTEST THAT PREVENTS
SCHOOLS AND CLINICS FROM OPERATING**

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, we have noted with disgust the two days standoff at GaMolepo in the Polokwane Municipality, where a march by the local taxi association has brought down delivery of services to a standstill. According to reports, the Molepo Taxi Association had brought life to a complete halt because they have got grievances with the Department of Transport and Community Safety regarding taxi operating licences.

There are worrying reports that learners were also prevented from going to school, clinics were closed, and other government facilities were not operational because of this community protest. If we are serious about the future of this country and its treasures, we cannot stop children from going to school because we want to operate on the taxi routes.

There is a new foreign tendency of community protests which affects the smooth provision of government services, which is unbecoming and should be discouraged. The right to protest is a constitutional enshrined provision, but rights go with responsibility. This is saddening and should be condemned in the strongest possible terms. The best way to resolve differences is through dialogue and not for older people to deprive the youth a resource that was afforded to them without disturbances.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Mina, Muchaviseki Makoma Makhurupetje, ndzi yima laha ku seketela leswi Muchaviseki Violet Mathye a nga swi vulavula. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Ndza khensa. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Mathe S M, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD TB DAY
(Motion without Notice)

I, Simon Mathe, rise on behalf of the ANC to present a motion without notice. Hon Speaker, yesterday, 24 March 2021, was World TB Day, which is recognised throughout the world to highlight the dangers of the bacteria that was first discovered by Dr Robert Koch 129 years ago.

This year's theme for the World TB Day is: "The Clock is Ticking: Let's Find, Treat and End TB Now!" Unfortunately, South Africa is well entrenched in the top 30 high burden TB countries, which account for 85% of TB cases. The government has played its part and done all it could in order to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB.

The severity of TB is currently being made more severe by the advent of COVID-19 putting more pressure on the public health facilities. Today, we have made progress in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to wage a fierce battle against TB as pandemics are no more killing a lot of people like they used to. TB is responsible for about 1,2 million deaths in the year 2019 and about 10% of the patients were HIV positive.

In Limpopo, TB affected about 165 people for every 100 000 in the 2018/19 financial year, and 197 per 100 000 in the 2019/20 financial year. The number of TB cases in Limpopo province declined from 12 709 in 2018 to 11 747 in 2019, and further declined to 8 874 in 2020.

According to reports, the number of people who died from Tuberculosis in 2019 dropped to 1 262 compared to 1 764 who perished in 2017. This is encouraging news.

It is important that we should all be on the lookout for signs and symptoms of TB and visit our nearest health facilities for screening and testing.

Making noise unnecessarily is also a sign and symptom of TB. [LAUGHTER]

I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Nna, Caroline Mahlodi Manthata Mahasela, ke eme mo go thekga taba ye e boletšwego ke Hon Mathe. Ke a leboga

THE SPEAKER

Ke a leboga. Is there any other motion without notice in terms of Rule 145? 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 Statements by Members in terms of Rule 200? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE IMPERTINENT TREATMENT THAT WAS DISPLAYED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S EMS PERSONNEL
(Members' Statement)**

This House should note the impertinent treatment that was allegedly displayed by the Department of Health's EMS personnel on 19 March 2021 at Mailula-Mamabolo when a family was told to bath a bed-ridden elderly man before they could assist him. The EMS personnel eventually left him behind, and the family was later told to hire a car to transport him to the Mankweng Hospital.

Last year during a handover of 47 emergency medical service vehicles, Premier Mathabatha said, "A reliable and an efficient EMS is a pillar of a functional public health". The despicable behaviour by the EMS personnel and the treatment is unacceptable and not in the spirit of the Premier's words.

Hon Speaker, this House should also note the accessibility of the MEC throughout the social media platforms and welcome her prompt response and intervention. However, this type of behaviour shown by the EMS personnel should not be tolerated at all. The department must investigate the EMS station that caters for the Mailula area and call the paramedics who signed out the call to account and have them face disciplinary processes.

Hon Speaker, the MEC must also report back to this House the specifics of this matter and the action taken.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any response from the Executive? MEC, Hon Boshielo you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR HEALTH]

Good morning, Madam Speaker. As the Executive, we have noted the compliment and concerns as raised by Hon Phala. We will make sure that we attend to the matter as soon as possible and the MEC for Health, Dr Ramathuba, will report to this Legislature in the next Sitting.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Mohlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings to you Hon Speaker.

**THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAHWELERENG TARRED ROAD STOPPED DUE
TO INCOMPETENT CONTRACTORS**
(Members' Statement)

Our people continue to be subjected to horrible living conditions under the current government. The municipalities are at the backdrop of service delivery, yet the communities continue to suffer as service delivery backlog escalates. The construction of the Mahwelereng tarred road project stopped because the contractors don't have the capacity hence community uprising erupted last year.

The stopping of projects derail service delivery and cannot be allowed. This is what happens when friends and family members are awarded contracts without capacity and the necessary resources to execute the work. Worse, even the roads in the town in Mokopane including the main roads are infested with potholes, making a mockery out of service delivery.

How much has been paid to the contractors for the work already done and what is the difference which is going to be paid? Why does the Mogalakwena Municipality not terminate the contract of the road contractor who has no clue at all of what must happen?

It is clear that service delivery is not something that this government is competent on. They are only good in corruption and maladministration as it is happening in the municipality of Mogalakwena.

We call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to the people of Mahwelereng.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Is there any response from the Executive? Hon Sekoati, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE]

Thank you, Madam Speaker, the august House and my colleagues in the Executive Council. On behalf of the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, we will have to look into the matter and see the issues that have been raised by Hon Mohlala and make sure that we attend to them. We will also look into the other areas where there are challenges and ensure that our people get better services. We also hope to improve on the services that we are already rendering.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Sekoati. Honourable Members, the honourable MEC for Health is connected virtually. She has raised her hand and wants to respond. Honourable MEC for Health, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members for finally recognising me. Yes, I have noted the issue that was raised by the DA. Honourable Members, I wish to indicate that we do not need to wait because the very same social media they are complaining about is the one that as a department we immediately used to respond through a Twitter which a family member had tweeted that they have not been able to get assisted by the ambulance. The allegation being the fact that when the ambulance arrived, unfortunately, the EMS personnel refused to assist the patient based on the poor hygiene state that the patient was in. After observing it on that Twitter, the first thing we did was to make sure that we immediately sanction an ambulance to go and collect the patient.

The DA should appreciate that the issue is not the availability of resources here; the issue was the attitude of a personnel which is a problem that must be dealt with by all of us here. Because the failure of healthcare workers to provide the passion towards patient care is something that we continue to educate on daily basis. We did not end there; we continued to follow up the patient. The patient arrived at Mankweng Hospital.

I must also indicate that I further communicated with the family members about my dissatisfaction in the manner in which the patient has been treated. I have also referred the matter to the social worker. This is a patient that is known in our hospital, a 74-years old man who was injured some years back in Gauteng and came back to stay at home. He was confined to a wheelchair and has been consulting in our hospital in

Mankweng until 2019. From there he disappeared and never came to the hospital, only to resurface this time around.

This time around, the state that he was in, shows that the patient has been neglected, and has been abused by the family. The patient had terrible bed sores. That is why I am saying that these are issues that we need to deal with, with the family. The patient who is getting a grant and that grant is not taking care of him. This is a senior citizen who is being abused, hence I am saying, I have already referred the matter to the social workers after receiving it yesterday.

The patient is admitted in Mankweng Hospital and we are taking care of the patient.

On an issue of the allegation of human resources, we have traced the call and the time it was made. We were able to pick up the time of the call and we finally got the vehicle that was dispatched. What is left, is the individuals who were in the vehicle. Immediately we find them, we will take them to account.

For now, this is an allegation. You don't want to jeopardise your case by making conclusions that indeed the EMS did what they are alleged to have done. What we can reassure honourable Members of, is that the problem was not the availability of the ambulance. The problem was not the social media that we are in. Actually, the social media has assisted us to save a life yesterday. This is why, honourable Members, it is important to be on social media. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

[inaudible]

MR SESHOKA

Once more, thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the colleagues in the House and those who have connected online.

THE GOVERNMENT BEING THE SOURCE OF VIOLENCE WITHIN THE TAXI INDUSTRY

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the government is the source of the taxi violence and unrest within the taxi industry in the province. Instead of providing solutions to the taxi industry, they fuel tension in their inability to intervene properly and give hope to our people.

The differences and disputes between the groups within the Moletji Taxi Association continue to rage on under the watchful eye of the government. The government, in particular the Department of Transport, received numerous letters of complaints from these groups seeking intervention and yet nothing has happened.

The role of the government should be to create a platform for unity and working together within the taxi industry, not to ignore or worsen things by taking sides with some groups at the expense of others. Some of the members within the taxi association complain that their permits are not being renewed, and even if they are renewed, they take longer.

On the other hand, permits belonging to some members within the association get processed quickly and promptly. When permits are not issued on time, the taxi owners end up operating illegally on the road forcing the traffic officers to issue out fines.

By not issuing permits to the taxi operators, the government is literally killing the taxi industry and suffocating their families. The taxi drivers lose their livelihood because they lose their jobs.

We call upon the MEC for Transport to investigate this matter and provide a progressive and a radical solution. Equally so, Hon Speaker, we call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to stop the madness by Molepo and Mankweng Taxi Associations at GaMolepo area who since Wednesday closed the schools and clinics because of the disputes between them. All this is happening because the government fails to provide leadership and a lasting solution in the taxi industry. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Is there any response from the Executive? The MEC for Transport and Community Safety, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me also take this opportunity to greet the Members of the House, even those that are linked virtually, Hon Premier, and my colleagues in the Executive.

Hon Speaker, it is this government of the ANC that in its vision was very radical in terms of empowering the taxi industry as a mode of transport that is always accessible to those who have been less privileged in terms of accessing and affording to buy their own cars like many honourable Members in this House.

It is this government of the ANC that has been progressive last year and in the past two years where we have held makgotla to try to realign, reform and transform the taxi industry so that people do not use this industry for their own benefit and operate like gangs, but to start operating like a business.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the issues raised by Hon Seshoka in terms of the taxi violence that is there. I want to report, Hon Speaker, that Hon Seshoka is aware that during the Moletji taxi violence, we intervened as both the Department of Transport and SAPS, and after a day of violence the violence went down.

Equally, on the Molepo and Mankweng matter, I want to bring to the attention of the House and honourable Members that the issuing of permits is not something that you can do by standing behind a counter and receiving payment before issuing a receipt. It is a process. I think one day, Hon Speaker if you allow me, I will come and present an Executive Statement to outline the process of how the permits are done and I think that is what Hon Seshoka has been asking for in his Members' Statement.

I want to assure you, Hon Speaker, that as the Department of Transport and Community Safety we have acted with speed. We want to acknowledge and say it without fear or favour that as you know, we also run the security cluster. Within our investigations, we have discovered that there are certain political parties that are using the violence in the taxi industry for their own benefit. As the security cluster, we have also acknowledged and noted that political parties have started preparing themselves for the elections using individuals within structures. We will not make any favours or act with fear as the security cluster when we start dealing with the perpetrators of this violence in our communities. Just like what we did yesterday, we did not use force on the members of Molepo and Mankweng, we persuaded them to understand that the children need to go to school and the community needs the clinic. And, if we must have discussions as the department with them as our stakeholder, that should be done in a peaceful manner.

When you would have given us an opportunity, Hon Speaker, we will come and outline the process of how permits are issued, and the process of how negotiations between the taxi associations in our province have to happen when new operators apply for a line. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. You are welcome to do so. Let us proceed. Is there any further Statement by Members? There is none.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements? There are none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of Committee Reports, Other Reports and Papers? The tabling of the Public Service Commission Reports, Hon Deputy of Chair of Chairs, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

TABLING OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REPORTS (Tabling of Reports)

Hon Speaker, my task is very difficult yet simple. In terms of section 196(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, I hereby table the following reports of the Public Service Commission:

- The Assessment of Section 100(1)(b) the Impact within the Limpopo Provincial Government;
- The Report on Section 196(4)(e) – Limpopo;
- The Assessment of the State of Human Resource in Sport, Arts, and Culture;
- Constitutional Values and Principles Evaluation – Agriculture;
- Constitutional Values and Principles Evaluation – CoGHSTA;

- Constitutional Values and Principles Evaluation – Health;
- Constitutional Values and Principles Evaluation – Community Safety;
- Constitutional Values and Principles Evaluation – Transport;
- Constitutional Values and Principles Evaluation – Treasury;
- Constitutional Values and Principles Evaluation – Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure; and
- Fact sheets on Financial Disclosure Framework for the 2017/18 financial year.

Hon Speaker, I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Selane. The reports are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for consideration and to report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Presentation of the Budget Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B01-2021]

We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 05: Department of Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE PROVINCIAL TREASURY (Address by Hon S C Sekoati, MEC for Provincial Treasury)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Speaker of the provincial Legislature, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou; Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; honourable Members of the Executive Council; Members of this august House and the HOD for Provincial Treasury, I greet you.

Allow me to table the 2021/22 Budget Speech for Vote 05, Provincial Treasury together with the attached summary for payments and estimates to this august House. The Provincial Treasury has been allocated a Budget of R364,9 million for the 2021/22 financial year. The Budget allocation shows a decrease as the result of budget cuts to cover the COVID-19 costs and to reduce the cost of compensation of employees. The departmental economic classification's allocation is as follows:

• Compensation of Employees	: R223 million;
• Goods and Services	: R79 million;
• Transfers and Subsidies	: R924 000; and
• Payment for Capital Assets	: R1,5 million.

The key focus in the next financial year's the Budget will be to further strengthen the Provincial Treasury's strategies in supporting departments, municipalities and public entities as well as ensuring greater compliance and improvement to the PMFA, MFMA and other prescriptive policies and legislation.

The overall allocation for the department decreases by 16,8%, from R429 million in the 2020/21 financial year to R364,9 million in the 2021/22 financial year.

Compensation of Employees decreases by 6,7% from R303 million in the 2020/21 financial year to R283 million in 2021/22 financial year. Included in the CoE budget is an amount of R5 million to strengthen infrastructure support capacity as well as R10 million to improve municipality intervention capacity.

Goods and Services decreases by 30%, from R113 million in the 2020/21 financial year to R79 million in the 2021/22 financial year due to the implementation of the baseline reduction. The allocation includes funding earmarked for municipal intervention, and infrastructure capacity, escalation on contractual obligations, non-negotiable costs, departmental fleet running costs, renewal of software licence, maintenance of software and subsistence allowance, mainly for officials who are required to travel as and when they conduct transversal support functions.

Transfers and Subsidies decreases by R16,3 million to R924 000 in the 2021/22 financial year. The decrease is as a result of a department not awarding new additional bursaries in the 2021/22 financial year. The allocated funds will cater for payments for municipal rate and taxes and vehicle licences.

Payment for Capital Assets decreases by 67,4% from R4,6 million in the 2020/21 financial year to R1,5 million in the 2021/22 financial year. The allocation is mainly for procuring working tools for officials.

Due to the reduction in the provincial equitable share, the province will be forced to prioritise and strengthen the collection of revenue to ease the budget pressures. We are thus pleased to announce to this eminent legislative House that as at 28 February 2021, the Limpopo province has managed to collect own revenue amounting to R1,1 billion or 90,3% of the set target of R1,2 billion and anticipates to collect the targeted own revenue as at 31 March 2021.

In the coming MTEF (Medium Term Expenditure Framework) period, the province will continue with the implementation of the Provincial Revenue Enhancement Strategy in order to ensure that there is efficiency in revenue collection, and this will be done through continuous investment in the provincial government resorts infrastructure; extending the provincial motor vehicle registering authorities in all the five districts to improve access to services that are already being provided by municipalities on behalf of the Department of Transport; extension of K53 learners and learner driving licence function piloted with the Vhembe and Capricorn District Municipalities as well as the introduction and improvement of provincial health revenue systems. The Revenue Enhancement Strategy will also include our support to our local municipalities in order to take them out of their dependency on grants.

Hon Speaker, the allocations for our five departmental operational units are as follows:

- Administration is allocated R160 million to provide for effective and efficient strategic management, administrative support and sound financial management in the Provincial Treasury. The division is comprised of MEC support services, management services, corporate services and financial management.

- Sustainable Resources Management is allocated R62,1 million in order to inform financial resource allocation, manage the provincial budget, support and monitor provincial departments, municipalities and public entities for efficient and effective use of the province fiscal resources allocations.

This unit is also responsible for providing advice and monitoring of municipalities and their entities in the implementation of the MFMA. Within the total allocation of this unit, an amount of R10 million is earmarked to strengthen municipal support programme and R5 million is allocated to improve the infrastructure support programme and will be utilised to assist with improving delivery of infrastructure in municipalities, which has been a big challenge.

- Assets, Liabilities and Supply Chain Management receives an allocation of R45 million. This allocation will be utilised to provide policy direction and facilitate the effective and efficient management of assets, liabilities, financial systems and provincial supply chain management processes. The unit will continue to strengthen cash management strategies and monitor supply chain compliance by various departments.

In the 2020/21 financial year, we have seen an improvement in the Limpopo procurement spend through the establishment of Limpopo PPEs Supplier Database as well as the improved audit findings on supply chain management.

In the 2021/22 financial year, we intend to see the Provincial Contract Management Framework being rolled out. This will go a long way in addressing the non-compliance that we always had around the supply chain framework. The Provincial Treasury will also be working on standard commodity pricing index to leverage commodities that are easily accessed by the small enterprises. This will be coupled with standardisation of the specifications for the same leverage commodities.

The achievement of procurement targets spent on designated group as spelled out in the Limpopo Procurement Strategy of 2030 will remain as the part of the strategy on 2021/22 financial year, especially in the continued unachieved targets in terms of businesses owned by Black youth, persons with disability, cooperatives and military veterans.

On the other hand, in collaboration with the Office of the Premier, the Provincial Treasury will also roll out a project for modernisation of supply chain management business processes. No funds will be required for this project as the province will be utilising its own ICT skills to document, develop and implement the proposed supply chain management ICT systems in the next financial year.

Financial Governance receives an allocation of R60 million. The unit comprises of sub-programmes such as programme support, accounting services, risk management, norms and standards, and interlinked support systems. This allocation will be utilised to ensure sound financial management and financial accountability in the province through capacity building, financial reporting and the development of transversal financial policies.

This programme will also include the support of oversight structures and bodies as well as ensuring that all the departments and public entities implement effective risk management and internal control processes.

As the department, we are also implementing an electronic delivery of salary advice and IRP5s by email through a system called Electronic Document Delivery (EDD). This pilot was successfully tested in March 2021 in Provincial Treasury and will be followed by the Office of the Premier in April 2021. So, Members will no longer be carrying those papers around.

A full rollout to the rest of the departments will unfold during the 2021/22 financial year and the plan is to load at least three departments per quarter until all the departments are fully implemented by the end of the third quarter.

The rolling out of the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) System Project used as library materials assets management tool has for the first time in five years assisted the department to receive an unqualified audit opinion. [APPLAUSE] It has made it easy to account for the library materials with drastically reduced time and effort in the verification process of assets by measuring internal utilisation of library books, training on the procurement, internal utilisation, and verification of the library material, updating and development of standard operating policies and procedures as well as supply of asset registers for the updating of information on the current library management system.

Therefore, in order to finalise the RFID implementation in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, the Provincial Treasury will procure RFID hardware as only 40% of the required hardware was procured in the 2020/21 financial year.

Internal Audit receives an allocation of R36,3 million to continue to enhance and protect organisational value by providing risk-based audits and objective assurance, advice and insight. The COVID-19 pandemic has required the Provincial Treasury to consider innovative cost-effective ways of delivering our mandate. In this regard, we will expedite the rolling out of the combined framework using methodologies such as control self-assessment, maturity modelling, data analytics and dashboard reporting.

The transversal operations within the Provincial Treasury as well as the Office of the Premier, has spent a considerable amount of efforts in the monitoring and assurance services. This in the main, made us to recognise a number of duplication of efforts by internal and external assurance providers, resulting in assurance lethargy. Through a combined assurance approach, such duplications will be minimised, thus enhancing our consultative and collaborative processes with the provincial office of the Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA).

Even though COVID-19 brought about new dimensions in budget implementation and monitoring, Provincial Treasury continued to facilitate quarterly expenditure bilateral meetings with all departments and public entities within the context of the new virtual normal, with a direct focus on budget cuts; the impact of such cuts on service delivery; and fighting the COVID-19 pandemic utilising the limited resources at our disposal in the province. Furthermore, where applicable, departments with conditional grant allocations were assisted in aligning those grants to the amended conditional grant frameworks.

Therefore, the Provincial Treasury will continue to monitor the implementation of the budget through different forums such as the Budget, Expenditure and Revenue Forum and the Quarterly Expenditure and Conditional Grants Bilateral Meetings held by various departments.

These sessions proved to be effective since some of the spending challenges experienced by departments are detected early and corrective measures put in place. One-on-one sessions and the ad hoc sessions will also be facilitated on matters of urgency to assist the departments and entities to deliver the service mandates effectively.

Hon Speaker, the A-G's findings for the 2018/19 financial year highlighted a number of issues in the consolidated report of local government that includes among others, persistent non-adherence to financial management policies and prescripts as well as the need to improve governance arrangements.

A significant number of municipalities have also incurred unauthorised, irregular as well as fruitless and wasteful expenditure (UIFW), and a brief review suggests that amounts in this regard are increasing year on year. Be that as it may, our support to municipalities remains one of our main priorities, thus as the Provincial Treasury, we have started a project to reduce historical UIFWs and control their prospective increases.

This project will develop and implement the reduction strategy designed to address current and historical UIFW expenditure figures and support municipalities to improve internal control environment and thereby improving the audit outcomes of the municipalities on occurrences and completeness of UIFW expenditures in all our municipalities. Equally, our approaches in budgeting and reporting, mSCOA support, revenue management, supply chain management, assets management and audit support remain game changers and pillars of supporting financial management and accounting and the centre upon which our support in all our municipalities is based.

We are therefore pleased to report to this august House that the status of our budget in municipalities is improving. Since the 2016/17 financial year to 2019/20 financial year, the number of municipalities with the unfunded budgets was between 7 and 17 municipalities. Currently, in the 2020/21 financial year, the number has drastically decreased to only five municipalities.

These five municipalities have been able to table and adopt the budget funding plans in terms of how they will fund their budget deficits. Similarly, all the 26 delegated municipalities in the province have submitted their 2019/20 Annual Financial Statements (AFS) to AGSA on time. The draft AFS was also submitted to Provincial Treasury, Municipal Audit Committees and internal audit for review before submission to AGSA. Due to municipalities allowed to submit their AFS two months later, the audit process by AGSA was delayed and therefore still in progress due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Madam Speaker, section 139 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides for the provincial interventions in the local government when a municipality cannot fulfil its constitutional mandate. We, therefore, had circumstances which

necessitated that we invoke this constitutional provision in our province and as a result the following municipalities have been supported to develop and implement Financial Recovery Plans (RFPs) namely: Musina Local Municipality, Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, Thabazimbi Local Municipality, Mogalakwena Local Municipality and Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality.

In line with our coordinating framework, as the Provincial Treasury and CoGHSTA we are assessing the impact of these plans on both the municipal budgets status and the financial position of these municipalities. These assessments will consequently determine if these financial recovery plans should be reviewed for further implementation.

During the fourth quarter of the 2019/20 financial year, we started with the provincial infrastructure planning reforms to ensure that we align all our projects to the Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS), the requirement of the Framework for Infrastructure Delivery and Procurement Management (FIDPM) and the MTEF budget planning cycle.

The provincial infrastructure plan for the 2020/21 financial year was finalised during February 2020, but revised during the second quarter to align it to the impact of budget cuts due to COVID-19. The plan is under implementation until the end of March 2021.

In the same financial year, the Executive Council approved the establishment of the Programme Management Support (PMS) Unit in the Limpopo Department Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to assist and support the operationalisation of the Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub as a shared service for the province, to assist all the departments that have infrastructure challenges.

The programme management support started on 1 April 2020 and is anticipated to finish by the end of December 2022, with the purpose to provide the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure with the requisite organisational management and technical capacity building to perform its roles as the custodian of the infrastructure and preferred implementing agent according to the adopted Limpopo Infrastructure Delivery Management System.

On the other hand, during November 2020, we convened the Provincial Infrastructure Planning and Readiness Workshop for the 2021/22 financial year. The plan has been finalised and its implementation will commence from April 2021 and will be monitored on monthly basis through the Infrastructure Technical Management Committee. The planning for the 2022/23 financial year will start as early as May 2021 and work is underway to finalise the preparation for the workshop.

The Limpopo Provincial Treasury's Infrastructure Support Programme to local government which was designed to optimise the municipal infrastructure grant's performance commenced on 01 September 2016, and it is coming to an end by 31 March 2022. The benefits of the programme have thus far improved service delivery in target municipalities in terms of timely, fit for purpose and accelerated infrastructure delivery improvements and enhanced capacity in both CoGHSTA and the target municipalities to ensure the management and delivery of infrastructure using appropriate skills, systems, processes, procedures and economic development and job creation methods.

Since the programme is coming to an end by 31 March 2021, the Exit Strategy and Transition Management Plan has been developed to provide an approach and plan that will be followed to exit in order to ensure that there will be the sustainability of the gains achieved.

Capacity has been built through existing infrastructures governance structures capitalising on the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders along the infrastructure value chain. The approach includes organisation stabilisation, enhancement, improvement, and sustaining continued service delivery. The approach also deliberates on capacity building in terms of ensuring that there is structured transfer of capabilities and skills through an exit framework.

In conclusion, honourable Members, I wish to congratulate Team Provincial Treasury on yet another clean audit outcome, as well as other departments and our public entities who received clean audit outcomes, including those who improved theirs in the audit period under review. Notwithstanding the budget cuts in the next financial year and the outer years, as Provincial Treasury, we will endeavour to do our utmost best to ensure that as a province we continue with proper and sound financial management and governance systems, thus never becoming skunks of our country again. Ke a leboga. Thank you. Ndza khensa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech for Vote 05 is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to the House. Thanks very much.

We shall now call upon the MEC for Education, Hon Polly Boshielo, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 03: Department of Education.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Address by Hon S P Boshielo, MEC for Education)

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo, Deputy Speaker of the provincial Legislature, Hon Azwindini Ndou, Hon Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Chief Whip of the majority party, Deputy Minister for Basic Education, Dr Reginah Mhaule, who has connected online, honourable colleagues in the Executive Council, Members of the provincial Legislature, Executive Mayors who have connected, leaders of the opposition parties, officials of the Department of Education, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Hon Speaker, it is a great honour and privilege to deliver the 2021/22 Budget Vote for the Limpopo provincial Department of Education. It is an honour indeed, that today we are joined as we deliver this Budget Vote, by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Dr Reginah Mhaule, who together with our Minister, Ms Angie Motshekga – ke ngwetši ya Balobedu – have been a pillar of strength during the difficult times imposed by COVID-19. Your support will always be appreciated.

We are delivering this Budget Vote during unprecedented times that have changed a lot in our sector and in our lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our sector, like other sectors, was shaken to its foundation by this deadly and devastating pandemic. It has been a stark reminder that we must continuously find new innovative ways to advance quality teaching and learning in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. COVID-19 gave rise to definite areas that we can build on creatively, to catapult us into the future, equipping learners with knowledge and skills for a changing world.

Our Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha correctly said when he delivered his 2021 State of the Province Address: “Investing in the education of our children is investing in the future of our province and our country. Education plays a significant role in the growth and development of society”. Difficult as it was, the Premier led from the front and we worked together with various stakeholders to salvage and make the 2020 academic year a success. We have endured the greatest hardships and we remained resolute in our resolve that by getting good education, our children can control their destiny. We require the same cooperation and understanding as we embark on the 2021 academic year. Supporting our schools and the learners that have been entrusted to us is a matter we will keep emphasising year in and year out, in a manner that will see us improve functionality of our schools and learner performance.

We wish to take this opportunity to assess progress with respect to commitments we shared with this House in the last Budget Vote. We will also use this opportunity to share with honourable Members the programmes and projects we will be rolling out in the 2021/22 financial year.

Hon Speaker, delivering the State of the Nation Address for the year 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa said to the nation: “We need to give attention to issues affecting children including improving school readiness, ECD planning and funding”. In our last year’s Budget Vote, we indicated that the education sector has adopted early childhood development (ECD) as one of its six priorities. We have also shared with the house the fact that the ECD is also one of the six pillars that have been outlined by the Premier in his first State of the Province Address (SOPA) as the head of the sixth administration in the province.

We shared with the House progress we have been making with regard to the training Grade R practitioners. About 150 students who are doing their Grade R diploma with the University of the North West are expected to finish in the next two years. We can report that 146 are now in their third year and will be completing their studies in July 2022. To ensure that the department realises a return on the investment it has made on their training, those who qualify will be prioritised for employment as Grade R educators.

In our last year’s Budget Vote, we also indicated that the process of shifting the ECD function from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education is on course. The two departments could not move with the necessary speed to conclude the process due to COVID-19. As a result of this pandemic, the deadline for shifting the function has been revised from 01 April 2021 to 01 April 2022. In the meantime, all Grade R learners are now incorporated in our primary schools across the province and they have been provided with learning materials and teaching aids, including educational toys. We have also provided them with face shields as part of PPEs for COVID-19.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department could not be engaged in reading activities which normally include Spelling BEE, storytelling and poetry sessions and reading competitions which are conducted in all languages. We want to report that all reading activities have been integrated into a single reading plan with the following two thrusts: (i) Reading for Pleasure, and (ii) Reading for Academic Purposes. A blended innovative approach will be used to roll out the reading plan.

The class of 2020 was one of the strongest and resilient classes in the last five years. They survived the onslaught and the disruptive nature of the COVID-19 pandemic which no one ever predicted when the department planned for the 2020 academic year. These learners produced better quality passes than the previous years. In 2020, the number of bachelor passes increased from 19 022 to 22 907. In percentage terms, it means the bachelor percentage performance increased from 26,8% to 29,1%. Nationally, the average performance declined by 5,1% while in the province we declined by 5%, that is, from 73,2% in 2019 to 68,2% in 2020. The Limpopo Department of Education moved from position 9 to position 7 nationally. [APPLAUSE]

When COVID-19 befell us and lockdown was implemented, some provinces were able to continue with online lessons which was not possible in the Limpopo province. To address this, the department will be rolling out its E-learning strategy. For this purpose, the provincial government of Limpopo under the capable leadership of Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha has allocated the department a funding of R100 million to start with the rolling out of E-learning. As the department, we have made available an amount of R128 million from its equitable share allocation resulting in a total budget of R228 million, for E-learning. A two-pronged approach will be followed in rolling this strategy. The first one has been implemented in 106 MST (Maths, Science and Technology) schools across the province as pronounced in the previous financial year. It can be reported, Hon Speaker, that all the 106 schools have been provided with all the smart classrooms and the project was successfully launched last week at SJ Van Der Merwe Technical School.

The second one will be the provisioning of tablets to learners and laptops to educators in schools in the province. Given the available budget, the department will be implementing E-learning in two grades, Grade 1 and Grade 8. In Grade 1, there are 142 123 learners while in Grade 8 there are 125 645 learners. To provide tablets for the Grade 1 learners, it will cost R355 million and R314 million for the Grade 8 learners.

Noting that for the 2021/22 financial year, the available budget for the rolling out of e-learning is R228 million, the department has taken a decision to stagger the provision of tablets to 19 000 learners in Grade 1 and 16 000 learners in Grade 8. Laptops will also be provided to their educators. So, we are not complaining, 'Moreki', we are using what we have. The programme will be initially started in all quintile 1 to 3 schools, while the ultimate goal is to cover all the schools when funding becomes available.

Coding and robotics are designed to provide learners with knowledge, values and skills needed for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. As part of rolling out this project, in the 2021/22 financial year, the province will be piloting this project in 133 primary schools. As a department, we will be offering in-house training courses to 200 targeted educators through the department's coding club. This club is composed of educators who are knowledgeable in this field and will thus be used as an important resource in

rolling out this project. Bana ba Limpopo le bona ke batho. In addition to this, a number of subject specialists have gone through a session on coding and robotics with Google-Africa while ICT champions have also had a similar session with UNISA.

We have noted a decline in gateway subjects such as Maths and Science in our province. In 2001, the Dinaledi schools project was launched in the province to improve performance and increase participation in Mathematics and Physical Sciences in previously disadvantaged schools. This project was funded by the Department of Basic Education through the Dinaledi Conditional Grant. Over the years, the project was discontinued and replaced by the MST Conditional Grant. As a department, we have decided to resuscitate the 16 former Dinaledi schools to increase the performance of Maths, Science and Technology in the province. The following 16 former Dinaledi schools are now part of the MST Conditional Grant: Derek Kobe Secondary, Pax College, Tshebela High, Flora-Park Comprehensive, Kgagatlou Secondary, Dendron Secondary, Harry Oppenheimer Secondary, Sefoloko Secondary, Marude Secondary, Jilongo High School, Kgathi-Ya-Moshate Secondary, Ramogabudi Secondary, Sekgosese Secondary, Giyani High, Bopedi Bapedi High and O R Tambo High. We will continue to add others as the budget becomes available.

The Limpopo province is endowed with natural resources. Hence, mining is one of the major economic activities sustaining livelihoods in the province. To prepare learners to pursue studies in this field and to provide needed skills in this sector, a number of technical schools in the province are offering subjects that are relevant for the mining sector. These include Engineering Graphics and Design, Civil Technology, Mechanical Technology and Electrical Technology. Learners completing Grade 12 at these technical high schools can further their studies at higher education institutions where they can obtain their mining qualifications.

The department will in this financial year collaborate more with the private sector and other key stakeholders to strengthen and support technical high schools to equip learners with relevant skills needed in the province. An example of such collaboration was launched in Mogalakwena, at Phaladingoe Technical School between the department and Anglo American Platinum, where learners are studying light and heavy electrical engineering courses. These learners are taught from time to time by operation managers from the mine. The equipment and machinery that they use have been donated by Anglo Platinum Mine. What is pleasing is that during the weekends, learners make more money by fixing electrical appliances like irons, hot plates and kettles in the village. We call on all other mining houses to also come on board to assist the department as we build up this capacity that they need to remain globally competitive while utilising local labour and skills.

Agriculture is identified in the Limpopo Development Plan as a strategic economic development sector for our province. It is therefore critical that our agricultural high schools are supported to be able to produce learners who are ready to pursue farming as a career and also pursue education studies in the field of agriculture to specialise.

The department is planning to provide targeted support to the eight agricultural schools in the province. An audit of their capacities and capabilities was undertaken in order to inform the support programme. The findings reveal that these agricultural schools are viable as more than 63% of them have boarding facilities and learner enrolment of more than 500. In terms of staffing, it was found that these schools have a vacancy

rate of around 50% and only 25% have farm managers. Most farms are used for animal and plant production in addition to academic purposes. In order for all these schools to be fully functional and to offer requisite skills to our learners in the agricultural fields, in the 2021/22 financial year, critical posts identified will be filled and equipment revitalised.

The department continues to strive for excellence in the provisioning of quality basic education, which is its vision. We are working in collaboration with the ETDP SETA and higher education institutions in the training and development of both school-based educators and public servants on job specific interventions. These are aimed at improving the capacity of our education system as a whole. In this regard, during the 2020 financial year, training on strategic ICT integration was offered to 801 educators, 400 school heads of departments, 250 deputy principals and principals. Training on data analysis and analytics was also offered to 250 administrators and office-based educators.

For the 2020/21 financial year, we further enrolled 1 000 ICT Champions from 1 000 primary and secondary schools on strategic ICT integration in pursuit of implementing e-Education in our schools 300 principals and deputy principals have been enrolled on an Advanced Diploma in School Management and Leadership with the University of Pretoria. So, we are ready to roll out the E-learning, Hon Speaker. In the 2021/22 financial year, we will continue training our educators and administrators on critical programmes that the system requires to fit into the new normal.

The department was supposed to have allocated 1% of total personnel expenditure amounting to R249 million for skills development, however due to budget pressures, the department allocated R115,465 million for skills development which is inclusive of the percentage that must be contributed to SETA amounting to R59,371 million, R23 million for 315 interns assuming duty on 01 April 2021, R15,794 million for in service teachers' bursaries, R7,074 million for the bursaries for Public Service Act employees, including R10,236 million for initial teacher education bursaries.

The department strives to improve the quality and functionality of public schooling through the development of education institutions, management structures and coordinated delivery of programmes and activities across the system.

We are currently managing the underperformance at our schools, circuits and districts. The management of underperformance in schools as stipulated in sections 16(a) and 58(b) of the South African Schools Act, is at the core of the education sector's efforts of ensuring that all learners receive quality education irrespective of their geographic location. The application of the national criteria for the identification of underperforming schools is applied annually and this enables the department to manage underperformance across the system.

The department held accountability sessions with all underperforming district directors and circuit managers. Critical decisions were taken based on these sessions and intervention strategies discussed.

Relevant legislation has been applied for schools that did not perform at the minimum threshold of performance. These schools received notices which declared them as underperforming, and they were given 21 days as per legislation to respond to the

contents of the notice and to submit their Academic Performance Improvement Plans. After submission of these reports, relevant strategic interventions will be made to improve the performance of the school. I want to say this, Hon Speaker, the department will deal decisively with chronic underperforming districts, circuits and schools as it impacts negatively on the success rate of learners.

School governing bodies (SGB) were created to advance the democratic transformation of the schooling system and to provide a platform for the active participation of school communities. SGBs play a critical role in the management of the governance functions in our schools. In terms of the South African Schools Act, the term of office of a member of a governing body other than a learner may not exceed three years. The current SGBs were elected in March 2018. This means that their term of office was supposed to have expired at the end of March 2021. However, due to the disruptions of the 2020 school calendar year as a result of the COVID-19, the period for the School Governing Body Elections was extended to 30 April 2021. The newly appointed school governing bodies will assume their responsibilities from the 01 May 2021. Training of the SGBs on a range of skills will also ensue thereafter.

The department has a mandate to ensure that it invests in the education of our children to afford them the opportunity to excel in their future. This is not always possible if learner enrolment in our schools is below the threshold of 135 for primary and 200 for secondary schools. This therefore demands of us to consider rationalisation of schools with a view to ensure the optimal utilisation of our limited resources.

In the 2020/21 financial year, the department identified 372 small and nonviable schools for merger. The process was slow and could not be finalised in time due to the COVID-19 and some resistance from certain communities.

In this 2021/22 financial year, the department will continue to engage our SGBs, teacher unions, communities and other relevant key stakeholders in ensuring that schools are rationalised properly in terms of applicable legislation. We call upon all stakeholders to cooperate with us for the best interest of our learners.

The South African Schools Act makes provision for greater participation of learners in stabilising and improving the quality of education in our schools through learner involvement in governance matters. This process of constituting Representative Council of Learners (RCL) has all democratic attributes such that learners learn to appreciate the values and ethics enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, from that early age.

The roles and responsibilities of RCLs are amongst others, representing learners at appropriate levels of the system, foster unity among learners, promote the culture of learning, encourage good relationships between learners and educators. Not the videos that we see where learners beat teachers or teachers beat learners.

RCLs are elected annually. The department provides training to RCLs on leadership and developmental skills. In this financial year, the department will provide training on youth leadership, school safety and protection of quality learning and teaching in schools.

Annually, the Minister for Basic Education publishes through a government gazette the norms and standards for the funding of public schools. This indicates the amount per learner that schools must be subsidised with. For schools in quintiles 1 to 3, which are called no-fee paying schools, the Limpopo Department of Education provides them with 100% subsidy while schools in quintile 4 and 5 are subsidised at a lower amount.

The funds are used by schools to pay for their operational costs. For the 2021/22 financial year, the subsidy per learner to no-fee paying schools will be R1 536, for quintile 4 schools it will be R770 and for quintile 5 schools, it will be R266. Small schools will be paid a total annual subsidy of R35 598.

To ensure that our schools manage the resources that are entrusted to them, the school management teams (SMT) have been provided with training on the management of funds. However, that there are still sporadic cases of misuse of funds in our schools.

We call upon our SGBs and school management teams to ensure that they follow all the financial prescripts that they have been provided with. Where this is not done, the department will not hesitate to act against the concerned individuals, as it has done in the past, to protect the resources of our learners. Another concern is the number of schools that still do not pay the municipal accounts for their consumption of water and electricity. Schools are reminded that municipal services are essential service that should be prioritised on the school's budget. Where there are billing challenges with municipalities, they should bring them up with those respective municipalities. Otherwise, if schools do not pay, Executive Mayor of Polokwane, switch off the electricity at the provincial head office.

The department has been procuring learner teacher support material (LTSM), which includes textbooks and scholastic stationery, for all the public ordinary and special schools in the province. During the 2020/21 financial year, four of our local small businesses benefitted from the subcontracting arrangement for the packaging and delivery of stationery to schools. Two of these companies are owned by women, one is owned by a young person and the other by a person with disability. The department will continue to use LTSM procurement as a catalyst for the empowerment of youth, women and persons living with disability in the province.

The school safety programme is aimed at creating a climate conducive for effective teaching and learning in our schools. It sets basic standards of safety, security and health; ensuring that effective measures are employed to address various issues, including: the lack of discipline, drugs, dangerous objects, violence, bullying, assault, sexual abuse, theft and robbery, which have a profound impact on the safety of all the stakeholders in our schools. To deal with these challenges, every school is expected to establish School Safety Committees. The department calls upon our communities to guard jealously the school infrastructure as these are their properties and destruction thereof will negatively affect the education of their children.

The main objective of the National Schools Nutrition Programme, what we call feeding scheme, is to provide nutritious meals to learners in quintile 1 to 3 and special schools to alleviate hunger and to contribute to the enhancement of their learning capabilities.

In the financial year 2020/21, the programme served meals to 1,6 million learners. During the 2020/21 financial year, because of this programme, 10 374 jobs were created for voluntary food handlers whose responsibility was to cook meals for learners. In the 2021/22 financial year, the number will increase slightly to 10 383.

The feeding of learners was affected by the COVID-19 lockdown regulations and no feeding took place during that time. But, Equal Education, a nongovernmental organisation, took the Department of Basic Education to court to compel the provincial departments in all nine provinces to feed learners even when they were not at school. In some schools, food parcels were prepared but learners did not come to pick them up.

Also, during the COVID-19 lockdown, service providers were not delivering food to schools and as a result had no income, at all. This resulted in some small suppliers not being able to recover on time when feeding was resumed. Some of them also had problems in providing food parcels to the learners.

The extension of the 2020 school calendar also resulted in the department having to provide food parcels to learners for the period which they were supposed to have been at school. This created a challenge to some of the service providers as some of the items that were supposed to be included in the food parcels were not available in the market, including dikgobe. In the financial year 2021/22, the programme will serve meals to learners in 3 705 primary and secondary schools, and 35 special schools.

The Learner Transport Programme aims to provide access to education to the needy and deserving learners especially those who come from farm and rural areas, travelling 5km or more to the nearest public schools. Since this programme was implemented, we have noticed a decrease in absenteeism and late coming.

The department has provided 42 407 learners across the province with learner transport during the 2020/21 financial year. In the 2021/22 financial year, the number of learners who qualify for learner transport increased from 42 407 to 47 276 learners, mainly due to merging of schools.

The main objective of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is to alleviate poverty, inequality and reduce unemployment. In the previous financial year, we reported that the department appointed 862 workers. Out of 862, 762 EPWP beneficiaries were appointed as classroom assistants, others as gardeners, administrative assistants, librarians and as school-based monitors for the National School Nutrition Programme.

In the financial year 2021/22, a budget of R21 million is allocated for this programme and this is a marginal improvement from R20,8 million in the previous financial year. In the 2021/22 financial year the department will through this incentive grant, appoint 694 beneficiaries. Out of these beneficiaries, 175 classroom assistants, 471 school-based monitors, 16 administrator assistants, 25 sustainable food production assistants and 3 data capturers. So, we are creating jobs, Hon Speaker. Furthermore, each of these beneficiaries will perform an added function to their duties to facilitate screening and cleaning in schools thus making sure that schools comply with COVID -19 regulations.

Menstruation is a normal and a regular occurrence of the female reproductive cycle. The ability to manage menstruation with adequate dignity is essential to our girl children. The department has noted that most girl children miss school due to the unaffordability of these basic necessities. To preserve girl children's dignity during menstruation, it is important that they have access to adequate sanitary towels.

In the 2020/21 financial year, an amount of R32 million was allocated for the roll out of the Sanitary Dignity Programme and the roll out started in March 2021. In the 2021/22 financial year R34 million has been allocated to accelerate the programme further. This will be used to provide approximately 2,3 million packs to 190 000 girl children. As the budget increases, more deserving girl children will benefit from this programme.

The Life Skills HIV/Aids Programme is aimed at providing comprehensive sexuality education and access to sexual and reproductive health services to learners; supporting the provision of employee health and wellness programmes for educators; mitigating the impact of HIV/Aids for learners and educators, providing care and support for learners that are infected and affected by HIV/Aids and reducing the vulnerability of children to HIV, TB and STIs.

During the 2020/21 financial year, a total of 170 Learner Support Agents (LSAs) with expertise in the provisioning of psychosocial support services were appointed on a 2-year contract. They were placed in schools with a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 cases across the province. The department further appointed 10 social workers across the 10 education districts for the purposes of supporting circuits and the training of the LSAs in schools.

Since we are now on level 1, the department will gradually re-introduce most of the activities in our schools to improve the health and vitality of our learners. We are working together with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to ensure that we follow all the safe and health COVID-19 protocols during these activities. We are busy signing a memorandum of understanding with the department to ensure that our learners participate in provincial and national sport and culture activities. The MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture will share with this House in her Budget Speech.

In April 2020, due to COVID-19's devastating impact, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a stimulus package to alleviate hardships in our schools. Subsequent to the announcement, the Department of Basic Education after consultations with provinces submitted funding requests to the National Treasury for Basic Education Employment Initiative.

The aim of the Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI) is to provide 200 000 education assistants and 100 000 general assistants to schools to ensure continued learning and teaching in a safe environment and to support the saving of SGB posts at fee-paying schools and posts at government subsidised independent schools.

In Limpopo province, 52 055 posts were created, and these were filled by qualifying youth between the ages of 18 and 35 years of age and this programme was implemented since the beginning of December 2020, Hon Selamolela. [APPLAUSE] The programme exposed young people to various forms of training that empower them and improve their prospect of employability.

The second aspect of the BEEI pertains to the saving of school governing body funded posts in fee-paying schools and posts at government subsidized independent schools. This was due to the fact that during the lockdown these schools could not collect school fees and could therefore not pay the salaries of the educators appointed by SGBs. To save these posts and protect curriculum delivery at these schools, an allocation was made to subsidise these schools for payment of the salaries of the SGB appointed educators. To date, in Limpopo, 2 258 jobs from both quintile 4 and 5 and independent schools have been saved by this initiative.

To ensure that schools plan their activities on time, the South African Schools Act requires that they be informed of their post baskets by 30 April of the prior year. The determination of the post basket takes into account the available budget and the number of learners at each school. The teacher unions and association of school governing bodies are consulted before the post basket can be declared. For the 2021 school calendar year, the department retained the post basket at 51 752.

In the 2020/21 financial year, COVID-19 had devastating effects in the education sector which resulted in some educators being away from school due to infections and comorbidities. Sadly, we lost 252 of our educators due to this pandemic. During the last week of January, we lost five principals and four circuit managers. May their souls rest in peace!

The fact that 11 018 of our educators in the employment of the department are aged between 55 to 65 years, which is within the pensionable age, continues to be a concern for the department. What is more worrying is that 10 988 are between the ages of 46 to 50 and 14 873 are between the ages of 51 to 55. It therefore means that 36 879 educators are between the ages 46 and 64. Out of the total 2021 post basket, it means 71,26% of educators are between the ages 46 to 64. The department will continue with its drive to recruit young entrants into the teaching profession. Otherwise, the system will collapse in five years.

In the 2020/21 financial year, 1 679 educators below the age of 30 years were appointed. The strategy of the department is to prioritise the appointment of young educators to sustain the system in future.

The Department of Education Bursary Scheme, Fundza Lushaka and NSFAS continue to serve as an impactful pipeline for the supply of educators for scarce skills subjects, with particular reference to Maths, Science and Technology. These initiatives produced 449 graduates in 2019 and they were employed in our schools in 2020. I must also mention, Hon Selamolela, that there is no teacher in our employ who is less than 21 years. The ones between the ages of 21 and 25 are only 1 069.

The department is also confronted with the challenge of aging staff at the SMS level. Between the ages of 46 to 64, there are 42 SMS members out of 61. This translates to 85.25%. There is no SMS member who is below 35 years of age. The department will endeavor to also prioritise the appointment of young people at this stage. I must say, Hon Speaker, that from the age of 35 and below, we don't have any SMS member.

It is important that the department maintains and ensures stable management of our schools. The filling of principal posts is key as they have an impact on curriculum

delivery and will therefore be filled during the 2021/22 financial year. The department advertised 568 vacant principal posts and it is expected that these will be filled by 31 March 2021. Additional 263 posts of principals, which became vacant in the third and fourth quarters, will be advertised and filled in the first quarter of 2021/22. As I said, the age is pensionable, that is why many principals are getting out of the system. In addition, the department is in the process of filling 25 circuit manager posts. The same age problem, we are noticing it amongst our 121 circuit managers. We will be filling 25 circuit manager posts to ensure that our circuits are able to coordinate and provide support to schools.

Infrastructure provisioning is a matter that is receiving our undivided attention in order to create safe and favourable environments for teaching and learning in our schools. In the financial year 2021/22, the budget allocated for infrastructure development is R1,3 billion for both public ordinary and special schools. The infrastructure budget will be utilised towards building of new schools, upgrading; refurbishing, rehabilitating and renovations of existing infrastructure, including storm damaged schools; as well as maintenance and repairs of our schools.

In the 2020/21 financial year, the department was unable to undertake most of the infrastructure projects due to the COVID-19 and the lockdown regulations especially during level 5. The construction industry was also not spared. The implementation of the projects was pushed back due to budgets having been reprioritised to fund COVID-19 essentials, PPEs for schools.

In the 2021/22 financial year, the department is planning to undertake major upgrades and additions to 200 schools across all the 10 education districts in the province. These schools include the 17 schools that were announced by Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha in his 2021 State of the Province Address. The 33 which were supposed to be implemented in the financial year 2020/21 and 150 projects that have been identified as priority in our education districts, will also be implemented. Due to budget constraints, these projects will be undertaken over multiple financial years, unless 'Moreki' gives us more money. The major challenge that the department is experiencing is that as the infrastructure backlogs are being addressed a setback is annually encountered due to storm damages to our schools.

The advent of COVID-19 brought about peculiar challenges to the department in relation to water and sanitation provision at schools. The strict requirements of safety and health COVID-19 protocols demanded a review of the water, sanitation and classroom capacity in our schools. Differentiated time tabling is currently being implemented to alleviate shortage of classes due to the requirement of social distancing. The Department of Basic Education assisted us in providing 522 water tanks to schools and 434 mobile toilets during the 2020 academic year. The Department of Education in Limpopo provided 236 schools with mobile toilets. In the 2021 academic year, 464 schools were provided with mobile toilets.

The department is currently through its in-house technical capacity, implementing a programme for provision of permanent water and sanitation infrastructure in 215 schools across the province, as reported in this House. Currently, 159 schools out of 215 have been awarded to contractors and are onsite busy with construction. The remaining 56 schools have been re-advertised because contractors turned down

appointment letters as a result of their businesses having been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Basic Education has prioritised 203 schools out of 300 that were supposed to be provided through the Presidential Infrastructure Project, to be provided with proper sanitation facilities and clean running water, through the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) Programme.

We have done an audit of all our school infrastructure needs in the province and we know all the challenges that are a worrying factor. The department is on course in providing safe and appropriate infrastructure for quality learning and teaching in our schools. We will not rest, Hon Speaker, until this goal is achieved. Currently, the only challenge is the budget constraints, and as a province we shall continue and march forward.

Every year the department has a programme to award top performing educators to recognise the sterling work they perform. The awards are part of the National Teacher Awards ceremony whereby the provincial winner represent the province at the national level. We have previously reported in this house, how our provincial winners have gone to perform very well at the national level also. Today, we would like to recognise two of such educators who are doing us proud at both national and international level.

Ms Livhalani Bridget Sinyosi competed in the African Union Continental Teacher Prize and we are proud to announce that she won the AU Continental Teacher Prize. [APPLAUSE]

It is worth noting that Dzata Secondary School where Ms Sinyosi is the principal is one of the schools that performs well. In the 2020 Grade 12 NSC examinations, her school with 157 Grade 12 learners obtained 98% pass rate with 95 bachelor passes, 39 diploma passes and 20 higher certificate passes.

Ms Mokhudu Machaba competed in the Global Teacher Prize competitions and was the first South African to reach the top ten finals of this competition. It is also worth noting that Ms Machaba used her skills to digitise departmental materials during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department intends using her experience and expertise to broaden a pool of educators with digital, coding and robotics skills in the province.

As the department, we have decided to honour the top five performing principals in each of our ten education districts in the province. We will be hosting lunch for them on 30 March 2021, where we will present them with recognition of performance certificates and tablets donated by MTN. We already had a virtual meeting with them to thank them for their sterling performances. We want to thank them for a job well done even under the trying times of COVID-19. Hon Speaker, please allow me to request the House to give a round applause to these ladies and principals for the outstanding performance. [APPLAUSE]

Let me take this opportunity to present the 2021/22 Budget Vote 3 for the Limpopo Department of Education. The total Budget for 2021/22 is R32,586 billion. This Budget is made up of R24,9 billion for compensation of employees; R3,4 billion for goods and services; R2,9 billion for transfers and subsidies and R1,3 billion for infrastructure. The compensation of employees (CoE) makes up 76% of the total budget. This percentage

however increases to 84% when conditional grants are excluded. It is worth mentioning that the CoE in programme 2, which amounts to R23 billion, makes up 90% of the total CoE budget. This is understandable noting that the Department of Education is labour intensive and that the priority is always to ensure that all educator posts are filled, and there are teachers in front of the class. Included in the budget are the following conditional grants:

- R1,45 billion for National School Nutrition Programme;
- R21,2 million for EPWP Social Sector Incentive Grant;
- R26,5 million for HIV/Aids;
- R48,1 million for Maths, Science and Technology;
- R32,7 million for Learners with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability; and
- R2 million for EPWP Incentive Allocation.

Details of allocations per programme and economic classifications are attached hereto.

We need to indicate that this Budget Vote is delivered at the time that the world is fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. This has created a new normalcy which requires of us to adjust to it to ensure that we continue rendering services in terms of our mandate, without complaining.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, we want to indicate that education is a societal matter and we all must engage in it so that our learners receive quality education to be competitive in future. We must therefore ensure that our learners exit the basic education system with the requisite knowledge skills.

We have and shall continue to put necessary measures in place that will ensure that we work hard towards our targets. We will tighten monitoring and support systems to achieve our strategic objectives. We are called upon by the National Development Plan Vision 2030 to use these scarce resources to produce learners who are motivated to come to school and learn; trained teachers who conduct themselves in a professional manner; principals who are leaders; parents who are interested in the education of their children and suitable school infrastructure that enhances teaching and learning.

We take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the support of the Premier of our Province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, the Provincial Command Council chaired by the Hon Premier, which led us at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring that our learners and educators return safely to schools, the support from my colleagues in the Executive Council, and the wise counsel from the Portfolio Committee on Education. Indeed, your support is much appreciated.

We also take this opportunity to thank our partners and key stakeholders in the education sector. This includes learners, educators, parents, school governing bodies, teacher unions, learner formations, traditional leaders, religious leaders, our sponsors, the business community and members of the community at large.

We also want to thank the current Acting HOD, Mr Martin Mashaba, the former acting head of department Mrs Onicca Dederen and the entire workforce of the department for the sterling work that you put in on daily basis in the department's quest to deliver

quality teaching and learning to the thousands of learners who have been entrusted to us. Your determination, dedication and commitment are appreciated, and we urge you not to be weary. Together, we must continue to work hard to better the lives of our people through education.

Let me thank all the staff in the office who constantly make sure that we continue to provide the leadership and guidance that the department requires.

Lastly, let me thank 'Bomalome Bakhwi' and my whole family for the unwavering support they have provided to me during this difficult period when I had to be occupied for hours with regards to my official duty.

Let us continue to heed the President's call. Wear your mask, wash your hands, and sanitise wherever you are required to do so, keep social distance, and stay safe. Let us respect and protect the right to basic education. In all that we do, it should remain a societal issue that we put the interest of the learners first. Please remember that in the education sector we have this motto that every child is a national asset and we therefore need to develop them for the future. Thank you very much. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Ke a leboga, MEC, Hon Boshielo. The Budget Speech for Vote 3: Department of Education is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Education for consideration and to report back to the House. We shall now call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

(Address by Hon M M Lerule-Ramakhanya, MEC for Transport
and Community Safety)

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for the time that you have afforded us as the department. Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, my colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief of Whip of the Legislature, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, chairpersons of other committees, leaders of the opposition parties, South African Police Services' Provincial Commissioner, honourable Members of the House, HOD of the department who is represented today by the Chief Director, Ms Mulaudzi, our newly-appointed CFO who has also joined us, members of the media, good day.

Hon Speaker, it is a pleasure once again to stand before this House to table the Budget Vote of the Department of Transport and Community Safety, the second one to be presented under the hardships of COVID-19. I am delighted for the opportunity given to me to walk with you in this exciting journey, especially because this will be the first time, we are presenting the achievements and plans emanating from one unified Department of Transport and Community Safety. Hon Speaker, the Department of Transport and Community Safety, no more Liaison.

I have indicated last year when tabling the Budget Vote that the amalgamation of the Transport and Community Safety Departments was a well thought through decision by the Hon Premier, Stan Chupu Mathabatha as the decision has successfully brought together key law enforcement agencies under one roof.

We meet at a time of great uncertainties made more serious by the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic ramifications. However, as I stand here today before you, I must indicate that accompanying these real difficulties and uncertainties, lies huge possibilities only waiting for us to rediscover them, amidst the dark clouds and confusion beckon many silver-linings.

This calls on us to reflect, reorganise, renew, correct and to self-correct where we may be falling short. True to the character of any pandemic, the COVID-19 has laid bare many of our shortfalls and weaknesses whilst at the same time teaching us better ways of doing things smarter, bigger, cheaper, faster and more effective. Whilst we may not be able to gather *en masse*, shake hands or follow our normal daily routines, I believe this is a good crisis that must never go to waste. From this experience, we must learn better ways of fighting crime; better ways of reducing road fatalities and better ways of expanding and improving our public transport system.

In remembrance of our loved ones who perished due to COVID-19, it will only be proper that we lead the next generation of our people in taking forward the many life lessons learnt during this period.

Our communities are faced with different challenges in our province. In the past few days, there has been several reported violent protests in various communities in our own province. Our public order police have been working around the clock to defuse tensions and to control agitated protestors as they should.

In memory of the life of the late Mthokozisi Ntumba and many others who were killed needlessly during public protests, I want to urge our men and women in blue, especially those tasked with the responsibility to control ruffled community members to exercise their responsibility with care.

The police know that they have a higher calling to serve and to protect citizens. It is at the point of executing this responsibility where they should exercise maximum discipline and restraint. A heavy hand on citizens can only go one way, and that is, to tarnish the good image of the work police themselves are doing daily to arrest deadly criminals.

I believe the proactive measures taken by our police in the province will assist in averting similar incidents from happening. I am happy to report that something is being done to address the challenge from the side of the department. I am encouraged that the department has initiated a research project focusing on factors that contribute to police brutality in the Limpopo province. This research will examine the root causes of police officers exercising undue or excessive force against civilians, as well as explore ways to address these anomalies. This normally includes, but not limited to, physical or verbal harassment, physical or mental injury, property damage and death.

As the department we commit ourselves once again to working very closely with the leadership of SAPS as part of our oversight responsibility to ensure that officers apply

the crowd control mechanisms recommended in the Farlam Commission Report and generally act within the prescribed laws of our country.

In the Budget Vote tabled in May last year, I made several commitments informed by the budget and programmes planned for the financial year. I am delighted to report to this honourable House that we managed to deliver on most of the promises made despite the gaps and challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The department has managed to absorb all the remaining traffic officers from the batch of officers who were on learnership in the financial year 2019/20. This brings to 248 officers absorbed by the department in the past financial year to assist in enforcing regulations and compliance on our roads.

The visibility of our officers has increased immensely since the additional intake of learners on fulltime basis, and this has led to the reduction of fatal accidents on our roads. We were unable to recruit aspiring young men and women who want to undergo training at the college in the past financial year due to resurgence of the COVID-19, lockdown regulations and health protocols.

Irrespective of this setback, I am happy to report that we used the unfortunate break to provide decent shelter and conducive training environment for the next intake. In addition, the department has completed the upgrading of the Phase A Block at the traffic college. This block constructed at the tune of R18 million will accommodate 60 trainees.

Last year, I reported that the department has acquired 76 new vehicles at the cost of R12 million, of which amongst them were vans meant for execution of warrants of arrest. The good story is continuing, as we have managed to brand them properly which also include the fitting of blue lamps by the Road Traffic Management Corporation. This will ensure that the visibility of our officers is enhanced on all the roads and this will lead to the reduction of crashes in the province.

The important fact is that the 2020 festive season statistics showed a decline of fatal crashes in the province and we are consolidating a plan to ensure that the reduction of crashes spill over to Easter holidays. The rising cases of pedestrians dying on our roads has prompted the department to move swiftly to appoint Road Safety Ambassadors for point duty in all the identified critical routes in the five districts of the province through the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP).

This is a continuous programme implemented at the district municipal level. I can now confirm that 143 road safety ambassadors have been appointed from 25 February 2021 on a 24-months long contracts. All the participants have acquired basic point duty training at the Limpopo Traffic College. We are hoping that the district municipalities will move with speed to identify the remaining 107 young people to assist us in managing heavy traffic flows in selected critical hotspots.

As I indicated last year that the National Traffic Contravention Management System (NTCMS) has been developed and approved. The system has come into effect on 01 April 2020 on a pilot basis. The pilot phase has been a success and the department will roll out and implement the system throughout the province from 01 April 2021.

It is a known fact that the festive season is always challenging due to high volumes of traffic on our roads. The previous season was no exception and our frontliners worked around the clock to reduce fatal crashes. The Department of Transport and Community Safety had a joint operation with the Department of Health led by the MEC, Dr Phophi Ramathuba and her officials. Our focus was on the major roads where congestion and crashes are prevalent during festive and other busy holidays.

The Arrive Alive Campaign was also launched in our very own province by Minister Fikile Mbalula. Consequently, we noted during the festive season a decline of crashes on the notorious R71 road between Polokwane and Tzaneen and this is attributed to officers who were on the road 24/7.

On transport operations, the department is working tirelessly to ensure the safety of commuters who use various modes of public transport. During the year under review, we conducted very successful taxi makgotla in all the districts of the province with the aim of stabilising the taxi industry.

The focus was on professionalisation, customer care, unity and leadership, industry regulation and empowerment. The inputs made in the district and the provincial Lekgotla were presented in the national forum held in Johannesburg at the end of October 2020. The province-wide engagements brought rival associations under one roof and through our robust deliberations, members and associations are now relating better except for few sporadic incidents that we managed to contain.

It is known fact that the majority of our people rely on public transport to commute from their homes to places of work. The passenger subsidy programme has aided thousands of commuters to shuttle on daily basis. In the 2020/21 financial year, over 15 million passengers across the province benefited through the subsidy programme. A total of 458 231 trips were operated covering over 19 million kilometres. An average of 757 buses were used to ferry commuters. The department spent an estimated amount of R650 million on 26 subsidised contracts.

We have seen a rise of gender-based violence (GBV) cases during the hard lockdown in April last year. The scourge against women and other vulnerable groups was declared a second pandemic by our President early last year.

This was a trying period because the conditions at the time prevented us from running awareness campaigns of zero violence against women and children using the traditional way. The situation was so dire that we had to make means to reach out to our people. The new normal, however, presented opportunities for us to spread awareness messages via social media platforms, community radios, and national radio stations.

The Hon Premier added his voice to the campaign by calling for a swift intervention to curb the scourge and a task team comprising officials from the Department of Social Development, SAPS and the Department Transport and Community Safety was eventually formed to deal with the challenge. We had our first dialogue with one of the community radio stations in the Capricorn District around July and the same event was aired in all social media platforms and community radio stations. It was through this intervention that people started opening up.

The dialogue gave courage to the abused to break the silence and to report the perpetrators to police or seek for information. Standing before this august House, I can confirm that the crime statistics of the previous quarters have shown a decline in aggravated crimes against the vulnerable groups. We will continue with the partnership with our sister Department of Social Development to raise awareness and to attend to GBV related cases.

In the 2021/22 financial year, we will continue prioritising programmes aimed at addressing the scourge of GBV. We will avail adequate resources, both financial and personnel for this noble course and to make sure that related cases receive proper attention in all our police stations in the province. I once again want to thank Premier Stan Mathabatha, who in his wisdom deemed it fit to assemble a team to tackle the scourge. The task team will not rest until the scourge is completely dismantled and defeated. It is our collective responsibility as leaders to wage a war against the deadly pandemic of GBV for a safer, non-violent, and crime free Limpopo province.

On the Court Watching Brief, added to the work of this task team is the Court Watching Brief intervention, which is an initiative of our Provincial Secretariat for Police Service. The initiative came about as there was a growing concern that most of the cases reported to police are thrown out of court because of various reasons ranging from lack of evidence, unavailability of witnesses and bungling of cases by police officers, amongst others. You will be relieved to hear that the ineffectiveness that contributed to failure of conviction in some serious cases is about to become a thing of the past.

The department has established the Limpopo Court Watching Brief in accordance with the constitutional provisions contained in section 206(3) of the Constitution. The Court Watching Brief will monitor cases that are struck off the roll due to alleged ineffectiveness of police officers. The unit will physically go to court to listen to some of the bungled cases and report to the Provincial Commissioner on the appropriate remedial action and the possibility of ensuring the reinstatement of such cases to ensure equal justice for all. That is what we are doing in our oversight role.

When releasing the national crime statistics for the third quarter of the 2020/21 financial year, the Minister did flag our province as one of the three provinces that had a reduction in murder cases for the reporting period. Nevertheless, we take cognisance of the fact that crime is not a stagnant and predictable phenomenon. This means that there will always be fluctuations in the crime patterns because crime varies from one area to the other.

As a department, we are therefore pleased to highlight that in the reporting period, the police in this province have recorded a 3,3% decline in murder cases as compared to the same period the previous year. The analysis of this crime category revealed that majority of these cases were because of arguments, mob justice, revenge, and provocations, with 83 of the 237 reported cases occurring at residential places and 57 in public places.

These records are a clear depiction of a scary reality that our households have become crime hotspots for murder. This phenomenon calls for a serious community and personal introspection and intervention that will empower the society to use alternative ways to solve problems without resorting to violence. Out of the 237 cases, 27 are as a result of vigilantism or mob justice, a practice that we condemn as a department.

In the same breath, it must also be mentioned that property related crimes were reduced by 15% and serious crimes by 3,2% during the same period. The sad reality, however, is that the same cannot be said about other types of crimes such as contact crimes which have gone up by 5,5% and contact related crimes by 12,6%.

We are, however, also alarmed by the sexual offences that continue to rise across the province. In the period under review, the police recorded an increase of 13,5% in sexual offences with a case difference of 184 as compared to the same period last year. Most of these cases occurred in places of residence or places known to the victim, public places and liquor premises.

Given the kind of relationship that our people have with alcohol, our message to liquor traders, shebeen keepers and tavern owners is, "Don't let your business become a crime hotspot". Allow those who drink to drink responsibly and those who sell to sell responsibly. Everyone can now see from the statistics derived during lockdowns and post lockdowns the extent to which alcohol abuse harms society, from the increase in road fatalities to gender-based violence and rampant criminality. More than ever before, there is now sufficient case to be made for regulating alcohol trade and also against alcohol abuse and the police must not hesitate to stamp the full authority of the law.

With better training, resources, and diligence, we remain hopeful that the police can do more to fight social crime and to eradicate the scourge of gender-based violence with the help of our communities.

On COVID-19 challenges, it is rather regrettable that we had a few planned programmes that we could not finalise in the past financial year due to COVID-19 and lockdown regulations. The intake of trainees to the college also could not continue as planned due to COVID-19 regulations. Budgets were cut, reduced, or redirected to address the challenges, understandably so. We are not complaining, 'Moreki'. This unfortunately has impacted heavily on our safety plan campaigns that are traditionally held at shopping centres and in the rural areas.

However, the good news is that traffic officers and police remained on the streets with the aid of the South African National Defence Force, that we want to thank dearly. The multidisciplinary effort by our law enforcement agencies helped us to push back the numbers. The manning of major routes, compliance at the shopping centers and the routine patrol at the ports of entry brought us positive results.

On bus subsidies, for the 2021/22 financial year the department has set aside an amount of R649 million, which will indeed go a long way in ensuring that we service our public transport. An estimated 25 million passengers will be benefitting through the passenger subsidy system during the 2022/23 financial year. Companies that are receiving government subsidy manage to create and sustain an average of 2 000 permanent jobs in the form of drivers, dispatchers, administrative and financial clerical staff.

The Passenger Subsidy Programme could be considered as an important catalyst for poverty alleviation considering that the services are focused on low-income populations located in rural areas. The department paid out an amount of R21.2 million

to 26 bus subsidy contracts for subsidised kilometres that bus operators could not operate during the COVID-19 level 5 lockdown. Operators were paid 60% of their respective contracted kilometre rates. In terms of COVID-19 Public Transport Directives, buses were not allowed to operate during level 5.

The department procured bulk sanitisers, disinfectants, and high-pressure spray bottles at a cost of R2,5 million for the taxi industry and subsidised bus depots to supplement their efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19. In this regard, roadshows targeting major taxi ranks were conducted in all five districts with the aim of disinfecting the taxi fleet and taxi ranks. The department will submit a request to the Provincial Treasury for funding from the COVID-19 fund to support the public transport industry with PPEs.

In our taxi industry, it must again be noted that the department is servicing, apart from other public transport services, 116 taxi associations with 7 789 registered members operating 10 690 taxi vehicles with operating licenses. The department will continue to sustain the multi-disciplinary provincial taxi task team, which was established to address conflict in the public transport industry.

The taxi industry will be conducting elections in the second half of the 2021/22 financial year. The department has set aside R5 million in the 2021/22 financial year to assist with the administration and the management of the industry.

On transport forums and municipalities, furthermore, the department will continue in the 2021/22 financial year to assist municipalities in establishing and resurrecting transport forums.

The Limpopo Provincial Regulatory Entity and Operating License Administration System continues to monitor and oversee public transport in the province and receive and decide on applications relating to operating licenses for intraprovincial transport. Hearings were adversely affected by COVID-19 lockdown levels and restrictions. Hearings for the 2020/21 only started in July 2020. They adjudicated on an estimated 2 000 operating license applications in the 2020/21 financial year.

The committee will continue to conduct monthly hearings in all the five districts in the 2021/22 financial year. An amount of R9 million has been allocated to sustain the services. It will continue to render part-time satellite services in Waterberg, Mopani and Capricorn Districts to ensure easy access to 3 services and will sustain the satellite services at the Groblersdal Cost Centre and the Dilokong Traffic Station. About R38,122 million has been budgeted for the 2021/22 financial year to sustain the regulation of the public transport industry through the Operating License Administration System.

The department has commenced with a process to address the unlicensed status of taxi operators in the province. An initiative will be rolled out within the provisions of the current public transport legislation and transport plans to address the backlog on the issuing of new route-based minibus taxi operating licenses.

On GAAL (Gateway Airport Authority Limited), I wish to indicate that the airport authority had several challenges in the past which led to the dissolution of the then board. We have initiated a process to steer the ship out of the muddy waters to

continue sailing smoothly once again. The appointment of the new board will be finalised at the beginning of the first quarter. They are going to start from the 1st of April. This will also pave a way to the appointment of a competent management team with a vision to turn things around.

It has now become clear that GAAL will have to rationalise operations and maximise their revenue collection through other revenue streams, considering the effect of COVID-19 on the aviation industry. Currently, there has been EXCO resolutions on GAAL which proposed different models, including the PPP (public-private partnership) model. Currently, further studies are being done on how to enhance revenue generation and sustainability.

On the upgrading of the Limpopo Traffic College, the department is continuing with its commitment to provide conducive training environment for traffic officers as alluded to earlier. Following the construction of the 60 beds dormitories in the 2020/21 financial year, the department will complete the second phase currently underway. A project consisting of 40 beds dormitories will be completed at the estimated cost of R23 million in the current financial year.

I am pleased to announce that we have set aside an amount of R15 million for the upgrading of Mampakuil Weighbridge. The weighbridge is on the N1 between Botlokwa and Louis Trichardt, Makhado. The project will be implemented from the fourth quarter. SANRAL is finalising the process of the appointment of the consultant and funds will be transferred to the RAL (Roads Agency Limpopo) for implementation.

Furthermore, the department is intending to construct K53 and examiner of motor vehicle pit in Thohoyandou and Seshego, as alluded to by the MEC for Treasury. The projects will go a long way to improve service delivery and revenue collection in the province. As community members in the Thohoyandou and Polokwane areas have to endure long queues to access traffic services in the existing facilities, I'm confident that these two projects will relieve the pressure in the two existing facilities.

After many years of unwarranted delays in the opening of this public facility, the Thohoyandou facility in the Thulamela Municipality in Vhembe, we are encouraged to announce that we have finally overcome some of the hurdles that stood on our way. The department is planning to commission the facility during the 2021/22 financial year according to our plan. The Department of Public Works has appointed DBSA (Developmental Bank of Southern Africa) through their Infrastructure Framework Agreement and will be finalising all works and documentation. Finally, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel.

I know that it has been years of frustration for commuters in Thulamela and surrounding areas. As government, we can never apologise enough for our poor project management skills to get this project through for the past ten years. For this, we sincerely regret.

On infrastructure development and job creation, the construction of dormitories and other major projects I mentioned earlier, will not only benefit the trainees with skills, but will also go a milestone in creating jobs for our people. Hundreds of people will be hired during the construction and refurbishment of these already mentioned programmes.

On registration and licensing services, the province conducted 1 115 compliance inspections in all testing centres to ensure compliance to the National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996 and COVID-19 regulations. The department is in the process of appointment of users to operate in the completed 4 new registering authorities at Tzaneen, Lephalale, Makhado and Polokwane to maximise service delivery in registration and licensing services. Lephalale has started operating to maximise service delivery.

I wish to inform this House that the National Traffic Contravention Management System has been developed and approved. The system is being utilised and it is going to come to effect from this year. The system will assist the department in the management of traffic written notices and will be able to interface with AARTO (Administrative Adjudication of Traffic Offenders Act) as it is linked to eNaTIS. Hon Speaker, if Members of the House have got cases, warrants of arrest or tickets, when we stop you, we will be able to trace this information and don't call the MEC.

The department will continue to perform its oversight role with the SAPS under strict COVID-19 regulations. In the first quarter, a total number of 35 police stations will be monitored in terms of compliance. In the second quarter 25 police stations will be monitored and the remaining 33 police stations will be monitored against the implementation of their respective improvement plan as well as the detective services as part of the national project. A service delivery improvement plan has been developed following the 2018 National Census Project.

On COVID-19 awareness operation, it is with a deep sense of appreciation to note that our law enforcement officers, and road safety officers have been joining hands in promoting and enforcing compliance to COVID-19 regulations in taxi ranks and shopping malls. This is in addition to the work that our traffic officers and police officers have been doing to ensure compliance to COVID-19 regulations in all the routes within the province and all our taxi ranks in the execution of warrants of arrest.

I am more than pleased to announce that the department has developed teams to execute warrants of arrest in the province. Targets have been adjusted to effectively execute warrants of arrest. With the procured 36 police vans, we are confident that no stone will be left unturned. I thought I'm dedicating this to 'Moreki' because it means more money in the pocket. It must be indicated that we have purchased this police vans because we have realised that most of the traffic offenders are not complying with their traffic written notices.

I am aware that most often than not, most offenders don't even bother to pay their traffic notices as they know that nothing will happen to them. So, procuring these vans as we have done, is a means by which we can effectively execute our warrants of arrests. For those who have not seen the vans, some of them will be at the department's open parking area tomorrow when we launch our Easter Arrive Alive Campaign. Lawlessness will now be a thing of the past.

The department will continue to support community structures through their participation in the EPWP's Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Programme (CPTED). This programme is geared at participants clearing and cleaning contact crime hotspots in the province.

A total of 900 participants will be recruited from the Community Policing and Safety Structures, that is 180 from each district. A budget of R2 million is received from the Integrated Grant and the department has augmented this with another R2 million from its equitable share. To contribute to youth empowerment and development in the sector, the department will recruit 340 participants from the Youth Against Crime and Youth Council participants through the CPF and CSF Boards. These youth will be patrolling and as a result increase police visibility.

As we look into the coming 2021/22 financial year, the total Budget for the 2021/22 financial year is R2 billion which shows a decrease of 5,8% compared to the 2020/21 financial year Budget. The 2022/23 financial year Budget is R2,3 billion which is an increase of 13,7% and R2,4 billion in the 2023/24 financial year, which is an increase of 2,5%. Included in the Budget is the Public Transport Operation Conditional Grant (PTOG) allocation amounting to R424 million in the 2021/22 financial year, R422,3 million in the 2022/23 financial year and R440 million in the 2023/24 financial year. The Budget for the department per programme is as follows:

- Administration : R536,8 million
- Transport Operations : R793,1 million
- Transport Regulation : R698,3 million
- Police Secretariat of Police Services : R61,4 million

The total is R2 billion.

The economic classification is as follows:

- Compensation of Employees : R1 billion
- Goods and Services : R278,6 million
- Transfers and Subsidies : R708,6 million
- Payments for Capital Assets : R66,6 million

The total is R2 billion.

On revenue, the department contributes almost 47% of the provincial revenue through traffic functions. The department is projecting to collect R684 million in the 2021/22 financial year, R717 million in the 2022/23 financial year and R748 million in the 2023/24 financial year.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, let me borrow from the wise words of Alan Cohen, a renowned inspirational writer who once said: "Truly creative people care a little about what they have done, and a lot about what they are doing. Their driving focus is the life force that surges in them now." This is the ultimate feeling one got after getting news that our Mopani District office team scooped the DPSA Ministerial Award for recycling old blue lights from written off vehicles. This innovation helped the department to save money for fuel and maintenance. I think our district office deserves a round of applause. [APPLAUSE]

This team of officers, instead of running a vehicle with flashing blue lights the whole night, the team constructed a stationery blue light that enables truck drivers to see the entrance of the Weighbridge and maintain visibility to all the road users. All it took was

quick thinking and innovative skills to accomplish what was considered impossible. We say “bravo” to Mooketsi Traffic Control Centre officers for showing us the way. [APPLAUSE] I salute our officers for your creativity and for representing the province well. This is the spirit we need in all our directorates.

I believe, now more than ever before, is the time for renewal, reorganising, thinking outside the box and innovating. I know that this department has it within its means to make a difference in our society.

I also would like to thank the Premier in his capacity as the head of the government in Limpopo and also in his capacity as the leader of the ANC in our province for the trust he has bestowed upon me to lead one of the departments under his administration.

Madam Speaker, when my husband passed on, on 11 February, I felt like the tunnel had closed, but let me thank you for your visit together with my colleagues in the EXCO and other Members. Let me also thank you for the kind words of encouragement, your motivation which assisted me to close the gap of his own motivation. To this august House, I say, thank you. [APPLAUSE]

To the HOD, Ms H du Plessis, Chief Directors, CFO, Directors, Managers, our officials up to the last level, I say, thank you for holding the fort. A special appreciation to the SAPS Provincial Commissioner and his management team for the sterling work. I also want to extend my gratitude to our community combating structures, Community Police Forum and the Community Safety Forum.

To the staff in my office, communication team, road safety team, continue to hold the fort, for in every campaign, you give your best with or without me, continue to hold the fort. Lastly, thanks to the departmental stakeholders, and the media in general. Let's soldier on, and thanks to my family and all my children for their support, and to my late husband Dr H Ramakhanya, I say, may your soul rest in eternal peace!

I want to close by saying, thank you, to the Hon Premier and the Hon Speaker for affording me this opportunity to be able to share the platform with you today. The time for action is upon us. Happy Human Rights Month. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech for Vote 8: Department of Community Safety is referred to Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety for consideration and to report back to the House.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements?

9. ADJOURNMENT

If none, this House is adjourned to Tuesday, 30 March 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now have an 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, officials, good morning.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF CONSTABLE RABELANI
NETSHIVHAMBE AND THE TWO OTHER VICTIMS IN MANKWENG**
(Motion without Notice)

I hereby move on behalf of the DA that this House notes and sends condolences on the passing on of Constable Rabelani Netshivhambe and the passing of two other victims in an unrelated hostage drama in Mankweng.

Hon Speaker, this House should note that Constable Netshivhambe joined SAPS in 2019 and perished in the line of duty at the start of a career, serving the people of our province. The other two victims who were killed were part of three captives kidnapped and held hostage by a perpetrator, who was also eventually killed by police in action.

This House should further note and applaud the effort of the hostage negotiators and the Tactical Response Team to rescue the captives and managing to rescue one of them.

Our deepest and most sincere condolences go to the families and friends of this brave police officer and these two victims of a vicious crime.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any seconder? Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Risham Maharaj, hereby second the motion as read by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Are there any other motions without notice? I recognise Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

PRAYER TO END ALL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND RELATED KILLINGS
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move a motion without notice that:

- As we come closer to the Easter weekend, the EFF in Limpopo calls upon the religious community to pray for all social ills, in particular the GBV and killings which continue to characterise our province as a hub of such social problems.
- The recent killings in various villages include a man who shot and killed his relatives in GaMatsea village in Mankweng and the killing of an 11-year-old boy in GaMakweya by two young boys who are 15 years old. These killings are saddening and heartbreaking.
- We call upon the healing of society from social ills through religious interventions, in particular with prayer. The EFF remains the only caring organisation which continues to be the voice of reason for all. Intervention from government has not been forthcoming as expected in response to GBV, hence our people continue to suffer.
- The EFF is the only hope for the people of South Africa. We wish you all a happy Easter weekend and may all festivities be in line with COVID-19 regulations.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. Is there any seconder? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Jetrick Seshoka, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Managa. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? Okay, we proceed.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motion in terms of House Rule 146? There are none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker and greetings to all Members present here.

WATER SHORTAGE IN GIYANI
(Members' Statement)

The EFF is disappointed with the ANC-led government for continuing to punish the people of Giyani with water shortage. The people have not yet received water since the Giyani water corruption scandal and they continue to suffer. We have received numerous complaints from the people residing in the area of Giyani regarding this issue.

Water shortage has brought misery to the people as their lives have been completely disrupted and violated. It should be made clear that the ANC-led government continues to violate the constitutional rights of our people without any shame.

No one has been arrested since millions were stolen and no money was recovered. The taxpayers' money has been flushed down the drain, while it is clear that in the mind of the government it is merely paper that is being flushed down the drain not the money. The government has not done anything to provide the people of Giyani with water. Clearly, the people of Giyani are on their own as Steve Biko once said, "Black man you are on your own."

We will not be surprised to see the people of Giyani protesting on the streets for demanding water. The ANC-led government does not feel what the people on the ground are feeling because it is the people and their children who suffer on a daily basis.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to provide the people with water and provide a lasting solution to their problems.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Is there any response from the Executive? Hon Sekoati, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. We stand here to acknowledge the challenge that we have in terms of water shortage here in the province. We all know that we are a water-scarce province. We have taken some steps to ensure that we are able to supply water to all the citizens of the province. However, we have also realised that indeed there are challenges and we cannot be simplistic in terms of addressing them.

When the Premier was standing here delivering the State of the Province Address, he alluded to the fact that there are water challenges in this province, not only in Giyani, but also in Sekhukhune, in Capricorn and many other leaders have got no water. Seated here, you might find that some honourable Members did not have a full bath in the morning because Capricorn itself does not have water. In fact, we know that there are people in Sekhukhune, though we have a source, but we do not have water.

As a province we are limited in terms of dealing with the issues of water. The Premier has actually made an undertaking that he is going to interact with the Minister for Water and Sanitation to make sure that we address this issue. There are plans in this province to try and address the issues of water. We have to deal with the issue of water, and it should not be about Giyani, we need to look at a comprehensive challenge that we have as a province. We believe in the undertaking that the Premier has made and that through that interaction with the Minister, he will then make sure that the process of getting access to water is expedited. Without that interaction, there is no way in which we can deal with the issue of water.

You can go above the highest mountain, Hon Seshoka, there is nothing that you will be able to do unless we interact with the Minister and the department that is responsible for that particular function. We believe that the process that the Premier is undertaking should be able to give us better results. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC Hon Sekoati. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Mohlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker and greetings to you; greetings to the Premier; greetings to the Exco and the Leader of the Official Opposition in the province; colleagues and everybody who is in the House.

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS BY MINING COMPANIES

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the mining companies continue to bully and harass communities under the watchful eye of the ANC-led government. Communities are helpless and feel abundant by the ANC-led government which they voted into power. Mining companies

do as they wish with no consequences for their actions because ANC politicians are shareholders in these mines.

When the community protested two weeks ago, the mining company security shot at them, resulting in two security officers and one community member dying. Instead of resolving community concerns, the mining company respond and reply with violence. The community of Segorong was relocated by Imerys mining company located in Penge in Burgersfort in 2007.

A lease agreement was signed between the community and the mine, but so far, the mine has not complied with a number of clauses. Typical of mining companies, they reneged on a number of agreements in a lease agreement. After people were relocated to Segorong, the mining company disrespectfully demolished the graves of our people, undermining our culture and their ancestors.

The houses they built for the community do not have water. People cannot flush their toilets because of lack of water. The mining company built a sewerage very close to the community and, as a result, people get sick because of the sewerage stench. The sewerage is not being maintained at all and the mine does not care. Jobs at the mine are not being prioritised for locals, but are given to people from other provinces and the same applies to internships programmes and apprenticeships.

We call upon the MEC for LEDET to investigate this matter and hold the mine accountable for their evil deeds in that community.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. We shall now get a response from the Executive, and I call upon the MEC, Hon Mokone.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. It was last week that the Members of the African National Congress ascended to this podium to send condolences for the people who died in that tragedy in Sekhukhune. As the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, I was made aware of this matter, and I immediately dispatched a team to investigate, and I got a preliminary report.

We are busy with the matter. I thought when people stand up here, they should have facts at hand. Just to grandstand and say this government does not care and we don't deal with issues because we have got shares, I guess is like fishing in a very dirty pool. As far as I'm concerned, in South Africa there's an Act called NEMA (National Environment Management Act) which regulates operations in the mines, and we issue an ROD (record of decision).

If there is an honourable Member who has information that something is not in order, we will appreciate that information so that we can be able to deal with those issues. There are facts that are needed in order to deal with those issues. I guess in due course, we will be able to give a proper report of what has actually happened. This

was a very scary situation and you would know that from time to time there are problems in Sekhukhune about the mines, and we are attending to them as the provincial government, as instructed by the Premier. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Mokone. Is there any other Members' Statement? There is none.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Is there any Executive Statement? There is none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Item 6.1: Tabling of 2019/20 Annual Reports of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and its entity Roads Agency Limpopo, together with a written explanation, for late submission. I call upon the honourable MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND ITS ENTITY ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, honourable MECs and Members of the august House, allow me to table before this honourable House the Annual Reports and financial statements of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and its entity Roads Agency Limpopo, together with the Auditor-General's report, for consideration by this august House.

Madam Speaker, I acknowledge that the department and its entity RAL did not comply with section 65 of our Public Finance Management Act of 1999 as amended. The main reason for noncompliance was that the department received the audit reports from the Office of the Auditor-General very late and, given that the audit report forms part of the Annual Report, we, therefore, could not submit to this honourable House an incomplete report without the final report issued by the Auditor-General. This remains the main reason why we could not comply with the Act as stipulated above.

I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to table these delayed reports of the department and RAL for consideration by this honourable House. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Annual Reports are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and Scopa for consideration and report back to this august House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Item 7.1 is the Presentation of the Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B01-2021].

We shall now call upon the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 7: Department of Health. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(Address by Dr P Ramathuba, MEC for Health)

Thank you, Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; colleagues in the Executive Council; Hon Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health, Hon Joshua Matlou; Leader of the Official Opposition; honourable Members of the Limpopo provincial Legislature, those who are with us here and those who are connected virtually; HOD of the Department of Health. Ndi Matsheloni. Avuxeni. Thobela. Goeie more. Silotjhile. Good morning.

Hon Speaker, during his State of the Nation Address, our President, His Excellency Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, Muposa misevhe, mandated us to prioritise the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. This was followed by our Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, who, during his State of the Province Address, outlined the following tasks as priorities for our province:

- The task to defeat the coronavirus pandemic;
- The task to accelerate our economic recovery;
- The task to implement economic reforms to create sustainable jobs and drive inclusive growth; and
- The task of fighting corruption and strengthening the state.

Prioritising the battle against COVID-19 is a clear indication and commitment by our caring leaders and the leaders of the caring ANC-led government to first and foremost focus on saving lives of our people while at the same time we restore the situation back to normality.

As the Department of Health, we have been positioned to take a lead with regard to first task, which is the task of helping the province defeat the coronavirus pandemic. However, this does not discount us from contributing to the urgency of economic recovery; the creation of jobs; and the fight against corruption. We all have a role to play towards the realisation of these national and provincial priorities for the sake of our people.

Madam Speaker, COVID-19 has exposed us to the reality of the burden of diseases in our country and also in our province. Of all of those lives that we have lost as a province due to COVID-19 complications, I must reassure you that the majority, if not all of them, had comorbidities. Some of them were unfortunately not even aware that they had comorbidities. While we have seen devastating events as a result of COVID-19, our province remains one of those which were found not to be worse off. But, of course, we are also facing those serious challenges. The leadership provided by our

Provincial Command Council and District Command Councils has assisted us as a province to navigate through this pandemic.

Epidemiologists are predicting that we are moving towards the third wave. During the first wave they predicted that we will be between 2% and 5% attack rate, which translate in numbers to between 120 000 and 300 000 positive cases. We are all aware that by the first week of December, we had only registered 18 000 cases which was far below even the 1%.

It is only today after navigating through the second wave, which was very devastating, that we had to jump from 18 000 to be just slightly above 63 000 cases, which is the total of 63 047 cases. This is just slightly above 1% of our population, where our population is around six million. This is on the account of our push-back strategy where we prioritised preventative methods. It did indeed result in us not spending the total amount of R1,8 billion which was initially allocated to fight COVID-19.

We are hoping that if we continue to fight through preventative methods, even this third wave that is predicted, we might be able to navigate through it without challenges. Today we have registered more than 60 000 recoveries. We have also registered around 195 000 active cases, but unfortunately, we are continuing to register deaths as a result of COVID-19, which are above 2 000. For the 2021/22 financial year, an amount of R1,9 billion has been allocated to assist us in our efforts to fight and defeat the COVID-19 pandemic. We made a commitment last year in this august House that we are going to fight COVID-19 through good governance and accountability. Today we can report that we are one of those provinces that never suffered serious challenges when it comes to PPE shortages.

This is evidenced by having less number of healthcare workers infected and succumbing to COVID-19 complications. But, of course, one death of a healthcare worker, or just one death of any citizen as result of COVID-19 is still too many. Hence, we must continue to work together in order to prevent any single death or any single infection as a result of COVID-19. We can also report with confidence that the phase 1 Auditor-General report on PPE procurement had no unfavourable findings in our province.

We are confident that all the reports, when they are finally concluded and released, will confirm what we have been telling everyone, especially this august House that we are going to fight COVID-19, but we will do it through good governance and accountability. Corruption is not tolerated in the ANC-led government. Whether you like it or not, that is a fact.

Last week Wednesday on 24 March 2021, the global community commemorated World TB Day. As a province, we were led by our Premier in reminding the people of Limpopo how far we have come in the battle against tuberculosis. We understand and appreciate the fact that TB remains our number one killer in the country.

Despite challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to make positive strides through the implementation of the 10-point strategy to accelerate the achievement of 90-90-90 targets. The province managed to achieve the first 90, which is the 90% of TB positive people knowing their status through the implementation of the HIV testing programme which also at the same time

incorporates the screening of TB. We have more than 1 000 000 people who have been screened and tested by the end of February 2021.

The number of TB cases in our province has been on a decline from 12 709 in 2018 to 11 747 in 2019, and we have seen a further decline to 8 874 in 2020. Even the number of people who are dying due to TB in the province has declined from 1 764 in 2017 to 1 262 in 2019. The fact is that 1 262, le bona ke batho, ba na le malapa a bona. Ga ba swanela go hlokofoala ka lebaka la bolwetši bja TB ka gore bolwetši bjo bo na le kalafo.

The reduction was due to, among others, intensified screening and improving diagnostics, for instance, for U-LAM, urine test for TB. TB screening has been integrated into comprehensive screening for both communicable diseases, which include COVID-19, and noncommunicable diseases.

The battle against TB in our province received a major boost when we procured 5 double cab bakkies, 1 per district, to assist with tracing of lost to follow-up patients and finding contacts of TB cases. We also procured 14 digital mobile X-rays for 14 hospitals to enhance our early TB diagnosis. In order for us to win this battle, we have to diagnose them early, we trace their contacts and we put them on treatment; they complete treatment and they get cured.

We are, however, worried about the lost to follow-up cases. COVID-19 also contributed to this challenge. During our hard lockdown, some of our TB patients were afraid to visit our facilities due to the fear of being infected by COVID-19. We want to emphasise the fact that when you are diagnosed with TB, you must religiously take your medication to avoid complicated TB and also to avoid getting infected by COVID-19 because if you are not taking treatment, you will not survive COVID-19.

Treating ordinary TB requires only six months, and it costs the state around R1 537,18, for one patient when we are treating ordinary TB. Failure to comply and defaulting might result in you developing multiple-drug resistant TB, which requires more than nine months to treat and will cost the state R112 932,86 just for you as a patient. I need to emphasise this so that people can understand why this department continues to be bankrupt.

This simply means if 10 people default on TB treatment and develop multiple-drug resistant TB, the department will have to spend more than R1,2 million just for the medication of 10 patients, something that could have been treated with R10 000. This is where the money continuously goes to because honourable Members continue to ask where this budget goes to. It goes to our people because it is expensive to treat multiple-drug resistance. Hence, running a healthcare system has become unaffordable.

People have forgotten the basic principles that our health remains our responsibility. To avoid this, we are calling upon you honourable Members, as leaders in our society, as councillors out there; as ward committees out there; as Members of the Legislature; as Members of Parliament, to help us to find the missing cases. The Premier also made the same call on the World TB Day. If we know someone who has been diagnosed with TB, let us make sure that we take that person for TB treatment,

otherwise if we don't do that, we will continue to find ourselves draining, and we are reaching a stage where it has become unaffordable to run the system.

Madam Speaker, we have made strides in fighting HIV/Aids, but it is still one of the top five killer diseases in our country and our province. We have seen life expectancy of the people of Limpopo increasing as a result of our antiretroviral therapy rollout programme. We still continue to make a call to our people to comply and not default on treatment.

Antiretroviral therapy has proven not only to prolong and save lives, but also to strengthen our immune system and protect us from deadly opportunistic diseases like pneumonia and TB. Patients who are on antiretroviral therapy suppress the viral load, and at times it becomes undetectable, leading to protecting our loved ones from getting infected.

For instance, when your spouse has been taking ARVs religiously, chances are that their viral load can be undetectable. For them to infect you when they are sleeping with you, and I'm not saying people must go and sleep without condoms, but the fact is and research has shown that you limit the chances of infecting your spouse. Also pregnant woman out there, you will not infect your unborn child. Hence, the province is still on track regarding the realisation of an HIV-free generation through the implementation of the Mother-to-Child Transmission Programme.

By the end of January 2021, the province had achieved 0,72%, which our target nationally is 1%, through improved access to antiretroviral therapy to pregnant women. We are still worried that there are those children, the 0,28%, who are still born HIV positive because their mothers did not take antiretroviral therapy when they were pregnant. No child must be born HIV positive because their mother is HIV positive. Cuba has done it, what is difficult for us as people of Limpopo to do the same? While we recognise the critical intervention of fighting the battle against HIV through antiretroviral therapy, we still want to emphasise the ABC messages: continue to abstain, if it is difficult to abstain, be faithful to your partner, if it difficult, then condomise, which is very cheap and does not register any side effects.

We have seen patients that were put on antiretroviral therapy for a long period, they end developing renal failure as part of complications of antiretroviral therapy. Some have got liver failure because of these challenges. So, condoms will not have any side effects; abstaining does not have side effects and being faithful also does not have side effects. I hope we will start following those three.

This would be followed in terms our burden of disease due to influenza and pneumonia. Of note, we have seen a decline in the past year of people dying from influenza and pneumonia. This was attributed to the compulsory wearing of masks in public, basic hand hygiene and avoidance of overcrowded places. These are the positives we can draw as lessons from the fight against COVID-19.

Hon Speaker, cerebrovascular diseases, diabetes and other forms of heart disease, including hypertensive diseases are also on the top list of major contributors to mortality. While these are noncommunicable diseases and are not infectious diseases, they too, can be preventable if we all eat healthy, exercise regularly, take a

30-minute walk every day and five times a week. This will go a long way in preventing these noncommunicable diseases, since these are just lifestyle diseases.

I, therefore, call upon all of us in the House led by the Hon Speaker that once in a quarter, we must have a healthy walk lifestyle so that all of us can put it in our system that we get used to walking. I'm sure Hon Moraka will be happy to see a province of active citizens.

Alcohol abuse and smoking are not assisting in the battle against burden of disease as a result of noncommunicable diseases. So as the President announced tough measures on alcohol, some of us celebrate because we know that those measures will not only protect us from COVID-19 and being superspreaders, but also in many other diseases that we have seen people that have reduced alcohol intake recovering from.

This is just part of the many challenges that face our healthcare system on daily basis. You then can understand that COVID-19 is adding to an already burdened and desperate system. It is for this reason that we have positioned the defeat of COVID-19 as a priority number one.

We simply do not have sufficient infrastructure, resources and human capital to be fighting so many battles from so many different fronts. We, therefore, cannot overemphasise the urgency of defeating the coronavirus.

With regard to the fight against malaria, one is able to say that our annual indoor residual spraying programme has paid off. We will remember that in 2019/20, we reported a decline of 3 689 cases and a fatality of 19 which translate to 0,52% case fatality rate. We have now seen in the 2020/21 financial year when were worried after receiving blessings from Mother Nature in the form of rains that as a malaria endemic province history might repeat itself; hence, we were proactive on our campaigns of primary prevention. We want to appreciate the people of Limpopo, especially people of Vhembe and Mopani Districts who cooperated with our malaria spraying teams.

The disaster which could have been brought by the malaria outbreak in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic could have been more devastating; hence, we want to thank our malaria teams of sprayers who assisted us in averting what could have been a disaster. It is for that reason that we continue to prioritise this battle by investing R94,2 million in equitable share and an additional R62,7 million conditional grant in order to prevent and control malaria in the affected areas of this province. We have seen that it is working. We move from getting 18 000 cases per annum, and today we have registered less than 2 000 cases and that tells you that we are making progress.

As a province, we will continue to pride ourselves on registering on an annual basis a decline in maternal mortality. We have this time around managed to reduce maternal mortality rate from 106 per 100 000 deliveries to 97,8 per 100 000 deliveries. We must remind this House that in 2014/15 financial year when we presented in the House, maternal mortality was at 182 per 100 000 deliveries. We continue to decline, and we have seen a reduction of 84 per 100 000 deliveries. No women must die because they are trying to bring life.

The under-five mortality rate has reduced from 3,3% to 2,7%. We continue to work with our communities to encourage early health-seeking behaviour and to recognise the danger signs and also with health facilities to improve the management of cases through adherence to standardised treatment.

All these achievements on the maternal mortality and mother and child saving are a result of these initiatives. This financial year we are still going to continue to focus on, amongst others, the mother and child centres of excellence. This includes upgrading of regional and tertiary hospitals to provide improved facilities for mothers and children and enhance the ICU capacity of the hospitals.

The onset of COVID-19 has unfortunately delayed the upgrades of the regional and tertiary hospitals; however, we have been able to register the following:

- Letaba Hospital: About 28 critical care beds have been created;
- St. Ritas Hospital: A 10-bedded ICU and 30-bedded neonatal unit with ICU are also in progress. Upgrades on maternity facilities in St. Ritas in Sekhukhune District will be opened very soon;
- Pietersburg Hospital has additional critical care beds, and a 48-bedded neonatal unit and paediatric ICU;
- Mokopane Hospital and Voortrekker Hospital: We have complexed them because they are 8 km apart to ensure a mother and child centre of excellence and trauma unit, and upgrades to create critical care beds in both hospitals will be completed in this 2021/22 financial year;
- Philadelphia Hospital in Sekhukhune has created 26 critical care beds, and a new semipermanent ward is being planned for paediatrics;
- We still have a challenge in Tshilidzini Hospital because it is still under NHI pilot project wherein the 26 critical care beds are still in the planning stage by those who are responsible for the NHI project.

Hon Speaker, in addition to the Mankweng breastmilk bank, which is already fully operational, we have recently established a second breastmilk bank in Philadelphia Hospital, in the Sekhukhune District to be opened in the coming weeks. The banks screen, process and distribute donated breast milk to babies in need, and these are preterm babies and orphaned babies, and to mothers who are unable to produce milk.

We have seen what the Mankweng bank has done by coming in handy when we had a mother with a new-born baby who was admitted to high care unit due to severe COVID-19 and was unable to breastfeed. Today both the mother and the baby are healthy, and as such we call upon all breastfeeding mothers to take time and donate their breastmilk because that milk can save a child.

In terms of our nutritional services, we must remember that nutrition forms an integral part of patient care and management. It is through nutritious nutrition that our immune systems are empowered and help fight diseases when we are sick. We will continue to prioritise food service management in our facilities that includes professionalising

food services. Not everyone can prepare patient food, you should have gone to school for you to understand what patients must eat. You should understand the diabetic meal, and meal for ordinary patients. Gone are the days where, when a post for food service manager or food service operator is advertised, you want everybody to be appointed.

I have received lots of complaints and the issue is, when you prepare food for patients, you should be able to know their condition and prepare the food in line with that condition. Let's learn to be professional. Our TVET colleges are available to train people. We have got young people who can go study and understand. To date, we have ten food service units in ten hospitals in all our five districts that have been refurbished with new food service equipment, and they have started implementing what we call the meal delivery service system, known as plating system. If you did not study for it, I also did not know about it. I only learnt about it now when I'm the MEC. This is a plating system that you can only learn when you have gone to school to learn to prepare food for patients. This will assist in the relevant facilities being able to provide fresh food that will aid the recovery process.

Madam Speaker, the Emergency Medical Services is still our priority and there are ongoing projects to increase the capacity of EMS to respond to the needs of communities in the province. During August 2020, the province commissioned a fleet of 20 ambulances, 14 paramedic response vehicles, 15 PPT vehicles and 1 PPT bus. The province is also finalising a project for a computerised assisted call-taking and dispatch system, for implementation in the coming financial year.

As pronounced by the Premier during the State of the Province Address in February, the Department will be procuring new additional ambulances, planned patient transport and response vehicles. Our Forensic Pathology Services unit was strengthened through the procurement of a new Lodox machine ensuring that there is a functional radiology unit within Forensic Pathology Services. This is very key towards detection of causes of unnatural deaths and, therefore, it assists in the prosecution of criminals in criminal cases.

Without this particular machine, we have not been able to support the judiciary system for them to be able to do their work. So that is why forensic pathology services are very key in preventing crime in our country.

The service was further supported through the procurement of 11 forensic pathology vehicles. We want to continue to improve our radiation oncology services. In the past financial year, we were able to procure a new linear accelerator machine which was installed in Pietersburg Hospital, and is it is now fully functional. This has increased the number of patients receiving radiation oncology, and these are our cancer patients who in the past had to be transferred to Gauteng for these specialised services.

We are, therefore, confident that our two radiation oncologists whom we have produced as a province, Dr Dzivhani and Dr Mphahlele, izimbhokodo, will be retained as they have got tools of trade. As a province, last year we installed four CT scanners in Tshilidzini, Letaba, Mokopane and Pietersburg Hospitals, and they are all operational. Another CT scan machine will be procured for Sekhukhune District during this financial year.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in South Africa. Survival is mainly dependent on early diagnosis. Many women who succumbed to breast cancer were as a result of presenting late in our facilities. This is exacerbated by lack of access to facilities; hence, as a department, we have decided to decentralise early diagnosis of breast cancer by procuring mammography machines and installing them in all our regional hospitals. We will also procure additional ones for our two tertiary hospitals. This project must be completed in the next three years.

We have been resistant to respond to the call of digitalisation of our services in line with the Third and Fourth Industrial Revolutions. COVID-19 has, however, taught us a lesson regarding the traditional way of doing things. We have started empowering our employees with proper working gadgets that will enable them to work from anywhere. In the near future, some of our offices may not be needed, leading us to focus on infrastructure that has to deal with patient care. You need wards and ICUs, and you don't need offices for a finance manager or for a CFO. They can work using their gadgets, we don't need PAs, and our PAs can work using their gadgets.

I know that, that is another contradicting statement, Members might think that we want to retrench people. No, we are just saying work can be done and money can be used for infrastructure and focussing on building our clinics. You can't treat patients using a gadget, but you need a hospital and a bed to treat patients.

One of the major challenges in the department is the paper-based medical, human resource, finance and general records generated on daily basis and are slowly filling up our office space. The department has started a scanning and archiving project to clear the historic record from our institutions, and we have registered significant progress in both Mankweng and Pietersburg Hospitals.

The major benefit of this project is in respect of the fight against the huge contingent liability relating to medicolegal matters, which currently stands at just over R11 billion. When the project is completed, the department will no longer fail to produce records to defend matters relating to medical malpractice. The department is on its way to stemming the tide and, in fact, reducing the huge medicolegal costs.

Limpopo as a rural province has been experiencing a challenge of network connectivity, this was evident during the COVID-19 vaccination where healthcare workers are expected to register online. We, therefore, call upon all network service providers to prioritise our health institutions.

Health is and has always been a labour-intensive service delivery department. For us to achieve all those ambitious targets and end-results, we need a motivated staff. During the 2020/21 financial year, we managed to make some progress in terms of appointment of staff and resource constraints that is worsened by the economic challenges our country is facing as a result of budget cuts. We have now appointed 174 permanent medical officers and 888 EPWP workers in various categories.

About 8 220 community health workers who were contracted through different NGOs were placed through the PERSAL system and are paid a monthly minimum stipend of R3 500. We have also appointed COVID-19 personnel who include 9 medical officers; 415 professional nurses; 63 staff nurses; 82 nursing assistants; 7 radiographers; 3 physiotherapists; 8 ward attendants; 5 porters and other employees.

Madam Speaker, our province made history in 2016 when we established the first ever post-1994 medical school attached to the University of Limpopo. It has been a long journey, tiring and rocky. We did fall on the way, but we stood up and continued to run. Today more than 400 students are registered with the School of Medicine in Limpopo. Amongst them, we have 48 students that are doing their final year of medicine. They started being 59 in 2016, some fell on the way and, unfortunately, death robbed us of one of them. The famous Junior Mkhombo who was 14 at that time and was invited to be part of the august House, is now part of the final year students and will be turning 20 this year, and will be graduating as a medical doctor at the age of 20. [APPLAUSE]

These are the stories that make us to be proudly Limpopo people and inspire us to even work harder. Our post-graduate medical training has also taken shape. We are currently having 90 registrars within our employ. These are medical doctors who are training to be specialists in different categories in our province, and part of our plans is to augment this number by a further 19 to 109. This translates to an addition of 109 specialists in our province in the next four years. We are indeed a government at work.

To sustain both undergraduate and post-graduate training, we must ensure adequate specialists continue to be recruited and retained and make sure that their working conditions talk to what will make them to be retained. You cannot recruit but fail to make the working conditions that are conducive for them to be retained so that our specialists are not just teachers, but they are also researchers and they provide clinical services in our province. The province has increased the number of specialists from 104 in 2018/19 to currently 142 in March 2021. We hope to register an additional 28 in the coming month to a total of 170.

The 2020/21 financial year has been a very difficult year for healthcare workers. When many of us were on level 5 lockdown, they were on duty to save lives. Post COVID-19 first wave, we saw many of them in this province joining me to clear surgical backlogs which were as a result of the lockdown restrictions. We have been to Sekhukhune District because it was our starting district, where we only did 44 complicated and difficult operations. Urologists are now operating in hospitals like Matlala Hospital, and this is what the media will not tell you.

We then moved to Mopani District where the number increased to 195, and these are serious operations which were performed. Before we were hit by the second wave, we were in Vhembe District where more than 200 operations were performed. We have just completed the Waterberg District this past weekend where we managed to conduct more than 382 operations, and within the 382, there were 260 elderly people who could not see, but in the past weekend we were able to open their eyes through cataract operation.

This is something that you, honourable Members, must celebrate because they were telling me that they didn't see a ballot paper before; that in 2019 they didn't see your face, but this time around they will see who they will be voting for. [APPLAUSE] They won't make any mistake because they will see the ballot paper. But on a serious note, to be blind and not because you were born blind, is the most painful thing because you just all of a sudden one day become blind. This is an operation that costs around

R15 000 and R32 000 in a private sector, and it is impossible for those elderly people to have that kind of money.

Hence, we want to appreciate all these specialists who leave their comfort homes and went to operate this past weekend at George Masebe Hospital, in a very deep rural area and far from the city. We were touched by those elderly people when they were telling us that they wanted to see so that they can be able to use bathrooms without being helped by someone because when they are home, they call their grandchildren to assist them, and when the grandchild is playing, they end up peeing on themselves while they are waiting for a child to help them. This is one project which we call rural healthcare matters and something that we will continue to do.

We want to pay tribute to all those specialists, and some are from outside the province, and they continue to heed our call and we are not paying them a cent. All that we support them with is accommodation. I must also take this opportunity and ask the people of Limpopo to join me in thanking, amongst the few, Prof Steven Matshidze who is the Head of Clinical Orthopaedics Department at the University of Free State. He spent a week in Waterberg clearing all those fractures and fixing the bones, which one operation can cost you more than R70 000, and he's doing it at no cost for us.

We also have Prof S S Golele who is also the Head of Clinical Orthopaedics Department at Sefako Makgatho University. I was also with him even on Saturday when he was in Mokopane performing some of these procedures; we also have Prof Thifhelimbilu Luvhengo who is the Head of Surgical Clinical Department at Charlotte Maxeke Hospital and Wits University, just to mention a few. You would know that these are original sons of the soil and that is why when we make a call they understand the material conditions of our people.

We will continue to thank them because with this project we have seen a lot of people in our province receiving help, and the majority of them had already lost hope. So specialists are no longer sitting in Polokwane, they are also going out and transferring skills. Who ever thought in our lifetime we will have a patient with those huge keloids being removed in a hospital like George Masebe or a hospital like Donald Frazer, or a hospital like Malamulele? We are a government at work, honourable Members. [APPLAUSE]

Madam Speaker, the overall Budget for Health vote has decreased by 0,8% from the 2020/21 main appropriation and by 3% from the adjusted appropriation. Equitable share decreases by 3,8% from the 2020/21 adjusted allocation. At the same time conditional grants grow by 2% from the 2020/21 adjusted allocation. It is critical to note that the equitable share allocation includes an amount of R1,9 billion earmarked for the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hence, if we can use the push back strategy, we can make savings here. In monetary terms, the total Budget indicates a decline from R22,6 billion in 2020/21 to R22,0 billion in 2021/22 from adjusted allocation. The total allocation declines by an average of 0,4% over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. This demonstrates that the department is currently experiencing financial strain and will do so for the foreseeable future. That is why it is important for all those that are given the responsibility to work

in the Department of Health, to work by sparing the resources because we don't have them and where we can save, let's try to save.

The budget has been allocated to fund the following priorities. Madam Speaker, we have entered another phase of our struggle, the COVID-19 pandemic, and this is vaccination which is part of primary prevention against any virus. It is cost effective and, of course, it is easy to implement as compared to behavioural changes. That is why we have prioritised vaccination. We have already started rolling out vaccines, and we are expecting the Jonson & Jonson phase 3 clinical trial.

To date we have already vaccinated almost 20 000 healthcare workers, but it is just the tip of the iceberg. In phase 2, we are hoping to vaccinate 1,660 million people of Limpopo and in phase 3, we are hoping to vaccinate over 2,3 million people of Limpopo.

Therefore, the COVID-19 budget is further augmented by R168 million conditional grant for COVID-19 vaccination. District Health Services has been allocated R11 billion. This is the 50% of our budget. Those who say we are not prioritising primary healthcare, the DHS is taking away 50% of our budget. An amount of R4,4 billion has been allocated for tertiary, regional, and specialised hospitals. An amount of R42,2 million has been provided for TB Programme and Comprehensive HIV and Aids programme has been allocated R2,2 billion. An amount of R885,2 million is set aside for Emergency Medical Services and R1,4 billion has been allocated to Health Infrastructure.

An amount of R198,7 million has been allocated for the training of professionals, and this includes our Cuban programme, and R1,5 billion has been allocated for medicine. This is where we can make savings as a community if we can join Hon Moraka and run in the morning, it is healthy, we can cut this R1,5 billion. This includes the amount of R804 million for ARVs that we can also cut by condomising, and the other one which we cannot cut is the R200 million for vaccines. This is part of primary prevention for infant and child mortality. I'm taking it back to you that in order for us to cut the budget in the Department of Health, you must play your part as the Limpopo citizens.

Hon Speaker, as we conclude, revenue collection has become the only alternative source to augment the budget deficit in the province. Through the implementation of the Revenue Enhancement Strategy and continuous support from the provincial Treasury, we are pleased to report to this august House that the department managed to achieve and surpass its targeted amount by R56 million over the past two financial years.

The department is committed to vigorously identifying more opportunities and sources, and that includes treating our brothers and sisters from neighbouring countries. We will not stop operating them, but we must bill our counterparts in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland when we treat their citizens because we need that money to sustain the running of this department. We will not refuse to give people treatment, but they must pay for the services that we are giving them through their governments.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also disrupted the momentum in the collection of revenue. Hon Speaker, despite this pandemic, the department is still optimistic that,

the revised strategy, will be able collect the R222 million in this particular financial year. The funding of healthcare services is still a challenge and the allocated funds will not fully address the healthcare needs of our people. That is why we need to be innovative, that is why we need to tighten the belt and appreciate that we have got serious financial challenges. It is not only the Department of Health, the whole country is going through difficult times.

Madam Speaker, evidence speaks for itself, the Department of Health is on a positive trajectory to meet constitutional and legislative imperatives. We have upped the gear in our unrelenting effort to bring about a dream of a healthy and long life for all. Working with relevant stakeholders and through the support of our Premier, Hon Mathabatha, we are beginning to register visible progress. Our health delivery machinery is now well oiled, our financial management capabilities have improved significantly. I can also add that the image of the department is also improving when it comes to patient care.

In this regard, let me take this opportunity to thank our HOD, Dr Thokozani Mhlongo and all her generals, for giving us their full energy as we march to a destination of a better life for all. I am confident that we have laid a solid foundation for even more progress to be registered in this year and the year beyond. I am, therefore, honoured and indeed privileged to table to this august House the Budget for the Department of Health, Vote 7, for the year 2021/22 to the value of R22 billion, which consists of R17,7 billion equitable share, R4 billion conditional grants and R222,9 million own revenues.

I must, firstly, thank my family, especially my mother and my children who hardly see me, but they understand that some of us have a calling, and a calling is to serve the people of Limpopo. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech for the Department of Health, Vote 7, is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Health for consideration and to report back to the House. We shall now call upon the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Mokone, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 6. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

(Address by Mr T Mokone, MEC for LEDET)

Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo; Hon Deputy Speaker, Jeremiah Ndou; Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essop Mkgonyana; leadership of opposition parties; colleagues in the Executive Council; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on LEDET, Hon Donald Selamolela; esteemed Members of the House; Executive Mayors and Mayors; traditional leaders; religious leaders; stalwarts and veterans of our struggle; chairpersons and board members of state-owned entities; CEOs and management of state-owned entities; leaders from

various business sectors of our society; members of the media; fellow citizens, thobela. Avuxeni. Ndi matsheloni.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, during the State of the Nation Address on 11 February 2021 said, “I will, therefore, focus this evening on the foremost, overriding priorities of 2021. First, we must defeat the coronavirus pandemic. Second, we must accelerate our economic recovery. Third, we must implement economic reforms to create sustainable jobs and drive inclusive growth.”

These priorities were also emphasised by the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, during the State of the Province Address on 25 February 2021. There is no doubt that the year that has passed was one that was unprecedented in terms of the calamity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide. I must take a moment to express our heartfelt condolences to the families that have lost their loved ones, as well as families of our dedicated and committed employees who we have lost due to this pandemic. I would like to pay special tribute to my personal driver, Mr Shika, who also succumbed to the virus. May his soul rest in peace!

Madam Speaker, since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the Provincial Command Council and Exco led by Premier Mathabatha, have been committed to saving the lives and livelihoods; and we remain unrelenting in our endeavour to continue.

In an effort to save lives, the department developed sector risk mitigation plans with various industries, labour and the sectors of mining, tourism, agriculture, transport and manufacturing. Subsequently, a high-level engagement with CEOs of mines in the province was convened to develop urgent intervention measures to curb the spread of the virus in the sector.

This culminated in the establishment of the weekly Government-Mining Industry Task Team. During this period, the mining industry provided quarantine facilities for positive COVID-19 cases, testing facilities, donated around 350 000 food parcels, provided water, procured over R2,5 billion worth of goods from companies in the province and delivered approximately 300 000 masks and 20 000 l of sanitiser to surrounding communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to the captains of the mining industry for their contributions. We hope that this partnership will grow into the future. Honourable Members, the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism facilitated and coordinated access to relief funds that were rolled out by national departments and state-owned entities during the pandemic. About 294 tourism establishments benefitted from the national Department of Tourism relief fund. About 146 tourist guides from Limpopo received R4 500 each from the R30 million national Tourist Guide Relief Fund.

The national spaza shop relief fund benefitted 1 247 spazas in Limpopo that are registered in the CIPC, with a disbursement of R7 000 for each spaza shop. The department embarked on a campaign to create awareness and encourage more spaza shop owners to apply for this relief funding.

As a short-term relief measure to the devastating effects of the pandemic on the economy, R500 million was appropriated by the provincial government to the economic cluster to supplement the national relief funds as follows:

- R20 million for SMMEs and cooperatives;
- R10 million for tourism businesses;
- R7,8 million for waste enterprises;
- R57,5 million for agriculture;
- R400 million for roads; and
- R4,7 million for the SEZ environmental impact assessment.

Furthermore, LEDA received R2,4 million for COVID-19 relief grant from the Department of Small Business Development and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, specifically targeting businesses in the arts and craft sector. An amount of R1 million of this grant has already been disbursed to 38 beneficiaries.

In the tourism sector, which is the hardest hit by the pandemic, 437 beneficiaries have been approved to the tune of R9,5 million. Of the R7,8 million of the Limpopo waste relief fund, 48 company applications have been approved with a total disbursement value of R4,5 million.

The gambling industry was also provided with various relief measures by the Gambling Board. Payment of levies and annual licence fees for corporate licences, gambling machines, gambling tables and bingo seats were deferred by three months, with the aim of saving over 4 000 jobs in the industry.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the medium to long term, the focus of the provincial socioeconomic recovery plan is in the industrialisation of the province through mega projects in the manufacturing, tourism and agricultural sectors, and a strong focus on Fourth Industrial Revolution support programmes. The total investment and interventions by this economic recovery plan is projected at around R170 billion, projected to create over 48 000 jobs in the next 5 to 10 years.

The province is forging ahead with the implementation of the special economic zone, as reported by the Premier in the State of the Province Address. The Musina-Makhado SEZ is ready for implementation. The entity has been allocated R600 million in the Medium-Term Strategic Framework to kick-start construction in the north site of the SEZ, which is dedicated to agroprocessing, light manufacturing and logistics.

In the next financial year, the first R200 million will be used for the installation of bulk electrical works, security and water infrastructure required for the first phase of the project. With regard to the south site, which is the metallurgical complex, the environmental impact assessment has been submitted to the department and is under independent specialist review, of which the ROD will be issued in the next financial year.

Support to the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ is gaining momentum. An amount of R35 million has been allocated for the next financial year to start work relating to the finalisation of township establishment, site clearance, fencing of the SEZ land and electricity supply. Approximately 200 temporary jobs will be created in the next 12 months. A district development model tripartite agreement spelling out roles and

commitments between this department, the national Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and the local municipality will be finalised in the first quarter of the next financial year. This agreement will pave the way for a committed package of the application for designation of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ.

Commercial model engagements between the department, Glencore Alloys, the DTIC and the municipality on the integration of the Mining Input Supplier Park into the SEZ will also be finalised in the next financial year. Hon Premier, I must take a moment to appreciate the initiative by Glencore Alloys in launching a state-of-the-art SMME incubation in Fetakgomo-Tubatse on 17 March 2021.

We have noted, with deep concern, the new phenomenon of destabilising mining businesses in the province. Recently, we have seen disruptions of businesses in Phalaborwa, Lephalale, Mogalakwena and Fetakgomo-Tubatse. The Hon Premier has directed the Department of Transport and Community Safety and LEDET to collaborate by implementing a stabilisation programme aimed at quelling the unrest in the affected areas. We are forging ahead with this programme and the department will provide progress to this august House.

We are also engaging the district municipalities, business fraternity and various stakeholders to come up with economic and social programmes that will assist in stabilising such areas. Madam Speaker, the province has entered into a partnership with mining companies to implement the Impact Catalyst programme. The major aim of this programme is to create projects between the public and private sectors that will bolster the economy of the province.

The department is making efforts to strengthen the implementation capacity of state-owned entities, especially LEDA, to become self-sustainable. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new CEO of LEDA, Mr Thakhani Makhuvha, to the helm of the entity. Mr Makhuvha is well experienced, he has been working for Small Enterprise Finance Agency (Sefa) and Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), and we thought we should bring him to the province because he is the son of the soil just to make sure that LEDA is a better place for him to do what he is supposed to do.

In implementing its enterprise development programme, 137 SMMEs and cooperatives benefitted through loan support from LEDA to the tune of R 17,4 million as well as technical and business skills training for 1 926 trainees by the end of the 2020/21 financial year.

Madam Speaker, the following strategic interventions within the agribusiness sector are being pursued as a response towards the economic recovery. Independent feasibility studies and bankable business plans have been completed on seven land reform projects in the Vhembe and Waterberg districts. These are aimed at attracting much-needed investments into the sector. We are forging ahead with the resuscitation of the Lebowaqomo Abattoir. Our plan is to commence with operations in October 2021. This will create 500 direct jobs within the value chain. An agreement has been signed with Country Bird Holdings to manage and operate the abattoir.

LEDA has been overseeing the Makgoba Tea Estate assets since 2006. All assets have been successfully handed back to the community during the third quarter of the current financial year. This will boost the community's current engagement with the

Hans Marensky Group to develop an R80 million avocado production project. We are also working hard on the Tshivhase and Mukumbani Tea Estates to meet the high demand of customers and access to new markets.

A new board for Limpopo Agribusiness will be appointed in April. This is expected to provide the much-needed strategic direction of this sector and take advantage of the abundance of opportunities in the agroindustry in our province. We are engaging the private sector to escalate agroprocessing and expose mega projects like Zebediela Citrus into the export market. Through an intergovernmental approach, we are working with all district municipalities to identify mega agroprocessing projects that require revitalisation. Plans are afoot to pursue options to operate a livestock abattoir in the Waterberg District. These interventions will open up opportunities to small-scale farmers to access markets and create jobs within the sector.

Great North Transport continues to implement its turnaround strategy, although under difficult conditions, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions. Several bus companies have closed their businesses due to the challenge of coronavirus and we have witnessed many companies closing. In our province we say we will not let GNT go that route. With the capitalisation budget of R380 million, 75 buses were purchased to the value of R167 million.

GNT hopes to break even in the current MTEF, particularly as the subsidiary is in the process of leasing an additional 150 buses to augment the buses already purchased, the majority of which are deployed in the Seshego and Makhado depots. With the additional 75 buses, we hope to increase passenger ridership by an additional 8 million passengers from the current 12,7 million to a total of 21 million passengers.

Honourable Members, in line with the President's call to reduce bureaucracy, the Limpopo one-stop investment centre has been completed and will be ready to be launched in the first half of the next financial year. The primary objective of the one-stop shop is to support investors and small businesses to register their companies in the shortest space of time and to provide investment information and facilitation.

Furthermore, the department has started work to develop a framework for the province to benefit from the African Free Trade Agreement. This agreement provides the opportunity for products to be exported from Limpopo to the rest of the continent without attracting import duties, making our products price competitive across the entire continent.

In addition, Hon Premier, as part of the recovery plan, the department plans to reposition Limpopo as the preferred investment destination for domestic and foreign direct investment. In support of this initiative, the province is planning to host the Limpopo Investment Conference during the next financial year.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic was devastating, it has forced us to change the way we do business. What has emerged is the opportunity to work with agility, speed and innovation. We have been forced to reflect on things, to reconsider what we do, how we do it and why we do it.

The provincial broadband infrastructure rollout is critical in this regard. So far, Limpopo Connexion has rolled out 141 km of broadband infrastructure in Capricorn, Waterberg,

Vhembe and the Mopani Districts. A total of 52 sites have been connected to the network, using both fibre and satellite technologies. The department and LEDA will also be establishing digital hubs in Seshego, in partnership with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition to the tune of R15 million in the 2021/22 financial year.

In the outer MTEF period, we will develop the Nkowankowa digital hub. These digital hubs will serve as a plug and play facility for SMMEs as a way of intensifying the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the province.

Risima continues to provide housing in the province for those who would not ordinarily be funded by mainstream commercial banks. The entity is collaborating with the public and private sectors to intensify support for human settlement in the province. During the 2019/20 financial year, Risima approved 221 houses to the tune of R121 million, creating 1 301 jobs. In the current year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Risima's home approvals sit at 101 houses to the tune of R100 million. In the year ahead, the plan is to fund 160 houses to the value of R108,8 million.

For Risima to make a sizeable impact, it is important to continue to provide end-user financing to the GAP market and diversify its service offering across all regions of the province. Risima remains a well-governed and sustainable entity with an average return on equity of 7% per annum.

Honourable Members, in the past three years, we have capitalised New Era Insurance to the tune of R79,5 million. This investment is beginning to yield positive results. The requisite skills have been acquired to ensure optimal functioning of the subsidiary to contribute to the economy and create necessary employment.

Madam Speaker, tourism remains the key competitive sector of the provincial economy. The sector was the hardest hit as a result of the coronavirus pandemic lockdowns. The Limpopo Tourism Agency is using digital platforms of websites and social media, in partnership with the tourism industry, to create brand awareness of Limpopo as the preferred and leading tourism destination in Southern Africa, reaching over 8 million people.

In an effort to improve sport tourism, LTA will continue to support the three football clubs in the province, that is, Baroka, Black Leopards and Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila. [APPLAUSE]

The department is strengthening cooperative governance amongst the provincial and local spheres of government by coordinating adherence to chapter 3 of NEMA. In this regard, the MEC-MMC Environment and Tourism Forum has been established and meets quarterly.

A process to commercialise provincial nature reserves and resorts has commenced. Currently, we are concluding awards for the following reserves: Masebe, Rust de Winter and Lekgalameetse. An additional four reserves will be advertised for commercialisation during the first quarter of 2021/22, and this is Blouberg, Wonderkop, Nwanedi and Makuya Nature Reserves.

In collaboration with the national Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, newly constructed infrastructure at Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve will officially be handed over to the province in this financial year. As part of the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme, Lekgalameetse was one of the reserves selected to receive support with the objective of upgrading infrastructure, using labour-intensive methods, as per the requirements of the Expanded Public Works Programme.

Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to report to the House that the department has now finalised amendments of the Limpopo Gambling Regulations and this will be gazetted for comment in the next financial year.

We are delighted to announce that the Gambling Board attained a clean audit opinion for the 2019/20 financial year. [APPLAUSE] In addition, Risima attained a clean audit in the last two consecutive years.

I would like to impress upon the department, LEDA and LTA to follow suite towards the attainment of a clean audit as their immediate goal. We are forging ahead with the Premier's call for good governance and a clean administration that will lead to clean audit outcomes and good governance.

For this financial year, LEDET is allocated a total Budget of R1,395 billion to implement all its priorities and targets as follows:

Administration	: R324 million;
Economic Development	: R668 million;
Environmental Affairs	: R315 million; and
Tourism	: R87 million.

The total Budget of LEDET as I indicated is R1,395 billion.

Included in the above total departmental Budget allocation are transfers to public entities as follows:

Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA)	: R536 million;
Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA)	: R66,6 million; and
Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB)	: R60,6 million.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the Premier of the province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, for his sterling leadership and continuous support. I am also grateful to my colleagues in the Executive Council, especially in the economic cluster, who are committed to ensuring that inclusive socioeconomic transformation and industrialisation in Limpopo becomes a reality. Let me further extend my gratitude to the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, led by the chairperson, Hon Selamolela, for the continuous and supportive oversight role that they play over the department and its agencies. I further extend my appreciation to the business fraternity for their desired financial commitments and support.

I would like to thank the Head of the Department, Mr Solly Kgopong, and his senior management, CEOs of our agencies and their senior management and all the officials

in the department and agencies for their efforts and contributions in serving the people of our province.

As I conclude, I would like to end with a quote from a poem by T S Elliot:

“In the vacant places
We will build with new bricks

There are hands and machines
And clay for new brick
And lime for new mortar
Where the bricks are fallen
We will build with new stone
Where the beams are rotten
We will build with new timbers
Where the word is unspoken
We will build with new speech
There is work together
A Church for all
And a job for each
Every man to his work.”

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech for Vote 6 is referred to the Portfolio Committee for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for consideration and report back to the House.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements, honourable Members? There are none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This Sitting is adjourned to next week Thursday, 08 April 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 08 APRIL 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
THURSDAY, 08 APRIL 2021
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. Please be seated. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this House present here, and all those who are connected virtually, the administrators, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MR MONAMA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Whip of the majority party and honourable Members of this august House, good morning.

COMMEMORATION OF CHARLOTTE MAXEKE
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to make the historic commemoration of Mme Charlotte Maxeke, who would have turned 150 years this year.

She was born on 7 April 1871 at Botlokwa, GaRamokgopa in the Limpopo province of the Republic of South Africa. Our glorious movement, the ANC, the strategic centre of the left took a conscious decision to declare 2021 as the year of unity, renewal and reconstruction, as the year of Charlotte Maxeke. History does not allow blank pages. This remarkable and phenomenal woman was the first black woman in South Africa to graduate with a university degree with a BSc from Wilberforce University, in Ohio – as well as the first black African woman to graduate from an American university.

She was also the first black woman to become a parole officer for juvenile delinquents. She excelled in all fields of academia. This woman was a consummate intellectual and

a selfless leader. Mama Charlotte Maxeke was a South African religious leader, a social and political activist. She took an unprecedented step in 1902 to insist on the participation of women in church and political meetings because she personified the war against depression and patriarchy. She remains an inspiration to those who are leading the war against social injustice, gender-based violence and femicide. The circumstances under which Mama Charlotte found herself have decreed that she will be remembered and honoured as a freedom fighter, a strategist extraordinaire, and above all, one of outstanding leaders that changed the course of history. Mama has not died; she lives forever.

We say these words as the ANC because we know that each new house that we build, the new road that we construct, new school that we build, the new water pipe that we install, the new job opportunities that we create; are created in her legacy.

She continues to inspire us on our forward march towards socioeconomic transformation. Today, we walk tall looking into the future with confidence because we stand on the shoulders of giants like her.

Mama Charlotte Maxeke's legacy as a visionary woman is cemented in the annals of the South African history. She was indeed a woman of fortitude. The story of the rich legacy of Mama Charlotte Maxeke paints a picture of a person whose conviction and loyalty to the course of the people who she served was unwavering and undivided. It is in this context that in her honour and memory we must continue to strive for the creation of non-racial, non-sexist society for all.

I move accordingly. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

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

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, rise to second the move as presented by Hon Monama. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Phala, you may take the floor.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**109 POLICE STATIONS IN LIMPOPO COUNTED AMONGST THE 1 000 SAPS
STATIONS OWING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR WATER AND
ELECTRICITY PAYMENTS**
(Motion without Notice)

This House should note that about 109 South African police stations in Limpopo under Community Safety Department form part of the over 1 000 police stations in the country sharing more than R26 million owed to the Department of Public Works for water and electricity as stated by the Minister of Public Works. This amount excludes other services rendered such as refuse removal, sanitation and property rates.

This House further notes that the Department of Public Works is responsible for paying municipal services on behalf of client departments which include that of SAPS. The fact that 109 police stations in Limpopo owe the Department of Public Works money for water and electricity proves the incompetence of SAPS in Limpopo on settling its bills with the Department of Public Works within 90 days.

The House should note that apart from SAPS stations owing money to the Department of Public Works, some police stations such as Tshilwavhusiku do not have running water at all. A matter raised in this House by the DA in a Members' Statement and yet to receive a response from the MEC.

This House should note that the MEC must explain to this honourable House why 109 SAPS stations are indebted to the Department of Public Works and what is going to be done in order to rectify this as well as when would the Tshilwavhusiku police station will receive water.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Good morning, Hon Speaker. I, Jacques Smalle, rise to second the motion as read by Hon Phala. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Kekana, you may take the floor.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Premier, EXCO, honourable Members and the House at large, I greet you.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE ROLLOUT OF SANITARY TOWELS TO SCHOOLS IN QUINTILES 1 TO 3 (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes the considerate endeavours by the Department of Education of rolling out a colossal sanitary towels programme to learners in quintile levels 1 to 3. Re a go leboga, Mahlako. Stealing from the words of

the honourable Member who came before me to say, the ANC is doing these to epitomise a life well lived by Mama Charlotte Maxeke, the first woman to acquire a BSc degree. She did that because she knew that education was the antithesis of poverty.

This noble act goes a long way in restoring the pride and confidence of girl children throughout the province. Through this intervention, we are certain that going forward, no learner shall miss going to school because of the so-called 'that time of the month'. This has lessened the burden of both parents and learners and shifted the responsibility to government.

To achieve gender equality, it is important that girls attend and reach their full potential in schools. We know of instances where young girls use pieces of cloth as sanitary towels, and some are unable to literally attend lessons because of being too poor to afford them. This is true to our spirit of nation-building and being a caring government.

We want to encourage the department to sustain the programme and ensure that it reaches the furthest parts of our province.

I so move, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Kekana. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Aphiri, you are recognised.

MS APHIRI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, rise to second the motion as tabled by Hon Kekana. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Mathe, you may take the floor.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

CONDOLENCES TO THE LATE CDE ELIZABETH THABETHE

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council and Members of this august House, allow me to table a motion on behalf of the ANC that the ANC dips its revolutionary banner in honour of Cde Elizabeth Thabethe, former Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry; Small Business Development; and Tourism, who passed away on Friday, 26 March 2021.

She was recently appointed as a Member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Investment. Her death marks the end of a revolutionary life that was genuinely

dedicated to the vision of a better life for all. She placed the plight and aspirations of the oppressed masses above her own life and personal comfort.

The people of our country will treasure her memory as one of our most distinguished daughters who consciously chose to serve her people selflessly.

The ANC sends its heartfelt condolences to her family, comrades and the entire mass democratic movement. We hope they will find solace in the knowledge that the nation shares in their grief. We wish them strength and fortitude during this difficult time.

I move accordingly. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Lebea-Olaiya, you are recognised.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Kedibone Lebea, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathe. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. Is there any other motion without notice? There is none. Let us all rise and observe a moment of silence in honour of those who passed away.

[SILENCE]

May the souls of those who passed away rest in peace.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Let us continue with our programme. Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146?

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning to the Members of the Executive Council and the Premier.

THE DECATEGORYISATION OF THE POLOKWANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO CAT2 DUE TO NON-COMPLIANCE (Members' Statement)

Honourable Members must take note that yesterday, 07 April 2021, Airlink advised of the suspension with immediate effect of its Polokwane services due to the airport's non-compliance. The South African Civil Aviation Authority advised last night that with immediate effect, the Polokwane International Airport had to be de-categorised to CAT2, which is below the minimum level required for scheduled commercial air services.

The current status of the airport presents as an operational safety concern, and it would be illegal to operate scheduled services at the airport. Airlink expressed its regret to GAAL and advised them of the pending threat of de-categorising and its inability to provide the minimum services to maintain its aerodrome licence category. Airlink management will work with the Polokwane International Airport management to establish when the airport will address its non-compliance and regain the minimum category required to accommodate scheduled commercial air services.

Airlink, which is a privately owned and independent regional airline, is unable to ascertain at this stage whether the airport will meet the minimum requirements for future services.

Can the MEC please clarify how it reached this state of total dilapidation and non-compliance of safety at the Polokwane International Airport during a time where our province needs to contribute to build a conducive environment for trade and commerce. And what are the immediate instructions and timeframes to GAAL to correct the unacceptable state of our airport.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Is there any response from the Members of the Executive Council? MEC, Hon Boshielo, you are recognised. It seems the MEC for Education has connection challenges. In the meantime, MEC, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya you may go ahead.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me acknowledge and greet the Hon Premier, my colleagues in the Executive Council and honourable Members of the House. Thank you very much. Let me thank you for the time you offered me. Greetings to the Premier ... [TERRIBLE RECORDING: 0:23:00 – 0:25:40]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya. Though some of the issues were not properly captured, you were not audible enough. Can we maybe suggest that you also respond in writing?

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you. We will do that.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any Members' Statement? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE STUBBORNNESS AND SUSTAINED LACK OF TRANSPARENCY BY THE
NINE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
(Members' Statement)**

This House should note the stubbornness and sustained lack of transparency by the nine Executive Members. This unparliamentary behaviour by the Executive should not be tolerated at all as it degenerates the dignity and mandate of this august House.

Hon Speaker, in the First and Second Sessions of this Sixth Legislature the DA continued to hold the Executive to account as per Chapter 24 Rule 184 of this Legislature rules book.

In 2020, about 72 sets of written questions were submitted to the Executive and only the Department of Social Development responded. During the Third Session of the Legislature about eight sets of questions have been written to the Executive, again the Department of Social Development was the only one that responded.

Failure by the MECs to respond to questions submitted by the DA or any Member of this House is pure display of disrespect and lack of transparency by the nine Members of the Executive Council, who continue to sleep and ignore these questions which the people of Limpopo have a right to be answered to. As stated by Rule 188.1, failure by the nine Members of the Executive to respond to written questions is inconsistent with the public interest. Perhaps it is about time to practise oral questions during Sittings in order for the nine Members of the Executive to practise what is expected of them as stated by the rule book, which is responding to questions.

Hon Premier, could clarify whether abiding by the House rules forms part of his executive performance agreement and when can the DA and the people of Limpopo expect answers from the nine Members of the Executive on all questions that were submitted and remain unanswered? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. It is noted, but I think you should have raised that in the Programming Committee, Hon Phala.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements? There are none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Is there any tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers? Tabling of 2019/20 Annual Report of the Office of the Premier, together with a written explanation for non-submission on time. I call upon the Hon Premier.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

TABLING OF THE 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT
(Hon C S Mathabatha, Premier)

I stand here to table the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Office of the Premier together with a written explanation for non-tabling on time in terms of the provisions of section 65(2) of PFMA.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, allow me to indicate to this august House that annual reports are an important mechanism for which the Executive accounts to the provincial legislature on their activities.

In compliance with the dictates of section 65 of Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) as amended by Act 29 of 1999, allow me to table before this august House the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Office of the Premier for consideration by this august House. I acknowledge that the Office of the Premier did not submit and table to the Legislature the 2019/20 Annual Report with other departments as scheduled due to the delay in receiving the final Auditor-General's report.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Premier. The Annual Report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House. Tabling of the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture together with a written explanation for non-submission on time.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

TABLING OF THE 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT
(Hon AT Moraka, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture)

Hon Premier, colleagues in the Executive Council, Members of this august House, ndi matsheloni. Hon Speaker, I, as the Executive Authority for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, hereby acknowledge that the department did not comply with section 65(2) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) as amended. The delay was due to the late finalisation of the audit processes by the Auditor-General which delayed the finalisation of the audit report.

Hon Speaker, allow me to table the 2019/20 Annual Report for Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and adoption by this august House. I want to thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC. The Annual Report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House. Tabling of the 2019/20 Annual Report the Department of CoGHSTA together with a written explanation for non-submission on time. MEC for CoGHSTA, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

TABLING OF THE 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT

(Hon B R Makamu, MEC for CoGHSTA)

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, Chupu Mathabatha; colleagues in the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial Legislature, good morning. I rise this morning before this august House in compliance with section 65 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) to table the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.

The Department of CoGHSTA could not submit the 2019/20 Annual Report on time for the reasons tabulated hereafter:

The non-submission of the report within the prescribed timeframe was due to the impact of the COVID-19 on the Audit Report of the Limpopo Department of CoGHSTA which also led to additional work in the Human Settlements Special Unit. The final Audit Report was issued by the A-G on 30 October 2020 as per Public Finance Management Act requirements. The department sent the final audited report to the Legislature for tabling purpose on 30 November 2020, and it was received and read by the Legislature officials. Upon enquiry on 30 March 2021 tabling from the Legislature, it was confirmed that the report was received and in addition the officials requested that the report be resend for tabling on 8 April 2021.

The late submission of the Annual Report is regretted; and we will ensure that there is no future recurrence of such.

On the strength of the above-mentioned explanation for the late submission, I hereby move for the tabling of the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Department of CoGHSTA. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC. The Annual Report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House. Tabling of the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department of Health together with the written explanation for non-submission on time. MEC for Health, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

TABLING OF THE 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT
(Dr P C Ramathuba, MEC for Health)

Madam Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Legislature, Members of EXCO, allow to table before this Legislature the Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the Department of Health together with the Auditor-General's Report on those statements for consideration by this august House. I would like to acknowledge and apologise that the department could not comply with section 65 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) as amended.

The reason for the non-compliance is that there was a delay in the Office of the Auditor-General in finalising the Audit Report. This was beyond anyone's control because it was also due to the COVID-19 pandemic which in the Department of Health also required the Auditor-General to spend time conducting special audit on COVID-19 procurement, that included the PPEs. That is why the report was delayed.

However, I hope this august House will note our explanation and understand the delay. We can't guarantee that it would not happen again. If another pandemic happens, we might repeat the same omission because it is not out of our own making. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC. The Annual Report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Health and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House. Thanks very much.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Presentation of Budget Votes and Schedule for the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B01-2021]. We shall now call upon the Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, to present Budget Speech for Vote 1: Office of the Premier. Mahlatji, sebaka ke sa lena. [APPLAUSE]

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I hope Hon Smalle will note that the protocol that goes with the mask is that you either take it off or you wear it completely. You don't put it here [gesturing with his hand]. [LAUGHTER]

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
(Address by Hon C S Mathabatha, the Premier)

Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the ruling party, chairpersons of various portfolio committees, esteemed Members of the House, members of the media, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I greet you.

Our provincial economy, the national economy and indeed the world's economy is struggling to recover from the grip of the global Coronavirus pandemic. When the first case of Coronavirus infection was reported and recorded in our country just over a year ago, little did we know that that was the beginning of the long, difficult and

sustained battle with a new yet invisible enemy. At that time, we would not have imagined that the virus would force us to shutdown places of worship, close factories, shut the doors of education and culture and effectively bring our economy to a standstill. Nothing would have prepared us for such a radical change in our way of doing things. Indeed, as I have said before, henceforth, the history of the world will be divided into two chapters; that is before and after the Coronavirus. Nothing will ever be the same again. This includes how we do business as government and as this Legislature. All these changes have impacted significantly on our economy. With factories and other businesses having to shut down, this meant that there was very little revenue into our tax basket while we were expected to do more with very little resources. Our social relief programmes had to be financed from a shrinking basket of national income. This is a tough balancing act by this current government.

As a country, we owe so much to the judicious leadership and wisdom of our President, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, during this tough period – the harsh reality of our times. Through the leadership of President Ramaphosa, a national Economic Recovery Plan was introduced to ignite economic activity, restore investor confidence; prevent further job losses and provide a protective net for the vulnerable groups in our society. In essence, this stimulus and recovery plan is based on the following broad pillars:

- Implementation of growth enhancing economic reforms;
- Reprioritisation of public spending to support job creation;
- Establishment of an infrastructure fund;
- Addressing urgent and pressing matters in education and health; and
- Investing in municipal infrastructure improvement.

The work of the Office of the Premier is facilitated through three functional programmes. These programmes are: Administrative Support Services; Institutional Development; and Policy and Governance. The main function of Programme 1, which is Administration Support Services, is to provide the necessary administrative support to the Premier, the Executive Council and the Director-General in fulfilling their legislative mandate as well as the promotion of good corporate governance. Accordingly, we have finalised the review of the organisational structure for the Office of the Premier in line with the legislative and policy mandate of the Office. The reviewed organisational structure positions the Office of the Premier as a leader that provides direction and support to the rest of the provincial administration. This adopted structure has empowered the Office of the Premier to function as a well-oiled machine, with the ability to coordinate and provide necessary leadership to the rest of the provincial government. This structure is also designed to be biased towards the Office's overall strategy, especially as it relates to the mandate to provide transversal services and support, intergovernmental relations and support to departments. At the core of this adopted structure is the strengthening of the policy development and policy coordination capacity in the Office of the Premier.

As we always say, our ability to spend allocated resources is directly linked to our ability to take services to the people. I am happy to report that the Office of the Premier is doing very well when it comes to the area of expenditure management. The Office experienced significant budget cuts during the financial year 2020/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we did not allow these budget cuts to impede us from executing our operations and mandates. We had to do our work even under these very difficult circumstances imposed upon us by COVID-19. In the past financial year, the

Office had managed to spend over 97% of its allocated Budget. I am able to add that our annual financial statements were prepared in a meticulous and professional manner. I can also report to this House that the Office of the Premier is doing exceptionally well when it comes to the mandate to pay our suppliers and service providers within the prescribed 30 days period.

As a matter of fact, during the period under review, 100% of our suppliers and service providers were paid within the prescribed period. [APPLAUSE] Members would agree that paying service providers on time is vital for the financial health of small and medium enterprises. Remember, the business of small and medium enterprises is cash-flow based. If you don't pay them on time, it affects their cash flow, therefore affects the going concerns status. The sustainability of our SMMEs is highly dependent on us paying their invoices as and when they become due and payable. It is for this reason that we are concerned about a number of other departments which are not doing well with regard to this area of payment within 30 days. We will, therefore, be working with the Provincial Treasury to ensure that all of our departments do pay invoices within a 30 days period as prescribed.

Hon Speaker, clean governance restores the confidence of the people in public institutions. It is therefore significant for the Office of the Premier to lead from the front and lead by example in this regard. I am therefore pleased to announce that, for the year under review, the Office of the Premier has received a clean audit opinion from the Auditor-General. [APPLAUSE] My appreciation goes to all the men and women in the Office of the Premier who worked so hard to ensure this clean audit outcome. I want to commend our senior management service for steering the ship in the right direction. The Office will not be complacent and relax because of the clean audit outcome but will work even harder to sustain the momentum. I have since directed our Director-General, Mr Nape Nchabeleng, to ensure that this outcome is sustained.

The one area where the Office was not doing well was with regard to our equity targets. We are particularly concerned about the representation of females at senior management level. At the beginning of the financial year, the representation was at 39% females and 61% males. The leadership of the Office made a concerted effort such that appointments of SMS (Senior Management Services) members were biased towards females. As we are speaking, the Office is at 49% females and 51% males, which is a difference of 2%, and we will continue to work towards the achievement of at least 50% female. On the flip side of the coin, there are many women than men between levels 1 to 12. This augurs well with us and serves as a positive strategy for the succession plan. If you have more women than men between level 1 and 12, logically when you promote the probability will be that women will be promoted more than men. This issue received our undivided attention in the past financial year and we will continue to improve going forward. We will make it a point that employment equity targets are met in the next financial year.

The Office of the Premier is, however, doing relatively well when it comes to the representation of people with disability. With a threshold of 7%, the Office is now at 3,4%. The Office will work very hard to improve on this matter also. The Office is in the process of applying the ethical principles and frameworks to resolve multifaceted moral predicaments. In conjunction with the Department of Public Service and Administration, the Office has directed that all employees should complete E-learning Programme on Ethics by the end of 31 March 2021.

The function of Programme 2, which is Institutional Development Support, is to provide efficient and effective institutional support services to the rest of the provincial government. The Office of the Premier continues to coordinate the work of the Provincial Aids Council. In this regard, I am happy to state that there is an improved functionality of our district Aids councils, particularly as it relates to the implementation of the multi-sectoral district plan. The Office of the Premier has led the processes for the development of the provincial e-Government strategy implementation plan. At the heart of this plan, is to ensure that the provincial administration realises the digitisation of its services.

Thanks to this plan, that even during the hard lockdown and other difficulties imposed by COVID-19, the new normal, our government services did not shut down, due to this plan. We were able to coordinate the implementation of the virtual platform for virtual meetings. We hope to sustain this new way of doing things, which also proves to be cost-effective and time saving. The Office of the Premier has accordingly allocated a budget of R58 million to support e-Government for the 2021/22 financial year. Part of these budget will help the Office to secure digital signature and electronic content management system, e-recruitment management system, e-leave management system and the email amalgamation processes will also be included. The Office has also started on the implementation of the provincial knowledge management portal and the virtual private network to increase the network capacity and host some of the transversal systems within the province.

The focus of Programme 3, which is Policy and Governance, is to enable the Office of the Premier to implement the mandate of integrated planning and coordination of the provincial government. The Executive Council has adopted the reviewed Limpopo Development Plan. The process to review the Limpopo Development Plan was meant to ensure that the revised plan is aligned to the NDP's five-year implementation plan, and the 2019/24 medium-term strategic framework priorities. The reviewed LDP focuses on the mandate to place our province on a higher trajectory of economic development. This socioeconomic development blueprint we are presenting to the people of the province has an entrenched focus on mining, the agricultural sector, the tourism sector, the manufacturing and a biased focus on the support for SMMEs and cooperatives. It is our considered view that this focused approach to economic development will indeed become a game-changer in redefining the economic landscape of the province. This will certainly help us to enhance the productive capacity of our economy once more.

Members would remember that during his 2019 Budget Speech, President Cyril Ramaphosa identified the 'pattern of operating in silos' as a challenge for government. To use the words of the President, this has led to lack of coherence in planning and implementation and has made monitoring and oversight of government's programmes very difficult. In response to this unpleasant reality, the district development model initiative was launched for implementation in all the districts and metropolitan municipalities across the country. The Waterberg District was thus adopted as part of the national pilot project. Since then, we have moved swiftly to launch the district development model in all the districts across our province. I am therefore able to report that all our districts have functional district coordinating councils, all our districts have completed their socioeconomic profiles and that district hubs have been established and are functional. We believe that a district by district approach to development is

exactly what our country has been yearning for. This is because each district has its own competitive advantages and its own unique challenges. We believe that this is the approach which will assist us to develop our country, grow the economy and create the much-needed jobs.

The Office of the Premier is particularly seized with the task of supporting the rollout of socioeconomic infrastructure across the province. In this regard, I am pleased to mention that we have had constructive engagements with Infrastructure South Africa with a view to solidify a partnership for infrastructure delivery in the province. Going forward, we will be working with Infrastructure South Africa in the implementation of various projects, including water infrastructure projects; healthcare infrastructure projects; human settlements and road infrastructure. As I have committed during the State of the Province Address, I will be having a meeting with the Minister of Water and Sanitation so that we resolve the blockages on some of the following projects: The Giyani Water Services, the Mametja-Sekororo Bulk Water Supply, Kutama-Sinthumule Bulk Water Augmentation, Mogalakwena Bulk Water Scheme, Moutse Bulk Water Scheme, Mooihoek-Tubatse Bulk Water Scheme, Polokwane Bulk Water Supply and Bamabanani pipeline.

I earlier spoke of the clean audit received by the Office of the Premier, but that's not all. As I said, the Office of the Premier is concerned about the overall governance of the entire provincial administration. In this regard, I am pleased again to announce that the provincial government has registered significant audit improvements for the year under review. These improvements are a product of the ongoing oversight work by the Executive Council. The provincial administration registered the following audit outcomes – we have registered five clean audits in the following departments or provincial entities: the Office of the Premier, the provincial Legislature, the Department of Transport and Community Safety, Provincial Treasury as always and the Gambling Board. [APPLAUSE] Siqhubekela phambili.

I am also pleased to announce that the Department of Health, the Department of Social Development, the Department Sport, Arts and Culture, Department Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as well as Limpopo Economic Development Agency have moved from qualified audit opinions to unqualified audit opinions. [APPLAUSE] In addition to these improvements, Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development; LEDET; CoGHSTA; Limpopo Tourism Agency; and Roads Agency Limpopo have maintained their unqualified audit opinions. [APPLAUSE] Madam Speaker, honourable Members, that obviously says, re swere tsela ya nnete. Malutere ge a opela a re: “Kgetha, tsela dipedi. Ye nngwe še, e ya tahlegong. Ye nngwe še, e ya bophelong”. Bjale, rena re swere ye e yago bophelong. [APPLAUSE] As you have noticed I have not mentioned anything about disclaimer audit opinions, because it is no longer on our vocabulary as the province of Limpopo. [APPLAUSE]

I have made a commitment in this House that we shall continue to prioritise the filling of strategic leadership positions across the provincial administration. In this regard, I am able to report to this House that out of the 11 HOD positions, nine have been permanently filled. Of the remaining two, recruitment processes are at an advanced stage. Of this nine HODs, five of them are occupied by female persons. [APPLAUSE] All provincial departments have appointed qualified CFOs.

As another measure to strengthen the performance of government, I have since finalised and signed performance agreements with all our MECs. Part of the deliverables contained in these agreements is about improving service delivery, ensuring good governance and ensuring sound financial management. These agreements will also help us to hold MECs accountable in relation to the work we have mandated them to do. The process to reconfigure government departments and entities is almost complete. The Legislature will be provided with a detailed update in the foreseeable future on this matter. In the same spirit, we should prioritise improving our relationship with Chapter 9 Institutions, particularly our relationship with the Public Service Commission in order to make our government more sensitive and better responsive to the needs of our people in the 2021/22 financial year.

During the 2019/20 State of the Province Address, I indicated that we will be launching new Premier's Economic Growth Advisory Council in line with the priorities of the Sixth Administration. I can confirm that the new PEGAC (Premier's Economic Growth Advisory Council) team has been established. This team is composed of men and women with expertise from the field of academia, civil society and the private sector. We continue to strengthen relations with our neighbouring countries and other progressive nations of the world in order to service our socioeconomic needs. We continue to engage with our counterparts in the Matebeleland Province of Zimbabwe through the Trans-Limpopo Spatial Development Initiative (TLSDI). Through this initiative, we aim to unlock the water challenges faced by the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone.

Limpopo enjoys strong and cordial relations with the People's Republic of China, particularly with the provinces of Shanxi, Anhui, Henan and Hubei. We are working on concluding a Memorandum of Understanding with Shanxi province which is the host of the Taiyuan iron and steel company which is the major investor in the Musina-Makhado SEZ. Furthermore, the province will be working with the provinces of Henan, Anhui and Hubei to deal with matters of skills development and training. Henan and Shanxi provinces have donated more than 50 000 surgical masks to Limpopo province to fight COVID-19 as part of the long existing relations between the two provinces. Through our existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Gaza Province of Mozambique, we are working on consolidating and strengthening bilateral relations between Limpopo and Gaza Province.

In this regard, we will be convening a joint meeting to take stock of the progress registered since the last joint sitting held in Bilene Town of Gaza Province. We will also be implementing an action plan in line with the memorandum of understanding between Limpopo and four northern regions of Namibia. This action plan is focussed on the areas of agriculture, tourism, SMME development, trade and investment, education and culture, health, urban and regional planning. The visit by the Ambassador of Mexico in October 2020 presented an opportunity for twinning between tulle and big tree for local economic development.

The National Government of Mexico made a proposal of sending a team of researchers in the field of Botany to the province to conduct a research pertaining to the baobab tree and many other opportunities around the area. The University of Venda will play an important role in this process. It will be a catalyst to this process. Furthermore, the proposal for cooperation between Limpopo and Oaxaca provinces will serve to strengthen the relations between two countries whilst benefiting the local

communities in both provinces. Our relationship with the Republic of Cuba is long and enduring. We are grateful to the support of the Cuban doctors in our ongoing fight against the Coronavirus pandemic.

As the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will attest, we have already started investigating other opportunities of expanding our relationship with the People's Republic of Cuba, more especially when it comes to their engineering sector. We are very aware that they are very good in building bridges and roads and using very little to achieve more. The MEC is leading that process. Very soon we will be entering into another relationship as the province of Limpopo with the People's Republic of Cuba. [APPLAUSE]

I want to conclude by reiterating our government's message against the pandemic of gender-based violence. On Sunday, the country celebrated the Human Rights Day; however, we cannot fully celebrate human rights while the rights of women are ignored and trembled upon. Gender-based violence is a phenomenon that has neither regard nor respect for women's rights. As Limpopo government we say that women's rights are human rights. A violation of women rights is a violation of human rights. Let us expose abusers, report them and let the law deal with them in the harshest way possible.

For this 2021/22 financial year, the Office of the Premier is allocated a Budget of R405,049 million as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration : R130,660 million;
- Programme 2: Institutional Development : R186,874 million; and
- Programme 3: Policy and Governance : R87,515 million.

It is, therefore, my honour and privilege to table before this august House the 2021/22 Budget Vote for the Office of the Premier for appropriation. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Mahlatji. The Budget Speech for Vote 1: Office of the Premier is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for consideration and report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to present the Budget Speech for Vote 9. MEC, Hon Masemola, you may take the podium. [APPLAUSE]

THE BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(Address by Mr N D Masemola, MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure)

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Premier of our province and the Leader of the ruling party, my colleagues, Members of the Executive Council present here and those who are online, the Chief Whip of the majority party, the Leader of the Opposition, chairpersons of committees, Members of the Provincial Legislature, chairperson and members of the board of Roads Agency

Limpopo, the Auditor-General, members of the media, viewers of various social media platforms out there, comrades and fellow South Africans, greetings to all of you.

It is with humility and great honour to have an opportunity to once again on behalf of the ANC, the inexhaustible store of revolutionary cadres and the people of our province, to serve and make transformation efforts as we continue to better the lives of the people in our province. We are performing our legislative duties at the time when the country and the world celebrate the life and times of the veteran of the struggle against colonialism, and the founder of the women struggle and power, Mme Charlotte Makgomo Maxeke, a heroine who laid a profound revolutionary foundation for theoretical abstraction significant for human development and social progress. Her ideological orientation disfigured the irrational posture of the colonial and apartheid forces – and radically ingressed their false belief of class and race superiority, thus placing the ideas for struggle and freedom primary to the efforts of the motive forces. Given the greater degree of women oppression, her ideals gradually brought modified social relations in society, a basis from which the ANC advanced women emancipation for prolongation of the revolutionary theory and longevity of the progressive forces led by the ANC.

Indeed, her stature as a heroine and an intellectual deserves global attention and celebration. We remain intrigued by her life and indeed even the future generations will forever cherish her ideas. We are again attending to matters of societal importance amidst the challenge of the global pandemic, which we continue to fight in our collective endeavours to protect lives and livelihoods of our people. We remain committed to our plans and priorities to reconstruct and revive the economy from the devastation caused by the pandemic. To those who transited to the astral cradles of their ancestral forebears as a result of this pandemic, may their souls rest in peace.

The President in the State of the Nation Address has articulated key priorities which were further accentuated by the Hon Premier in the State of the Province Address. That remains a policy framework which guides us as we traverse through turbulent socioeconomic conditions facing society. The trajectory has been set by government towards economic recovery through implementation of infrastructure-led programme, to create jobs, rollout massive infrastructure projects, accelerate economic reforms to unlock investment and growth, fight crime, malfeasance and sleaze, continue to build capacity of the state as it is essential to carry out all the programmes listed in the development plans of government.

The Global Infrastructure Hub, an initiative of the G20 countries for sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure implementation, has found that over the past 25 years, government investment in infrastructure is more effective than other types of public spending in increasing economic output. We are therefore confident that the country's Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium hosted in June 2020, resonates well with the articulated rationale about the private and public sector investment in infrastructure to unlock and stimulate the economy.

In this regard the President is providing the quality leadership required through national platforms and systems for strategic interventions and appropriate approaches. As the province through the Limpopo Development Plan released by the Hon Premier, we are fully conscious of the mandate bestowed upon us; that infrastructure development has been placed high on the agenda for development now

going forward. It is however important to highlight that more investment is needed in the construction of new roads given the backlog that we have as a province. Equally, a competing challenge remains fiscal constraints confronting both the department and the entity given that this year's allocation for the upgrade of roads has a shortfall of R492 million.

This compounds already existing challenges given that about 31% of the provincial roads are tarred and about 69% still require upgrade from gravel to tar. This is not only a challenge for the need to provide new roads but also a matter that will likely affect the timelines of the existing schedules. As a result of that, I have since tasked technical experts and engineers in the department to find other engineering methods of providing service delivery given these financial constraints, though we hope for fiscal injection going forward this year in particular. I will come back to this area of infrastructure in a short while.

Allow me going forward to say that Expanded Public Works Programme remains a key programme in the restoration of the livelihoods of the poor and the unemployed. It provides short to medium-term employment; it provides skills and enterprise development opportunities through use of labour intensive methods in the delivery of public and community assets and services. Since the launch of the EPWP Phase 4 targets, the demographic employment target for women has increased from 55% to 60%, whilst more work still needs to be done for youth and people living with disability, given unchanged percentages of 55% and 2% respectively.

The national target for EPWP Phase 4 for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24 has been set at 5,4 million work opportunities for our people in the country. While the provincial target is 475 358 work opportunities, which constitute is 9,4% of the national target. For the financial year 2021/22 under review, the provincial target for EPWP is 95 210 work opportunities. At this point in time, we are confident that collectively, as the provincial administration we have set this target and indeed we are going to achieve it. To this end, we have developed a concept document on how to revive the massive labour intensive and job creation programme in roads construction, rehabilitation and maintenance. Through this initiative, community members will literally participate in the actual activities while being financially empowered.

In this regard amongst various job creation endeavours, we have earmarked twelve projects across the province, through which to implement the Presidential Employment Initiative. These projects will enable us to have 750 work opportunities for our people in the province. We are forging ahead with a partnership with National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to empower young people on business enterprise initiatives as well as other related services. Our commitment to develop young people within and without the sector remains a goal to pursue.

We continue to invest in our internal capacity to deliver on our mandate. To date the department has enrolled 55 young people in areas of community practice which are: construction; electrical and mechanical; civil and structural and quantity surveying. Furthermore, Hon Speaker, 60 learners have been taken through the National Youth Service in collaboration with merSETA (Manufacturing, Engineering, and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority) for welding learnership, and they have graduated last year, in December 2020. The Jewellery Incubator Programme supported by SEDA (Small Enterprise Development Agency) Limpopo is ongoing and

72 learners attached to it will complete end of August this year. Also that 110 participants in the cleaning and hygiene project will be completing their training as well before the end of this financial year.

We also have 70 young people in the internship programme implemented in partnership with the Office of the Premier for a period of 24 months. The memorandum of understanding has been signed with seven TVET colleges in the province where there are 100 young people being trained in electrical apprenticeship, welding, fitting apprenticeship and diesel mechanic. We are certain that these young people will complete the course in 2022.

Through the Artisan Development Programme, we continue to train learners to acquire skills required to pursue their chosen areas study. These initiatives show the extent to which we have programmes to really empower young people through skills development in various areas. We also have matured candidates programme which targets employees in the core directorates of the department, whose occupation requires council registration by law. We will facilitate entrance and ensure the participation of women, youth and people living with disability in the construction space as dictated by the policy for them as well to become beneficiaries of our procurement and administrative efforts as we rollout and distribute resources accordingly through this rollout of infrastructure in the province. Our mandate is infrastructure provision and maintenance and as such delivery of socioeconomic infrastructure continues in this regard.

Though the recent heavy rainfalls have further compounded our challenges particularly on roads infrastructure, the assessment done points to the extent of the damage on the roads network hence the serious need for rebuilding of collapsed bridges, patching of potholes and rehabilitation of many roads. The costs at this level are estimated at R538 million which the provincial fiscus does not have hence unallocated budget in this regard. However, we are working hard through differentiated approaches to respond to this challenge.

Through the leadership of the Premier, relations have been built through various platforms of engagements with private sector. In pursuing public-private partnership, we have been able to secure an amount of R80 million towards the construction of a new bridge at GaMalekana, Steelpoort in Tubatse, Sekhukhune District. [APPLAUSE] That old steel bridge will remain a heritage of our people. Probably before the end of this year the construction work will have started. Administrative processes are underway towards the realisation of this project for contractors to be appointed. We have also started with the re-construction of the bridge at Makuleke village under the Collins Chabane Local Municipality in the Vhembe District. A contractor for this work has been appointed and handed over site and work will commence in this current financial year.

Over and above that, processes are underway to ensure that four other bridges and installation of drainage structures and re-gravelling are done in Waterberg, Sekhukhune and Vhembe districts. Of course, we identified more same projects in Mopani and Capricorn districts to be given attention in this financial year, as we roll out our response to the need to revitalise, revive and rehabilitate our road infrastructure programmes. As part of this initiative, we continue improving our road networks, therefore six roads have been assessed and will be rehabilitated at a cost

of R151 million. These are projects mentioned by the Hon Premier in his State of the Province Address and we are making sure that we don't just make policy statements, but pronouncements of the Premier remain policy instructions, hence these roads are going to be fixed.

The road from Giyani to Phalaborwa, which has been called the 'killer road' is going to be fixed. The Lebaka-Mohlabaneng road, GaMamaila-Kolobetona road, the Praktiseer road, Kgobokanang to GaMakgato road in Blouberg as well as the road that connects Burgersfort and Penge will be sorted out. Contractors have been appointed and construction works will commence in this financial year. Again, Hon Speaker, five more other projects have been identified and contractors will be handed over sites soon. The road between Elim and Malamulele will be fixed, the road in Maseven in Sekhukhune District will be fixed, the Musina road to Pongorwa in Vhembe District will be fixed, the Stofberg road in Sekhukhune will be fixed and the Malamulele road in Vhembe District will also be fixed.

It is important that we report to the people of Limpopo that with all the constraints that characterise our work, there is significant progress in the delivery of roads. In 2020/21 financial year we managed to complete four roads under-mentioned: the Gilead road in the Waterberg District and the Musekwa to DoliDoli road in the Vhembe District; the road from Thomo to Khakhala to Gawula to Mahlathi to Ndindani to Hlomela to Phalaubeni in the Mopani District; the road between Blinkwater and Rotterdam have been attended to.

We take this opportunity once more to report progress on road projects that are ongoing. There are eleven projects that are at different levels of progress and they will be completed this year. It is a very long list I might not be able to go through each one of them in the interest of time and most probably people will be able to access this speech after this sitting and they can go through that long list of this project.

Our area of work requires collaboration with various stakeholders and key amongst them is SANRAL with whom we collaborate to deliver quality roads in the province. The Premier's State of the Province Address in 2021/22 financial year mentioned the following roads which are under implementation:

- The road from Calais to Sekororo;
- The road in GaRiba in Tubatse, the Tshikanosi to Motlhokomela, and the one that I spoke of from Namakgale to Phalaborwa. These are some of the roads which are being attended to as a matter of instruction from the leadership of our government. [APPLAUSE] Hon Smalle raised a matter at some point and I did say to him that we have plans already. It was like you are the spokesperson of my department. Thank you very much for taking that effort to help us to communicate.

The condition of road R521 from Polokwane to Mogwadi, Dendron and all the way to Alldays has been a cause for concern to us and the road users. After visiting this road, we have allocated R35 million this financial year for its rehabilitation and some designs where possible for further commitment of resources jointly working with Sanral. We are certain that that road will be restored to its best state of economic use given its significance within this province as well beyond the borders of our republic.

There are many road challenges which we continue to resolve for actual completion of the affected roads. Like the long outstanding matter of the 22 km road in Masisi, Vhembe District, we have resolved the disputes and it will receive a contractor soon to complete the project as procurement processes are underway. Equally important, road D192 in Mogalakwena, Waterberg District, from Rantlakana, GaChere to Marken will be fixed this year hence we have allocated the budget for rehabilitation. [APPLAUSE] I will soon meet with the Mayor of Mogalakwena and the community leaders to give them feedback.

We have been inundated with visits and complaints and protests by communities demanding the upgrades of their roads. Demands that are understandable although as I have already indicated earlier on that the Budget appropriated to us does have a shortfall or deficit even on our current commitment for road upgrades.

The department in this financial year is only allocated R356 million from the equitable share for road upgrades which means from gravel to tar we have a shortfall as compared to the previous financial year's allocation of R492 million. This is a matter I have alluded to in my prelude to this Budget Speech. I think I must emphasise this matter. This means it will be difficult to meet the demands for roads from communities given the budget allocation and this is the hurdle confronting us this financial year. We are more than prepared to engage with our people to explain to them the difficulties that were brought about by COVID-19 which affected both the fiscus of national government, low or declined revenue collection which has impact on the provincial fiscus and therefore, making it very difficult for organs of state and our departments to have resources in abundance to respond to the needs of our people. However, with the efforts of our President we are certain that the economy will recover and we might be able to go back to basics and have those resources required to live up to the expectations of our people.

Difficult as it would be, I wish to respond to some of the communities by indicating that we have allocated a budget for the designs of their long outstanding roads, and these roads are:

- The road from Blouberg Health Centre to Buffelhoek, where people burned tyres in the past few days, that road is going to receive our attention going forward as we have put money aside for the designs.
- The Atok Mine-Sefateng to GaSelepe; Marulaneng and Selwane, where they have also blocked the roads in the past few days and I was told you had to go there to quell the fires. Here is the response. I think you didn't just go there to talk to them. [APPLAUSE] We are going to start with the designs of that road.
- The Malope to Phokwane road, where people posted on social media that 'No road, no elections', that road will be designed going forward. It is part of the package.

I want to call upon them to understand that this ANC-led government by the Premier, Hon Mathabatha, in Limpopo is going to attend to these roads in terms of the designs.

- The Apel to GaNkoana road will also receive attention.
- The GaRamoshwane road to GaRametlwane and GaRamotlowana road will also be attended to.
- The road between Thapane Cross to Nwamitwa will also be attended to as well as a road between Glen Cowie and Malaka. Some years ago, a contractor was appointed and when he was supposed to start with work that contractor was withdrawn. People had to wait for a couple of years for that road to be fixed. It is part of our plans this year in terms of the designs.

We humbly appeal to communities for cooperation given the reality confronting us regarding financial constraints and remain committed to work with them in finding solutions.

In addition to the work done through various programmes, we are strengthening districts and cost centres to be more responsive in roads maintenance. An allocation this financial year of R1,345 billion has been made available for use between the department and RAL. And this will be spent on 75 projects implemented by both the department and RAL. The list of those projects is in the schedule that will be shared with honourable Members as we meet in the various committees. This includes the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant which is only meant for maintenance of roads and not building of new roads. Of this total amount, about R615,491 million has been put together for roads maintenance to be spread across the province. Like I have said, some of those roads which are going to be sorted out through the PRMG (Provincial Road Maintenance Grant) are:

- The road between Dennilton and Moteti will be fixed;
- Again, the road between Giyani and Phalaborwa, for now we have started with a particular number of kilometres. For this financial year, we are going to complete the whole road from Giyani to Phalaborwa once and for all. When we leave that place that road will be user-friendly for many years to come; [APPLAUSE]
- The road between Bokgaga and Lephephane;
- The road in Lenyenye, the Mamaila road as well will be completed right up to R81 road towards Giyani;
- The road between Elim and Malamulele, over and above what we have started, we are going to increase that work to get this road up to Malamulele to be on a very good state of use;
- The road between Makhado and Madombidzha, and between Madombidzha and Kutama;
- The road around Mamaolo, Seleteng and Mashite;
- The road between Kuschke and Zebediela;
- The GaSeleka Shongoane road, GaMagongoa and Mosesetjane; and
- The road between Magnet Heights and Malekana; just to mention but a few.

As I have said, the complete list is either in the schedule or the plan. Additional to the work to be done will be through the use of the 22 households contractors allocated to local municipalities to fix potholes and bad roads identified by the districts of the

department. We remain committed to ensure that as a lead department responsible for infrastructure delivery, we meet the expectations of the provincial administration.

Our unwavering commitment continues and working together with the Department of Education, we have already handed over contractor sites to six schools for construction this financial year. This will be medium state-of-the-art schools with the necessary facilities as determined by the department for better education facilities. The schools are: Gidela Secondary School, Naledi ya Meso, Alldays, Mahlagaume Primary School as well as Marude Secondary School. In collaboration with the Department of Education we remain committed to solve the backlog of schools with acute infrastructure challenges including the storm-damaged schools. The department is currently busy with 52 schools which are currently at designs stages. It is anticipated that contractors will be appointed for a list of priority schools from the 52 that will be approved by the Department of Education for possible implementation this financial year. Mošomo ga o tšhabe diatla Mahlako'a Gafela. Mošomo ga o tšhabe diatla re tšwele pele.

There are several health projects that are at different stages of progress with regard to implementation and design. These projects are laundry facilities, building works, upgrading of health facilities, emergency medical services and the long outstanding Maphutha Malatji Hospital which is at 85% and we are working hard to ensure that it is indeed completed this financial year. The HOD's head is on the block. I have said to him that if he doesn't complete this project this year, he and I are not going to be friends. That project of Maphutha Malatji must be completed and commissioned. [APPLAUSE]

With regard to the construction of the agriculture offices in Molemole, progress is at 93% and completion is expected during the first quarter of this financial year. In the same breadth, we are proud to announce that we have completed the Masia and Mphaphuli Traditional Council offices in Vhembe District and are currently working on Ditlou-Manchidi in Capricorn District and Mogashoa-Ditlhakaneng in Sekhukhune respectively. These are important facilities as they preserve the dignity of leadership of royalty, our traditions and cultures that constantly remind us of who we are. In collaboration with the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, we are committed to ensure that this programme continues and that we restore the authority and dignity of royal leadership.

The department is busy with the construction of accommodation facilities at the Limpopo Traffic College. Phase 1 has been completed, phase 2 is underway and completion is expected by end of this financial year. We will then immediately commence with phase 3 once we are done with phase 2, most probably in the next financial year.

Hon Speaker, the provision of infrastructure should be coupled with maintenance to ensure longevity of the state assets. In this regard the department will continue conducting condition assessments on state-owned buildings throughout the province to determine the extent of maintenance. Mindful of the fact that maintenance budgets reside with each department and it gets done per request from client departments.

Hon Speaker, it is a noble commitment and determination of the provincial government led by Premier Mathabatha to ensure that the long-awaited provincial state theatre

becomes a reality. Working with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, we are in earnest focus to ensure that this much-needed arts and recreation facility for the people of our province is realised. [APPLAUSE]

The project is currently at planning stage and it is anticipated that the detail design will be finalised during the third quarter of this current financial year. Construction is planned to commence during the last quarter of this financial year. That is what we can put our heads on the block, Hon Premier, with regard to what you have pronounced. By next year when we come here for SOPA, you should be able to give the people of this province a concrete response with regard to these projects. Further work is being done regarding four libraries which are at the planning stage and construction is anticipated to commence during the fourth quarter of the current financial year.

Many years ago leaders stood before this House with commitment to indeed pursue a developmental goal of relocating Sekhukhune District Offices of the provincial government to Jane Furse. Their efforts have laid a basis for us today, that after 26 years of democracy we can report to this respected House that we have secured a decision and understanding with the royal leadership of Mamone that land is available for this long-awaited development to start. [APPLAUSE] About 50 hectares of land is made available for this massive development and this will accommodate both the district and the local municipalities of Sekhukhune and Makhuduthamaga respectively. Task Teams are being established and the public and legislative processes will be undertaken to ensure compliance and steadfastness in this regard.

Hon Premier and Hon Speaker, our hearts are warmed by this unshakable commitment of certainty reached with the royal leadership of Mamone that the best way for sustainable development in pushing back the frontiers of poverty and underdevelopment is to create base for regional economic development anchored on this long-awaited project, which will inevitably change the relations between towns and the countryside. We remain faithful to the principles and the fundamental cause of these socioeconomic effort. We are illuminated by the profound understanding demonstrated collectively and our readiness to act and canalise the terrain is informed by your policy pronouncements and leadership, Hon Premier.

This will bring fundamental social change in the lives of the people of Sekhukhune and the Bapedi nation. Bahlaku ba Raphogole, Digolokwane tša Tjate boba tša Mohlaka, bana ba Lethebeswane la noka ya Tubatse, re a leboga. [APPLAUSE] Ge ba tšwela pele Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa ba re khutlong sa thaba go swere yešu gomme matšeamoro a bommutla re tla mona. Thobela. [APPLAUSE]

On behalf of LEDET we are doing work in the four nature reserves of Nylsvlei, Wolkberg, Blouberg and Letaba Ranch Nature Reserves. These projects require both maintenance and construction works in order to refresh their conditions and for expansion. To date, maintenance on all four is complete and the department will commence with main construction works in this financial year based on the approved scope of work agreed between the two departments. The work we are doing in these important tourist attraction areas of our beautiful province is being monitored closely and are determined to complete them within the scheduled time. In this financial year the department will be doing maintenance of access roads and chalets at Makutsi

Camp in Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve. In Blouberg and Percy Fyfe Nature reserves, we will be constructing buffalo bomas.

The department is further tasked with an exciting responsibility to reconstruct Schoemansdal Museum, which is meant to preserve the history, culture and heritage of the people of this province. This project will commence this financial year as the MEC for the department and I will be handing over the site to the contractor in the coming few weeks. These projects alluded to above, are not just brick and mortar, they are part of drivers of our economic recovery initiative given their potential to create jobs. They further enable access to places of economic and social activities with ease, provide conducive infrastructure for learning, healthcare, recreation and other social services as well as necessities. By so doing they will be contributing to the development of the people of this province and building a fundamental base for social cohesion and social advancement.

Human resource management and development remains a key aspect for the success of everyone institution or organisation to achieve its vision and mission. As such, the repositioning of the department to assume its primary mandate of being the implementing system of infrastructure and maintenance for the provincial administration needs a new shift from how it has been for the past 15 years.

The department's business processes today should respond to the diminishing capacity and agility, structural gaps in roles, work processes and accountability, critical information flow, disorganisation and improper system resulting in performance challenges. Transformation that we advance equally beckons of the public service to use a different lens of analysing, approaching and executing their mandate. We are therefore busy with the organisational structure to recalibrate our critical mission based on job designs, departmentation, delegation, appropriate systems and designs, leadership and management, effective chain of command and guidance for successful implementation of development programmes.

In this regard, consultation processes are underway towards the finalisation of a reviewed structure of the department. For the past 11 years that department never had a structure that responds to the dictates and call of different administrations ever since that time. We are certain that where we are at the moment; we have got to redesign its approach and systems on how to respond to matters of leadership administratively.

The Limpopo Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub remains the centre of engineering capacity created and institutionalised in the department to maximise on the existing built environment for professionals in the province. This helps to enhance management and implementation of infrastructure delivery management system. In this area of technical engineering expertise, we are also benefitting from the long-standing diplomatic relations between Cuba and South Africa as the Premier has said. We have 11 Cuban technical advisors who are based in the department to continue with their great job. We are very grateful of their commitments and contribution and hold in high regard the support we receive from this great nation.

Last week I hosted the Secretary for Press and Culture, Ms Danelis Forestal Mejias, who was one of the diplomats of the Cuban Embassy who was in the province to further hold discussion on how best do we make sure that this relationship goes into

years and years and equally make sure that the engineering capacity and skills that is there in Cuba is maximised where it is much-needed in our province. I am looking forward to a matured relationship and more engineers coming into our province to reinforce our engineering capacity so that we can live up to our expectations as Public Works and service departments without any failure. [APPLAUSE]

The financial year 2020/21 will not only go down in history as the year of the pandemic, but it will forever be etched in our hearts as the year we turned the department given the positive audit opinion from the Auditor-General. I am pleased to say for the first time in a long time, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure received an unqualified audit opinion as the Premier has said. Equally, Roads Agency Limpopo obtained an unqualified audit opinion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the officials who worked very hard, the capable men and women who continue to put efforts to ensure prudent use of the financial resources we are entrusted with. The Head of Department and your team, chairperson of RAL board and other board members, the CEO and your executive, the staff of both the department and the entity, the Audit Committee and those who never lost faith in the Department of Public Works, I want to say thank you so much.

Of course, this performance could not have been achieved without the support and guidance of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to all of you. Our attitude towards this good work is that we are forging ahead and accelerate our effort and use this as a base towards achieving a clean audit. There is no room for regression from the department as well as the entity.

The Budget allocation for the work ahead, the Provincial Treasury appropriated R3,212 billion for this current financial year. This allocation, unfortunately, has a negative growth of 9% due to the once off allocation which was done in the previous financial year. As mentioned earlier, the allocation includes R1,345 billion for conditional grants to be used on road maintenance, for EPWP and the overall improvement of infrastructure delivery in the province. Of this money, the department will transfer R1,109 billion for operational costs to RAL for roads maintenance as well as upgrades. This amount includes R42,5 million allocated for capital priority roads projects. It also includes R80 million made available for acquisition of building for office accommodation. This supports the decision of EXCO to procure office buildings in order to move closer towards saving money spent on rentals.

Hon Speaker, the Budget is hereby broken down as follows:

- Administration : R304,6 million;
- Infrastructure Operations : R721,9 million;
- EPWP : R66,226 million; and
- Roads Infrastructure : R2,119,151 billion.

This is how the money has been appropriated. As we enter the new financial year, we cannot only hope but to join hands and strengthen government's efforts to ensure that this becomes the year we win the fight against the pandemic. Equally important, it becomes a year in which we rise above all odds and try to meet expectations of the electorates. We commit to work with all stakeholders to ensure that together we contribute to the development of the province and take our work to greater heights.

Let me express my words of appreciation for the leadership and guidance provided to us by the Hon Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa'a Morwaswi'a Molea. Re a leboga Tlou. Re leboga tlhahlo ya gago ka nako tšohle. [APPLAUSE] Words of thanks also go to the portfolio committee chairperson, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje, and your committee for the oversight role on us that seeks to make the department a productive organ of the provincial administration. The collective work done by the officials of the department and the entity RAL is quite evident and appreciated. I would like to also thank the chair of the entity together with the board members for the collective leadership. We continue to work together, difficult as it might be, to respond to the needs of our people and spend moneys given to us prudently.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family, my wife and children for their unwavering support as we discharge these duties of national importance at the behest of the Premier. Hon Speaker, the work is not over but just the beginning. We are called to serve and do that with the amount of dedication and determination of a lion in pursuit of a prey and tackle the challenges and stumbling blocks with the ferocity of a cornered buffalo. Ke a leboga. Ndza khensa. Ndo livhuwa. Ngiyathokoza. Baie dankie. Thank you. Molete sekuba. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, MEC, Hon Masemola. Re a leboga, Gobetse. The Budget Speech for Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works for consideration and report back to the House.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? There are none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned to Tuesday, 13 April 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 13 APRIL 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 13 APRIL 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You may now have the opportunity for a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you and please be seated. Good morning honourable Members and welcome to the session.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker and Members of the Executive Council, Members of the House, of course, also acknowledging the presence of Hon Buthane. I am Simon Mathe and I want to present a motion without notice on behalf of the ANC.

**CONCERN OVER THE DOWNGRADE OF THE POLOKWANE INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT**

(Motion without Notice)

We note the embarrassing chapter of the Polokwane International Airport losing its license to operate commercial air service over non-compliance with the required minimum standards. The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) downgraded the airport to category 2, which necessarily means that it will not cater for any commercial flights. This means that at the moment there are no flights coming in and out of Polokwane, and the province is left without any commercial flight.

We want to urge the department overseeing the Polokwane International Airport to do all it can so that it is able to rectify this embarrassment and undo this act of self-sabotage. We are aware that the Department of Transport and Community and Safety is working hard around the clock to rectify the situation, but this should be done more expediently. If possible, we must ensure that we appeal this decision because it is not fair to the growth of our provincial economy. The closure has shut down the only air link between Limpopo and the rest of the country, the continent and the world.

This downgrade happens at the time when the airport has just introduced an affordable service that was going to increase the customer base and get it additional flights. The

affordable service that we are talking about was a R999 single trip from Polokwane to Johannesburg International Airport.

This also provides the new board, whose tenure commenced on 01 April, with the opportunity to prove its meddling.

We hope that this humiliating turn of events will be dealt with in the best possible way.

I accordingly move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, raise my hand to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathe. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Speaker. Greetings to the Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon Jossey Buthane; Members of the Executive Council present and all honourable Members present in this House and those who are connected virtually.

RIISING CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move the motion without notice that the House notes the rising criminal activities in Limpopo, including kidnapping of businesspeople, murder and housebreaking.

Recently, we have seen how prominent businesspeople in the province are targeted and kidnapped by criminals for ransom. Just this week, a businessman was kidnapped in Makhado for ransom, and his car was abandoned in the bush.

This situation is so bad that even government buildings are broken into and items are stolen such as the recent incident in the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform where thieves broke into the building and stole 185 laptops meant to assist staff to work from home due to COVID-19.

This incident should be thoroughly investigated as we suspect inside job from some staff members or even security guards working in the building or in the department.

The criminals are taking advantage of the weak police and justice system and they are now running amok doing as they please. Houses are being broken into and items

belonging to community members are stolen, leaving them extremely traumatised and fearful.

If the government cannot protect its own buildings, how do you expect it to protect the citizens?

We are dealing here with a systematic failure which has left citizens with nothing else but hopelessness.

The EFF is not surprised why the people of Limpopo have lost hope in the current government because they have disappointed them so many times and continue to disappoint them.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MANGANYE

Inkomu Tatana Xipikara, eka nkulukumba wa Economic Freedom Fighters, Tatana Buthane, eka vatrulikolorhi Endlwini yo Endla Milawu, eka vaendzi va hina hikuya hi tindzawulo to hambanahambana, ndza milosa!

Vito ndzi Tinyiko Manganye, ndzi laha ku kandziyisisa leswaku hungu leri andlariweke hi Tatana Jetrick Seshoka hi rona, i ra ntiyiso. Ndza khensa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, honourable Member.

MS LEBEA

Blessed and good morning, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Kedibone Lebea, object to the motion as raised by Hon Seshoka.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The motion is objected to. Are there any other further motions without notice? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present here, Hon Chief Whip and the Leader of the Official Opposition, good morning.

HAPPY RAMADAN'S MONTH WISHES FOR THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY
(Motion without Notice)

As the ANC, we would like to wish the Muslim community well as it enters the Holy Month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a period devoted to dawn-to-dusk fasting, prayer and good deeds. The practices of Ramadan are meant to purify oneself from thoughts and deeds which are counter to the Islamic faith where even material desires, one is able to focus fully on the devotion and the service of God.

To the Muslim community, Ramadan is the time for reflection and worship as well as solidarity and compassion for those who are suffering. For Muslims, fasting teaches self-control, shows devotion to promote empathy with the poor.

We wish all Muslims well over the fasting period.

I move accordingly. Thanks, Chair.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, hereby support the motion as raised by Hon Matlou.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there other further motions without notice? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive Council, Leader of the Official Opposition and Members of this Limpopo Legislature, good morning. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the ANC to present a motion of condolences for Cde Joel Mbhazima Sibiya.

CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING ON OF CDE JOEL MBHAZIMA SIBIYA
(Motion without Notice)

The ANC in Limpopo dips its revolutionary banner commemorating the untimely passing on of Cde Joel Mbhazima Sibiya, an accomplished and most decorated veteran of the struggle against apartheid.

Cde Joel passed on, on Sunday, 04 April 2021 at the 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria after a short illness. He counts amongst the few combatants who joined the liberation struggle because of his fervent passion of a free and equal society for all.

At the time of his passing, Cde Joel was a PEC member of the ANC Veterans' League and head of the subcommittee on political education. He belongs to a generation that drew its inspiration by listening to Radio Freedom with their lights off to ensure that nobody was able to follow them or inform the apartheid special branch that they were accessing its broadcast. This, together with the political material that his father brought

home from the mines, elevated his political awareness and consciousness. His interest in politics was highlighted when he enrolled at the then University of the North – now called the University of Limpopo – at the pinnacle of apartheid where he was introduced to political luminaries such as comrades George Mashamba, Mavivi Myakayaka-Manzini and others.

Cde Joel Sibiya is an accomplished veteran of the struggle who underwent rigorous military training of all sorts of mannerism from Angola to Germany. After the unbanning of apartheid, Cde Joel Sibiya took up a number of developmental roles in the new dispensation, including being a teacher, a senior manager in a government department and a member of the National Council of Provinces.

The ANC has lost a political treasure in Cde Joel Sibiya, a true combatant to the end who chose the perilous road that led to the emancipation of his people.

May his soul rest in peace! I move accordingly. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

We join in on the passing on of Cde Joel Sibiya in the very same statement, we second the motion. May his soul rest in revolutionary peace! Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Lebea, is your hand up?

MS LEBEA

COMMEMORATION OF 28TH ANNIVERSARY SINCE THE PASSING ON OF CDE CHRIS HANI

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker and honourable Members of the august House, I rise to move a motion without notice behalf of the ANC that this House notes the commemoration of the 28th anniversary since the assassination of Cde Chris Hani, who was killed on 10 April 1993. Chris Hani was without a doubt one of the most popular politicians in South Africa. He was loved and respected commander of MK and a high-ranking ANC and SACP leader during South Africa's transition to democracy in the early 1990s. His charismatic leadership united the radical and moderate factions in the liberation movement and disarmed even his fiercest critics.

The story of his life and that of many others is exemplary to this total commitment and willingness to sacrifice one's life. It was ideas, a political project and the movement that counted and not the individuals because no one would have made it on their own. This may be difficult to imagine in today's society wherein individualism and self-interest reign supreme and personalised politics have become the norm. But it was for

doing things with and for others as part of the collective movement that people like Hani found their self-realisation.

Chris Hani dedicated his life to the finest course in the world – the liberation of mankind. He fought against national oppression, gender oppression and economic exploitation in all its dimensions including his absolute commitment to the struggle against imperialism. To emulate Chris Hani means we must do anything in our capacity to build, defend and further develop working class unity.

It is on this background that we note and reaffirm that the enemy of our people still is unemployment, poverty and inequality. But Chris Hani will surely be proud of the strides we have made as the ANC-led government and cautioned the ideals of attaining the aspirations enshrined in the Freedom Charter.

I move accordingly, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR SELANE

Hon Deputy Speaker, I hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Lebea. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. I am told there is a hand of Hon Selamolela, who is connected virtually.

MR SELAMOLELA

My apology, Hon Speaker. It was earlier on when I wanted to second the motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions? None.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DOWNGRADED POLOKWANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

(Members' Statement)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to present a Members' Statement that the [POOR RECORDING] Airlink, which is privately owned has cancelled its flight to and from Polokwane Airport leaving customers stranded. This was as a result of a dilapidated infrastructure which is not in compliance with any of the airport regulations. The airport has also been decategorised to CAT2 which is below the minimum level required for scheduling commercial services at the airport. The current [inaudible] presents as an operational safety concern and it will be [POOR RECORDING] scheduled services at the airport. It is regrettable that the airport did not ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

That statement was made by the DA. In terms of the rules, statements cannot be repeated in subsequent Sittings. Because you are making the same statement, I would request that you pause and then take your seat.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, they made a statement, but we have different recommendations. Maybe I should go to recommendations.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, no, no, Hon Buthane. The statement was made previously and it is in the minutes. You can't have the same statement again.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

But Hon Mathe came and presented the same thing.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

[POOR RECORDING]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

We are speaking of one thing. Alright, Hon Speaker. Let's not make your work difficult. Our recommendation is that the board must be dissolved immediately.

As the EFF, we are also disappointed by the objection to the motion. [POOR RECORDING]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings once again.

THE UNRESOLVED CRISIS IN POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY
(Members' Statement)

The government has proved over a period of time that it has no permanent solutions to the many challenges facing our people. The water crisis that was experienced in the City of Polokwane and surrounding areas last week is testimony to the fact that ANC cannot govern as people suffered to an extent that many of them could not even go to work. The majority of rural areas around Polokwane and many around the province still do not have access to clean water.

Polokwane Municipality told the residents that they are busy fixing a pipe next to Bolivia Lodge, but this is the same pipe that bursts every time, and yet no permanent solution is sought. If they can't fix a small and not so complicated thing like a burst pipe, what more of bigger things the people of our province are faced with on daily basis. If they can't fix a pipe, surely they can't deliver houses, roads and electricity to the people.

Water tanks cannot be a permanent solution for the people of Polokwane. It is not sustainable. All these are signs of an incompetent government that has completely run out of ideas. People have to go out and search for water with buckets. What is this, if not the bucket system?

Many of the streets in the CBD and around various suburbs do not have functional streetlights. The streetlights are there, but they are not being fixed when they stop working. They take years before they can be fixed, turning the city into a dark city. The useless Polokwane Municipality promotes criminality, exposing many of our people to security risk and danger. The streetlights are just there to decorate the city, because they are not working. This is too bad for a city that is supposed to become a metro in a few years to come.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and provide permanent solution to the water crisis in Polokwane.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. MEC, it is your turn.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and greetings to everybody in the House and those who are connected virtually. We welcome the statement as presented by Hon Manganye, but indicate that this problem is no longer at the stage where the MEC will have to investigate, it is correct and we know the challenges which are there. We are aware of the problem. It is not necessary that we still have to go and investigate the problem. We have put measures in place to fix these water problems. This problem is not only affecting residents, but also affecting everybody and some Members who are sitting in this House, and a permanent solution is being looked into. We are trying to

rehabilitate some of the pipelines you have mentioned earlier. We are working together with the DWS (Department of Water and Sanitation) and the Polokwane Municipality.

But for you to say that we are failing to provide roads and houses, maybe it is because you were not here last week. MEC Masemola outlined all the roads that will be delivered by this provincial government. On Thursday, we will be able to indicate in the Budget Speech the number of houses we have been able to deliver and those that we will deliver in the coming financial year.

We are aware of the issue of the streetlights. It is a matter that the Polokwane Municipality is attending to, and we shall work with them to resolve the challenges that affect our people. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there further Members' Statements? I see a hand of Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya. What are you rising on?

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I thought that you had requested Executive Statements for me to give a report, but if the item is not there, it is fine. I can withdraw my hand.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is that an Executive Statement?

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

An Executive Statement, that is where we are. You can make your Executive Statement.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let me also take this time to greet the Members, the Premier and Members of the Executive Council, Members in the House and those that have joined virtually. Let me also take this opportunity to greet the Leader of the Opposition and other Members of the Opposition.

Last week, there was a statement that was submitted to the House as you have indicated around the issue of GAAL. But as a department, we felt that we should bring a Members' Statement just to bring on board all Members of the House instead of issues being raised incorrectly.

Let me start by indicating that the Limpopo Legislature owes the people of Limpopo an apology. Any Member, who has served in this Legislature, be it from any party, even those parties that were not formed by the time when GAAL existed, they owe the

people of Limpopo an apology, because it is this same House that has been taking decisions on how the airport or GAAL should be operated. Today, we sit as a department with the category 2 that we were downgraded to, and we are disappointed as a department, because we are seeing different political parties running to the media to try and give clarity, instead of saying this has resulted from the wrong decisions that we have made.

We have received a delegation from SACAA (South African Civil Aviation Authority) in February at the airport who came to conduct compliance. You will remember that after lockdown, we were part of those who were on the second category to be opened, and when they came, we were opened as the airport because last year [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Can I rise?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

What are you rising on?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am rising on a point of order on what she says, because she is misleading the House. The Department of Transport is not run here. It is run by her as an MEC. She can't blame us.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, can you sit down?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Yes. You heard my point.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Sit down! Hon Buthane, after the MEC has made an Executive Statement, political parties are allowed to make comments after that. Can we stick to that?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I wanted to correct that.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, you don't correct whilst she is busy with the Executive Statement. Honourable MEC, please continue.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you for the protection, Hon Deputy Speaker. I was still indicating that when the SACAA team came in February 2021, after the inspection in July last year, they found that the airport was in a good position to continue functioning. They came and evaluated the airport on four categories. The first category was on airdrome operation, civil infrastructure, airdrome rescue and firefighting services, and quality management. You will remember, Deputy Speaker, that when they came in February to do the inspection, together as a shareholder and GAAL, we had then submitted an action plan which then speaks to different dates on how we would be addressing the matter.

As we speak, the following actions have been taken before we have been moved from category 7 to 2. Even now, we have formulated emergency task teams as the department to be able to give human resource capacity to GAAL to be able to deal with the issues. The board has been appointed on 01 April 2021. This afternoon, we would be sitting in a meeting, where we would be constituting different committees looking at the different skills which the appointed board members shall be bringing.

We want to make an acknowledgement that if you check at the last board meeting, we tried to improve in terms of appointing people who have different knowledge when it comes to operating what has existed.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the other thing that we are doing is that we are going to meet with the SACAA team on an emergency basis. They are ready to come to the province, work with us and evaluate the progress we have made. I think through the relevant portfolio committee and through the media, we will be able to update the House.

As we speak, it is true that commercial flights are no longer flying to the province, but domestic and private planes are still able to land. It does not mean that the airport has closed totally, but only for commercial flights. We have also started engaging our sister departments which also use the airport for different economic activities to see if they can assist with skills and teams to fast-track the process. Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. My apologies – I am told that this is not an Executive Statement. It is a response to the statement made last week by the DA. I see Hon Smalle's hand is up. I recognise you, Hon Smalle. I have seen your hand. Hon Smalle, the floor is yours.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I had my hand up when I was under the impression that there will be response from political parties. But, you have now made it clear that it is no longer an Executive Statement, but a response to the Members' Statement. If I reply, then I will be out of order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, no, no, it is not an Executive Statement. It is a response ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

It is your mistake.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

It is not a mistake. We are still coming to the Executive Statement.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Your mistake, Hon Speaker, cannot be our problem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We are still coming to the Executive Statement.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Can we not play tricks here, Hon Speaker? I want to make your work simple and make mine simple as well. You said to me earlier, stop it, you will back when we respond later, because it was raised by the DA. I peacefully went to my seat. Now I want to speak, and you say no, it is not this, it is that. Please, allow me to say that because we are not going to have an opportunity of the MEC coming back and saying it, it means we will not have an opportunity to say what I wanted to say that it is wrong to accuse this House, GAAL is run by her. That is why she is called the MEC, and the airport is overseen by her department.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Okay, Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Bjale o ka re e ba problem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You need to sit down first, so that I can address you. I have said that this was the response to the statement of the DA as promised last week. That is why even Hon Smalle said he thought it was an Executive Statement. Now that it is a response, he can't make that comment. [POOR RECORDING] Let us leave it there. There are no more comments on it.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Ka gore Smalle o dutše gae disofeng ga a nyake go bereka? [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ga se Smalle. It is not about Smalle. Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 200? Hon Buthane, go and take your seat and allow us to proceed.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Le tlo nkuka. What must be the final say to the people of Limpopo [POOR RECORDING: 48:30 – 49:52] cutting us down because on technicalities [POOR RECORDING]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am rising on a point of order particularly directed to you. It looks like you are suppressing debates in this House. You will remember that Hon Buthane raised a point of order when the speaker was on the platform. You suppressed that point of order and allowed her to continue on the basis that he is going to say something afterwards.

Now, you come out and say 'no', that was not an Executive Statement, it is a report. Then, you have definitely stifled the debate into what it is. Then, you must allow Hon Buthane to say whatever he wanted to say and it must remain on record that he has said it. By the rules, he was allowed to raise a point of order when the MEC was on the floor. We need to give Hon Buthane a chance to say whatever he wanted to say and put it on record. We agree, it was not an Executive Statement, but a response.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You have made your point. Thank you very much. Are there any further Executive Statements in terms of Rule 200?

MR SESHOKA

[inaudible]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, we can't go back to have a debate on that.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Ke le boditše ke re le tlo nkuka today, ke a le botša. Hon Speaker, Hon Seshoka is right. I am appealing to you also Members of the House to assist me without saying it is the EFF that raised it. We must assist the Speaker and ourselves in the interest of the people we are serving. When I raised an order when the MEC was talking, the Speaker said – Chief Whip of the ANC, assist us also – The Speaker said you can't raise an order because it is an Executive Statement. I had no problem. I respected the Speaker and went to my seat.

Now, we are told that it is no longer an Executive Statement, but a response to a debate. It means I was right to rise on a point of order, and I should have been given an opportunity at that point. Now that that mistake has happened, let's forgive each other. Let me be given an opportunity in a minute to raise what I wanted to raise so that we pass this matter. Let us not be stubborn on it. It is not in our interest to be stubborn. Can you rule on this matter?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I have ruled on this matter, and I don't know what else you want me to do.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Like that?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, I have ruled on it.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am saying it is wrong, Hon Speaker. I have requested the House to assist me, and I see that I am not going to be assisted. The MEC for Transport and Safety misled the House and the people of Limpopo. She said that we must take the blame. How do we take the blame [NO RECORDING: 53:06 – 55:15]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Now that Hon Buthane has been afforded an opportunity to respond to what was supposed to be a response to a question by the DA, can we also be afforded such an opportunity, Hon Speaker. You have already done that. I wanted to stop him, but you did not give me that opportunity. Now that he has responded, can you allow us to do the same Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We will allow all political parties to speak. Let's put our hands down. For us to have progress, we will allow all political parties to follow. Let's have the DA, Hon Smalle, you may take the floor. We will have ANC and thereafter close it. Point of order! Let's hear it.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Order, Hon Speaker. In terms of Rule 200(1), an MEC may request the Speaker to make a factual or policy statement relating to government policy or any executive action or other similar matters of which the House should be informed. And the time allocated to an MEC making an Executive Statement in terms of sub-rule (1) shall be determined by the Speaker.

The MEC had a right to respond. As far as I am concerned, the matter is closed. If they still need further information, that can be done in writing and the MEC will respond, please Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. That matter is closed now.

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

- 6.1. Tabling of 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department of Education together with written explanation for non-submission on time

Honourable MEC, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members of the Executive Council, the Premier, Leader of the Opposition and honourable Members, good morning. I rise this morning before this august House in compliance with Section 65 of Public Finance Management Act to table the Annual Report of the Limpopo Department of Education. The Department of Education could not submit the 2019/20 Annual Report on time for the reason hereunder:

- The non-submission within the prescribed timeframe is due to the impact of COVID-19 on the Audit Report of the Limpopo Department of Education. The final Audit Report was issued by the AGSA on 20 January 2021. As per the PFMA requirements, the department sent the final audited report to the Legislature for tabling purposes on 22 January 2021. The late submission of the Annual Report is regretted, and we shall ensure that in future, we ask the AGSA to do it within the timeframe.

I hereby move for the tabling of the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Limpopo Department of Education. I thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The Annual Report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Education and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House.

- 6.2. Tabling of the 2019/20 Annual Report together with the written explanation for non-submission on time

I am told the Leader of Government Business will do on behalf of the honourable MEC.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR LEDET]

Thank you, Hon Speaker of the august House and the Leader of the Opposition and honourable Members. Hon Speaker, allow me on behalf of the MEC for LEDET to table before this Legislature the Annual Report and the financial statements of LEDA with the Auditor-General's report on those statements for consideration by this august House. I acknowledge that my department could not comply with section 65(1) of the PFMA (Act 1 of 1999) as amended.

The reason for non-compliance was that there was a delay in the office of the A-G in finalising the Audit Report. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The Annual Report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House.

6.3. Tabling of the 2019/20 Annual Report of GAAL together with written explanation for non-submission on time

Honourable MEC, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the House, MECs and Leader of Government Business. Honourable Members, allow me on behalf of GAAL to table the report for 2019/20 together with the written explanation for the non-tabling on time in terms of the provision of section 65(1) of the PFMA.

We are acknowledging that the Annual Report and the financial statements of Gateway Airport Authority Limited together with the Auditor-General's report are submitted late for consideration by this august House.

I acknowledge our delays in submitting to the Legislature the Annual Report in terms of section 65(1) of the PFMA (Act 1 of 1999) as amended. The reason for our late submission of the Annual Report was due to the late completion of 2019/20 financial year audit by the Auditor-General of South Africa. This resulted in further delays in consolidation of the information by the entity.

We are therefore submitting the report for consideration by the House. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC. The Annual Report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. The Second Reading and Presentation of the Budget Vote and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B-01-2021]

We shall call upon Hon Ndalane to present the Budget Speech for Vote 04: Department of Agriculture and Land Reform. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(Address by Hon N A Ndalane)

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Hon Deputy Speaker, honourable colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the majority party, Deputy Chief Whip, honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, the leadership of the ruling party and other political parties present here, the Leader of the Official Opposition, chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee, members of the media, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to you all.

It is a singular honour to be addressing you, today, in this august House, where the hopes and aspirations of a better life by our people humbly reside. As public representatives, ours is to represent our people, and not a day is it ever about ourselves, our ambitions, our greed or our personal accumulation. For as long as the majority of our people continues to be tormented by the harsh realities of unemployment, poverty and underdevelopment, we shall spare no effort, but to work hard to improve the unbearable conditions in which our people languish in.

The year 2021 is deservedly named the year of Charlotte Maxeke. The timing of this decision could not have been more appropriate given the current conditions in our country and the world. Countries of the world and our province, Limpopo are reeling from the scourge of the raging COVID-19 pandemic.

As we travel through this journey, we draw strength from the undying spirit of Mama Charlotte Maxeke. We remain convinced that through her spirit and the resilience of our people, we shall overcome. Addressing the National Council of African Women in 1938 in Bloemfontein, Charlotte Maxeke said: "The work is not for oneself. Kill the spirit of self and do not live above your people, but with them. If you rise above them, take somebody with you." These immortal words of the "Mother of Black Freedom in South Africa" should serve as a guiding torch for us as we fight this pandemic and importantly as we strive to obtain a better life for the great masses of our people.

According to Stats SA, the third quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released on 08 December 2020, the economy of South Africa rebounded in the third quarter. The growth was mainly due to the easing of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions as more and more industries opened. The agricultural sector inched by nearly 20% from a growth of 15,1% in the second quarter of 2020. The growth could be attributed to an increase in the production of field, horticultural crops and animal products. The maize consumption is at 10,8 million tons and a total of nearly 5 million tons of maize surplus could further re-ignite the curve in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Although the agricultural sector has shown some resilience, there is a need to strengthen the support to the sector, and importantly a change in our service delivery approaches and methods, as we implement socioeconomic recovery programmes that aim to contribute to the economic recovery and reconstruction drive.

I would like to echo the words of the Premier of Limpopo, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, in his State of the Province Address, when he said: "We are repositioning the agricultural sector to take a leading position in our economic recovery for growth and development." We are confident that our recently finalised plan for the Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agro-processing Value Chain (RAAVC) is well positioned to create such an enabling environment. The RAAVC Plan articulates the

development plans and catalytic projects through which the sector hopes to contribute towards the economic recovery interventions. We will continue to work jointly with the industry partners to draw the requisite expertise and knowledge as well as partnerships on financing and market linkages.

Our reviewed farmer support policy will guide the processes and modalities towards such partnerships. The multi-year implementation of some of the identified catalytic projects will commence this financial year. The projects are in the fruit and potato industry commodities. We are grateful to the MEC for Treasury, Hon Seaparo Sekoati, for the funds that have been allocated and ring-fenced to enable us to kick-start the RAAVC Plan implementation.

The Budget allocated to Vote 4: Agriculture and Rural Development for 2021/22 is R1 547 780 billion. The Budget is made up of R1,220,531 billion of the Equitable Share Allocation and Conditional Grants amounting R327,249 million. Within the Conditional Grants, the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) has been allocated an amount of R233,511 million. Letsema has been allocated R73,709 million, Land Care allocated R13,016 million and the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) is allocated R7,013 million.

The overall departmental budget has decreased by R483,531 million or 23,8% year on year. As the Budget Programme Structure (BPS) does not make provision for a stand-alone programme on Rural Development, the budget relating to Rural Development is reflected in Programme 3: Agricultural Producer Support and Development.

Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to elaborate on the budget allocation as follows:

Programme 1: Administration has been allocated R266,547 million to cater for administrative costs as well as contractual obligations including R8 million for audit fees. The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted a rethink on our part about the efficient and effective management of our human resources.

As our Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, rightly pointed out in his 2021/22 State of the Province Address that: "COVID-19 presented a crisis unequalled in recent history and memory. This is the moment when it is sufficiently demonstrated that the people are a precious resource." It is the people who are the driving force of every institution and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD) is not an exception to this observation. During 2020/21, a foundation was laid on the implementation of health and safety protocols for the management of COVID-19. Employees were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and this will continue based on the prevailing requirements on the management of COVID-19.

Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Use and Management has been allocated R75,066 million to provide agricultural support services for farmers to ensure that there is sustainable management of agricultural resources. This budget includes the budget for Land Care and Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) conditional grants. The department hosted a Revitalisation of Small-Scale Irrigation Schemes (RESIS) Indaba in September 2019. The main purpose of the indaba was to explore possible solutions to the challenges confronting most of the irrigation schemes such as internal

disputes and operating models. A total of 345 hectares of cotton have been planted at the schemes in Ephraim Mogale Municipality as follows: Zamerkomste = 158 ha, Dichweung = 100 ha, Tsimanyana = 40 ha and Readira Baswa = 50 ha. Approximately 522 tons of cotton was harvested, with about 300 seasonal jobs created. The de-bushing of more than 100 hectares has been completed at Mogalatjane scheme. Consultations on the operating model have been concluded. Planting of cotton is to start during the 2021/22 planting season. At Tšwelopele scheme in Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality, consultations have been concluded on the development of 205 hectares, divided into 5 clusters of 41 hectares each.

Designs for irrigation systems for 41 ha have been approved. Designs for the remaining hectares would be finalised in the first quarter of 2021/22 financial year, with the infrastructure implementation being a multi-year project. The budget allocated enables the Engineering Services Directorate to plan, design and provide construction supervision for the development and implementation of infrastructure.

The focus will be on the establishment of 36 agricultural infrastructure. As environmentally controlled structures can reduce the impact of adverse climatic conditions and improve the level of production through promoting the use of technology, a total of 10 efficient water use systems will be developed and 12 environmentally controlled production structures constructed. To promote the adoption of climate smart agriculture technologies, 1 200 hectares will be rehabilitated, 400 hectares cultivated under conservation agriculture practices and 1 500 hectares cleared of alien invasive plants.

A target of 2 500 green jobs shall be created through upstream and downstream agricultural activities through agro-processing, irrigation expansion and EPWP. Due to climate change, natural disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity requiring continued assistance to farmers. A total of 1 000 farmers will be assisted through disaster relief schemes and four surveys on the uptake of early warning information.

Programme 3: Agricultural Producer Support and Development has been allocated R956,142 million, which constitutes 61,8% of the budget of the department. This allocation includes the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP) and Letsema conditional grants. Within the farmer support programmes, the planned producer support is aimed at benefiting 928 smallholder producers and 2 072 subsistence producers across different commodities. The commodities include vegetables, fruit, potatoes, cotton, grain, white and red meat clusters.

To broaden the access of farmers to production support, the establishment of Farmer Production Support Units (FPSU) has commenced, being the first phase of an agri-park. The Vleishboom FPSU in Makhuduthamaga Municipality is complete. Preparations for operationalisation are underway, which include electricity connections by Eskom. The completion of the construction of Masalal FPSU in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality is scheduled for the first quarter of 2021. Witpoort and Tshiombo FPSUs are in planning phase for the 2021/22 financial year. Regarding skills development and capacity building of farmers, the focus will be on the increase of the skills base in the agricultural sector.

In collaboration with Agricultural Sector Education Training Authority (AgriSETA) and all relevant Sector Education Training Authorities (SETAs), universities, colleges of

agriculture and accredited training Institutions, the department will offer a comprehensive capacity building programme to 1 000 farmers or producers. About eight smallholder farmers or producers will be assisted with a mentorship programme as part of the Producers Commercialisation Programme to accelerate economic transformation and job creation in the sector.

The Youth in Agriculture Programme is also a priority which will be broken down to fund various programmes aimed at empowering and developing youth who are participating in agriculture. The department will place 120 unemployed agriculture graduates in agricultural enterprises for practical skills development as a way of attracting youth into the sector and increasing the participation of youth in the integrated agricultural value chain.

The first cohort has completed the programme in 2020/21 financial year. While others have opted to look for employment, others have opted to pursue various agricultural production activities, and they are being assisted to start up through the exit strategy which the department has developed. The support varies according to the type of agricultural enterprise activities they are pursuing. Food security interventions remain paramount in our efforts to improve food access through own production particularly at household level. The households are provided with production inputs to enable them to produce various commodities for food sustenance, and the surplus is sold within their localities to generate income. The production inputs include seeds, seedlings, fertilisers, production stock for poultry and livestock feed. A total of 5 000 households will benefit from this support.

Programme 4: Veterinary Services has been allocated R52,992 million to render veterinary services. The sporadic outbreaks of Food-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) continues to give us sleepless nights. Of concern is the latest trend of outbreaks in the free zones. This calls for increased concerted efforts from relevant government departments and entities, in terms of the maintenance of the Kruger National Park fences, improved management of border fences with our neighbouring countries and timeous availability of vaccines. We continue to engage our Provincial Treasury on requisite funding that will enable us to implement the planned intervention measures that are of provincial responsibility.

For the 2021/22 financial year, with the budget allocated, we have planned to conduct 148 FMD vaccination sessions. Furthermore, as part of overall animal disease control, 4 500 dipping sessions will be conducted for communal cattle. To reduce the level of risks associated with meat handling for public consumption, 408 inspections would be conducted at facilities that are producing meat and meat products. These facilities include abattoirs and meat processors.

Programme 5: Research and Technology Development Services has been allocated R45,243 million to render agricultural research services and development of information systems about agricultural and natural resource utilisation technologies. Targeted clients and stakeholders are empowered with the research results and findings of the implemented research projects, being communicated through various platforms.

Programme 6: Agricultural Economic Services has been allocated R34,032 million to provide timely and relevant agricultural economic services to the agricultural sector in

support of sustainable agricultural and agri-business development to increase economic growth. The construction of Matsika pack house is complete and the infrastructure support entails a pack house structure, banana pack line, cold storage, office, and ablution facilities. This facility will provide packaging and value adding service to Matsika and Tshikonelo banana farmers after the commissioning which is planned for the first quarter of 2021/22 financial year. The Nwanedi and Masalal pack houses are operational and are Global Gap certified.

Hon Speaker, within the budget of programme 6 is the budget allocated to the projects within the RAAVC Plan. RAAVC projects include Zebediela Citrus Estate which has been allocated R5 million in line with a comprehensive business plan which has been developed. The key scope of development includes refurbishment of irrigation and electrical infrastructure, replanting of trees and re-establishment of a pack house.

Engagements are in progress at the Communal Property Association (CPA) level on the development model. Considering the amount of investment required, the project was submitted for funding consideration under the Presidency Infrastructure Coordination Programme. The development model for Makgoba Tea Estate Revitalisation has been finalised. The development plan is being engaged with stakeholders and discussions are at an advanced stage. Makgoba Estate has been allocated R10 million.

An amount of R1,8 million has been set aside for the Norjax Tomato Paste Factory project for the acquisition of the land on which the development is taking place. The GaMoleele potato-belt project in the Blouberg Municipality is funded to the tune of R5,5 million. The project scope includes the development of 10 hectares irrigation system for potato production. Appropriate infrastructure is at the centre of smallholder farmer development in this industry to increase volumes and quality of produce.

Programme 7: Agricultural Education and Training receives an allocation of R117,758 million to cater for the two colleges of agriculture in the province.

Key programmes include student academic programme, college infrastructure revitalisation and skills development programmes. A total of 110 new students have enrolled for the 2021 academic year. It is anticipated that 80 students will graduate with an agricultural qualification in the fourth quarter of 2021/22. A total of 250 participants will be trained in skills development programmes in the sector. It is anticipated that eighty students will graduate with an agricultural qualification in the fourth quarter of 2021/22. A total of 250 participants will be trained in skills development programmes in the sector.

Infrastructure revitalisation will include the completion of water supply and lecture hall at Madzivhandila College, renovation and upgrading of 6-storey hostel and installation of CCTV cameras as well as upgrade of main gate entrance access control structure at Tompi Seleka College.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to my colleagues in the Executive led by our Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, for their support and collaboration as we worked together to weather the storm brought by COVID-19 pandemic. It is through working together that we can confidently say we have

weathered the storm and continue to cruise through this difficult period. Working together indeed we can achieve more.

I would also like to salute our frontline workers who displayed their selflessness by putting their lives on the line by working during the harsh storm of the pandemic. Many of you will recall that during the hard lockdown when many of us were quarantining at home as per government instruction, our frontline workers were recalled to the office in order to process COVID-19 relief fund applications to help our ailing farmers. These men and women went beyond the call of duty putting their lives at risk in the service of our people.

Today, through their sacrifices, many of our farmers benefited from the COVID-19 relief fund which brought some ease and comfort to agriculture production in our province. [APPLAUSE]

At no stage was food security ever threatened in Limpopo even during the restrictions brought about by the pandemic. Special appreciations to the Head of the Department, Ms Ramatsimele Maisela, for her leadership, dedication and hard work. I know that when we were hit by the pandemic, we all entered a foreign terrain, however, you displayed a great sense of urgency in ensuring that the agricultural sector does not collapse.

As we celebrate the year of Charlotte Maxeke let us remember that those of us who are in the leadership have a huge responsibility to deliver on the hopes and aspirations which our people have bestowed on us. The promise we can give to our people is that until all of us, particularly the vulnerable obtain a better life, we shall never relent. The ANC remains the only hope for a better life to the masses of our people, and therefore those of us who have been given this responsibility to lead promise to always put our people first. Victory is certain. Aluta continua!

I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech for Vote 04: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration and report back to the House.

We shall now move to item 7.1.2 and call upon the MEC for Social Development, Hon Rakgoale, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 12: Department of Social Development. Honourable MEC, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET SPEECH FOR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Address by Hon N C Rakgoale)

Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa; Esteemed Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the ruling party and Deputy Chief Whip; leaders of the opposition parties and chairpersons of the portfolio committees; honourable

Members of the Legislature present and those connected virtually, ndi matsheloni. Good morning.

It is my privilege to present the 2021/22 Budget Speech of the Department of Social Development to this august House. The year, 2021 has been declared the year of Charlotte Maxeke. Charlotte Mannye Maxeke was amongst the freedom fighters who wanted to see the total emancipation of women and the realisation of a truly democratic South Africa. She wanted to see that our people are serviced irrespective of race, culture and gender.

Mama Maxeke is known as the first black woman in South Africa to hold a graduate degree, and for her exceptional contribution to women and workers' rights as well as her dedication to the struggle for peace and justice. We need to emulate Mama Maxeke, whose every action was aimed at achieving liberation and equality in society and advancing women's rights. In this month of April, we are also celebrating the lives of Solomon Mahlangu, Chris Hani, A.P Mda and Collins Chabane.

Before I go any further honourable Members, allow me to first highlight that the Department of Social Development's agency, Sassa, is this year celebrating 15 years of existence. This is not just a mere celebration of the number of years, but also celebrating the impact made by the social grants to our people, and the fact that Sassa is paying social grants to about 18,5 million people countrywide, of which 2,7 million beneficiaries are from Limpopo province. [APPLAUSE]

As I present a total Budget of R2,016 billion for the 2021/22 financial year for the Department of Social Development, we need to always keep it in the back of our minds, who this department serves on daily basis. Under NPO sector remains a strategic partner in assisting the department to deliver services to the people. The department has therefore set aside R8,8 million under the HIV/Aids Programme for the provision of food parcels to families that have been left vulnerable as a result of the effects of the disease. In our efforts to give support to children who are orphaned and those whose families are facing hardships, the department has set aside R2,6 million for provision of school uniform for identified vulnerable children. This initiative is intending to benefit orphans and vulnerable children in the five districts.

In an endeavour to contribute to empowerment initiatives, the department will be adopting a new approach for the provision of school uniform, by utilising NPOs and cooperatives. This approach will contribute towards creating job opportunities and responding to the call by President Ramaphosa of empowering youth, women and persons with disabilities. [APPLAUSE]

On Services to Older Persons, in the year under review, a total of 579 older persons received care and support in eight residential facilities. Unfortunately, we have lost 10 older persons due to COVID-19 in our residential facilities, and may their souls rest in peace!

During the new financial year, the department will subsidise 568 older persons in our residential facilities, and 3 751 in service centres. To that effect, an amount of R28,6 million has been allocated towards the care and protection of older persons.

On Services to Persons with Disabilities, in our effort to support persons with disabilities, the three residential facilities in our province being Shiluvana Frail Care Centre in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, the Centenary Home in Polokwane and Epilepsy SA in the Moutse area in Elias Motsoaledi Municipality, the department has set aside R80,2 million.

I wish to bring to the attention of this House that the Department of Social Development is currently engaging the Department of Health with regards to the management of the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. This process must be brought to its logical conclusion to avoid unintended consequences, before the current contract expires in September 2021.

On Early Childhood Developments (ECDs) and Partial Care Services, Early Childhood Development remains one of the apex priorities of the ANC-led government. In the 2020/21 financial year, 187 894 children accessed ECD services. As part of adhering to the norms and standards, the department was able to register 125 ECDs through the Vangasali campaign to ensure that, like the phrase says, no one is left behind. The department has managed to deliver 2 559 PPEs and two 293 water tanks to ECDs which enabled the centres to reopen and adhere to COVID-19 protocols.

Since the pronouncement by the President that the ECD function will shift from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education, eight work streams have been established, proclamations have been finalised and a function shift action plan was developed. We are now only awaiting the signing of the proclamations. The total budget allocated to the programme stands at R392 million included in the allocation is R126 million from the Conditional Grant, R266 million from the equitable share. The department has also set aside R16.8 million for the maintenance of ECD infrastructure. A total of 51 ECDs are targeted for maintenance in all five districts.

The Presidential Stimulus Package for COVID-19 also includes assistance for the ECD sector. The department is currently implementing the stimulus packages, with the remuneration of the ECD work force at these centres, for which an amount of R5,2 million was allocated during 2020/21 financial year.

It is my pleasure to inform the House that all qualifying ECDs will receive the once-off payment of R4 186 per staff member. It is hoped that Treasury, working with the national Department of Social Development, will consider rolling over the unspent funds to the 2021/22 financial year. The department continues to encourage parents in all communities we visit, to take their children back to ECDs, this upon realising that parents are still reluctant to re-enrol their children in the ECD programme due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19.

On Victim Empowerment and Gender Based Violence, let me appreciate the efforts made by our Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, in constituting a GBVF (Gender Based Violence and Femicide) technical committee to coordinate the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide.

Since the start of the lockdown period, our social workers attended to 1 422 incidents of Gender Based Violence in the province. In response to all these cases, social

workers acted swiftly and ensured that the victims were assisted with psychosocial support and in obtaining restraining orders against their abusers.

In addition, 3 649 victims of crime and violence accessed services from funded Victim Empowerment Programme centres. The department, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works identified two buildings in the Thabazimbi and Thulamela municipalities, which will be used as shelters for victims of violence, and we are currently in the process of identifying other buildings.

The social ills that I have mentioned above, have prompted the department to prioritise and set aside R11,5 million for the prevention of domestic violence and another allocation of R14,9 million for Gender Based Violence, whereas R13,5 million is earmarked for victim empowerment programmes. This will assist the department in moving with speed in the curbing of GBVF and giving all the necessary support to the victims as we all know that President Ramaphosa has declared Gender Based Violence a second pandemic to COVID-19.

Allow me to appreciate the effort by individual community members and civil society for having joined government in the fight against the scourge of GBV (Gender Based Violence) and other social ills. I recently attended a ceremony hosted by television personality and artist Joyce Ledwaba, affectionately known as MaJoy. MaJoy conferred certificates to about 1000 learners from various schools in the Mogalakwena municipal area after they completed their after-school programme. They have been imparted with musical and artistic skills. This programme also features plays with story lines aimed at creating awareness against Gender Based Violence, substance abuse as well as teenage pregnancy.

These are some of the social ills that many of our communities are faced with. As the department, we really appreciate this initiative as extramural activities help to keep children off the streets where they are exposed to some of these evil deeds while they are still at a younger age. In Sepedi, we say: Le kobja le sa le meetse, la oma le a hlaba. By so doing we will be able to raise young men who will be able to stand and say: "Not in my name".

On Substance Abuse, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation, the alarming rate of substance abuse in the province remains a cause for concern, necessitating that we intensify prevention and awareness programmes. To that effect, the department in collaboration with other stakeholders are implementing the Provincial Drug Master Plan, aimed at fighting substance abuse, particularly amongst young people.

During the financial year 2020/21, the department, through the Seshego Treatment Centre, admitted and treated 91 service users. In partnership with the South African National Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SANCA), the department continued to render outpatient services to people who are assisted while they are at home. The budget allocated for substance abuse is R30 Million. The Seshego Treatment Centre is continuing to do its great work of assisting people who are having challenges with the abuse of substances.

It is important to also highlight that such services are accessed by people from all walks of life, who managed to accept their problem and are seeking treatment. We have admitted even medical professionals who are in need of the centre's services.

Substance abuse is directly and indirectly affecting everyone irrespective of the position they hold in society. It does not only affect the young men and women we sometimes see on the street corners. We are therefore continuing to make a clarion call to all our people to make use of these services to enable us to save lives and build strong family units.

Under Integrated Community Development Support Services, the national Department of Social Development has allocated R6,6 million as part of a function shift to provincial DSD during the 2020/21 financial year. This was to ensure the provision of food and nutrition security to the most vulnerable citizens of the province. An additional R5 million was allocated by the provincial government to provide an additional 14 250 food hampers as part of food relief. This was to complement the 122 000 food parcels donated by the private sector, civil society, faith-based organisations and individual good Samaritans particularly during hard lockdown alert level 5 and 4 when people were urged to stay at home as an attempt to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the budget reprioritisation in July 2020, Provincial Treasury allocated an additional R10,3 million to boost the efforts of COVID-19 job creation initiatives. The department then recruited 50 social workers on contract basis to provide psychosocial support services to those infected and affected by the pandemic. In addition, in partnerships with NPOs and community stakeholders, the department further recruited 362 volunteers to assist in the identification and verification of beneficiaries as well as the packaging and distribution of food hampers. Fifty cleaners were also recruited and placed in different DSD facilities as part of compliance to COVID-19 health protocols.

During budget adjustment, an additional R57,8 million was allocated by Treasury to boost the COVID-19 Food Relief Programme. This allocation provided 74 577 food parcels to benefit about 223 728 food insecure individuals within 37 288 poor households. An additional 500 community volunteers were also recruited as part of the programme.

The department has recently launched a second cluster of the provincial food distribution centre in Malamulele under Collins Chabane Municipality to add to the one located in Seshego under Polokwane Municipality. We have therefore set aside R7,1 million for the National Food Relief function shift and R6 million for the Food and Nutrition Programme, as well as for supporting the two provincial food distribution centres. The two clusters of the food distribution centres will distribute food parcels to an estimated 42 000 households and benefit 350 000 people in the new financial year.

An amount of R5 million is set aside for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods including funding of income generating and food security initiatives for the benefit of poor households. In addition to this, the department has set aside R5,4 million for Youth Development and a further R3,5 million for Women Development Empowerment Programmes.

An amount of R14,1 million is earmarked for work opportunities targeting 423 young people, under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

Hon Speaker, allow me to present a total summary of our Budget for the 2021/22 financial year:

- Programme 1: Administration : R329,4 million;
- Programme 2: Social Welfare Services : R396,3 million;
- Programme 3: Children and Families : R876,3 million;
- Programme 4: Restorative Services : R211,1 million; and
- Programme 5: Development and Research : R203,4 million, which culminates to R2,016 billion.

As I draw towards conclusion, let me indicate that the Limpopo province has been recently hit by a natural disaster other than the COVID-19 pandemic, wherein we had to activate our Social Relief of Distress aid in Vhembe, Mopani and some parts of Capricorn districts. Heavy rains and flooding brought about by Cyclone Eloise created havoc in the Collins Chabane, Thulamela and Musina municipalities in Vhembe District and in the Greater-Giyani, Maruleng and Tzaneen municipalities in Mopani District. The Lepelle-Nkumpi and Blouberg municipalities in the Capricorn District also received heavy but damaging rains. Houses were damaged or destroyed and other household essentials such as food, toiletries and bedding were also affected.

The department in collaboration with Municipal Disaster Management Centres conducted a rapid assessment to determine the extent of the damage for possible disaster relief support. In partnership with civil society organisations, Sassa, the South African National Defence Force and municipalities, the following support was provided to the victims of disasters: about 971 food parcels, 288 blankets and psychosocial support services to all those affected.

In conclusion, allow me, Hon Speaker, to appreciate the unwavering support given by Hon Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha. Allow me to also thank the Portfolio Committee on Social Development led by Hon Sarah Monyamane and all oversight bodies for their guidance and leadership. In the same breath, allow me to thank the management of the department, led by Mr Mahopo Desmond, for their dedication and assistance in the delivery of services to our people.

I also wish to thank our agencies, Sassa and NDA, for their hard work and dedication during this past financial year. It was especially during the arrival of COVID-19 to our shores that they stepped up and assisted in servicing our people in dire need.

Let me once again convey my condolences to all of our colleagues, families and friends who lost loved ones in this past year, most of whom due to the devastating pandemic. May their souls rest in eternal peace, and may God grant us the wisdom and the power to overcome this devastating time in the history of humanity. Let us heed the call of keeping safe by properly wearing masks in public and sanitising or washing hands.

Hon Speaker, it now gives me great pleasure to table Budget Vote 12 for the Department of Social Development. I thank you. Ke a leboga. Ndza khensa. Ndo livhuwa. Baie dankie. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC for the Budget Speech – Vote 12: Department of Social Development. Therefore, the Budget Speech for Vote 12 shall be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development for consideration and report back to the House.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements, Chief Whip? There is none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is therefore adjourned to Thursday, 15 April 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 15 APRIL 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
THURSDAY, 15 APRIL 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you, please be seated. Good morning to the House and welcome to all other guests that have joined us.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings to the Leader of the Official Opposition, Members of the Executive Council and all Members present in this House and those that have connected on the virtual platform.

DEMAND FOR THE WHITE RACIST TO HAND HIMSELF TO THE POLICE
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the EFF is angered by the racist who attacked two security officers at the bar in Polokwane location at Sterkloop. We have confronted this racist who beat the security officers and went to an extent of using the K-word.

The EFF went all out on Sunday to locate the racist thug and again on Tuesday, the coward racist is now hiding as he knows that he cannot come face to face with the EFF.

We demand that he hands himself over to the police within 24 hours, failing which his business will no longer operate in this province of Limpopo. We will confront and fight racism whenever it exists in our province. Society is called upon to reject and expose all racists and their actions.

The ANC in Limpopo continues to be afraid of white racists, hence racists have guts to continue terrorising innocent people. Worse, they keep quiet when such things happen because they are scared of white people. Apartheid has damaged them so much that they bow when they see a white person passing.

All it takes is to pass a legislation that criminalises racism because we must be tough against these racists and racism in our society. The EFF will not retreat on restoring the pride and dignity of African people.

Let us unite in demolishing and uprooting all forms of racism in our province. We call upon fellow progressive and civilised white citizens to join us on this mission.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MANGANYE

Inkomu, Tatana Xipikara. Ndza mi xeweta hinkwenu Endlwini yo Endla Milawu. Hi ku yimela vandla Economic Freedom Fighters, mina Tinyiko Manganye ndzi seketela tsalwa leri ri andlariweke hi Tatana Seshoka. Inkomu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Mathye, you are recognised.

MS MATHYE

Eka Tatana Xipikara, Swirho swa Mfumo wo Endla Milawu ya Limpopo, avuxeni! Ndzi yime ematshan'weni ya ANC ku hundzisa hungu leri landzelaka.

**SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND BULLYING WHICH LED TO THE PASSING ON OF
LUFUNO MAVHUNGU
(Motion without notice)**

I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes the despicable video footages that are in circulation of school children who are involved in acts of violence and bullying.

The death of Lufuno Mavhungu was as a consequence of being bullied and has heightened the fight against violence and bullying in schools. It is unfortunate that it took the death of a learner for us as a government and members of the civic society to finally say enough is enough with school violence and bullying.

The death of Lufuno cannot be in vain, and it is our view that nothing should be spared as part of the investigations. As we continue to seek justice for her, we must make sure that the authorities are also made to account.

To this end, we have not heard any steps being taken against the management of the school which has for the longest time been a model of discipline, excellence, and dedication. It has now been turned into a war zone and the same culture is also rubbing off to other schools in the district.

We appreciate that the relevant departments have made the required interventions into this debacle and culprits have been identified and arrested, but the family of Lufuno Mavhungu have lost their beloved daughter.

We also welcome the gesture by MEC Rakgoale and Hon Florence Radzilani, who have paid a courtesy visit to the bereaved family to show compassion and support.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Inkomu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters, I rise to second the motion by the latter speaker, the Hon Mathye. May the soul of the beloved daughter of our country rest in peace! I hope that one who objected to our motion on crime was here ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We are talking about the motion now. Thank you very much.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am trying to teach you politics.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Can I ask all of us to rise and observe a moment of silence?

[SILENCE]

May her soul rest in peace! Thank you very much.

Are there any further motions without notice?

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

If none, are there any notices of motion in terms of House Rule 146? There are 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 Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon Jossey Buthane, Members of the Executive Council present here and all honourable Members present in this House and those who are connected virtually.

Hon Speaker, I am here to present a Members' Statement on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters on police afraid of criminal elements.

**LEBOWAKGOMO RDP HOUSE DWELLERS ARE TERRORISED BY
VIGILANTES**

(Members' Statement)

This thing of saying the ANC is a leader of society is a fallacy because the reality is that they are not leading, they cannot comprehend basic and simple governance principles.

There is an illegal, criminal and bogus structure in Lebowakgomo calling themselves the defenders of the people which goes around identifying occupied RDP houses and selling them with fake title deeds.

They go into these houses beating, evicting occupants and throwing them on the streets with nowhere to stay or sleep.

These criminal elements have terrorised the community to an extent that many have fled their homes due to intimidation and death threats.

Cases have been reported to the Lebowakgomo Police Station, but no one has been arrested. In the case where the arrests have been made for assaults, criminals are released without spending a day in the cells. They are allowed to walk on the streets and start threatening our people again.

This vigilante group is a law unto themselves in Lebowakgomo area because clearly, its either they work with police or they are not afraid of police. They terrorise community members on a daily basis while the police just sit and watch them doing that.

We are not a banana republic where people just do as they please. The law must take its cause. The EFF is watching the situation very closely, and if these perpetrators are not arrested, we will arrest them ourselves.

We call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to investigate this matter and make sure that those that are involved are arrested with immediate effect.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is the MEC connected? You can respond. I would like to remind Members that we are not only connected virtually, but we are also on all social media platforms. Whatever we do in the House, let us know that we are also being watched by the public.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity and greet all the Members in the House, the Premier, Members of the Executive, the Leader of the Opposition and the Members of the House.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are noting the things that have been raised. The honourable Member is raising the issue of the RDP house dwellers who are being terrorised and that cases have been opened. We will do further investigation. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any other Members' Statements? Hon Manganye, you are recognised.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings once more.

CALL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE TO EMPLOY LIBRARIANS ON A PERMANENT BASIS (Members' Statement)

We will continue to expose the government failures of the ANC wherever they exist in the best interest of the people of Limpopo.

A letter written by the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Director-General to the acting HOD for the provincial Department of Sport, Arts and Culture on 21 June 2019 was a directive to the provincial department to convert all 128 contract employees in the library section into a permanent status. Some of these employees have been with the department for more than ten years and still are not permanently employed.

The fact that you have employed them for so long means that their services are essential and needed. By continuing to employ these workers on a contract basis, also means that they do not enjoy benefits such as housing and medical aid enjoyed by permanent employees.

What is this, if not exploitation and emotional abuse of workers who keep on hoping that one day they will be converted into a permanent status? There is now a talk that the very same 128 posts will be advertised, and new people appointed while the current employees will be booted to the streets.

We call upon the heartless government to come to their senses and employ these employees on a permanent basis. The EFF will keep a close eye on this matter and ensure that justice prevails.

We further call upon the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture to find a lasting solution to this matter because we are sure you know it.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I call upon the honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity given to me to come and respond to the Members' Statement as presented by Hon Manganye. I want to thank the EFF for having raised the matter in this august House and indicate that on 19 January 2021, the MEC received some correspondence from the Ministry of Public Service and Administration, that is led by Minister Senzo Mchunu, for us to come and explain the process that we were being directed by the DG of the national department to absorb all the 128 library contract employees on a permanent basis.

That meeting took place, and the matter was also being raised by the labour federation in the department that we need to work with the national department in making sure that these library contract posts are being filled on a permanent basis.

The directive from the Minister for Public Service and Administration to us as a province was that if we continue with the process of just converting these employees on a permanent basis, we need to make sure that the regulations that are governing our public service and administration are in line and also allowing for that process to be implemented. I can even share the communique from the Department of Public Service and Administration to us as a province cautioning us that if we continue in the process of absorbing these library contract workers on a permanent basis, it will be irregular. I do not think the EFF is encouraging the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to embark on an exercise that will come back and haunt the department. That will reflect us as people who do not respect prescripts that are currently governing the public administration.

Where we are, we are working towards making sure that we advertise all the 128 posts, and priority will be given to all these employees who have been serving our people on a contract basis in those facilities. We cannot really say those people who have been serving the department for more than ten years, like you have rightfully mentioned, must just go home, but we are going to work together with labour federations in the department in making sure that priority is given to those public servants who have been there for our people when it was not fashionable to do so.

I want to assure this House that the matter is receiving necessary attention by the department and a report will then be forwarded to this august House when the process to appoint them on a permanent basis is being done in line with the regulations that are governing the public service and administration. Thank you very much.
[APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Are there any further Members' Statements? There are none.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports, and papers, Leader of Government Business? There are none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. First Reading of the Limpopo Unauthorised Bill, 2021 [B03-2021]

I call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Can I consult a bit, Hon Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Can I do what? Did you not have an Order Paper with you?

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

No, I don't.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

In the Order Paper it says 7.1: First Reading of the Limpopo Unauthorised Bill, 2021 [B03-2021] by the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Speaker, we do not have that ready; we will definitely bring it on in the next Sitting. Thanks.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.2. Second Reading Presentation of Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B01-2021]

We are on item 7.2.1, and we shall call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu B, to present the Budget Speech Vote 11 for CoGHSTA. Over to you, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COGHSTA

(Address by Mr B R Makamu, MEC for CoGHSTA)

Hon Speaker; Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, and the provincial leadership of the ruling party, the ANC; colleagues in the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the

majority party; Leader of the Official Opposition; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, Hon Johanna Aphiri and members of the portfolio committee; Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoši Malesela Dikgale and members of the executive committee; Chairperson of SALGA in the province, Cllr Pule Shai and members of the provincial executive committee; CoGHSTA staff led by the Head of Department, Ms Ngaka Dumalisile; comrades; ladies and gentlemen and vaaka tiko, good morning. Goeie more. Thobela. Ndi matsheloni. Lotjhani. Avuxeni.

We present this Budget in the context of 2021 theme of, “Unity, Renewal and Reconstruction in the Year of Charlotte Maxeke.” April month is overlaid with history and points of reference of our long walk to freedom. During this month, we celebrate our hard-earned freedom which ushered in the democratic dispensation with Nelson Mandela at the helm. We also get to celebrate Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu whose blood watered the tree of our liberty. We dare not forget our liberation heroes and heroines of the likes of Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, “Ohm” Collins Chabane, veteran Pharephare Mothupi, Mama Charlotte Maxeke, Martin Thembisile Chris Hani, Joel Mbhazima Sibiyi and many more.

We meet here today as free men and women, largely because of contributions and sacrifices of these icons. Let’s emulate them with selfless service to the people of Limpopo.

The Budget I am presenting today is against the backdrop of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on our plans that we presented to this august House for the 2020/2021 financial year. We had to effect serious adjustments and major changes to our priorities, including having to suffer budget cuts to make way for interventions in dealing with the scourge of this pandemic.

This has seen the Budget presented for the year 2020/21 being cut or adjusted downward from R2,5 billion to R2,3 billion. The budget cuts led the department to suspend some of the programmes we had planned to achieve our priorities of the electoral cycle. In this 2021/2022 financial year, the department has, in line with MTEF budget, been allocated funds as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration : R307,155 million;
- Programme 2: Human Settlements : R914,517 million;
- Programme 3: Cooperative Governance : R257,133 million; and
- Programme 4: Traditional Institutional Development : R507,189 million.

The allocation per programme represents a total Budget of R2,3 billion, which is a significant reduction from the previous year Budget. Key to this allocated Budget, will be to provide services to the people of Limpopo in line with our Annual Performance Plan.

Notwithstanding all challenges faced during the 2020/21 financial year, the department completed 3 756 housing units, serviced 1 510 sites with water and sanitation infrastructure and 1 413 housing beneficiaries were issued with endorsed title deeds.

With regard to military veterans, we have targeted to build 29 housing units in the previous financial year. However, the project met some challenges which the

department is busy attending with the Department of Military Veterans. In this financial year, we planned to roll out 28 units for military veterans in addition to the rolled over units from the previous financial year to make a total of 50 units.

Hon Speaker, we said to this House some years back that we will construct community residential units (CRUs) at Marapong in Lephalale, Tshikota in Makhado and Talana in Tzaneen. I am content to report that 42 units were completed at Marapong CRU and 165 units are at roof level, 108 units are at wall plate and 105 units are awaiting floor slabs. I must, however, acknowledge that the project has taken longer than expected. We are currently finalising the appointment of the principal agent for the project to resume soon. An amount of R48 million has been budgeted for in this financial year.

With regard to the Tshikota CRU, I must report to this House that the project was advertised and found to be non-responsive and the department was left with no option but to readvertise it as per the bulletin on 05 March 2021 and closed the advert on 26 March 2021.

The Talana project is awaiting the approval of bulk services by the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. I must, however, indicate that the draft master plan has been finalised. This is the same area where with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to put up temporary residential units (TRUs) to ensure decongestion at the old hostel. However, things could not go as planned; hence, the NHBRC (National Home Builders Registration Council) had to be requested to conduct an assessment of projects with regard to adherence to building standards. The report has been finalised and handed over to the SIU and the Hawks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two institutions for having moved swiftly in dealing with this matter and making some arrests.

In the same breadth, we have decided to discontinue a similar project in Burgersfort and replace it with the construction of permanent housing units as opposed to the TRUs.

In the past, we committed ourselves to the human settlements' development of mining towns in the following municipalities: Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality, Elias Motsoaledi Municipality, Mogalakwena Municipality, Lephalale Municipality, and Thabazimbi Municipality. I am happy to report to this august House that we have eight projects for the provision of bulk infrastructure in these mining town municipalities. The majority of these projects are towards 100% completion.

Hon Speaker, Bendor Extension 100 has been with us for such a long time. This is a project planned to yield 661 mixed housing units with affordable rental stock, gap housing and bonded homes implemented through integrated residential development. The project is at 24% completion with 158 housing units completed and 194 units which are still in progress. The contract has been revised in line with the FLISP (Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme) policy framework to improve the intake of beneficiaries. As the Hon Premier pronounced during the State of the Province Address this year, we will as part of the pronouncement be partnering with Risima Housing Finance on this project as well. Thus far, I can report that we are in the process of appointing a principal agent and project management team to revive

the project and to ensure the marketing of FLISP units within the project. An amount of R20 million has been budgeted in this regard.

In this 2021/22 financial year, the department will continue with its work to realise its vision of integrated sustainable human settlements. In doing so, the department further commits itself to being an effective agent of change that delivers quality services to the citizens of Limpopo through:

- Promoting developmental cooperative governance;
- Supporting municipalities and traditional leadership institutions; and
- Optimally delivering integrated and sustainable human settlements.

In doing so, during this financial year, the department plans to reduce housing backlog by building and handing over to beneficiaries 4 357 new housing units. An amount of R510 million has been budgeted to this effect. In addition to these housing units, 4 098 sites will also be serviced during this financial year. These service sites will go a long way in ensuring that beneficiaries are able to build top structures by themselves in addition to low cost houses that we will continue to build for those who qualify.

We are as well planning to hand over 1 905 title deeds. These title deeds will go a long way to ensure property ownership by beneficiaries of low cost houses. As part of acquiring well-located land for human settlements development, the department will acquire 15 hectares of land in an effort to increase the delivery of housing in the province. We will be implementing the Vingerkraal project as we have made a commitment. This project will include preparations of bulk infrastructure design for water and internal reticulation, sanitation designs, internal and ring feeder road and storm water management structures. The project is at the final stage of planning and it will in the beginning yield 1 000 service sites.

In all these efforts, in this financial year, we are planning to create 3 000 jobs opportunities which are inclusive of EPWP. Previously in the 2020/21 financial year, due to interruptions by COVID-19, only 491 jobs opportunities could be created. We are indeed looking forward to a year of making meaningful contributions to the work of addressing the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality in our country as a department.

The challenge of blocked projects or what is commonly known as unfinished and abandoned projects has been with us for some time now. As we have been reporting to this august House in the last Budget Vote Speeches, we have appointed the NHBRC to conduct structural integrity assessment on all housing units that have been abandoned by poor performing contractors. To date, a total of 1 130 units which consists of 190 units in Mopani District, 63 units in Capricorn District, 640 units in Sekhukhune District and 237 units in Vhembe District have been assessed and completed with detailed reports that consist of identified defects, probable root cause of defects, proposed rectification and estimated cost for rectification.

We, therefore, with this positive development of tirelessly working with our community development workers, traditional leaders, Housing Advisory Committee and the media have to ensure that all these defects and anomalies are addressed for the betterment of the lives of our people. The department will have to come up with a financial plan to complete the houses.

When I joined this department in 2019, I made a commitment that no money will be returned from the department to national fiscus. I, however, regret that we lost R50 million to national government due to what I may term dereliction of duty. With this unfortunate development, I, therefore, have no choice nor option but to ensure that there is a serious consequence management action taken about this loss.

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the department continued to provide technical support to municipalities under trying and difficult conditions. Twenty-five municipalities were monitored with regard to the implementation of various service delivery programmes such as water, roads and sanitation through the implementation of MIG (Municipal Infrastructure Grant) as shall be enunciated later in my presentation.

Municipalities were also given support in the compilation of annual financial statements for submission to the Auditor-General. We provided support to eight municipalities with the implementation of SDFs (Spatial Development Frameworks) in line with Spluma (Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act) and supported six municipalities with the implementation of Land Use Schemes (LUS) in line with applicable guidelines. The department has further entered into a partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to accelerate the development of sustainable infrastructure, integrated planning and revenue enhancement in municipalities through nonlending and lending support.

To date, the DBSA has appointed a Project Management Unit consisting of the following expertise: Programme Management, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Finance Management and Town Planning. The resource team is housed in the department and provides technical support to both municipalities and the department.

In this financial year, the country will conduct local government elections in preparation of ushering this sphere of government into its fifth administration. The department will continue to work very closely with the IEC and other role-players in local government sector to ensure the smooth running of these elections in an endeavour to strive for free and fair outcomes.

To ensure a smooth transition from the 4th to the 5th local government process, the department has developed a transitional framework. One of the key deliverables during the pre-election phase is for all municipalities to develop handover reports, to ensure that incoming councils are clear of what has been achieved and what is outstanding. These municipal reports will also serve as a basis for the overall provincial report which will be used as a basis for engagements between the provincial government and new councils to ensure continuity. The postelection part of the framework outlines key milestones to ensure full compliance with legislative requirements and alignment to the provincial and local priorities.

We have experienced a reduction in the MIG spending in the 2019/20 financial year. The reduction was mainly caused by work stoppage due to lockdown in the last quarter of the year under review with most of contractors resuming work by June/July 2020. However, we are delighted that at least twelve municipalities still managed to spend 100% of their MIG. Whilst expenditure for 2019/20 declined, we are in the current

financial year encouraged by the trend for the current financial year of 2020/21 which shows some improvement as compared to previous years.

Over the past four financial years, municipalities have in the main prioritised water and roads in their allocation of resources. The MIG spending guide provides that 54% should be allocated for both water and sanitation and 17% on roads. In this regard, 51,9% of the allocation of R 6,471 billion has been spent on water projects, 7% on sanitation and 27,9% on roads. Considering the backlog in these services, more collaborative effort is needed, particularly in the water value chain to improve access.

The MIG allocation for 2020/21 is R2,9 billion and as at the end of March 2021, R1,9 billion has been spent. This translates to 65,5% during the same period in 2019/20 which was at 63%. Using the straight-line projection, expenditure should have been at 75%. The low expenditure is mainly due to delays in the procurement of service providers as well as slow progress on some of the construction sites. The recent heavy rains also impacted negatively on construction work, mostly for road and water projects.

Our good progress in spending on the MIG has led to the following municipalities receiving additional allocation during the March 2021 reallocation process which is termed additional allocation:

Greater Giyani Municipality got R12 million, Greater Tzaneen Municipality got R9,5 million, Maruleng Local Municipality got R20 million, Collins Chabane Municipality got R8 million, Capricorn District Municipality got R14,061 million, Lephalale Local Municipality got R5,5 million, Ephraim Mogale got R22 million and Makhuduthamaga got R10 million.

I, therefore, would like to urge these municipalities to implement their plans presented during the engagements on the additional funding to spend 100% by the end of the municipal financial year ending 30 June 2021.

With the 2018/19 municipalities' audit outcomes, we have noted that although there is a reduction on the number of municipalities with disclaimer or adverse audit opinions, over the past five years, the province has only managed to attain one clean audit opinion. Also worth noting is that there is an improvement in respect of audit outcomes in seven municipalities and that four municipalities maintained unqualified audit opinion. Of our greatest concern is the continuous decrease of unqualified audit opinions leading to an increase on the qualified audit opinions and the regression of three municipalities which were mainly in the Sekhukhune District.

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019/20 audit process has been delayed and without pre-empting, based on the support we continue to provide, we are confident that municipal audit outcomes upon finalisation of the process this year will see more improvements, Hon Buthane. It is worth noting that for the 2019/20 financial year, all municipalities in the province have submitted their annual financial statements on time. Whilst we are supporting municipalities as well as the department, we led by example in the last financial year, we were able to maintain our unqualified audit outcomes. Thanks to all CoGHSTA staff for continuing to make us proud in this area of performance.

Since the launch of the Waterberg District Development Model Pilot, Limpopo province has fully embraced the model and launched two additional districts prior to lockdown. We launched them in Capricorn and Vhembe districts on 07 February 2020 and 06 March 2020, respectively. The remaining districts of Mopani and Sekhukhune will be launched on 16 April 2021, i.e., tomorrow and 23 April 2021, respectively, under the able leadership and guidance of Premier Stanley Chupu Mathabatha.

Mogalakwena Local Municipality was placed under administration in terms of section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, from 04 December 2020 in an attempt to stabilise the municipality. The focus areas of the intervention were developed and the intervention is relatively on course to achieve its objectives of stabilising the municipality.

With regard to Vuwani, following many years of protracted tensions and disputes in the areas surrounding that place, I am pleased to announce that the impasse was resolved and that Collins Chabane Local Municipality is able to render services in areas that it could not do initially. Appreciation to the commitment and leadership provided by Premier Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, His Majesty, Khosikhulu Toni Mphephu Ramabulana, affected traditional leaders, leadership of the Vhembe District and Collins Chabane Local Municipalities, the Pro-Makhado Demarcation Task Team and the InterMinisterial Task Team, which I was privileged to lead, led to an amicable resolution of the impasse.

As predicted by the South African Weather Service, the cyclone landed on the shores of Limpopo province on 24 January 2021. Destruction in this case ranges from physical infrastructure to loss of human life. To date, the province has recorded 14 deaths due to drowning, making it the highest in the country. All drowned bodies had since been recovered. We thank the unrelenting assistance offered by the provincial disaster management team, South African Police Services and South African National Defence Force. May their souls rest in eternal peace!

Assessment conducted to determine the extent of damage suggest that the province will require not less than R1,5 billion to rehabilitate the destroyed infrastructure, which includes roads and bridges, agricultural, health, education facilities as well as houses. It is in light of the above that on 12 February 2021, the head of National Disaster Management classified national state of disaster in line with section 23(1)(b) of the Disaster Management Act, Act No. 57 of 2002 having recognised the special circumstances that existed as a result of strong winds and floods due to tropical cyclone Eloise and summer seasonal rains.

Furthermore, on 25 February 2021, the Minister responsible for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs declared the national state of disaster for the purposes of assisting and protecting the public; providing relief to the public; protecting property; preventing and combating disruption or dealing with destructive nature and other effects of the disaster.

The above declarations and estimates were to repair or rehabilitate or call for budget reprioritisation by sector departments and municipalities.

The Technical Infrastructure Cluster is expected to deal with this matter with a view to presenting recommendations to the Executive Council for decision-making in respect of reconstruction programme and the funding thereof.

Last year when I presented the Budget Vote Speech to this House, I congratulated Kgošikgolo Thulare Victor Thulare III, Bauba'a Hlabirwa, on his recognition as Kgošikgolo of the Bapedi nation by the President. I further made a commitment to support the Bapedi Kingdom as they rebuild and establish their institution. It was with greater shock early this year when we learnt of the passing away of Kgošikgolo Thulare Victor Thulare III hardly a year after his recognition. We were looking forward to working with him in rebuilding the Bapedi Kingdom. I, therefore, would like to take this opportunity to recommit the department to work with the Bapedi Kingdom and others in the province. May his soul rest in peace!

I will have done a great disservice in my work if I equally do not pay homage to all senior traditional leaders who passed on in the last financial year and recently in this new financial year. Their gallant work in traditional leadership institution and community development work will continue to be remembered. May their souls rest in peace! In the last financial year, we made a commitment to this House to constitute and reconstitute traditional councils in compliance with the new legislation. Our priority for this financial year is, therefore, to constitute and reconstitute traditional councils in the province. We are on track to ensure that we fully comply with the legislative requirements.

In response to the Premier's pronouncements for the purchase of vehicles for the 5 senior traditional leaders, I am delighted to announce that the said vehicles were purchased. These vehicles are provided as tools of trade to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities. The Limpopo Provincial Government has thus far managed to construct 20 new offices, of which 14 are complete while the remaining 6 are nearing completion. Eighteen offices have been refurbished and 33 offices were provided with furniture during the 2019/20 financial year. During the 2021/22 financial year, we will continue with the programme for the construction and refurbishment of traditional council offices as well as the provision of furniture to these offices.

The Hon Premier in his 2020 State of the Province Address pronounced that we should prioritise the construction and refurbishment of traditional council offices. I am pleased to announce that in pursuit of the directive by the Hon Premier, we are going to construct and refurbish the following traditional council offices during this financial year: Bakwena ba Matsepe Traditional Council, Manoke Traditional Council, Raphahlelo Traditional Council, Davhana Traditional Council, Majeje Traditional Council, Dzumeri Traditional Council, Bakone ba Matlala Traditional Council and Mapela Traditional Council at a cost of R57 million. [APPLAUSE]

I am further delighted to pronounce that 21 traditional council offices will be provided with furniture at a cost of R5 million. We will also be working together with the University of Venda for Science and Technology to support traditional leaders to initiate, facilitate and coordinate developmental programmes within their areas in order to exploit the untapped economic potential in such areas, but in the main, to facilitate socioeconomic development. We appreciate the commitment by the university and hoping that this will go a long way in transforming the sector for the better.

As a department, we continue to implement the Premier's decisions following the work by the Kgatla Commission which concluded its work in December 2017. To date, 19 new traditional communities have been established, and 16 new senior traditional leaders have been duly recognised.

In the previous financial year, our Provincial House of Traditional Leaders suspended all initiation schools in order to preserve life. The Provincial House of Traditional Leadership is still taking such a precautionary measure for the 2021 initiation season in order to save lives. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the leadership of the Executive of the Provincial House of Traditional Leadership led by Kgoši Malesela Dikgale for being visionary and doing all to maintain a balance between saving lives and promoting our cultural practices. I wish to thank the Hon Premier for his continuous guidance on matters pertaining to traditional leadership in the province.

The department continues to embrace the principle of equity with conscious bias to women representation. I am reporting with pride to the House that we were able to fill all vacant executive management positions in the department with 80% of capable women appointed at this level. This, of course, resonates with the spirit of Mama Charlotte Maxeke.

As I conclude, let me extend my sincere gratitude to the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, for the support he continues to give CoGHSTA and the Members of the Executive Council. Let me as well thank the members of the portfolio committee chaired by the capable hands of Hon Johanna Aphiri; the Chief Whip of the Majority Party; the Leader of the Official Opposition; SALGA, that we are partnering with; the IEC; Mayors; the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, the Auditor-General; the Internal Audit Committee; our Housing Advisory Committee; the Rental Tribunal and my colleagues in the Executive Council for the support and guidance you give to the department.

May I also acknowledge Team CoGHSTA led by the Head of Department, Ms Ngaka Dumalisile, for the continual sterling and unwavering leadership provided to the department. Most importantly, let me acknowledge all the CoGHSTA colleagues whom we have lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue to claim all victories, we as well acknowledge their unwavering contributions to the department for what it is today. May their souls continue to rest in peace!

It is my pleasure to present to you and the House the Budget Vote 11 of the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Budget for the year 2021/22. With this Budget is the Annual Performance Plan for 2021/22. Ndza khensa. Khammambo. Inkomo. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and report back to the House.

Item 7.2.2: We shall now call upon the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Moraka Tandi to present the Budget Speech Vote 10. Over to you, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

(Address by Ms T A Moraka, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture)

Hon Speaker; Premier of our province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; colleagues in the Executive Council, those who have joined this hybrid Sitting virtually and those that are here; chairpersons of various portfolio committees; esteemed Members of this august House; Leader of the Official Opposition; special guests who have joined this Sitting and who have been invited by the department; members of the media; community members at large who have also joined this Sitting through various digital platforms, good morning. Avuxeni. Ndi mats Sheloni. Lotjhani. Thobela.

Hon Speaker, this month on 07 April 2021, the country and the province of Limpopo celebrated 150 years on the lives and times of our struggle heroine Mama Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke who was born here in Botlokwa, Limpopo province. She is regarded as a woman of many firsts and broke through incredible barriers of her time when women were expected to know their place in society. She was the first black woman in Southern Africa to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in 1901 from Wilberforce University in the United States of America. She was the only woman in the room in 1912 when the South African Native National Congress known as the ANC was founded in Mangaung. In 1918 she was the initiator and the first president of the Bantu Women's League. Her pride and achievements did not only lay in her being a woman of many firsts, but in ensuring that more women had a seat at the table and were part of the solution-driven ideas that our society so desperately needed and discussed. Our initiatives are echoed by her words when she was addressing the Bloemfontein women's conference in 1918 and she said the following, "This work is not for yourselves. Kill that spirit of self and do not live above your people but live with them, and if you can rise, bring someone with you." We should emulate the example of Mama Makgomo Charlotte Maxeke as various leaders of society and continue to kill the spirit of self and try our level best to put our people first.

The department tables its Budget Speech in a hybrid Sitting for the second time in succession owing to the devastating of the COVID-19 pandemic that has ravaged the province, our country and the international community. The Premier of our province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, in his State of the Province Address this year said, we need to move Limpopo forward to a destination of equality, prosperity and a better life for all. We have aligned our work for the year ahead with the four national key priorities as outlined by our President, Hon Cyril Ramaphosa, in his State of the Nation Address, and those are as follows:

- Defeating the coronavirus pandemic;
- Accelerating our economic recovery;
- Implementing economic reforms to create sustainable jobs and drive inclusive growth; and
- Fighting corruption and strengthening the state.

The Coronavirus pandemic has continued to have a negative impact on the sport and creative industry due to various restrictions emanating from well-established and researched alert levels of the National Coronavirus Command Council. The Olympics and the Paralympics were postponed for the first time in the history of these modern games and will be held sometime later this year, 2021. Our own Mapungubwe Arts

Festival and Marula Festival were also postponed because of this global pandemic. These has impacted a lot on our athletes and our artists because they were unable to make livelihoods and generate incomes for their own households. The department had to come up with creative ways on hosting its activities as part of social cohesion and also building a better Africa for all our people. These activities were done under strict COVID-19 regulations as announced by our National Command Council. The department will continue over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework to invest in technology or virtual platforms to roll out some key events as part of service delivery to the citizens of Limpopo province. The department has four programmes, which are as follows: Administration; Cultural Affairs; Library and Archive Services; and Sport and Recreation.

The overall main appropriation for the 2021/22 financial year has been reduced from R524 million in the 2020/21 financial year to R473 million in the 2021/22 financial year. This translates to about 10%, which is equivalent to R51,5 million reduction in our overall allocation. The equitable share decreased from R321 million in 2020/21 to R267 million in the 2021/22 financial year, which therefore represents 16,7% decrease due to budget cuts, whilst conditional grants allocation increased slightly by 1,1% from R203 million in 2020/21 to R205 million in the 2021/22 financial year. On Compensation of Employees, we have also realised a decrease in the allocation of R226 million in 2020/21 to R207 million in 2021/22. The budget cuts translate to 8% reduction, which is equivalent to R18,3 million as compared to the previous financial year. On goods and services allocation, it has also decreased from R200 million in 2020/21 to R168 million in 2021/22, which represents 15,6% decrease, which is equivalent to R31,3 million in rand and cents.

Hon Speaker, the objective of programme 1: Administration is to conduct the overall management and administrative support to the department. This includes the Office of the MEC, Office of the HOD, Corporate Services and Financial Management Unit. A total of R141,1 million has been allocated to this programme, which is a decline of R37,9 million in comparison to the main appropriation of R179 million that was allocated in the previous financial year. Compensation of employees decreased from R91 million in 2020/21 to R83,1 million in the 2021/22 financial year as a result of the continuous budget cuts on compensation of employees. Goods and services decreased in this programme from R86,2 million in the 2020/21 financial year to R57,8 million in the 2021/22 financial year, which is a reflection of a decline of 32%. In the year under review, the department has managed to achieve unqualified audit opinion for the first time in almost a decade. The improvement on the audit outcome from a qualified audit opinion to an unqualified audit opinion is a development that needs to be celebrated by all of us. [APPLAUSE]

Our word of appreciation goes to the executive and the senior management of the department for the improvement on this audit outcome. We commit to sustain this audit opinion and improve towards clean audit in this financial year. Words of appreciation also go to the prudent man and women who are leading the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture as led by our chairperson Hon Caroline Mahasela and her team, our internal audit committee, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts chairperson and its members on the rigorous oversight work performed in this department and its stakeholders. This is an indication that the internal controls and interventions implemented by management are starting to bear fruit. The department will continue to be innovative, improve the financial control, ensure prudent financial

management and take appropriate consequence management where necessary. These are parts of the concerted efforts to achieve a clean administration by this department. The chief financial officer and chief director Corporate Services posts have been filled in the last quarter of the 2020/21 financial year. We are still working towards finalising the filling of the chief director post for Sport and Recreation in the first quarter of this coming financial year. The appointment of the above executive positions will help the department to continue to sustain and maintain stability within the department. Additional critical positions have been identified for them to be prioritised in the 2021/22 financial year as outlined in our recruitment plan strategy.

Hon Speaker, we are on programme 2: Cultural Affairs. The objective of this programme is to promote culture, conserve and manage the cultural historical asserts and resources of the province by rendering various services and hosting cultural events. This programme has been allocated a total of R76,9 million for the 2021/22 financial year which has a dual funding equitable share and EPWP conditional grant and consists of the following subprogrammes: Arts and Culture; Museum Services; Heritage Resource Services; and Language Services.

Culture and its heritage reflect and shape values, beliefs and aspirations, thereby defining people's national identity. It is important to preserve our cultural heritage because it keeps our integrity as the people to explore more on creating partnerships with international countries. The department is coordinating the signing of a twinning agreement with Mexico in relation to the Baobab tree in the Vhembe District and the [inaudible] under the leadership of our Premier Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha. The tree has a potential to help grow the heritage and cultural landscape, thereby bringing economic spinoffs for the people of this province. The twinning agreements are expected to be signed in the second quarter of the 2021/22 financial year by the Premier and the embassy of Mexico. The department introduced the COVID-19 Relief Programme for our artists to help ease the burden caused by COVID-19 and its regulations as introduced to curb the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. A total number of 222 artists have benefited through the relief fund that was implemented by this department in this province. We will continue to do everything in our power to remain relevant to our mandate amid this global pandemic of COVID-19 through implementing initiatives that are innovative and in line with COVID-19 regulations as set out by our National Command Council for the support and the development of our people who are in the creative industry sector.

A total amount of R4,4 million has been set aside towards COVID-19 initiatives in collaboration with other stakeholders in the sector in this 2021/22 financial year. There are also some positives coming from the province regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the first time in ten years, a young woman from this province Shudufhadzo Musida from Vhangani village in the Vhembe District was crowned Miss South Africa. [APPLAUSE] We are pleased to inform the House that she is one of our special guests who have joined this virtual Sitting in a hybrid arrangement. She came to the province and we celebrated her victory with a beautiful homecoming ceremony. The department will continue to support her throughout her reign of being Miss South Africa and ultimately on her quest to become Miss World later this year in Puerto Rico in December 2021. We are also committed to working with her through the Shudufhadzo Musida Foundation on issues of mental health and a total of R1 million has been budgeted for this particular initiative.

Hon Speaker, our very own Master K G took the world by storm through his hit song “Jerusalema”, featuring Nomcebo Zikode. [APPLAUSE] The song went viral online, gaining international success and topping the billboard charts in the countries such as UK, France, Spain, Brazil, Nigeria, Portugal and many more. The song was viewed online by more than 200 million people and scooped six international awards. Similarly, other artists from the province continue to represent the country abroad with their music and their talents and we are proud of artists such as King Monada, Makhadzi, Sho Madjozi, Ndlovu Youth Choir, Dr Winnie Mashaba, Candy Tsa Mandebele, and others who continue to make the province to shine in the international space.

On the provincial theatre, Limpopo is the only province that does not have a provincial theatre in the whole country of South Africa. The patience of our artists has waned, and this is the call for concern for all of us as a province. We want to indicate to this august House that the first phase of the long-awaited state theatre has been completed and the project is currently at planning stage and it is anticipated that the detailed designs will be finalised during the third quarter of the 2021/22 financial year. The construction phase is planned to commence during the last quarter of the 2021/22 financial year. We are working together with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure on the implementation of this project. A total amount of R30 million has been set aside in this 2021/22 financial year for the second phase of this long-awaited provincial theatre. The project will be implemented on an MTF period, and we want to take this opportunity and thank the MEC for Provincial Treasury who has responded to us when we said the province really needs this social infrastructure for our people to grow their talent in the creative arts space.

Hon Speaker, R20 million of this budget is being set aside from the provincial core funds under the Provincial Treasury and R10 million is being set aside from the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in this 2021/22 financial year. We are in the process of finalising the memorandum of agreement with Polokwane Municipality to help fast-track the transfer of land at Bakone Malapa for the construction of the provincial theatre. We all need to understand that the theatre is part of the social infrastructure that will enable the province to develop and grow the creative industry sector. On social cohesion and creative industry strategy, the department has finalised and approved the social cohesion and creative industry strategies. The strategies are aligned towards us as a province realising outcome 14 of the National Development Plan that talks to issues of social cohesion and nation-building. The strategies will help grow the creative industry sector in the province, boost the economy by creating decent jobs for our young people and promote our diverse cultures as a province. Given our relationship with Brics countries, viz. Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the South African creative arts industry has a potential of exceptional growth utilising those platforms. Limpopo Artists should take advantage of the platform that is going to be created by the Brics markets and make use of disruptive technologies to advance their own creative work to those particular platforms.

On film industry, this industry has a potential to help the province of Limpopo to alleviate the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment amongst our people. As the department, we will continue to support filmmakers in the province of Limpopo. We are partnering with the University of Limpopo and the University of Venda with the aim of nurturing and developing talents in that space of filmmaking.

This is a step in the right direction because we want Limpopo stories to be shown to the whole nation and beyond. This is an initiative we are partnering with the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism to implement. We also want to congratulate the award-winning actor, Kope “Tswyza” Makgae popularly known as “Mrekza” on *Generations: The Legacy*. Makgae has built Limpopo’s first ever TV and film studios through his company called Wyza Media. The studios will be instrumental for this culturally diverse province and intend to create a platform for our filmmakers in the province to showcase their talent and ultimately create employment opportunities for our young people.

Hon Speaker, we are on museums and heritage. Museums preserve our history, cultures and customary practices. We have a potential of attracting tourists, and thus contributing to the economic development of our local communities. The department is working with the South African Heritage Resource Council and the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to identify and audit all museums in the province with the aim of supporting and upgrading them in the near future. Hon Speaker, 22 field workers have been appointed on a contract basis to execute and implement this initiative. The department has upgraded Dzata and Muti Wa Vatsonga Museums in the last financial year. The major infrastructure project at Schoemansdal Museum that is budgeted an amount of R37 million is currently being implemented by this very same department. The department will start with the feasibility study for the D’Nyala museum in this current 2021/22 financial year and an amount of R500 000 has been budgeted for this programme. The department is intending to enhance its revenue collection strategy through these museums and also preserve the history of our province by maintaining and sustaining these museums. In the process of upgrading and maintaining these museums, the department has created more than 230 job opportunities for the local people. The province is a home of the two world heritage sites, viz. Mapungubwe World Heritage Site, and Makapan Valley World Heritage Site.

The province has other places of historical significance which if properly preserved have a potential to create jobs, boost the provincial economy and also alleviate poverty amongst our people. The Limpopo Heritage Resource Authority (LIHRA) has been resuscitated and will assist the department with the implementation of provincial heritage projects, thereby seeing to it that the heritage liberation route is completed and preserved for future generations. The department is in the process of developing three sites associated with the National Liberation Heritage Route which is a flagship project that we implement jointly with the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, and those sites are the University of Limpopo, Tjate, and Tshitangadzimeni.

The department is working in collaboration with Polokwane Municipality in the process of implementing the central garden of remembrance in the province of Limpopo. This garden of remembrance is going to be utilised as a platform or a site where we celebrate heroes and heroines of our liberation movement who have contributed to the attainment of the freedom of our country, South Africa. The department has set aside a total of R620 000 to support the Limpopo Arts and Culture Council commonly known as LACC to help achieve the mandate of the department. A further commitment has been made to support two statutory bodies attached to museums and heritage services in the province and those are: Limpopo Heritage Resource Agency commonly known as LIRA and Limpopo Provincial Geographic Names Committee.

Hon Speaker, as such R1,6 million has been budgeted for this exercise with R1,1 million allocated for LIRA while R500,000 will go to Limpopo Provincial Geographic Names Committee.

Hon Speaker, we are now on programme 3: Library and Information Services. The main aim of this programme is to assist local authorities in rendering of public library services and the provision of archive services in the province. There is a narrative that is being driven in our societies that seeks to suggest that if you want to hide information from black people, you must put it in black and white. We appreciate the fact that knowledge is power, and we need to embark on a programme that will help us as a province to inculcate the culture of reading and learning amongst our people. This programme has been allocated a budget of R173 million, which is a decline of R4.8 million from the main allocation of R178 million in the 2020/21 financial year. The department is managing a total of 96 public libraries through service level agreement that we have entered into with various municipalities, and 12 of the 96 are modular libraries in the rural and the remote areas of our province. The infrastructure budget will be directed towards the construction of new libraries, maintenance and repair of the existing libraries. Six libraries will be completed, opened and handed over to our communities in this current 2021/22 financial year. Those libraries are as follows:

- Runnymede Library in the Mopani District;
- Seleteng Library in the Capricorn District;
- Mavalani Library in the Mopani District;
- Mulamula Library in the Vhembe District;
- Mahlabathini Library in the Waterberg District; and
- Maphalle Library in Mopani District.

The department provided free WiFi and internet services to 94 libraries to the tune of R33 million over a three-year period. The department has thus far spent over R125 million on construction of the state-of-the-art library as part of government's commitment to bring the much-needed services to our communities. The construction of these libraries was adversely impacted upon by COVID-19 and in some instances community unrests. We are pleased to report progress in the construction process to date in this very same province. A total of R40 million has been set aside for the feasibility study of the four new libraries that will be built in the following areas:

- Botshabelo Library in the Waterberg District;
- Vleifontein Library in the Mopani District;
- Tshaulu Library in the Vhembe District; and
- Sekhukhune District Library in the Sekhukhune District.

A further R1,2 million has been set aside for the procurement of library materials for the blind. This is because there is a great need for equity in the provision of library information service in all the districts of the province. The department has set aside an amount of R5,1 million for the maintenance and upgrading of the following libraries: Seshego Library, Mentz Library, Soetfontein Library, Nkuri Library, Vlakfontein Library, Musina-Nancefield Library, Khubvi Library, Litshovhu Library, Masisi Library, and Ntsako Library. I thought Hon Buthane will clap hands for Seshego Library.

Hon Speaker, we are now on programme 4: Sport and Recreation. The main objective of this programme is to provide assistance to provincial sport associations and other

relevant bodies to stimulate the development of sport and recreational services in our communities. A total budget of R82 million has been allocated for this programme. The overall budget has increased from R80 million to R82 million in the 2021/22 financial year as a result of the slight increase on the conditional grant increase that we have realised in this current year allocation. On compensation of employees, the programme's allocation decreased from R21 million to R26 million in this current financial year, which is a decrease of 8,6% in the 2021/22 financial year as a result of the budget cut on the equitable share that we don't have as a department.

On goods and services, the programme has managed to register an increase of R47,8 million from R44,6 million as compared to the previous financial year. Goods and services under this programme on school sports and recreation programme are funded from the conditional grant only. The cost drivers in this programme are sporting equipment, apparels or attires, transport, accommodation and meals for our pupils who are participating in sports and recreation programmes. This allocation will cater for the hosting of golden games, youth camps and indigenous games through sport and recreational programmes that will be implemented in this current financial year.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is advocating for our pupils to participate massively in the sports and recreation programme so that we can achieve our mandate of building a healthy and a winning nation. The department will collaborate with relevant stakeholders such as the Limpopo Sports Confederation to roll out mass sports participation programmes and encourage healthy lifestyles amongst our pupil. We are pleased to report that the department will deliver equipment for outdoor gyms and home equipment in the Vhembe District, Capricorn District, Mopani District, and Waterberg District.

We urge our communities to utilise this equipment to the benefit of their own communities. Hon Speaker, since we are faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, the department will utilise virtual platforms to maximise mass participation in sports programme in our various communities.

Sport development commences in the remote rural areas of this province. Rural Sport Development Programme under the guidance of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders was at its third edition in 2019. There is a need for us to devote the resources we are having towards the process of developing athletes at grassroots level who will represent the province of Limpopo with pride going forward. The department has allocated an amount of R8 million that will maintain and support 300 rural sport development clubs through league participation and sport equipment.

To reposition the development and promotion of softball in the province, the department is collaborating with the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and Polokwane Municipality in the construction of the Polokwane softball stadium just adjacent to the Peter Mokaba Stadium at the tune of R90 million on an MTEF period. A further R10 million has been set aside for the construction of piekie sport facility in the Blouberg Municipality for the indigenous games. This is to promote recreation through the development and promotion of indigenous games in the province of Limpopo. To promote sport development in the province, the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has invested an amount of R10 million in the construction of the Fetakgomo Tubatse sports complex in the Sekhukhune District. The department is also strengthening its public-private partnership with the Lephalale Municipality and

Exxaro Grootegeeluk Mine in the construction of the Marapong sport, arts and culture precinct at the tune of R25 million that will be set aside on an MTF period.

On School Sports, the department will continue to facilitate and coordinate the support of the sport focus schools on identified codes to enhance athletes' performance in this particular programme. A number of 15 000 learners will participate in several sporting events from the districts, the province and also at a national level. A total of R26 million has been budgeted for this programme. The department will continue to ensure that all learners have access to sport activities and benefits associated with school sports programmes. This is an initiative we are doing jointly with the Limpopo Department of Education. We are proud to report to this august House that the programme for school sport has produced the following football players who are playing in the Multichoice Diski Challenge: Fortune Mathebula from Mphambo High School, he is currently playing for Baroka FC; Albert Managa from Millenium College and Brandon Baloyi from Hudson Ntsanwisi High School, both playing for Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila FC. We also have Fulufhelo Phaswana from Northern Academy playing for Black Leopards FC. [APPLAUSE]

The province recognised the consistent performance of Rhoda Mulaudzi, Lebohang Ramalepe, Noko Matlou and Lenize Potgieter who are representing the country with pride both locally and internationally; Kgothatso Montjane for representing the disability sport sector in the wheelchair tennis; Akhona Khuzwayo, Oscar Mavundla and Akani Simbine who are in a quest to form part of the South African Olympic team to Tokyo, Japan, later this year.

There is a total amount of R2,2 million that has been set aside to support these athletes who are originally from the province of Limpopo. This budget will also assist with their preparations towards this journey so that they can go and represent the country and the province with pride. The department will continue to host the Annual Sport Awards and a total of R631 000 has been budgeted for this programme so that we can continue to award and recognise excellence in sports. We shall continue to partner with private sector to access more resources so that our athletes can be recognised and awarded accordingly. I would like to thank Absa bank for their continued support and partnership for these awards over the years and would like to make a plea to other stakeholders to come on board so that we can travel the journey together. Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity and appreciate the three teams that are in the DStv Premier Soccer League, viz. Black Leopards FC, Baroka FC, and Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila FC.

We acknowledge that they are not performing well currently on the log, but we will do everything in our power to support them to continue to represent the province. We also acknowledge the efforts being made by our two teams campaigning in the GladAfrica Championship, viz. Sekhukhune United FC and Polokwane City FC.

There is a need for us as a province to be patriotic towards our football teams with the intention of growing their professionalism and growing their fan base. We are partnering with relevant stakeholders for skills development and other related programmes for all our professional teams so that they can continue to make us proud, and we must have a reason to support them. Instead of supporting Sundowns and Kaizer Chiefs, we have to prioritise our local teams.

Hon Speaker, the year 2023 is around the corner and South Africa is the host for the 2023 Netball World Cup. The department will continue to implement the Charlotte Maxeke Netball Leagues in all our five districts with the intention of creating a hive for the 2023 Netball World Cup in our country and in our various communities. Currently, the province of Limpopo is represented by two players in the SPAR Proteas, which is the national netball team, viz. Lenize Potgieter and Khanyisa Chabane, all of them coming from the province of Limpopo. The province is also represented by Boitumelo Mahloko in the SPAR Proteas national under 21 netball team and Ms Edna Dolamo who is the manager for that particular team.

It is our wish to see more players and technical officials from the province of Limpopo representing the country during the 2023 Netball World Cup that is to take place in due course. We are calling upon every citizen to join hands in creating a netball-driven nation and building a strong patriotism character amongst our citizens towards this national team. We are going to be part and parcel of the build-up activities to the World Cup as a province of Limpopo. The department will continue to support the Limpopo Academy of Sport in order to enable the academy to deliver sport-related programmes, training and development where government is unable to reach. A total amount of R5 million has been budgeted for the academy to run its programmes. The academy will support up to 500 athletes in the province, which includes the provision of living expenses, life skills, career counselling and guidance. The academy will also nurture talents and give athletes international exposure.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the newly appointed Executive Committee for the Limpopo Sport Confederation as led by President Ally Pole and the collective. The confederation assists in ensuring that federations, as custodians of sporting codes, function effectively and efficiently towards the delivery and the growth of those sporting codes in the province of Limpopo.

In conclusion, I want to take this opportunity and thank our portfolio committee chair, Hon Caroline Mahasela, for the oversight role on the department and its stakeholders in the provision of quality sport, arts and culture-related services to our communities. I would also like to appreciate the collective work done by our officials in the department in an endeavour to serve our communities with a high level of commitment and dedication. I conclude by borrowing words from a Pan-Africanist and a revolutionary Amílcar Cabral who once said, "Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone's hand. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children." Ke tšhaba mediti. Ke rata gore, ke a leboga. Thank you very much for the opportunity. Ndza khensa. Ndo livhuwa. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for the Budget Speech. honourable MEC. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and report back to the House.

8. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

The following questions have been responded to and the answers have been published on the ATC dated Wednesday, 14 April 2021 and are therefore disposed of:

8.1 Question for the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development; 8.2 MEC for Health and 8.3 MEC for Social Development.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SPEAKER

I call upon the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I hereby move that when this House rises today, it will sit again on Tuesday, 01 June 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber as the House will be going into recess. This will also give committees an ample time to consider their APPs and Budget Speeches of departments. I move accordingly, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for the announcement, Chief Whip. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Members of the Executive in particular led by the Leader of Government Business; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Buthane. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Matlou. Are there any other announcements, Chief Whip? It seems as if there is none.

10. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned to Tuesday, 01 June 2021 at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 08 JUNE 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 08 JUNE 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

[NO RECORDING: TIMESTAMP: 00:00-01:52]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MR MAHARAJ

**BRAVE ACT OF A POLICE OFFICER SAVING THE LIFE OF A MOTHER AND
HER BABY**

(Motion without Notice)

... and Sgt Makgoro for this brave and caring act. This, however, should be a stern reminder for the need of more 24-hour clinics especially in our rural communities, to stop incidents like these from happening again. Many rural communities find themselves far from hospitals and often in areas that are inaccessible for ambulances due to poor roads. In the future, a mother might not be so lucky to meet a police officer with such skills.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Phala, I have recognised you.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I move to second the motion without notice as read by Hon Maharaj.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any other motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Mathe, I have recognised you.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

**RAPE AND MURDER OF A TEENAGE GIRL OUTSIDE TZANEEN
(Motion without Notice)**

On behalf of the ANC, Hon Speaker, we want to raise this motion without notice that we are shattered by the news of a 13-year-old girl who has been raped and killed by

a 58-year-old male over the past weekend. The incident took place in the N'wamitwa area outside Tzaneen, where a man who was reportedly searching for his wife went on a rampage and attacked his mother-in-law, raped a 13-year-old girl and subsequently committed suicide.

The Department of Social Development has already dispatched teams of social workers to provide psychological support to the affected families. This incident took place as South Africa was concluding the 2021 National Child Protection Week, and this totally undermines the efforts that our government puts into heightening the plight of children and the vulnerable members of society.

We reiterate our call to families and individuals that are having problems to seek professional help. We cannot have people resorting to violence when they come across life challenges especially on relationships.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selamolela Donald, stand to second the motion as read by Hon Mathe.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Is there any other motion without notice in terms of Rule 145? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE ANC STILL REGARDED AS A BEACON OF HOPE BY THE PEOPLE OF
SOUTH AFRICA**

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the ANC, we want to put it on record in this august House that the people of South Africa still regard the ANC as their only beacon of hope and organisation that can assist them to realise their aspirations. This was assessed recently by the by-election in which the ANC emerged victorious and retained all the four wards in the province. This is a sign of confidence by the majority of our people and as the ANC we are not taking this for granted. We are taking this confidence in the same spirit to the October 2021 Local Government Elections, and we will double our efforts and intensify the delivery of services to our people.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Selamolela. Hon Mochadi, I have recognised you.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Selamolela. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mochadi. Is there any other motion without notice? I do not see any hands.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? There seems to be none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements in terms of Rule 200? Hon Seshoka, I did not receive any indication from your party that you are going to raise a statement.

MR SESHOKA

We apologise, Hon Speaker. It could be that it is an administrative issue. That has been done. Our apology.

THE SPEAKER

That is not the procedure, Hon Seshoka. I should have received that statement beforehand.

MR SESHOKA

I am sitting here, and I am surprised that you did not receive it.

THE SPEAKER

Proceed.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

WRONG STREET NAME BOARD AT POLOKWANE CITY N1 SOUTH ENTRANCE
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the EFF to raise a Members' Statement on the wrong street name board. The confusion that exists within the governing party is shocking and appalling. The confusion is so deep to an extent that they even confuse the street

names entering the city of Polokwane, especially the new road network in the city. There is a board on the N1 South entering Polokwane with the street name, Thabo Mbeki, when in fact it is Grobler Street that enters into Polokwane from the N1 South.

This board is extremely misleading and wrong but an intentional mistake because the government is ashamed that the street entering the city of Polokwane from N1 [inaudible] Instead of changing the street name, they resort to mixing and confusing names and confusing our people. The fact of the matter is that the street entering the city from the N1 South is Grobler Street and the board should reflect the name as such. Who is Grobler anyway, if not an apartheid name that still reminds us of the apartheid legacy that continues to haunt our people?

We have been calling for name changes, but the government of the day has no political will to effect these changes. It is for this reason that we still have street names like Grobler and other apartheid street names in the city of Polokwane and many other towns around the province. This thing of the ANC-led government being afraid of white people is costing us greatly and it is taking the country backwards instead of taking it forward.

We call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to immediately remove that street name entering into the N1 South and replace it with a new name. Not Grobler because we do not know who Grobler is and what he has done for our people.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Is there any response to the Members' Statement from the Executive? Hon Masemola, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present here this morning, comrades, colleagues, and honourable Members present.

I take note of the input made by the honourable Member, only to disagree with him on one part where he said that the ANC-led government is not prepared to deal with matters of transformation. I am not sure whether he lives on a different island. He lives in an alien world where there are no policy processes around transformation, which ring in his ears. Be that as it may, we take note of the need to attend to that matter on the N1. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

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

6.1. Tabling of the Report on the Financial and Fiscal Commission: 2020/21 Submission, for the Division of Revenue.

The MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker, Premier and all other Members of this august House, both in the House and those who have joined us on other platforms.

TABLING OF THE REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL AND FISCAL COMMISSION: 2020/21 SUBMISSION FOR THE DIVISION OF REVENUE (Tabling of Report)

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, I hereby table the 2020/21 annual submission for the division of revenue for consideration by this august House. This is done in compliance with the provision of section 220(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and section 9(1) of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act 97 of 1997.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

The First Reading of the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill, 2021 [B03-2021] by the MEC for Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Let me thank you for this opportunity and I think this time the subject came at the right moment. You will remember that previously it caused a bit of a jam in the House when I was not even aware that I was expected to submit such a Bill.

Madam Speaker, the Department of Transport and Community Safety incurred unauthorised expenditure to the amount of R202 000 for the financial year 2017/18. The unauthorised expenditure was incurred without legal authorisation in respect of overspending of a vote of main division of a vote or expenditure not in accordance with the purpose of the vote or main division within the vote. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts has heard the evidence on the reports of the Auditor-General on the financial statements for the said financial year.

After careful deliberation and consideration, the committee agreed to authorise the overexpenditure of R12 000 referred to in the schedule to be approved in terms of section 34(2) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) and R190

000 referred to in the schedule to be approved in terms of section 34(2) of the PFMA (Act 1 of 1999), which will form a direct charge against the budget allocation for the 2021/22 financial year. The Limpopo Provincial Legislature has adopted the reports of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts of the Auditor-General's report and, therefore, the Bill seeks to authorise the unauthorised expenditure amounting to R202 000 incurred in the financial year 2017/18 as set out in the schedule of the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill, 2021

Section 226 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 provides that: "money may be withdrawn from a Provincial Revenue Fund only as a direct charge against the Provincial Revenue Fund and that a Provincial Act may authorise the withdrawal of money as a direct charge against the Provincial Revenue Fund".

Madam Speaker, the provincial Department of Transport and Community Safety has been consulted in that regard. I therefore recommend that the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill, 2021 be approved. A copy has been attached and submitted, Madam Speaker. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Bill is also referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to the House. We proceed to the Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury: 2019/20 Annual Report. We shall now invite the committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, hereby table the report of the portfolio committee on the Annual Report of the Provincial Treasury for the financial year 2019/20 that ended on 31 March 2020. I table accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Makhurupetje, you may take the floor.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here to support the recommendation as tabled by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Phala. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker; the MEC for Provincial Treasury and other Members of the Executive Council of our beautiful province Limpopo; the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee

on Provincial Treasury, Hon Kgolane Rudolph Phala; colleagues; friends; compatriots; fellow country men and women, I stand here before you today and greet you in the name of the young people of South Africa whose month we are celebrating today. It is exactly eight days into the Youth Month and exactly eight days to go to one of the most revolutionary days in our calendar as a country, the Youth Day. We will use that day and this month as we have been doing since the dawn of democracy to celebrate both as a nation and as a people, the bravery of the most progressive generation of the 20th century, the 1976 generation. This is a generation of young men and women who put at the disposal of the liberation struggle, their energies and most painfully their lives. They, like true martyrs were prepared to lay their lives for advancements of a liberation struggle, which they deemed a noble and a necessary cause of our people.

Today, we bask under the shadow of a rising sun of democracy, reaping the fruits from the tree of freedom which was watered and nourished by the blood of these great souls of our land. We dare not to fail them to salute them. The best salutation we can give to this revolutionary generation is to build powerful democratic institutions, which will be a solid base for a national democratic society that we all yearn to live in. This is a society that will know no race, a society that will know no gender segregation and have no room for the abuse of women and children. It is a society that will be rooted in democratic values. Indeed, that society will be a society that will thrive and push back frontiers of poverty. In that society, crime and corruption will be a matter that the whole society will be united to frown upon. It will be a matter repelled by all and sundry as does the sun to the dew in an African summer morning.

The recently released first quarter survey results of 2021 by Statistics South Africa, which show that our official unemployment rate is standing at 32,6%, with the youth, in particular, the young graduates being the most hit by unemployment, is a serious call for us to double our efforts in our resolve to create a national democratic society. If we are to be a progressive nexus between the present and the future in honouring that generation, we must dig deep within ourselves, working much harder on the commitment that our people's organisation, the ANC, is working hard to achieve.

The 2019/20 Annual Report for Provincial Treasury shows a commitment of our government not only to serve our people, but of being in a right path towards creation of that society that we all yearn to live in. The committee remains impressed by the audit outcomes of this portfolio, the Provincial Treasury, and calls upon this portfolio to ensure that such outcomes are translated into other portfolios in the province. This is precisely because of our understanding as a committee that the Provincial Treasury has a crucial role to play in ensuring sound and prudent management of provincial resources across all the departments and entities.

As a committee, we saluted the performance of the department in as far as the use of Budget is concerned. In this regard, we appreciated the Provincial Treasury for spending R449 128 000 which constituted 97% of the total adjusted budget of R462 850 000. We equally found the following which were very impressive to the committee: firstly, that the Provincial Treasury's banking internal controls identified an attempted fraud, which was promptly addressed, an effort that we appreciated as a committee. We also found that the Provincial Treasury played a critical and a commendable role in supporting and monitoring the provincial government and its fiscal oversight was evident by improved audit outcomes in other departments. The non-compliance with banking and cash prescripts remained the challenge in most departments and had an

impact on debt management within the department. The committee further found and noted that noncompliance with supply chain prescripts due to lack of skills and non-dedication by personnel remained a challenge thus far, thus contributing to persistent underperformance on contract management functions.

The committee recommended among others the following: firstly, that the Provincial Treasury must continue and always be vigilant on banking internal controls to guard against similar future attacks on the banking transaction. Also, that the filling of posts should strictly be guided by the approved structure, availability of funding and serious cognisance of the current national pressures on the fiscus. The committee further recommended that capacity-building workshops should be provided in contract management units, consequence management should be effected and be duly reported on nondedicated personnel in such departments.

This month, as we celebrate the young people of our country learning from the performance of this department, hoping and strongly believing that the department will implement the recommendations of the committee. We are proud to say we are on track, and we shall not fail. We will deliver as the ANC-led government on our commitment to build a national democratic society that all our people yearn to live in. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Hon Raphela, it's your turn. Okay, he is absent. Hon Maharaj, you may take the floor.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, let me start by saying that it is encouraging that the Auditor-General expressed an unqualified audit opinion with no findings with the financial statements of the Provincial Treasury. This is positive and should be acknowledged, even more so, because it should be noted that the department obtained the same audit held since the 2016/ 17 financial year to date.

Although the audit performance of some departments did improve during the financial year under discussion, we are still far from where we should be as a province. The Provincial Treasury has made progress, but still needs to strengthen the continuous monitoring and support functions it offers to provincial departments and entities in its attempts to improve the audit opinions in the province.

COVID-19 may have affected the spending of departments especially towards the end of the financial year, but some programmes should have fared better. The Provincial Treasury spent 97% of the total adjusted Budget of R462 850 000 for the 2019/20 financial year. The underspending on other programmes was worrying, as they are key programmes within the department and play important roles in other departments and entities.

The Sustainable Resource Management Programme that is tasked with ensuring favourable audit outcomes and a sustainable fiscal policy for the province, spent R79,8 million, that is, 95,5% of the total budget of R83,5 million. Assets, Liabilities and Supply Chain Management used R61,7 million, which is 97,8% of the total budget of R63,1

million and Financial Governance had the total spent of R110,8 million or 87,8% of the final appropriation budget of R126,1 million.

Treasury continued to struggle with institutions which were not complying with supply chain management prescripts due to the lack of skills. They indicated that they held virtual workshops to build capacity on noncompliance matters, such as bid committee systems and contract management. This continues to be an issue that focus must be placed on as well as ensuring improved monitoring compliance levels by municipalities on the submission of section 71 reports. In the year under review, the Provincial Treasury managed to ensure that its own revenue collection was R244,7 million. Its estimated target was R235,8. This resulted in it exceeding its collection target by R8,9 million. Well done MEC, well done HOD.

The department needs to adjust and learn to function optimally even in the presence of COVID-19. The underspending experienced during this period across programmes cannot become a norm as it will likely result in compromised targets set in those programmes. Provincial Treasury should continue to monitor and support the provincial institutions and ensure that budgets of departments or entities are efficiently spent, but also to always ensure accountability and transparency in the use of public funds. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Maharaj. Hon Phala, chairperson of the portfolio committee, you may take the podium.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to debate the Annual Report of the Department of Provincial Treasury for the financial year 2019/20. I think both, the honourable Members that debated, Hon Donald Selamolela and Hon Maharaj spoke very well in relation to what we saw in that Annual Report when we interacted with the department. They reflect truly, the state of the department. In general, Hon Speaker, this Provincial Treasury, the reason why both Members did not spend the time that they were allocated, and I also will not, is precisely because this Provincial Treasury is the best performing department in the provincial government and is one of the best performing Provincial Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. [APPLAUSE]

It is in the same league with other best performing Provincial Treasuries of the Western Cape, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal and elsewhere, that have been getting clean audit after clean audit. As the Members have said, this financial year was the third consecutive financial year in which the Provincial Treasury is getting a clean audit. Consecutive means years following each other, for those who may not understand what consecutive means. The Auditor-General reflected that they did not just get their books right, but also the performance of their functions. They performed very well as Hon Maharaj was talking to that point in the Annual Report.

In general, internally, endogenous in the department, they are doing very well. They run their affairs very well. They dot all their i's and cross all their t's up to now. I am sure maybe that is why HOD Pratt is the one of the longest serving HODs. He has been doing a good work there for a number of years, turning that Treasury around.

From the time of the section 100 intervention, he turned it around and has been working tirelessly, up to today with the MEC, Hon Sekoati, to push both the Treasury and the provincial government.

What we usually focus on if you listen to us, are issues that are not endogenous to the Provincial Treasury but are exogenous to it. Exogenous to it refers to issues that are external, which in terms of law have some role to play.

For instance, as Hon Maharaj was saying, we would also want them to do a cross pollination of this clean audit, so that they are not the only provincial department that gets it, but the expansion goes.

In the recent financial year, four provincial auditees obtained clean audits. That should expand and extend to other departments and auditees. We also talk of another exogenous work of enhancing the work that they are doing in municipalities, those sections that Hon Maharaj and Hon Selamolela were quoting, where the department plays a role in overseeing the finances of municipalities. You will remember in the recent few years, we come from an era where more than a dozen municipalities in the province took more than R1,2 billion of the people of Limpopo, and invested it in a nonbank institution in mogodišano called the Venda Building Society Mutual Bank, in contravention of section 17 of the Municipal Finance Management Act. To that extent, therefore, we spoke to Treasury to continue to do the work.

Treasury cannot go there and run municipalities. Every municipality is a government on its own. They have their own Municipal Councils. They have got Mayors. They have got Municipal Managers and chief financial officers. It is the same with the departments. Even when we say they must expand the work they are doing to other departments, so that they get clean audits, they will not go run those departments. All departments in the province have MECs, they have heads of department, and they have chief financial officers, and their entire staff. Therefore, the only thing they can do is to guide them, help them where they can and ensure that they also improve.

A matter that we will return to is in relation to the various investigative reports that are done by both Provincial Treasury and other categories of people who do forensic and other categories of investigations, such as the SIU. On many occasions we find that when the head of department and the department are unhappy with some of the recommendations that are made by the investigating body, they usually put the report aside and do not implement it. It is a matter we are paying attention to because we have seen it happening in a number of places, in the Department of Transport and the Department of Agriculture. We saw it in the Department of LEDET and a number of other places. We are going to continue with that matter and look into the various investigative reports and see that they are implemented.

The SIU has just reported last week that in the province of Limpopo, they have submitted for blacklisting, 31 companies that were doing business related to COVID-19 with the Department of Health. They reported last week that 31 companies that were doing COVID-19 related business with the Department of Health would be blacklisted. Because it is a recent report, this matter will be paid attention to, as Treasury does because we work together in looking at the entirety of the provincial administration in the province, so that the provincial administration as a whole improves, and that improves the name of the province.

You would have seen, in the last three years, the provincial government was at the bottom, regarded as one of the worst performing provincial governments in the Republic of South Africa in relation to audit outcomes. It was near the North West and the Free State. In this 2019/20 financial year that we are talking about, the provincial government has improved and is now in the middle, not in the bottom rung, but in the middle. We hope that the Provincial Treasury, working with all other departments will continue to enhance the work that it is doing. The provincial government will continue to improve, enhance, and ensure that the books of the entire administration are improved, and expand and extend the audit findings so that the Auditor-General finds that there are no qualifications, and finds that there are clean audits and that clean audits are increased in the province from four and a half last year to even more of the 11 auditees in the provincial government.

Those are the few words, Hon Speaker. There aren't many things we can say in relation to this department. It is doing generally very well. It is the best provincial department in the provincial government and one of the best performing Provincial Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. I take this opportunity Hon Speaker, to thank you very much for the time that you gave me. Thanks. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Phala. We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury to come and respond. Honourable MEC, you are given only two minutes, not more than that.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Once again, thank you, Madam Speaker. Ka Sepedi ba re, le lebotse ga le lebogwe. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to really express words of gratitude to the chairperson of the committee, Kgolane Alfred Phala and members of the committee in their collective. The good work that we are experiencing as Provincial Treasury is partly because of the commitment that we have from our own officials, the HOD, but also from the steering and enhancement that we are getting from the committee itself. We are hoping that we will continue to work together to make sure that we move from good to great and make sure that those exogenous matters that have been raised, particularly in terms of the compliance to the PFMA and MFMA, supply chain and contract management will become part of history.

We will work closely to ensure that we are able to strengthen good governance, get good value for the resources that we are spending as a province and continue improving the quality of the lives of the people of the province through the services that we are providing. We will also ensure that every one of these officials including ourselves, are able to account and we are transparent, as Members have already stated. Once again, I would like to thank you Madam Speaker and the committee for the good work. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC. We proceed to item 7.3. Consideration and Adoption of the Following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure: 2019/20 Annual Report. Committee chair, the floor is yours.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Madam Speaker, ba re kganthe ke nna modulasetulo. Yes, I am the chairperson of the portfolio committee. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here to table the report of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, as well as the Annual Report for RAL (Roads Agency Limpopo), for the financial year 2019/20.

I so move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks. Do not go chairperson. Thanks, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Lekganyane, you are recognised.

MS LEKGANYANE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Again, Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, 2019/2020 Annual Report for Roads Agency Limpopo. Committee chair, it's your turn.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Ke be ke re ke a kgaoletša, bjale ke a bona gore ke paletšwe. Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here to table the Annual Report for Roads Agency Limpopo for the financial year 2019/20. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS LEKGANYANE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, rise to second the motion as tabled by Hon Makhurupetje. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Lekganyane. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, I am in a very jovial mood today.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mdaka, I just want to indicate that we are going to combine the two debates.

MR MDAKA

Ja, that will make it easier for us, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, the honourable MECs present, honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen. I greet you all this morning. Avuxeni.

I stand before you on behalf of the ANC to debate the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as well as that of Roads Agency Limpopo for the same year. Allow me to salute all the young people of our country, as we celebrate the 45th anniversary of 16 June 1976 as alluded to by Hon Selamolela already.

Hi mi hluvulela xiqhoko vantshwa va hina eka leswi endlekeke hi n'hwetl leyi ya Khotavuxika hi lembe ra 1976. Van'wani swi va tsandzile na ku nghena xikolo hikokwalaho ka migingiriko ya ku lwela ntshunxeko. Van'wani va hlongoriwile eswikolweni. Hi ri, n'hwetl leyi na ku tinyiketa ka n'wina swi ta tsundzukiwa hi laha ku nga heriki eka matimu ya tiko ra hina ra Afrika-Dzonga. Onge vantshwa va namuntlha va nga kota ku yimela timhaka ta vona na ku lwela tiko tanihi vantshwa va 1976, lava a va lwisana na ku akiwa ka ti beer hall kusuhi na le switichini laha vatatana va hina a va fikela kona loko va huma emintirhweni, na ku ti nghenisa eka swa vutswotswi na vugevenga hi vantshwa, leswi a ku ri mhaka leyi a ku lwiwa na yona swinene hi minkarhi yoleyo. Loko leswi a swa ha endleka na namuntlha, mhaka ya ku dlayiwa ka vana na ku tshikileriwa ka vamanana, na ku dlayiwa ka vamanana, a swi ta hunguteka swinene hi migingiriko ya n'wina vantshwa.

Madam Speaker, I stand before this honourable House to debate on the Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as well as Roads Agency Limpopo's 2019/20 Annual Reports. Let me start as Hon Phala has said that we are a province that is improving in terms of our reports. I am congratulating the Roads Agency Limpopo as well for obtaining a much more improved report, which is called an unqualified report, for the 2019/20 financial year. I do not have to qualify that because I understand that we all understand what an unqualified report is. An unqualified report is a report that is better than a qualified one. It is indeed unbelievable to others because the department has been obtaining very bad reports for many years in succession. Of late, we have seen such improvement in the recent years and that is indeed commendable.

However, the department must deal with the issue of misstatement of moveable assets and the irregular expenditure in the department, which has now become a regular phenomenon with minimal or no consequence management. Capacity should be created to deal with those involved indeed. It cannot just be business as usual. Achievement by the department on targets set for the financial year, of course, are contained in the report for Members to read at their spare time for details. However, it suffices to indicate that of the allocated R3,986 billion Budget for the 2019/20 financial year, the department managed to spend R3,466 billion which is 89% of the total allocated Budget. Just to give some highlights, R864,6 million was spent on infrastructure, while R2,145 billion was spent on road infrastructure. This includes the

R1,293 billion transferred to RAL (Roads Agency Limpopo). The rest went into Administration and EPWP.

Given the nature of the department, it is understandable that only 89% was spent by 31 March 2020. Reasons for deviations were given and are there in the report. RAL managed to spend 80% of its Budget by the end of March 2020. It initially put a target of upgrading only 18 km of roads in the whole province in its 2019/20 financial year. This was not acceptable to the portfolio committee as there is a huge demand for upgrading of road infrastructure in our province. Hence, an additional funding was obtained during the budget adjustment, where an additional amount of R280 million, including the use of other funds from other sources helped RAL to upgrade 87,62 km of our gravel roads in the province. Still, that is not enough.

Given the needs and demands from various communities in our province, there is a need for more funding to be allocated for this purpose in the future. Many of our roads were and are still in a bad state in the year under review. It is reported that only 612,556 m² of blacktop patching was done in the report. This is well below the target of 1 500 m² for the year and it is just 41% achievement of the target set. Reasons cited for nonachievement are because of noncompliance with the utilisation of the maintenance budget, which was later withheld from quarter 2 to the last quarter.

We reiterate our call to the department to avoid this anomaly in the future, as it deprives us of funds that could be used properly to close the most [inaudible] potholes in our roads. Moreover, what is the use of building new roads with a maintenance budget due to pressure from communities and neglecting the same roads with potholes that are used by the same communities? That is not progress. Whilst new tar roads are needed, the closing of potholes on our provincial roads is much more urgent. We should also follow up on all promises made by former MECs from the department on upgrading of roads from gravel to tar with specific emphasis on the Chavani to Bungeni road in Vhembe. This was communicated to the department during the time of the then MEC Hon Ndou, where Makhado Municipality allocated in its own Budget R30 million with the promise that the Provincial Treasury will top up the rest through RAL.

To this day, nothing has happened. I believe even the current MEC Hon Masemola is having a communique from a forum of stakeholders from this community following up on the same issue. The road that led to serious protests in Blouberg, during the time of MEC Hon Nandi Ndalane and other MECs and the Matlala road in Polokwane to mention but a few, were hotspots and are still hotspots. We believe towards this local government election, we will still experience the same issues that we experienced in the past, where we have to run up and down trying to clear out the issues from our communities who are angry.

There is a need to give feedback to those communities in terms of our plans concerning these issues, as we met them during that time. Again, honourable MEC, the priority list should not just be a wish list but must be a reasonable and achievable list that can be followed by proper implementation. Hon Speaker, as I move towards conclusion of my contribution to the debate, I want to commend Roads Agency Limpopo and the department once more for obtaining an unqualified audit opinion, of course with findings. Can that achievement be maintained towards a clean audit because it is possible. Our former President Nelson Mandela once said, "It is not

impossible until it gets done.” With the current leadership in the department, we believe this can be done.

I thank you, Madam Speaker, and the honourable Members for the opportunity and for listening to my humble contribution. Ndza khensa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Mdaka. Our next speaker is Hon Lilian Managa. It seems as if she is not present. We shall now call upon Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The total adjusted Budget for the department amounted to R3,9 billion. The department only managed to spend 89% of that amount, which equates to R3,4 billion resulting in a variance of almost R430 million. This large underspending across programmes in the department especially with regard to the Roads Infrastructure Programme only spending R2,1 billion or 84,4% of its allocation with the variance of almost R3,97 million of the total adjusted allocation is surprising. It is surprising if we consider how poorly managed our roads infrastructure is, and how embarrassing the state of the roads are in this province. The department managed to receive an unqualified audit opinion in the period under review. This was a much improvement especially considering that prior to this, it had shockingly received a qualified audit opinion consistently from 2013/14 to 2018/19 financial years.

The Auditor-General indicated an impairment of R89 million for accrued departmental revenue largely due to ineffective debt collection practices. This was a recurring funding, because in the 2018/19 financial year an impairment of R81,8 million for accrued departmental revenue was raised due to ineffective debt collection practices. The loss of government revenue in a department that requires significance resources to fulfil its mandate is simply unacceptable. The fact that this was a recurring finding is even more disappointing and speaks the type of leadership in the department. The A-G also indicated that effective and appropriate steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R361,820 million. The lion's share of the irregular expenditure was caused by noncompliance with supply chain management laws and regulations, internal control deficiencies and noncompliance with legislation.

The Auditor-General also raised other issues that have historically affected the department such as the failure by leadership to exercise adequate oversight responsibilities regarding financial and performance reporting and ensuring that there is compliance related to internal controls. It is also discouraging that although the department managed to develop an audit action plan to address internal control deficiencies, the plan was not adhered to and as a result the same problems just got more severe in the period under review as the root causes remain unaddressed.

Certain key targets within the department programmes continue to underperform. It was established that only 28 of the annual targets of 47 planned maintenance projects were completed within the agreed contract period and budget with the deviation of 19. The large underachievement is concerning and exemplifies some of the challenges that the department is facing in its management of projects.

Roads maintenance continues to be a problem in this province year in and year out. The department only achieved to rehabilitate 68 080 m² of surface roads. This is far significantly short of the 190 000 m² annual targets.

It seems that RAL has failed again to control the unacceptable high irregular expenditure. It was established that in the last three years the incurred irregular expenditure has been outlined as R235 million in the 2017/18, R904 million in the 2018/19 and R901 million in the 2019/20 financial years. This excessive irregular expenditure as you can see is showing a trajectory instead of a decline and has been caused by not following supply chain management processes, R311,1 million as a result of that. Supply chain management supporting documents not available: R10,1 million. Projects not budgeted for vote 09: R534,6 million. Payments made on expired service level agreements: R46 million.

The procurement processes of the department are a challenge in the efficient running of the department. In the year under review, it seems efficient contract management was another issue the department struggled to achieve. There were significance delays in completing the projects at RAL and an amount of R121 million was impaired due to road damages. Roads infrastructure expenditure was also underwhelming.

The spending within the budget was only at 59% of the budget spent as of 100% annual spending of the allocated budget. It seems as if the target that was interpreted as not achieved as the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grants, (PRMG) was withheld due to failure to comply with the conditions of the grant. RAL did not utilise earmarked funds for the intended purposes. This has resulted in recurring irregular expenditure. The underperformance in reaching targets will have an impact on the province's road infrastructure taking into consideration the large backlog on new roads infrastructure and road infrastructure maintenance. The entity only managed to rehabilitate 81 500 m² of surface roads from an annual target of 191 000 m².

Hon Speaker, RAL needs to reduce the causes of its irregular expenditure as well as to reduce it drastically along with unauthorised expenditure as well as fruitless and wasteful expenditure. There is a need to develop an audit action plan to address A-G's findings and move closer to receiving a clean audit. Consequence management is also another area to improve in order to ensure sound running of processes and to root out impropriety. Effective and efficient internal controls need to be formulated and implemented as well. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Maharaj. We shall now call upon the committee chair, Hon Makhurupetje.
[APPLAUSE]

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip, honourable Members of the august House, thobela. Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to appreciate the debate made by my colleagues on the Annual Report for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and Road Agency Limpopo. I appreciate the inputs made by Hon Selamolela as he was opening the debate. He has acknowledged that we do this debate in honour of the young people who were there

before us in 1976. Indeed, whatever we do, we must be able to walk in their footsteps to ensure that service delivery gets improved for the people that we live with.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure briefed the committee on the 2019/20 Annual Report on 16 April 2021 and subsequently on 05 May 2021. The committee further met with the office of the Auditor-General seeking more clarity on the audit outcomes. The committee has noted the improvement in respect of audit opinions during the year under review as the department received an unqualified audit opinion. Honourable MEC and your team, congratulations and well done. It was against this backdrop that the department's overall outcomes remained stagnant over the last six years having a qualified audit opinion from 2013/14 to 2018/19 financial years. Indeed, in the 2019/20 financial year we have seen a huge improvement. It was noted with appreciation that the daunting issues of movable tangible capital assets which led to the qualification of the department were not raised as a matter of concern during the year under review.

The committee was concerned about the lack of consequence management in the department as the A-G also alluded that the department was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that disciplinary steps were taken against the officials who incurred irregular expenditure as well as the fruitless and wasteful expenditure as required by section 38(1)(h)(iii) of the PFMA. The committee noted as well that the department received claims arising from the potholes and some were resolved, through settlement negotiations and remained with other cases that were being defended through the office of the State Attorney.

Furthermore, in respect of rates and taxes charged by municipalities, the department indicated that it has been paying rates and taxes of property registered in the name of the province in terms of the Municipal Properties Act of 2004. We are still worried as the committee because it looks like the municipalities are still raising concerns that the provincial government is not honouring its obligations.

The committee emphasised to the department to consistently dedicate its efforts towards building an efficient and responsive administrative by enhancing systems, processes and procedures with a view to efficiently deliver services as expected from the department.

During the year under review, the committee appreciated leadership stability in the department, which was a concern in the previous financial years, especially the Office of the Executive Authority which are the MEC and the HOD. It was further appreciated that the previous finding of the A-G on governance regarding the assurance level especially Audit Committee, Internal Audit Committee which was satisfactory and other instruments established, Executive Management Committee, Risk Management Committee and Audit Steering Committee that were not there before. Indeed, we have seen the improvement after those governance structures were put in place. The committee has reiterated its concerns of the non-filling of critical posts especially the Chief Director for Planning and the Chief Director for Construction, to capacitate the organisation to run efficiently.

The committee was concerned about the number of R293 township transfers to municipalities as there was nil, which is an underachievement from the annual target of five. The committee indicated that it would continue monitoring engagements

between the departments which indicated that Provincial Treasury has got a role to play. Therefore, we appeal that the two departments work together in order to fast track this matter.

During the year under review, we have seen underachievement which was recorded with regard to the number of infrastructure designs ready for a tender. For the annual target of 40, only 11 targets were achieved with the deviation of 29 targets due to nonconcurrence with the client department which is Education, on budget and scope for the school projects. It was also indicated that for the 2019/20 fourth quarter, as a planned intervention, 52 schools were to be advertised during the first quarter of the 2020/21 financial year. The committee was seriously concerned as during this interaction it was clear that the project was affected negatively by the COVID-19. The committee will continue to monitor the department's capacity to develop UAMPs (User Asset Management Plans) in respect of quality, credibility and reliability of documents submitted.

It was reported that 2 060 work opportunities were created by the provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure from the yearly target of 1 050 with a variance of 1 010. The overachievement was attributed to additional funding obtained from equitable share and for that, we appreciate that these jobs can be increased for our people to be assisted.

With regard to RAL, the committee has made the following observations and recommendations:

- The committee has noted that the overall outcome of RAL during the year under review, 2019/20 financial year, was unqualified with findings. It was established that the agency has been unqualified in the past three years.
- The committee has acknowledged the improvement which RAL demonstrated in terms of the audit opinion of the 2016/17 financial year and from the unqualified audit opinions in the previous years.
- The committee having established the terms of the entity's audit overview that in the previous three financial years of 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20, the audit outcomes remained unchanged to the year under review. The department and RAL have promised us that they are working towards a clean audit, and we will really appreciate to see a clean audit coming.

It was established that in the last three years, RAL had incurred irregular expenditure which we are not very excited about because instead of it reducing, it is increasing. We hope Provincial Treasury will work with the department to deal with this matter. It was further established that 17 contracts were amended or extended without approval by delegated officials with a total value of extensions which was R71 million. The variation order in excess of R20 million was processed without the approval of Treasury. Furthermore, a payment of R104 was made to goods and services that were either not received or were not delivered according to the criteria documents in the contract. These related to 11 contracts and payments of spending times, financial capping, interest payments and no work permitted in the current and prior years and one contract for poor design in the previous year.

In relation to the number of square metre surface, 81 500 m² were achieved from the annual target of 190 000 m². It was mentioned that the target was not achieved due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also noted that the rehabilitation of roads should have been funded through provincial roads maintenance, however, some money was held in previous quarters due to non-compliance. We are here to appreciate the efforts by both the MEC and RAL as it was mentioned that RAL at the end of reporting, was compliant with the PRMG (Provincial Road Maintenance Grant) conditions.

Regarding the kilometres of gravel roads funded, 27 kilometres were achieved from the annual targets of 18 kilometres. It was indicated that the target was overachieved on the target of upgraded gravel by 3 kilometres from the target of 18 kilometres for the year. The overachievement was attributed to the role that has been played by additional equitable share of R280 million mid-term adjustment. National Treasury and Transport allowed RAL to utilise 25% of PRMG as well as other institutions that contribute towards roads upgrading.

During the year under review, five bridges were completed from the yearly target of two. It was mentioned that the overachievement was on the basis that the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality was able to do additional three bridges. We are saying the department should continuously engage with other institutions to make sure that we increase in terms of the targets that we are supposed to achieve.

We raised concerns that during the interaction the priority list which was provided was still to be negotiated and planned and not implemented informed by the severity of community protests on roads infrastructure delivery and expectations, especially communities with written commitments from various levels of government. Furthermore, that districts chose to prioritise other roads instead of bermuda roads, political commitments and hotspots. Therefore, we still reiterate to the department to ensure that they continue to engage with the stakeholders and prioritise to address communities' expectations and share information on progress to address their needs and have a continuous communication with the affected communities to avoid unnecessary protests.

The committee having scrutinised the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, as well as the Annual Report for the 2019/20 financial year of Road Agency Limpopo, we therefore, recommend to this august House that it adopts the committee's report for the 2019/20 financial year. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, I move that this report be adopted as the report of this august House. I move accordingly. Ke a leboga. Ndza khensa. Ndo livhuwa. Ndi zwone. Aa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Makhurupetje. We shall now call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Masemola, to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Once more, Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier in attendance as well as Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members present here in the Sitting

and those that are online, a very good morning to you. I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the good work evidenced by the reports in the form of discussions and recommendations that have been made to this honourable House by Members who spoke in discussions on the reports of both the department and as well as the entity, Roads Agency Limpopo. I would like to heap on the encomiums on the committee and most in particular the chairperson for the sterling if not the splendid work demonstrated so far in playing oversight on the department to keep us on our toes to make sure that indeed we perfect both the systems and as well as the internal controls of the department.

I want to take this opportunity to thank them indeed once more for that work. Uppermost, I take note of everything that has been said here in terms of the appreciations, but above them all, most areas that require close attention by the department and as well as the entity. I think in our continuous interaction post this meeting, as we will be appearing before the committee, we will be in a better position to continue to provide answers to those areas of concern which have been brought to my attention but also to the attention of the administrative leadership of both the department and the entity. Without going into responses, in the interest of time as you already said Hon Speaker, I want to appreciate all what has been said and commit myself and the entire administration in the department to work towards improving those areas that have been alluded to. Thank you so much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, MEC, Hon Masemola.

7.4 Consideration and Adoption of the Report on the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2019/20 Annual Report.

Over to you, committee chair.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, as duly mandated and authorised by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural development, Hon Isaiah Mmabogahla Masekoameng, hereby present the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and Rural development for the 2019/20 financial year for adoption. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, acting chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker for this opportunity. I take this opportunity to second Hon Matsobane Simon Mathe, as duly authorised and duly mandated by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Messina Masekoameng. I second accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Phala. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker for the opportunity. Greetings to the leadership of the EFF, the MECs, MPLs, our support staff and all those who are watching from various media platforms. Hon Speaker, the EFF is disappointed with the annual performance of the department, which is characterised by underexpenditure, failure to meet annual targets, and nonresponses to AG and Scopa resolutions. The failure of the government under the ANC has exacerbated the diminishing of agriculture in most of the communal areas and previously disadvantageous groups. These are the African communities in particular. The EFF would like to know after this failure to achieve these targets whether the department established a detailed strategy to ensure the maximum implementation of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and Letsema projects.

The EFF is concerned about the 90% vacancy rate which is far above the normal threshold of 10%. All this happens not because there is no more budget, but because officials in the department are reserving these posts for their families, friends and comrades in the ANC. All this is happening because the political head in this department is sleeping on duty. The department has normalised and institutionalised corruption, laziness and complexity by deliberately dragging its feet to pursue those who are involved in corruption and mismanagement of both biological and nonbiological assets of the department. It is only under the ANC-led government that 86 desktops got lost, laptops are not accounted for, and 44 Nguni livestock got stolen. The HOD and officials responsible still get their salaries and their bonuses without any consequence management.

The Premier and the MEC have presented to the people of Limpopo what they call six departmental priorities guided by the Limpopo Development Plan in their Medium-Term Strategic Framework. These priorities remain a pipe dream and an empty promise to the people of Limpopo. The key to these priorities is the revitalisation of irrigation schemes. Nothing to this effect is done because the priority was exported from the previous Medium-Term Strategic Framework. The EFF has been asking the department how many irrigation schemes have been revitalised, how many jobs have been created with this investment. No answer came forth because nothing tangible and solid was done on the ground to improve the lives of our people.

The dream of agri-parks in the province has now been faded away while huge sum of money was invested in this dream. The ANC-led government under the Premier Mathabatha is good with plans but fails to account on the progress. The EFF would like to know what happened to the much talked about Lebowakgomo Abattoir, Zebediela Citrus Farm, Mariveni Citrus Farm, Marobala-o-Itsose and many other catalyst projects. The people of Limpopo must know they are being sold an empty dream for them to be hopeful of the ANC.

The ANC-led government in this province is bluffing about prioritising designated groups in the mainstream economy. To date, the department cannot account on how many cooperatives and SMMEs owned by women, youth and people living with

disability were prioritised in their departmental procurement processes. The issue of women emancipation cannot be taken for granted. The EFF takes a lesson on women from the great leader of Africa, Thomas Sankara, when he says: “The revolution and women’s liberation go together. We do not talk of women’s emancipation as an act of charity or because of a surge of human compassion. It is a necessity for the triumph of the revolution”.

Hon Spooker, Hon Speaker, it is ... [INTERJECTION]

BACKGROUND

Spooker! [LAUGHTER]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, it is a fallacy of generalisation that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has farmer support units, instead, the department through CASP and Letsema Land Care Programme and other conditional grants is engaging in cash distribution to politically collected individuals, friends of politicians and officials who are masquerading as businesspeople. There are no farmers who are supported in this province. All those who are set to have received support are set to fail because none of them received proper support. The department gives our farmers infrastructure without production inputs or production inputs without infrastructure.

The EFF would like to know what happened to Nkukeng Vegetable Farming project in Molemole Municipality owned by Vincent Rapetsoa, wherein R2,5 million was spent for incomplete infrastructure and the farmer was left to struggle with the incomplete infrastructure. This is one of the many farmers who are left with half-cooked meal support and are set to fail. The EFF will re-introduce agricultural products market boards to ensure that farmers derive the most from the sale of agricultural products while at the same time opening up market opportunities for emerging black farmers.

The EFF is concerned about the business of the two colleges because they are continuing to produce graduates without aftercare programmes. The department produces graduates with diplomas but the entrance requirement for core posts is a degree while on the other side there are no plans to accommodate these graduates in a state land to further their career in agriculture as farmers. The EFF would like to call on the people of Limpopo to see the ANC for what it is. It is the liberation movement that has lost its ideological identity.

The House must note that the department failed to help over 2 500 households with agricultural food support initiatives in line with food security. The EFF government will continue to unbundle the constructive agricultural sector to reduce the monopoly of big businesses and ensure that a more decentralised and vibrant agrarian regime takes course. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Seshoka. We shall now call upon Hon Smalle. Hon Smalle, you are considered. Hon Smalle, if you are connected it is your turn now. Hon Smalle, unmute yourself.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The administrator had to unmute me and good morning to you, Hon Speaker. I hope I am clear and if the technical issues continue, you will just stop me if there is a problem. Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me make reference to the 2019/20 Annual Report by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development that the previous year was recorded as one of the most challenging time for all our government departments. No entity was spared, and it would be no different for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. There was no more evidence ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I am going to pass because I am told here that it was agreed in the Programming Committee that those who are going to debate must come into the House physically. So, I am going to pass him. Hon Maritz, it is your turn.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of the opposition parties, it is a common cause that agriculture is one of the biggest contributors to the economy in the Limpopo province. With such an important contributor to the economy, one would expect to have a department that would support the sector as the backbone for a good governance and a valued creator of wealth and food security for all people in the province. This is not the case. We heard that this department could not succeed in proper management of its duty and mandate to the agricultural industry.

The real problem is the ANC's ideology that it could hide its ineffectiveness by dreaming unrealistically whilst the reality is being ignored. To be able to succeed in any planned venture, it is important to recognise failures, correct them, learn from them and use the lessons learnt to make a success of the planned projects. Unfortunately, this department fails to learn from its mistakes and in fact does not apply basic management principles.

There is not a single flagship project to prove that this department is indeed on the right track to blueprint sustainable and feasible food projects in the province. The department's track records to handle challenges such as the foot-and-mouth disease is not a good example at all. Failures like the Mara Research Station, the Zebediela Orange Farm and the Tea Plantation near Tzaneen would have to be dissected to get to the root of the real reasons. The root of the after failure lies in the theft, corruption and poor management in the department itself. There would never be a successful project in the province if the department does not act and correct its weaknesses. This department will stay a bottomless pit with no rewards to the community if their turnaround strategies are not implemented very soon. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. The last speaker on the list is Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Hon Speaker, when I presented the motion for the adoption of the report, I had genuinely asked Hon Seshoka if he is okay. I later after having made such a presentation, realised that he is not okay because he could hardly refer to you as Hon Speaker, but instead he chose to refer to you as Hon Spooker. I hope that the relevant committee under the leadership of the Deputy Speaker will then process that matter.

It is also shocking that today an honourable Member who moved from mošate to mošate is now moving from farm to farm and he comes here to this podium to make very unfounded allegations. Part of the allegations that he is making, I believe are for populist reasons because the party that he is representing thrives on a populist agenda. It refers to itself as a protest organisation. When you define a protest organisation you are only talking about a political party that thrives on propaganda and lies, but at a future time, it then fades away. Hence, Hon Seshoka comes here and speaks about the missing livestock whilst he was part of an oversight team that visited the area where the livestock was reported to be stolen only to find that it was recovered. Therefore, what he says here is very populist.

We hold no particular unique view that set us apart, especially as members of the ANC from the pool of members of different parties and South Africans at large, who otherwise spoke on a number of challenges and frustrations caused by the COVID-19. We lost families and friends and above ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, hold on just a while. There is a hand.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I'm rising on a point of order because I feel the honourable presenter here is misleading the House and the people of Limpopo. It is a fact, and it has been recorded ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, order! Hon Mathe is debating, and you are not allowed to come here and respond to the debate.

MR SESHOKA

Ja, but he cannot misrepresent the facts ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, can you sit down. Hon Seshoka, can you sit down please. Hon Seshoka that is not the procedure. Procedurally, you were given an opportunity to debate, so now it is his turn. You are not allowed to come and respond to the debate of someone. You can proceed Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We lost families, friends, above all leaders whom we entrusted with lots of responsibilities. For a year now this country went through many difficulties. While we cannot change the past, there is a lot we can do in the present and future to give our province a positive direction. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, found a vulnerable South African economy. In fact, at the time when the pandemic reached our shores, the South African economy had experienced two consecutive quarters of recession, and the COVID-19 pandemic deepened the economic crisis. Let alone few casualties brought by Tropical Cyclone Eloise which brought heavy rains and strong winds in the country's lowveld areas and northern parts of Limpopo which to a larger extent affected our agricultural sector.

As per mandate by President Ramaphosa in the State of the Nation Address, he alluded that defeating the coronavirus pandemic and accelerating economic recovery remains one of our key priorities during the year 2021. As we join World Health Organization and the rest in uploading the leadership shown in our country, let us also thank South Africans for the respect shown since lockdown regulations to date. Hon Speaker, without no fear of pronunciation unlike those who refer to you as Hon Spooker, I will consistently refer to you as, Hon Speaker. Indeed, everyone is pleased in the way our government is leading by providing vaccines to our most vulnerable citizens. The President championed the talk of Uncle Phil when he said, there is no more to leading than being in front. The best leaders lead by example, not by mouth. Not by mouth.

The Farmer Support and Development Programme provides support to all farmers through agricultural development programmes. This programme had a total budget of R1,170 billion and the department had spent R1,118 billion or 95,6% of the finally appropriated budget and this resulted in an underexpenditure of R51,750 million. During the year under review this programme had 12 indicators with targets set and 8 were achieved, that is 85% achievement. If we are to convert it into academic standards, that will be a distinction of course. Some of us has never obtained a distinction in both of our academic and childhood learning processes. O kereye motho a palelwa ke distinction ya kheretšhe, a tlo dira order mo ge re debeita.

The department reported that 10 650 smallholder producers received support, falling short of the target of 13 700 due to the delays in the procurement of production inputs. The report further indicated that 1 399 farmers were trained through CASP, thus, exceeding the target of 1 200. Yet, somebody said we have failed in this regard, but we have exceeded the target of 1 200 because of the requirements for farmers to comply with water use and rights licencing prior to receiving irrigation support.

The report indicated that 118 instead of 120 unemployed graduates were placed on agricultural enterprises on a practical skills development, however, the other two graduates withdrew from the programme after getting greener pastures elsewhere. The intention of the programme was to place 120, but only 118 were placed. That also is a distinction.

Honourable Members, the resulting underexpenditure by the department for the 2019/20 financial year was R77,016 million. The programmes that contributed more to the expenditure include Farmer Support and Development Programme, Structured Agricultural Training, Administration, and Veterinary Services.

In terms of the economic classification, the highest contributor to the underexpenditure was current payments and compensation of employees due to late approval of the filling of vacant posts and related goods such as [inaudible] subsidised vehicle delivery as well as the payment of capital projects.

As we shift the conversation from the pandemic and its impact, we must now look towards the future and access post-pandemic opportunities that the province can explore in order to build and diversify our economy and most importantly, the COVID-19 has certainly exacerbated the region's economic strain, but it is not responsible for all the economic challenges faced by the province. In other words, when we think of post-pandemic opportunities, we should not frame them as if every challenge faced by the country is rooted in or is the result of the pandemic.

The refurbishment of few industries is an indication that in terms of the plans, the Limpopo province is ahead, ahead means you are ahead, you are far with aggressive infrastructure investment and all employment orientated strategies. Re-industrialisation and export promotion will play a significant role in the recovery plan. South Africa faces persistent challenges of inequality, unemployment, and poverty. This indicates that the number of jobs created outshone by a higher number of job losses. Our economic recovery focuses directly on job creation. The coronavirus pandemic has negatively impacted the most vulnerable and exposed the poor of the poorest of our country. In simple terms, we are yet to fully bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, but our economic strategies and economic recovery plan puts us in that path to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor.

In relation to infrastructure which is the backbone of any country, generating jobs, improving the quality of lives for the poor and boosting economic growth, it also highlights the contributions that municipal infrastructure can make towards the empowerment of communities as a whole, to individuals, particularly women and young people as well as education and social inclusion. Improved infrastructure also leads to the expansion of markets, economies of scale, and improvement in sector market operations. The development of rural infrastructure helps to enlarge markets with greater access to factors of production as highlighted in the MTBPS (Medium-Term Budget Policy Budget Statement) 2019, that it remains critical to drive further infrastructure investments. Public sector infrastructure projects are plagued by poor planning and implementation despite their clear benefits for growth and poverty reduction. Infrastructure spending is far below what is needed, moreover that gap widens as a country's income fall.

As the committee we recommend that the department must prioritise farmer support and development for young farmers in key commodities such as timber, citrus, avocados etc. The department must and we know it will, ensure that the opportunities for unemployed graduates and interns are filled as soon as they are vacant since there are many unemployed graduates who need such opportunities. That has been proven by the filling of 118 out of 120 opportunities for unemployed graduates. We are confident that the department will indeed fill those posts as and when such opportunities exist. The department will address the supply chain management challenges to further avoid delays in the procurement of production inputs for supporting farmers.

In conclusion, we thus humbly appeal to all of us, excluding one in this House, that we let bygones be bygones, readily embrace each other, excluding one, in defining a new destiny. The task at hand of building our great province, principally lies with none but ourselves, excluding that one. The COVID-19 has indiscriminately affected the whole world. No region, industry or business has been exempted. As a results private and public sector collaborations and partnerships have become even more critical and essential features of the South African economic recovery strategies. I thank you all, Madam Speaker, excluding one. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Mathe. We shall now call upon the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development to come and respond to the debate. Hon Ndalane, it's over to you.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Speaker, colleagues in the Executive, honourable Members of the House, the acting chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mathe, good morning. Thank you, Hon Speaker for affording me the opportunity to respond and give inputs after the thorough debate by the honourable Members.

As the political head and on behalf of the department, we wish to thank portfolio committee's chairperson and the honourable Members for the wonderful job they are doing in terms of oversight. We really appreciate that you are giving us the necessary support.

The third wave has finally arrived. We must indicate and assure honourable Members of the Legislature that as always, we have made plans to ensure that food security is not affected. As for women, youth and people with disability, they will receive our attention. As the department, we shall make sure that we increase more projects which will benefit them. The portfolio committee will be briefed on a regular basis.

Despite the big budget cut and the COVID-19, we shall try by all means to make sure that targets that are set on the 2021/22 APP and Budget are implemented as planned. When challenges of implementation arise, the portfolio committee will be updated. As a department, we acknowledge that there has been underspending of the budget, especially on the Farmer Support and Development Programme and this has happened for quite some time and we will make sure that we improve.

On the issue of desktops, I must indicate that employees have already been charged and they are going through a disciplinary process. Hon Seshoka, with regard to the agri-parks, as far as we know it is not a pipe dream. We are continuing with the plan.

On the issue of the cattle that have been missing, Hon Seshoka, we once more need to set the record straight. A total of 120 cattle were missing, indeed. About 119 were recovered. However, the disciplinary processes are underway.

Our mission as the department is to uproot corruption from all angles. To this effect, we must thank the portfolio committee, the Office of the Premier and the Treasury. We shall definitely make sure that the accounting officer regularly updates the portfolio

committee on the corrective measures and also sanctions to completely uproot corruption.

Once more Hon Speaker, I thank you.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, MEC. Thank you for confirming that there are issues that you are going to address. Thank you very much, unlike the defensive Mathe who came here and said nothing.

THE SPEAKER

You are out of order. Hon Seshoka, can you switch off your mic, please. Hon Seshoka switch of your mic. Thanks, honourable MEC for the response.

MR MATHE

[inaudible]

MR SESHOKA

What is your business? O di kwele, o di kwele. O dumetše, MEC. It cannot be that when you are talking, you think we cannot talk. We are going to talk as well.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe and Hon Seshoka, please. Please, Hon Seshoka, switch off the mic.

MR SESHOKA

Point of order, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Switch off the mic. Let's process to item 7.5. Hon Seshoka, no.

MR SESHOKA

No, but I am allowed to raise a point of order.

THE SPEAKER

On what?

MR SESHOKA

No, no, Hon Speaker, I am raising a point of order on you because ...
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

A point of order on what?

MR SESHOKA

On you because you only talk when it is me talking. I was on the podium and the honourable Members were drowning me, and you never even protected me. You have been quiet but when it is their turn, you are now reacting.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, I have said Hon Mathe and Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

No, I mean when I was on the podium.

THE SPEAKER

You are raising the previous thing.

MR SESHOKA

I am raising it because you are raising it now. I thought maybe it's a norm that we can talk at any time.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, let's proceed honourable Members.

MR SESHOKA

You see, you must know that you are degenerating this House into something else because you cannot call order on one person, it can't be.

MR MATHE

[inaudible]

MR SESHOKA

You are out of order Mathe.

THE SPEAKER

Let's proceed honourable Members. Let's proceed to item 7.5.

MR SESHOKA

If you undermine her, we will continue to undermine her as well because she does not call you into order. You are not calling them to order? They can speak as they wish, and they are undermining you and what it is ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoke!

MR SESHOKA

No, I am not Seshoke, I am Seshoka.

THE SPEAKER

No matter.

MR SESHOKA

No matter! No, you can't be misspelling my name and then say, no matter.

THE SPEAKER

You said I am Hon Spooker, I heard you.

MR SESHOKA

No, but I ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

But I understand that it was a mistake. So, if I said Seshoka or Seshoke, it is a ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

I am also rectifying you then.

THE SPEAKER

To say what?

MR SESHOKA

Hon Seshoka.

THE SPEAKER

Oh, Hon Seshoka. Let's proceed.

7.5 Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Sports, Arts and Culture: 2019/20 Annual Report

Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. She is not called Spooker; she is Hon Speaker. Thank you, Hon Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata Mahasela, stand here to table the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture's Annual Report for the 2019/20 financial year. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am here to support everything that the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture has said. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Selane. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; Hon Chair of Chairs; Hon Premier in absentia, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela; honourable Members of this majestic House.

Honourable Chairperson, it was immediately after a political genocide which was caused by the Afrikaans-speaking people and the English-speaking people fighting over the resources of this country and recruited our people to fight their own tribal war. Today, that tribal war which was called by then the Anglo Boer War, is now termed a South African War. This war had a bad effect towards our people and young people in particular across the length and breadth of this particular country.

Young people conglomerated with the intention to resist and challenge this colonial project and subsequent to that historic and positive political development is that Black people were disfranchised, dehumanised and excluded from economic activities. This has led young revolutionaries, visionaries at that particular time to galvanise our people in the fight against that vexatious and draconian government.

Exactly, this month marked the 66th anniversary after the people of South Africa conglomerated in Kliptown near Soweto on 25 and 26 June 1955. They were in majority. Young people participated in this congress to redefine the programme of action for the people of South Africa.

This real congress of the people was people-centred because it came after a massive door-to-door campaign conducted by young people on behalf of our people. The 1955

Freedom Charter was an important historical and political milestone that has set the agenda to fight the colonial and apartheid enterprise.

The charter encapsulates the aspiration of the people of South Africa towards democracy and freedom today. This Freedom Charter coincides with the 1976 Soweto June Uprising. What a positive political coincidence, Hon Speaker, that the 1976 uprising was a positive political step for the youth of this particular country to fight against apartheid. That positive development changed the ideological character of the youth of this particular country and the political landscape of South Africa.

Our people were indeed galvanised into a consolidated programme in the attainment of democracy and freedom. The time has come for us to make a critical appraisal on the condition in which our people find themselves. Necessarily, because our people are confronted with many challenges related to education, high unemployment and discrimination.

Despite the progress we have made over the 27 years on democracy and freedom, our people remain frustrated, and they struggle to get or access high-quality education and economic activity. Therefore, this activist Legislature must give our people the opportunity to explore and to demonstrate their capabilities in confronting the challenges that we are facing.

Despite the enormous intervention we have made as a democratic government, COVID-19 has to a certain extent paralysed or disrupted our economic activity. It is a naked secret that our people are still experiencing its impact because it has created a serious burden on our own government due to jobless growth and, of course, inequality.

We must, however, first congratulate the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for obtaining an unqualified audit opinion after some milestone of a qualified audit opinion. We must secondly appreciate the fact that the MEC, Hon Thandi Annah Moraka, and her team in the department, made sure that the department observes and implements the recommendations from the Auditor-General and the portfolio committee.

Lastly, Hon Speaker, we must welcome the fact that the department has finally appointed the head of the department, Prof Friday Mushwana. The fundamental reason for such appointment is service delivery to our people and the attainment of a clean audit in the following financial year. We hope and believe that the current HOD clearly understands the political and administrative dichotomy or interface because that will serve as a basis to minimise the problems of the weak institution and its own dysfunctionality.

The portfolio committee exercises its oversight work over the department to deliver services to our people. This is a constitutional mandate which the department must understand and implement its recommendation without fail.

The fundamental and reasonable contradiction existing between the portfolio committee and the department is the failure to act positively whereas there is a duty for the department to act. It is about the failure to implement the recommendations of the portfolio committee and the Auditor-General from an ideological point of view. Once the department implements, there will be no challenge at all, necessarily

because the result will be service delivery to our people and the achievement of a clean audit.

Hon Speaker, the problem in this particular department begins when serious cases in terms of litigation processes are conferred to the Office of the Premier, whereas the Office of the Premier has a lot of cases or a lot of work to do. When crime is committed, it is committed in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. When resources or Budget is allocated, it is allocated to the department to utilise those resources effectively, efficiently and of course, economically.

When we demand accountability, the question of responsibility and accountability, it is the department that must respond and take the responsibility for whatever action. We cannot afford to confer cases from the department and exonerate ourselves from the blame. We must take full responsibility for every action we are taking. If we are not implementing consequence management, our people will believe in the narrative that says, the department is not implementing consequence management because they are protecting their families and friends from corrupt activities. Therefore, it is important that the department implements consequence management and deal with its own cases.

We have diligently reported in this august and majestic House that the traditional method of mass gatherings and activities were circumvented because of the notorious and demonic disease. The department's plans to host its own historic events were disrupted, of course, by this particular pandemic. We have made a commitment to our people that, indeed, in the coming financial years, we will build provincial theatres and libraries. We are happy to report that the libraries are in the process of construction and what is left is for the department to fast track the completion of such libraries. The technical dilemma of the supply chain process and failure to pay the contractors on reasonable time and the reality of COVID-19 cannot be used as the shield or excuse to justify our failure to deliver services to our people. We have made recommendations to the department and such recommendations must be implemented and this will greatly assist this particular department to realise its own promises.

The problem of asset management is one of the factors that has contributed to the failure to obtain a clean audit. The confusion of responsibility and management of assets needs to be cleared, so as to resolve the sole problem confronting the department.

We do acknowledge the failure by the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to assist our artists with resources during the difficult moment of a pandemic. Most of these artists are from poor communities with vulnerable background, and they solely depend on their creativity to generate income. When they were supposed to be assisted, the department complicated the whole situation which resulted in non-assistance of these particular artists. This was a boring political phenomenon because the majority of those artists were young people, and they were not having any means of living.

Hon Speaker, in peroration, I will then conclude by saying let this department continue to do what is right to our people. What is right, is service delivery to the people.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Selane. Hon Mphahlele, the floor is yours.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker and Members of this august House. Hon Speaker, do we still have the department called Sport, Arts and Culture in Limpopo? The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has totally collapsed while the people of Limpopo continue to be given some kind of false hope. It should also be noted by this august House that this department does not have a proper record management system, hence it continues to lose assistance including library books.

Furthermore, the department does not have an internal audit financial statement before submitting to external auditors including the Auditor-General. We are dealing with a department that does not pay attention to detail. They submit statements for the sake of submitting. The department does not have a quality assured financial statement before submitting to A-G or any other relevant authorities. It is for this reason that financial statements are found wanting in many cases.

It is regrettable and uncomfortable that during the period under review the department did not have a CFO. This explains why the department incurred irregular expenditure of R74 million and R69 million which is not dealt with as noted by the Auditor-General.

Furthermore, to the disappointment of the EFF the department incurred unauthorised expenditure of R1 000. As if this is not enough, the department further incurred fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R3 million and of R1 million which it did not deal with. The R1 million was even written off.

This is the department that clearly enjoys wasting taxpayers' money or rather what we call fiscal dumping because they are so determined and consistent about it. What even aggravated the problem is that this government has no consequence management. Officials in the government who commit these gross acts get away with murder. That is why these things keep on recurring year-in and year-out. They keep happening over and over again.

The money lost through negligence and corruption by officials is never recorded to the disappointment of the EFF. It is not possible to debate on the department's reports and not mention the word Mapungubwe. Mapungubwe is always in the news for all wrong reasons. It is not money stolen; it is Mapungubwe not generating enough revenue. If it cannot generate revenue, why can't we stop hosting it? You can't stop hosting it because it has become the milking cow for corrupt officials and politicians who over the years have used this event to enrich themselves. We are equally appealing because such an event which was initially meant to showcase artists' talent including music and dance has been allowed to degenerate to the point of not making a profit.

The problem is that every government failure is attributed to the COVID-19 these days. COVID-19 is an easy scapegoat whenever things go wrong in government. People do not want to be accountable and take responsibility. Stop sleeping on the job and taking

fat pay cheques home for doing nothing. You are stealing from the poor. You have failed the people of the province and you continue to fail them. It is clear that you are not the government of the people for the people. Let us stop always accusing or shielding our problems by saying it is COVID-19.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable Member. Hon Phala, you may take the podium.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture during the 2019/20 financial year, had planned to obtain an unqualified audit opinion and consequently, this was achieved. The unqualified audit opinion is a huge success by the department led by the honourable MEC after almost a decade stagnant at qualified opinions from the Auditor-General for the past seven financial years.

As a committee, this gives us hope that the department was on the right path to address many of its long-standing issues. During the year under review, the department had managed to pay 99,9% of its valid invoices to service providers within 30 days. Incorrect banking details from some service providers were later corrected.

The report indicated that verification of assets has been conducted in all areas and exceptions are being addressed. Non-qualifying assets and assets with invalid barcodes have been identified and removed from the system. Assets that were previously not in the system have been fair valued and added into the BAUD asset register. Assets with financial investigation cases have been written off from the BAUD asset register.

It is commendable to see the department led by a woman and by then having a woman HOD from the department to achieve 38% out of its planned 40% female representation in SMS during the year under review. The reason for the deviation as indicated in the Annual Report was the fact that the recruitment process for the remaining posts was not finalised.

Of great concern to us as a committee, was the progress on the library projects especially after having taken the oversight visit as the committee to these libraries. The department planned to build 4 new libraries in the 2019/20 financial year. When the committee visited sites, the construction progress as of 01 December 2020 was as follows: Runnymede library, 71%; Seleteng library, 36%; Mulamula library, 34%; and Mavalani library was standing at 50%.

What was on paper as a percentage was not satisfactory to us as the committee and we have since engaged with the department during committee meetings and we continued doing so as these still remain incomplete to date.

Under school sports, the department was able to meet most targets, but one was not achieved due to the reduction of the number of athletes and age groups and calls for indigenous winter and summer games. Often those who live with disability are almost

sidelined within communities and social groups. It must be noted and appreciated that the department hosted the Wheelchair Tournament in 2019 which was hosted in collaboration with National Tennis Federation and municipalities. The department, further, implemented additional learnerships programmes for people who are living with disability as per request from the Office of the Premier as part of their capacity-building within the department.

The department successfully implemented the Goal Ball Tournament in collaboration with Fetakgomo, Sekhukhune, Capricorn SAPS and Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality. The number of schools' hubs and clubs that could not be provided with equipment or attire was 746 due to the enforcement of norms and standards by the national department.

It is concerning that for programme 4, the A-G stated that the achievement in annual performance report materially differed from the supporting evidence provided for auditing. As a committee, we asked for clarity on the interventions put in place to prevent the annual occurrence of this inaccurate reporting of achievements compared to the actual evidence. The department indicated to the committee that the national department had circulated the template for use on set indicators for implementation by all provinces.

Hon Speaker, for consideration and adoption of this report by then as a committee, we had recommended that the department should address its challenges of underexpenditure which reoccurred on an annual basis as it compromises service delivery, and that financial statements submitted for auditing should be prepared in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework and supported by full and proper records as required by the PFMA.

The department must fill all vacant critical positions as a matter of urgency as this will bring about consistency and stability in the operation of the department. We further, recommended that the challenges between the department and implementation agency such as IDT and Public Works which result in the delays of the construction process should be resolved. Inaccurate reporting in programme 4 which is Sport and Recreation should be avoided in order to improve audit findings of the Auditor-General. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Phala. Hon Mahasela, committee chair, the floor is yours.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo, Hon Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha in absentia, honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, honourable Members of the Executive Council, all protocol observed not forgetting our Chief Whip, Hon Essop.

Madam Speaker, allow me to start by saluting all our healthcare and essential services workers who remained standing at the frontline for our fight against COVID-19. As you know that we were busy with constructions of our libraries and other constructions, we

found that this COVID-19 is taking its toll and it's not allowing us to do or take the services to our people.

The economic and social distraction caused by the pandemic is devastating. Tens of millions of people are at the risk of falling into extreme poverty while the number of undernourished people currently estimated as nearly 690 million could increase by 132 million by the end of the year. That is according to the World Health Organization.

The standing rules of the Legislature as amended confers to the portfolio committee the power to hold the Executive accountable. The Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture executed the above-mentioned constitutional mandate by meeting with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture with a view of holding the department accountable.

The MEC in the Annual Report indicated that sport is a major contributor to economic and social development. Its role is well-recognised by the government including the Political Declaration 2030 Agenda which reflects on the contribution sports and creative industry make to the empowerment of women, young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education, nation-building on social inclusion objectives.

As the portfolio committee we acknowledge and applaud the achievement made by the department on the implementation of six significant events during the 2019/20 financial year. I would also like to applaud the department for achieving an unqualified audit opinion in the 2019/20 financial year. Can we just give them a hand of applause. [APPLAUSE] Thank you very much.

The department also managed to host the National Indigenous Games, Heritage Day Celebration, Golden Shield Heritage Awards, Provincial Awards, Provincial Literary Awards and Mapungubwe Arts and Culture Festival. As the department and the government, I don't think that Mapungubwe must be stopped. As we know that all these are implemented, and they are budgeted for. There is no need for the department to say we need to get a lot of money because in the department there is no such a thing because everything is budgeted for.

During this difficult time the department has successfully implemented key programmes to uplift and improve people's lives. Of these, key to note are:

- The provision of infrastructure for library services;
- The provision of free internet and WI-FI services through community libraries;
- The provision of sporting equipment;
- Training and development opportunities for both athletes and coaches; and
- Hosting the community dialogues and the languages promotion programmes including translation and literary exhibitions.

The department accomplished a number of achievements in the 2019/20 financial year in different codes. With regard to athletics; Chris Moleya broke his personal record from 2,23 metres to 2,27 metres. He is currently ranked number 1 in Africa for the last five years and ranked number 19 in the world. It means our department is working. [APPLAUSE]

The softball under 18 National Junior Men's Team was led by Benny Boshomane and Slate Shiluvane as the head of the delegation during the World Baseball and Softball Confederation held in February in New Zealand. The department has also provided sport science, medical support and transportation in several codes including rugby, netball, softball and football.

Like any family, the department also experienced a challenge with regard to the provision of sports equipment for schools due to the revised norms and standards from the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture which impacted negatively on the allocated budget. There were also employees who resigned, and their pensions were not budgeted for in the 2019/20 financial year. The savings were identified within programmes and different economic classifications to cater for the pressures. However, the Department of Sport, Arts and Cultures is one of the most affected departments by the pandemic because it mostly relies on events and gathering to attain its mandate and objectives.

The department also experienced serious challenges that contributed to the underachievement when it comes to planned targets as contained in the 2019/20 financial year's library conditions grants, business plan and the departmental annual performance plans due to procurement-related processes. Having interreacted with the department on its 2019/20 Annual Report, the committee recommended that the department should address its challenge of underexpenditure as it comprises the service delivery and that the financial statement should be submitted for auditing and should be prepared in accordance with section 41(a) and (b) of the PFMA.

The department must implement consequence management and that is very, very important. The department must fill all vacant critical position as a matter of urgency. The implementing agents such as IDT and Public Works which result in the delay of construction processes should be resolved as alluded to by Hon Phala. All outstanding financial mismanagement, investigations and forensic processes must be prioritised by the department.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the committee having considered the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture recommends to this august House that it adopts the report.

I move accordingly. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. We shall now call upon the MEC, Hon Moraka, for Sport, Arts and Culture to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Members of this august House, chairperson of the portfolio committee and members of the public who are joining this hybrid Sitting through a digital platform, I want to take this opportunity and greet all of you in the spirit of the generation of 1976. We are, indeed, in the month of June which is termed Youth Month where we commemorate and also celebrate the selfless contribution of that generation to the attainment to our democracy and freedom as the country.

Let me start by appreciating the debate from Members and also indicate to honourable Members that the Acting HOD, Prof Friday Mushwana is not appointed on a permanent basis. He is there assisting the department on his acting capacity for six months. The department is currently working with the Office of the Premier in the process of appointing an HOD who will be based in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture on his or her capacity as the accounting officer. We want to assure Members that the process will be given the necessary attention so that we are stabilised in that strategic position which is of the head of the department.

On the matters that concern litigation cases that are being referred to the Office of the Premier, we need to indicate here to the august House that the department does not have a Director for Legal Services. As a result, we only have an Assistant Director who is assisting us in that regard. When you are faced with litigations you need to explore whatever possible avenue for you to get a legal opinion so that as a department, you are not found wanting in the process of the court proceedings that are aimed at yourselves as a department. I need to indicate that, indeed, the Legal Unit in the Office of the Premier has been assisting the department while our Director for Legal Service has been booked off sick for almost a longer period to date.

On the issues of consequence management, let me update the members of the public and the Members of this august House that out of the 24 cases that were identified through the forensic investigations that have been undertaken by the department so far, I am speaking here where almost eight members of the staff that are serving in the department's administration are either suspended or given a final written warning. This is a sign or an indication that as a department we mean business when it comes to matters that have to do with consequence management. We can't wake up in the morning, unfortunately, and just decide to charge people without following due process. On the other remaining cases, we are still waiting for those internal processes to be concluded. When a report is ready, we will come back to this august House and update Members accordingly.

On matters that have to do with asset management, in particular, assets that have to do with library material, mainly, your library books, I believe that the members of the portfolio committee are well aware of the significant improvement that we have registered in this regard. The reason why the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture was stagnant in a qualified opinion for almost eight years in succession was mainly due to lack of proper asset management where A-G was always raising a matter of emphasis with regard to the management of our library books.

We have met with the Provincial Treasury and the matter has since received the necessary attention. As I am speaking here, we do have a system that we call RFID (Radio-frequency identification) that is able to account and help us to update our library books as expected on our assets register. I believe that A-G would have not given us improvement in terms of our audit outcome if this matter was not given the necessary attention.

Let me indicate to the Members that a total of 194 artists and athletes were paid from the COVID-19 Relief Fund that was implemented by the department. Out of those 194 artists and athletes that were paid, we have 177 artists that were paid by the department, and we also have 17 sportsmen and women who had benefited from that

programme. I need to indicate to this august House that the problem was not in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, the problem was with our national department that came with the criteria that was not favourable to our rural province of Limpopo. You know that the criteria needed you to log your application online and for a poor artist who is at Eldorado and we expect them to log online and submit their application, I think we were not really being fair. I believe that going forward, these are the issues that we are going to be raising sharply with our national department, our Minister through our MinMEC and make sure that for rural provinces we derive a criterion that will be conducive for those environments.

It is true that the department has registered a significant improvement in terms of audit outcome. For eight years in succession, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture had been stagnant on a qualified audit opinion, and it is only now in the financial year 2019/20 that the department has received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General of South Africa. Let's clap hands for the portfolio committee members and ourselves because this is a collective effort for us to achieve this improvement. [APPLAUSE]

On matters that have to do with the athletes that are supported by the department, let me indicate that COVID-19 has really affected in a negative way our people who are in the sport and recreation sector. Today we are speaking here when big events were put on hold due to the issue of managing this global pandemic of COVID-19. Given that, we are speaking here as the province of Limpopo wherein amidst those challenges our athletes have managed to make us proud as a province.

I am speaking here today, Oscar Mavundla who is a 400 meters athlete for men is going to be representing the province of Limpopo in the upcoming 2021 Tokyo Olympics. I am also speaking here when Simon Khuzwayo is going to be part of the 400 meters relay team that is going to represent South Africa in the upcoming 2021 Tokyo Olympics. Also, Sherly Makumbi who is also an athlete on 200 meters is going to represent South Africa in the African Championship Competition that is going to take place in Tokyo. These are strides that we managed to register amidst this challenge of COVID-19. I believe that we need to applaud our athletes for having seen the need to represent the province of Limpopo with pride and dedication every time when they are given the opportunity to do that.

Let me conclude by saying the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture does exist in the province of Limpopo. It is not true Hon Mphahlele, that there is no Department of Sport, Arts and Culture because this department is existing. We can see it through the impact of its programmes in the lives of our people. Only if you were able to attend portfolio committee meetings, were you going to come here and speak from a well-informed point of view. But, because you are thump sucking and not speaking from a factual point of view, you come and say the department did not appoint a CFO.

The chief financial officer has been appointed by this department and I stood here before this podium and updated the august House that the chief financial officer has resumed his official duties from the 01 January 2021. For you to come here and mislead our public and say the department has not appointed a CFO, is nothing else but to be termed an element of ignorance that must never be accommodated by this august House.

On the issue of Mapungubwe, yes, we are agreeing that this a festival where we need to make sure that we collect revenue, but the issue of revenue collection is not our primary objective. Our primary objective is that of social cohesion and nation-building where we bring our people together and not focus only on revenue collection. If revenue collection needs to happen, it means Hon Mphahlele needs to procure tickets so that they can come to the future festivals that are going to be hosted. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC. Unfortunately, you were given only 2 minutes and you exceeded that. Let's proceed.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements?

9. ADJOURNMENT

If none, this House is adjourned to Thursday, 10 June 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 10 JUNE 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
THURSDAY, 10 JUNE 2021
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]

You may all be seated. Good morning honourable Members and welcome to our Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good morning to the House.

THE EXCALATION OF UNBEARABLE ROAD RAGE INCIDENTS IN LIMPOPO
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, over the past week alone we recorded two incidents of road rage where three people were killed and another one injured.

Hon Speaker and fellow Members, about a week ago we received a report of a taxi driver who shot and killed two people, a father and his son, along the N1 stretch in the Banderlierkop area. The same taxi driver also shot himself mistakenly in the process and he is still in hospital.

In another incident in Giyani, a motorist shot a passenger of a bus in another act of road rage. It is believed that there was an altercation that involved bad driving between the said motorist and a bus driver and another passenger interfered in the fracas and unfortunately he paid the ultimate price.

We believe that it is through incidents such as these that the law should be ruthless to perpetrators by sending a strong message to the prospective offenders so that we do not become a lawlessness society.

We are saddened by these losses of lives, but we hope that justice will prevail in all these incidents.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monyamane. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

I, Hon Monama, rise to second Hon Monyamane on her motion without notice.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, Hon Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings Speaker, Hon Premier, leaders of the opposition parties and the House at large. Before I proceed, I would like to know from you, Hon Speaker, if there is any rule from the House that forbids me from presenting a Members Statement on behalf of a Member who is not here. Is there any House rule that prohibits me from doing that? I'm asking you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

No.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you.

THE PRIORITISATION OF ELDERLY PERSONS FOR VACCINATION
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes the EFF's call for the prioritisation of elderly persons, especially at the old-aged homes, for COVID-19 vaccination. This is primarily due to their cluster's arrangements with the incident at Die Oog Old-Aged Home in Mookgophong where over 30 old-aged persons tested positive for COVID-19.

We can't wait any longer to risk the lives of these older citizens. All old-aged homes must be fumigated as a matter of urgency.

We urge citizens to comply with all COVID-19 protocols including staying in isolation if one is awaiting the COVID-19 results. It is through teamwork and cooperation that we will defeat any possible spread of third wave.

The Economic Freedom Fighters calls on government to be more transparent in all matters pertaining the COVID-19 including updating citizens if there are any detected developments by the authorities of any of the vaccines provided.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Selaelo Reginah Mphahlele, stand to second the motion as read by Hon Mohlala. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Good morning, Hon Speaker and Members on Teams platform together with Members of this august House.

THE PRESENTATION BY THE AUDITOR-GENERAL OF THE AUDIT OUTCOMES
(Motion without Notice)

- I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move a motion without notice that this House notes that yesterday the Auditor-General made presentations on the 2019/20 PFMA outcomes.
- Further notes that during the 2018/19 audit outcomes, Limpopo government and its subsidiaries still lack basic principles of internal control which created continuous vulnerable environment of misrepresentation of performances and compliance with legislation.
- Further notes that the 2019/20 financial audit outcomes showed notable audit improvements.
- However, the House notes that there is still a need to strengthen financial help for the province as the expenditure rose from R2,8 billion to R3,4 billion from the previous financial year.
- We call on the provincial government and its entities to implement stringent consequence management and corrective measures and hold senior officials accountable for their misdemeanour in these audits.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Risham Maharaj, hereby second the motion as read by Hon Smalle.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker and the House. I rise on behalf of the ANC to table a motion without notice.

ANOTHER CHILD KILLED IN MOPANI

(Motion without Notice)

We have received another sad news about the incident in which a 7-year-old boy died in the hands of an elderly person in the Mopani District. Psalm 127:3 says that children are a gift or heritage from the Lord. They are a reward from Him.

According to the report, Donald Mamolele was with his grandmother when his uncle attacked him with a crowbar and killed him. His grandmother was also injured in that act of rage. This is the second incident in less than a week in which a child died in the hands of people who are supposed to protect them.

On Tuesday we presented a motion without notice in this House in which a 13-year-old girl was raped and killed in Nw'amitwa outside Tzaneen over the weekend.

We are pleased that ANC-led government is always the first to act in intervening in these instances and the Department of Social Development always makes sure that it provides psychological support to the affected individuals.

Hon Speaker and fellow Members, fighting gender-based violence and domestic violence should be heightened in all spheres of life. We must use all platforms we can access as public office bearers such as in churches, funerals, seminars, government and political functions and other platforms until the message becomes loud and clear for all and sundry.

In the same spirit, we also want to welcome the sentencing of Lucas Phasha, a former lawyer from GaPhasha in Sekhukhune, who killed four innocent children in an act of vengeance against his estranged partner. Phasha was given four life sentences in Polokwane High Court for this horrendous murder of his own kids.

We cannot continue to live like animals in a jungle – a society that continuously eats its own children.

I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Mochadi. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I raise my hand to second the motion without notice read by Hon Mochadi.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? If none, may we all rise and observe a moment of silence in honour to those who passed away.

[SILENCE]

May their souls rest in peace! Thank you.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members Statements in terms of Rule 200? I recognise Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUED BAILING OUT OF STATE-OWNED ENTITIES (Members' Statement)

Once again thank you, Hon Speaker. Great North Transport is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Limpopo Economic Development Agency. GNT mainly relies on LEDA and Limpopo's department for its finances to be bailed year in and year out. The financial health of the subsidiary deteriorated during the 2018/19 financial year and they could be declared insolvent since their total liabilities exceeds their total assets. Irregular expenditure in this subsidiary amounted to R78 million in the 2016/17, R22 million in 2017/18, and R94 million in 2018/19 financial years. Its cumulative irregular expenditure currently stands at R194 million.

GNT is amongst five major contributors of irregular expenditure in the Limpopo provincial government which in 2018/19 financial year stood at R6,7 billion. In the year under review GNT was the top contributor of fruitless and wasteful expenditure of unwanted expenditure to the tune of R25 million. LEDA earned the third position of fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R1 million in the current financial year.

During the presentation yesterday to Scopa, the A-G stated that two of LEDA's subsidiaries were bankrupt as their liabilities far exceeded the assets, mainly GNT and Corridor Mining. Corridor Mining has been under business rescue for sometimes, yet there seems to be no effective turnaround.

Can the honourable MEC explain the following: Why are there still no progress in the turnaround strategy of Corridor Mining? Are there any interventions in place to prevent Great North Transport from deteriorating further as their turnaround strategic plan has not been implemented? How long are these entities going to be bailed out by the current provincial executive of Limpopo province?

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Smalle. Is there any response from the Members of the Executive? I recognise MEC Hon Makamu.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR COGHSTA]

Thanks, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to respond to the Members' Statement by Hon Smalle from the DA. On behalf of the MEC for LEDET in the province, I must acknowledge first the challenges affecting GNT. It is a matter that was presented to the Executive Council and a turnaround plan was presented and adopted just yesterday in the Executive Council meeting for us to turnaround the subsidiary. We must indicate that part of the issues that contributed to or compounded the challenges are the operation of bus service due to COVID-19 challenges.

It is a matter that we rigorously discussed in yesterday's EXCO and we have a plan in place to include bringing on board the national government to try and rescue GNT, because more than 90% of the passengers traveling with GNT are the ordinary people. As a province, we should rescue that.

As for the 'Corridor Mining, I think it is the strategy and the MEC will continue looking as how do we turnaround the entity to make sure that it yields profits rather than being a liability to government. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC. Is there any further Members' Statement? I recognise Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

Greetings to Hon Speaker and Members of this august House.

THE POOR STATE OF MOGALAKWENA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
(Members' Statement)

The state of governance and administration at Mogalakwena Local Municipality is affecting service delivery in that area. The municipality is bleeding with debts hence it is unable to deliver services to the people. The sewage system in Mogalakwena Extension 12, 19 and 20 is so bad that it is affecting the health of children and adults' equally.

The medical condition of our people is deteriorating day by day. The situation is so bad to an extent that sewage flows into the streets every day posing serious health risk to young children.

Why does the government expose our people to such horrible living conditions if not influenced by hatred for our people? Why do they claim to be a caring government while they continue subjecting our people to inhuman treatment like this? When you love people you show it by actions and not' by empty words in public platforms.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and fix the sewage system in Mogalakwena in the areas already mentioned with immediate effect.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Mphahlele. Is there any response from the Executive? I recognise the MEC Hon Makamu.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks, Hon Speaker, once again for the opportunity to respond to the Members' Statement from Hon Mphahlele of the EFF. I must first indicate that on the matter of Mogalakwena, there is no need for us to do an investigation. You will recall that we came to this Legislature and informed Members that we have placed the municipality under section 139(b). We are helping and supporting the municipality to this end. There is no need for the MEC to investigate the challenges related to the sewage system and water provision, because I receive reports on a daily basis and community members have my direct line and contact me wherever there are challenges. We are busy fixing those challenges. You might have seen that we are trying to put systems in place in that municipality.

If you follow the activities, you might have seen in the past few months that some of the service providers who were claiming money or payment for work not done, they were invading the municipal offices and we were able to resolve, including the issue of the sewage and water provision. We are literally trying to resolve and make sure that our people receive quality water and that sewage spillage in that municipality gets fixed.

I must indicate that we also require support from the community and opposition parties, because part of the challenges is when people there on the ground engage in activities that differ from what people say in formal structures.

We are on top of the situation in Mogalakwena and we hope that we will be able to turnaround the municipality. I think we all know that it is the only municipality in the province that can be categorised as a dysfunctional municipality; and we are busy reviving it so that it could perform like other municipalities. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive' Statements in terms of Rule 201?

[NO RECORDING: TIMESTAMP: 0:25:55 – 0:31:20]

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

... already battling with the third wave. It's just a matter of time, Hon Speaker, that as a province we might find ourselves in a similar situation.

In the past 24 hours, we have just as a province registered 229 new cases. Something that has not been happening in a very long time. It was a huge jump from 80 cases in the previous 24 hours. You can see percentagewise that jumping from 80 to 229 is a cause for concern. Waterberg remains our hotspot. It contributes 137 of these 229 cases. I must indicate that this is as a result of an outbreak in our two old-aged facilities which we have already visited. Working with our sister department, the Department Social Development, we have already made interventions on how we can be assisted.

This august House must note that when the outbreak happened, these two facilities were also scheduled to receive their vaccination on the same week. Unfortunately, because of the outbreak, firstly we had to deal with the outbreak, thereafter, continue with the vaccination. Capricorn District contributes 37 cases while Sekhukhune contributes 25 cases. Vhembe and Mopani are still at 18 and 11 cases respectively. This calls for all of us to remain vigilant while we are doing our best to fast-track the delivery of vaccination of our people.

Let's use the only available weapon to protect ourselves and our loved ones which is the non-pharmacological one. Wearing of masks, washing of hands with soap and water or hand sanitising with 70% alcohol sanitisers, practising social distance and avoiding any form of gatherings might appear helpful. We know we might be irritating you as we continue to repeat these words, but we will continue to do so because this is the only way that is scientifically proven that those who practise this religiously have been able to escape and not being infected by this deadly virus.

Our vaccination programme as a country, Madam Speaker, started slow, but we are picking up now. This is not as a result of our own making and this is not as a result of national government's making, but it is a global challenge that faces us of vaccine shortage, hence you have heard our President leading our continent in championing the struggle of vaccine nationalism. Hence, you have heard the President mandating recently both Minister of Health and the Minister of Higher Education to invest on vaccine local manufacturers. This is the only way as Africans we will be able to vaccinate our people without going around begging people and this is a task that we believe as a country and as a nation we will achieve. We do have brains in this country; we do have relevant skills and we also have the capacity. Our scientists are amongst the best in the world. Early in February, Hon Speaker, you will remember, we did receive AstraZeneca after our scientists recommended that. We are led by the President and his Cabinet who believe in science and believe that science will help us defeat this battle. They are evidence-based and do not dictate because they are politicians. When our scientists advised about the limitations in terms of efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 501Y.V2 variant, the caring ANC-led government stopped its utilisation before reaching a detroit muscle of any single citizen in the country.

This was followed by us in participating in the J&J Sisonke phase 3B clinical trial, of which as a province we managed to vaccinate a total of 33 222 health workers. When reports that six women out of six million who were vaccinated with J&J in the US developed complications which included blood clots, again, the ANC caring government took note of that caution, because we are obsessed with the safety of our

people. If it was any other government, they could have simply said, six out of six million people and these are the US people and not South Africans. They could have simply just said, let's continue. However, we halted the utilisation of this vaccine for three weeks so that our scientists can do their research and satisfy themselves that indeed, it is safe, because we don't want to lose any single person who receives the vaccine, when we try to save lives.

We must applaud the government for these decisions that we are making. Unfortunately, many of us are out there without having to analyse the reasons which led to government coming up with decisions. We have also launched our phase 2 vaccination programme on 17 May 2021 focusing on our senior citizens and mopping up the remaining healthcare workers who were not vaccinated during the Sisonke programme. This time around we were using the Pfizer vaccine which has two dosages that must be administered. Today, I'm proud to say as a nation we have vaccinated 1 524 589 citizens. Gauteng is leading with 392 377, followed by KZN with 376 162, Western Cape with 227 779, Eastern Cape with 146 091, our province Limpopo with 144 899, Free State with 80 054, North West with 78 402, our neighbours Mpumalanga with 56 212 and Northern Cape with 18 713.

Madam Speaker, if you were to consider the population breakdown and the vaccine distributed, because it is distributed proportionally, it is very clear that our vaccination task team in the province is amongst the best in the country. We are competing with provinces that have double the population than Limpopo. We have got a hardworking, dedicated and committed personnel. Since then, there is no single elderly person from the beginning who was turned away from our facility because they did not register or did not receive prior SMSes. You can see that provinces are now following suite.

We have been consistent that our material conditions as a province will dictate to us that we cannot be strict on this electronic registration. We will put stations in our vaccination centres where we are going to register our elderly people. It will be inhuman to return an old woman all the way from GaNkidikitlane after boarding a bus at 04:00 just to come to Mokopane for a vaccine and you tell her that she didn't register while she doesn't even understand what that registration is all about. As a province, we have been doing well based on that. Also, our rate of wastage is amongst the lowest in the country.

Madam Speaker, we started with six fixed vaccination sites. Today we pride ourselves because all our 37 fixed vaccination sites were activated. We also have 93 vaccination teams which, depending on vaccine availability, we do visit villages to vaccinate citizens. We also have what we call our VIP clients. Those senior citizens who are 90 years old and above, we do house calls. We are doing that because we respect our people and we always say jokingly that if a ballot paper can reach you in your comfort home as a senior citizen who cannot move, why can't the vaccine reach you in your comfort home? We don't do that for the selected few, but we do it for all the senior or elderly citizens of Limpopo who cannot move.

As we speak, internationally there are dozens of approved COVID-19 vaccines. Our health regulatory authorities have thus far approved both J&J and Pfizer. There is a great appetite and collaborations from our people to take the vaccine. When we started, there were a number of doomsayers and conspiracy theories about the vaccine. Our immediate task was to ensure that we win this war against the vaccine

misinformation. We want to appreciate the leadership of this province because the Premier himself was the first to want to be vaccinated. That's leadership. The first person to get Pfizer jab was the Premier. If there was any complication, he was saying I'm here, let me be sehlabelo sa lena. That's leadership. Subsequently, we saw senior leadership, our bishops in churches, our kings and our queens coming up and supporting this initiative. The people of Limpopo, you must know that you are fortunate to be led by such real bishops and to be led by such kings and queens. These are not doomsayer prophets. They are the real leaders. They are spiritual leaders who are leading us and not misleading us. It was important that we defeat this vaccine phobia as a necessary precaution to win the war against the pandemic itself. As we speak, today we are proud to say that more people are registered to vaccine and more people continue to be vaccinated. Our response was to vaccinate any eligible person who present himself or herself in our vaccination sites. We will win this fight against Coronavirus and will return our country to its normality. We are not the ones who retreat from the battle simply because the terrain is difficult and unfriendly. Today we know much more about this virus than we did more than a year ago when the first case was detected. Today we have a better scientific understanding about the behavioural patterns of this killer virus. Today we know much better to undermine the replication and spread of this virus than we did over than a year ago. We have since traversed 'great milestones in an effort to eliminate COVID-19 in our lives. Much progress has been registered in this regard and, therefore, there is no doubt that we are well on our way to defeating this virus.

By acting in partnership with all the people of Limpopo, we will win this war.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC Hon Ramathuba. Are there any comments from political parties? I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, whilst we must applaud the healthcare workers who are the frontline workers in terms of the vaccine, I have since then personally visited these vaccine centres and it is running smoothly. It is of good standards and there is definitely a well-professionalised oiled machine that is working there. Well done to you and your team, MEC.

What does concern me, however, is that we have only vaccinated almost 145 000 of almost six million population in our province and we are in the third wave and are experiencing high increased numbers as the honourable MEC alluded to, 220 cases, by yesterday in the province, a jump from previous day of 80 cases and we know that there are 37 vaccine sites and about 93 vaccination teams, as the MEC alluded to, that go out there to vaccinate people.

As the DA, we are going to encourage the people to go out and get the vaccine and we do believe that it is important for the people to be vaccinated. We are also calling on the national department to ensure that funding is made available to increase the vaccine rollout, because the rate at which we are vaccinating is a concern. If we can

reach 60% to 80% of the population in Limpopo, we will surpass this third wave. There is got to be some additional focus on additional funding to be put aside to get the vaccination off the ground. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Maharaj. Hon Mohlala, please come to the podium.

MR MOHLALA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. We acknowledge and welcome the statement presented by MEC for Health, hence the motion without notice presented by EFF. COVID-19 has been with us for a while and it seems it's going to be with us for a longer period. The Executive Council must deliver on their promise to the people of Limpopo so that we can ultimately beat this pandemic as a province and country. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Mohlala. I call upon the Hon Chief Whip of the majority party.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Tla ke tšee sebaka se ke lebogiše Molekgotlaphethiši wa Maphelo ka tshepedišo ye ya tšhwaana go ya le ka mokgwa wo ba hlalositšego ka gona. Tla ke bontšhe fa gore re le lekgotla la ANC, bjalo ka ge Modulasetulo wa lona ebile e le Tonakgolo ya profense ya rena ya Limpopo a šetše a bontšhitše, re tloga re thekga lenaneo le la lena la tšhwaana ebile re tla thušana le lena go tutuetša batho ba gaborena gore ba be gona ge go hlabelwa tšhwana.

Tla ke laetše gore re ka thaba kudu ge le ka kaonafatša go ba gona ga ditšhwaana tše ka bontši ka mo go ka kgonegago gore batho ba gaborena ba kgone go efoga leuba le ka ge le šetše le bontšhitše.

Re a leboga. Ga re nyake go opela dikoša tše ntši. Mošomo wa lena ke o mmotse; re a o thabela. Mmušo.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Chief Whip.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Is there any tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers?

6.1. Tabling of the Public Service Commission reports

I call upon the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Selane CBD, hereby table the Public Service Commission investigation reports for the financial year 2019/20 and 2020/21 as they appear in the ATC. These reports are tabled in terms of section 196(4)(e) of the Constitution for consideration by this particular House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Selane. The reports are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Administration for consideration and to report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health

Over to you, committee chair, Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, with all the powers vested in me, I, Gannye Rodgers Monama, rise to table the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department of Education for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama, acting chair. Is there any seconder? It is the Portfolio Committee on Health. It is the consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Health. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, raise my hand to second Hon Monama on the tabling of the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department of Health. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Rebecca Seono.

MS SEONO

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker in absentia, our Hon Premier in absentia, Hon MECs, the Chair of Chairs in absentia, the Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable Members of this august House and those who are connected online, ke re kgotsong. Health is the biggest wealth for a human being in his or her entire lifetime. One can survive without excess money, but can't survive without good health. Health is something that we can't buy with money but we can take care of it with the help of money. If a person's health is not good, he/she cannot enjoy his/her life to the fullest. Money cannot make a person rich and happy, but good health does. Moreover, a person cannot feel complete and happy without good health.

Hon Speaker, allow me to commend the Department of Health for its improvements on the equity regarding the employment of females at SMS level. The department has achieved 43% of the targeted 50% equity on females. It also achieved 0,37% of the targeted 2% on people living with disability. These improvements are noticeable and the department should do more to ensure that the targets as set out in the Annual Performance Plan are achieved. The accounting authority should bear in mind that when the APP is approved by this august House, consideration is made that there is sufficient and capable human capital to execute those targets.

The committee also observed that the department had over a decade received qualified audit opinion mainly due to the lack of a credible asset register. It is significant that the department should ensure that this is addressed to enable them to improve the audit opinion. It is also critical that personnel responsible for assets management receives proper training in order to record the assets of the department which in essence belong to the public.

We are all familiar with the fact that as a country, we have a challenge of diseases such as HIV/Aids and TB and the high rate of maternal and child morbidity and mortality, but we must always be aware of the growing problem of what is globally known as the new emerging epidemic of the non-communicable diseases.

The department reported that during the year under review, the number of clinics operating 24 hours increased from 38 to 59 clinics and all those operating on call increased from 102 to 113 clinics. This is commendable and the committee is hard at work in exercising its oversight role. The committee is also concerned about the security of these clinics that operate 24 hours and those that operate on call.

The concern arose due to the fact that many nurses' houses at those clinics are not conducive for use by the nurses. Also, most of the security fences at those clinics need to be repaired or changed. The committee is of the view that if the security is upgraded at clinics, threats and fears will be minimised and good care will be given to communities who will in turn enjoy their good health. The department must ensure that immunisation of children is not compromised and that should be done at an early age.

During the year under review, the committee observed that immunisation of children less than one year was affected due to the shortage of stock. The committee reports to this House that 75,8% of children were not immunised in the 2019/20 financial year. This is unacceptable as that will affect the children as grow up and the department will in future be unable to mitigate challenges of emerging epidemic of non-communicable diseases. The department should ensure that pharmacists are well-staffed to deal with advanced stocking and ordering of medication. The shortage of vaccines in this regard has a history of more than two years and the department should report on how this challenge will be addressed.

Universal health coverage is about strengthening health systems in our respective countries so that we are better able to prevent, monitor, detect and respond to health emergencies. As we endeavour to deliver on disease prevention, health promotion and treatment for communicable and non-communicable diseases alike, we have to ensure that families are not driven into poverty because of their needs to access quality of care.

The NDP is clear in this regard that South Africa's health challenges are more than medicinal. Behaviour and lifestyle also contribute to ill-health. To become a healthy nation, South Africans need to make informed decisions about what they eat, whether they consume alcohol or not, their sexual behaviour, and their levels of physical activities, amongst others.

The implementation of National Health Insurance is very critical. The department should be able to report progress regarding the implementation of this important health policy.

The committee is concerned with the availability of advanced life support practitioners. It is highly risky that the department has failed to train this much-needed staff to help communities during challenging times.

In conclusion, the committee supports the adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report with the recommendations to be implemented by the Department of Health. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Seono. Hon Managa is absent. I call upon Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. In the year under review, the department managed to move from a qualified audit opinion to an unqualified audit opinion. The department also underspent the budget of R34,5 million, and many targets were not achieved as planned. The department also had shifted funds from all programmes to cover for the anticipated over-expenditure on compensation of employees. It is commendable that some targets to improve the human resource in the period under review were achieved. A total of 31 medical specialists, 277 ward attendants, 20 cleaners, and 165 groundsmen were appointed. The department however failed to appoint 30 porters as targeted due to delays in the recruitment process because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The committee noted with concern issues raised by the Auditor-General of contingent liabilities mainly due to negligence in health facilities, poor collection of hospital patient fees, COVID-19 budget and irregular expenditure due to not following tender processes. The revenue management continues to be poor in the department. The Auditor-General reported that there was a material loss of R254,566 million, which occurred due to the writing off of patient fees. The department made an impairment on accrued departmental revenue of R343,387 million due to an inadequate revenue collection system.

The Auditor-General further reported that medical claims against the department in the year under review had increased from R8,2 billion to R10,3 billion in the current year. Only 61 clinics achieved the ideal clinic status and the target set of 124 clinics was not met. The department also failed to achieve its target in increasing the number of clinics providing a 24-hour service and those clinics implementing the on-call service system due to security concerns. In the maternal, child, women health and nutrition subprogramme, many targets were not met. Targets such as the shortage of vaccines,

shortage of short-term contraceptives, child mortality rates due to malnutrition and diarrhoea, neonatal deaths due to overcrowding and exposure to infection in the wards were not met, and these need to be a focus of the department moving forward.

There was some progress and improvements in the provision of cataract surgery, due to the implementation of the surgical backlog projects and the malaria fatality rate due to the strengthening of the indoor residual spraying programme. It is concerning that the department reported a decline in the ratio of ambulances per population. This was explained as having been due to the aging fleet, long distances travelled and withdrawal of ambulances that have reached the end of the economic lifespan.

The committee noted concerns of overcrowding, shortage of medication, shortage of mounted beds, poor hygiene, shortage of security personnel, shortage of health professionals such as psychiatrists and psychologists at psychiatric hospitals, and therefore requested that the department provides a report on how it plans to deal with these challenges. The target for the availability of medicine at the depot was not met. The department reported that availability of medicine was at 62,2% at the depot, 81% in hospitals, and 71,9% in clinics.

Health facilities management continues to be neglected. In the period under review, the department reported that the following projects were not completed: Musina laundry building; Mokopane laundry building; Tshilidzini laundry building; and George Masebe Hospital maternity ward and theatre.

It is for all the reasons listed above that the committee recommended interventions such as:

- plans to achieve its target of filling critical vacant posts;
- submission of a report on measures in place to deal with the issue of accruals; and
- indicate in monetary terms, how much accruals were carried over to the next financial year.

There is also a need to deal with the issue of overcrowding, shortage of medication, poor hygiene, shortage of security personnel, shortage of health professionals such as psychiatrists and psychologists, as well as plans for procurement of new ambulances and maintenance of old ambulances. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. I call upon Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, and opposition leaders. In terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, especially section 27 thereof, it states that everyone has the right to have access to health and care services. It is therefore a constitutional right of the citizens of this country and the province that needs to be noted. The ANC provincial government is failing the people of this province in that it does not provide adequate health services to our communities it is supposed to serve. The Department of Health in this province

does not provide the access to health services as is required by our Constitution because it fails to combat poor management, corruption, lack of maintenance, etc.

The neglect of the Department of Health to provide efficient supply of medicine to out-patients, properly manage EMS, inability to care for psychiatric patients, medical negligence and effective expenditure management is a gross contravention of the Constitution. When will this department realise that they need to get rid of this mindset to accept poor performance and to start implementing an action plan to start delivering a service to the community in terms of the mandate? When will the department get rid of the officials that are corrupt and under perform on their duties?

Hon Speaker, we can never allow one patient to die in an underequipped hospital; never allow a young child not to be vaccinated on time; and never allow for medical negligence. How can any institution operate to its fullest capacity if it does not have sufficient budget to do so; keeping in mind that budget cuts are putting more strain on maintenance and overall healthcare operations?

This department is an outstanding example of the ANC rule that does not care about its people and never focus on correcting itself to act on its failure but instead to try to continue on a path of destruction. The people's lives are in the hands of this department daily, unfortunately at this stage these lives are not in good hands. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Maritz. I call upon, Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker of our Provincial Legislature, Rosemarry Reneilwe Molapo, Deputy Speaker, Hon Jeremiah Dinga Ndou, the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, honourable Members of the Executive Council, chairpersons of the portfolio committees, honourable Members of this august House, Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Mmanoko Essob Mokgonyana, the Secretary to the Legislature and your entourage, the HOD of the Department of Health and members of the management echelon, good morning.

First and foremost, as the portfolio committee, we want to take this opportunity as the ANC to applaud and comment the hardworking, conscientious and judicial leadership of our MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, on her incredible stewardship of the department. Of course, she is following in the footsteps of one of our own phenomenal woman of fortitude, Mme Charlotte Maxeke. Under your capable leadership, this critical department is poised for a turnaround that reflects steady progress in each constitutional obligation of universal access to quality healthcare.

Hon Maritz, let me quote something that I think you will take it home. Albert Einstein is on record as having said, "Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom." Nothing is as precious as one's freedom. Dreams, aspirations and ideas mean nothing if one does not have the freedom to pursue them. We also want to take this opportunity to appreciate and commend the portfolio committee on their robust oversight.

Madam Speaker, truth be told that the unprecedented scourge of the novel coronavirus pandemic has severely impacted on our economy and imposed debilitating and deleterious impact on our normal way of doing government business.

We once more add our voice to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our unsung heroes, our health professionals, our frontline troopers, in their relentless battle against COVID-19, for their bravery, resilience and unmatched spirit of sacrifice. Indeed, the ANC-led government owes them an enormous debt of gratitude.

The Portfolio Committee on Health met with the Department of Health on 04 May 2021 for a briefing on the 2019/20 financial year annual report. The primary aim of the meeting was to brief the portfolio committee on the actual performance and deliverables as outlined in the Annual Performance Plan and Budget, the challenges, constraints and limitations that have been experienced, and the Auditor-General's report.

For the period under review, we are more than happy to report that the department exceeded 99,8% of its overall budget adjusted appropriation which is quite remarkable and notable as Hon Smalle has said. The department managed to implement revenue enhancement strategy, which yielded the improved collection from all sources of revenue, which resulted in the department over-achieving its revenue collection target by R14,2 million. The department, however, must invest in procuring new ambulances and implement a computerised-aided vehicle dispatch system in order to address the overuse of ambulances and to increase the response rate to rural areas.

The portfolio committee also noted concerns of overcrowding, shortage of chronic medication, shortage of mounted beds, poor hygiene, shortage of health professionals such as psychiatrists and psychologists at psychiatric hospitals.

In the 2019/20 financial year, the Auditor-General reported that the department's overall audit outcome on financial statements had materially improved from qualified to unqualified audit opinion with findings on performance information. Furthermore, the A-G raised concerns over contingent liabilities mainly due to negligence in health facilities. The A-G reported a significant decrease in irregular expenditure in the past three years. The amount decreased from R165,9 million in the 2017/18 financial year to R50,2 million and further decreased to R17,7 million in the 2019/20 financial year. The A-G reported steady decrease in fruitless and wasteful expenditure on the past three years. The amount decreased from R3,5 million in the 2017/18 financial year to R1,1 million and R1,5 in the 2019/20 financial year.

In the history of this department, for the first time it managed to have a credible asset register for the period under review. This has never happened in the history of this department. There are also serious allegations, which the MEC will confirm, that this department is one of the departments in the entire Republic of South Africa, as confirmed by the A-G, that managed to procure PPEs in line with Treasury guidelines. That is quite commendable and is a sign that the ANC is committed to clean administration.

In conclusion, the department must provide regular progress report on measures to deal with accruals, audit remedial action, procurement of new ambulances, plans to deal with overcrowding, chronic shortage of medications at psychiatric hospitals.

Madam Speaker, the portfolio committee after considering and scrutinising the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department of Health, moves that the report be adopted as a report of this House. We say this because we have seen notable improvements in the department under the leadership of the MEC, the HOD, management and staff. Where there is progress, we need to give credit. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Monama. We shall now call upon the MEC for Health, Dr Ramathuba, to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, colleagues in the Executive, all the Members in this august House and those who have joined virtually, and most importantly, the acting chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Monama, one would want to appreciate the debates that have been put forward by all Members. We are working closely with our portfolio committee to provide oversight and guidance. We must also appreciate the fact that on a regular basis, even during our hard lockdown, our committee has been doing oversight visits. It has been visiting our institution picking up challenges where one cannot be able to reach because we cannot be everywhere at the same time and sharing with us their findings. We have been able to respond where we could and work together towards the health of the nation.

I am not sure if Hon Maritz you are a citizen of this province. When you speak and continue to generalise and repeat the same debate on an annual basis without looking at the changes that are taking place in the department, you are demoralising the staff, the men and women who are out there on a day-to-day basis sacrifice their lives to make sure that your life and the lives of other people of Limpopo are saved and protected. We do appreciate and welcome all the criticisms, but to continue labelling people as if they are corrupt, when you cannot even show any evidence from a credible institution that this is corruption, we have a problem with that. Honourable Members, the committee came and asked us: What happened to the PPEs? You were there, Hon Maritz, when I said, let us afford a credible institution to do its investigation. We have got the Auditor-General and we have got the SIU; they would be able to give us the report.

As Hon Monama has already indicated, one of the credible institutions, which is the custodian of the PFMA, the Auditor-General, has already given us the report to say as Limpopo province, we are amongst the only two provinces – even Western Cape could not achieve that – who have procured within the Treasury Notes. Meaning, we have made savings. If we were buying using the amount put by Treasury, if Treasury says the glove is R4.00, and have procured by R4.00, we would not have made a savings of more than R300 million on PPEs. That is a report which is out there and please go and see. You cannot therefore make false accusations on people who have tried their best and claim that they are corrupt. As an ANC government, we are committed to fight corruption. Let us not generalise; let us pick up where corruption is and deal with

it. When you read discouraging statements that are the same every day, you then get discouraged.

The SIU is busy with its work, up to so far, they have not come to me and said, so and so is corrupt. We are waiting for that report. The preliminary report came out. It did not say all those things that you are saying. As the ANC-led government, we are committed to clean government. Whenever corruption raises its ugly head, we deal with it. We do not need any opposition party to come and tell us what to do. We can indicate to you that whether you are looking at all unwanted expenditure, whether it is irregular expenditure, which when one took over, it was over R2 billion. Today we are talking about less than R600 million, and we are moving towards R400 million. If you talk about unauthorised expenditure, which was at R222 million, today we are talking about zero unauthorised expenditure. We were talking about R500 million fruitless expenditure, today we are talking about R5 million. If that is not progress, looking after the resources that are supposed to deliver healthcare to the people of Limpopo, I do not know what you are talking about.

Honourable Members, we are equally concerned about medicolegal claims. The officials are working hard to ensure that we deal with these high litigations. Very soon, you will see us meeting all the CEOs, nursing managers, clinical managers, so that we come up with strategies on how we can really minimise litigations? When the litigation is said to have reached R11 billion, for me it is not necessarily about the money. It means there are people who feel they did not receive quality healthcare, and they are putting that at R11 billion. What is more important is life, as honourable Members have indicated that it is all about life, which you cannot put money on it. We have got to make sure that if they are litigations, let it be about the scrupulous lawyers, not necessarily about our people not getting quality healthcare.

We are going to work closely with you as a portfolio committee to reduce all this litigation, because that is the money which must go towards improving the infrastructure. Yes, the shortage of staff has serious challenges for us and we are working under a shoestring budget. We know the country economically is not doing well. The budgets got cut and with the little that we have, we must continue to deliver maximum healthcare services to our people. We are working hard towards recruiting medical specialists. Generally, psychiatrists are a shortage in the country. Maybe is the nature of this speciality to have to deal with me and you because me and you are those who warrant that particular service. Being a mental healthcare professional is one of the specialities which might not be attractive, like you would as a gynaecologist. It is easier and it is a comfortable job when you are a gynae and an obstetrician than have to deal with mental issues. We just need to continue to encourage our young people to go and study. For your information, we are working very hard – there are stories that you will not be told.

This morning, I started at Pietersburg Hospital where I was welcoming Dr Becker. Dr Becker is one of the well-known senior cardiologists working in Flora Clinic, a private facility. We approached him, because we have got our own cardiologist, Dr Komape, a young lady who has just graduated. There are certain procedures which were never done in this province. Even if you go to Mediclinic, they were never done. Whether you go to Netcare, they were never done. He is coming to impart the skill. That white elephant which we inherited of a cath lab, which was never utilised, we have started utilising it as a province. Today, eight patients, who have been on the waiting list, will

undergo heart surgery. They are not only public patients, even the private patients. I am with the staff of Mediclinic, who have come also to appreciate the work that we are doing as the state. These are the stories that you will not be told. As Limpopo, led by the ANC, we are working very hard.

I acknowledge the issues of medications that we must improve. I acknowledge the issues of overcrowding that we must work hard. I acknowledge the issues of the laundries that have been delayed. We are working with our sister department, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, which is the custodian of infrastructure. We have met with the MEC for Public Works and he is working hard to make sure that all those outstanding laundry buildings, including Maphutha Malatji Hospital, get prioritised and get completed to enable us do our work. Honourable Members, there is still a lot to be done in this department. But the fact of the matter is that this is a moving vehicle and it is not stagnant. I appreciate.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC. We now move to the consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Portfolio Committee on Education and call upon the committee chair.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker, and good morning to fellow honourable Members in the House. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Education to invite the House to adopt the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department of Education. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathye. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Aphiri. We shall now refer to this Speakers' List and call upon Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, Hon Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, the Hon Chair of Chairs in absentia Hon Premier in absentia, honourable Members of this majestic House, all protocol observed. Hon Speaker, let me indicate that I am here not speaking like an accounting officer, whom they always give progress report on the areas of their deployment. I am here, Hon Speaker, speaking like an agent of change, an activist of the sixth administration, mandated to

perform the oversight work on behalf of the Legislature for the purpose of service delivery.

In this month of June, we are forever indebted and inspired by the courageous, radical and militant spirit of the forever fearless generation – the generation of Peter Mokaba, Ephraim Mogale, Norman “Fellow-fighter” Mashabane, Frans Mohlala, Tsietsi Mashinini, Thamsanqa Rubusana and many others who played a critical and significant role in the foundation of our democracy and freedom we are enjoying today. Having noted the role played by this generation, it is important to reflect on the challenges our people are facing today. These can be attested by a well-researched literature of Frantz Fanon who said: “Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it, or betray it.” It is politically important and correct that the youth of this country must understand that no one can fight their interest except themselves. They have got a revolutionary obligation to fight and protect the rights as encapsulated in terms of section 29 of our constitutional jurisprudence.

Hon Speaker, it is now 27 years into democracy and freedom. It is quite tormenting, if not embarrassing, to witness majority of young people graduating but still unemployed. These young people contribute to the massive rate of unemployment because of the curriculum content in the higher education terrain. These young people are frustrated every day due to lack of access to high quality education, poverty, and inequalities. Analogous to that effect, these young people are, of course, fighting to be represented in Parliament, governance structures and other strategic sectors of economy. Yet still, they do not have the access to high quality education. In their majority, they are left unattended and parade in our streets and still high-quality education is not accessible.

It is important to mention that these precious government spoke about high quality education, which is well articulated in the National Development Plan. These government of the people acknowledges that most of the strategic sectors of our economy lack the leadership with the prerequisite and necessary skills to realise the developmental agenda of the South African government. Therefore, it is critically important that in the education terrain, all learners must have the necessary skills and knowledge that are relevant to the demand of the economy so that they can indeed realise the developmental agenda of our own government.

Hon Speaker, before all these can be achieved, we need to understand what education is, its significance and purpose towards the South African people. One of the academic scholars in the field of social science, Prof Kafoumba Doumbia said having education helps people to think, feel and behave in a way that contributed to their success and improve not their personal satisfaction, but also satisfaction of the community. His idea was attested by Mohammad Bagayogo who said that education is an oxygen of human life. The word education refers to the most powerful tool of gaining knowledge and improving our skills.

The first democratically elected President of the Republic of South Africa, Tata Nelson Mandela, once postulated that education remains a weapon to transform society. This means education is an important tool to transform our economy so that we can indeed realise the developmental agenda of the South African government. Again, the longest president and ancestor of the ANC, O R Tambo, said: “The children of any nation are its future.” He went on to say that a country that does not value its youth does not deserve its future. The fundamental question that we must ask ourselves in this august

House is: What kind of education and under which condition do we want to provide to our people?

The Constitution jurisprudence says that everyone has got the right to education, which is accessible, reasonable, and that the state through its reasonable measures must make education progressively available and accessible. Education remains a societal matter and can never be the responsibility of the MEC or a principal in a particular school. It has been reported on number of occasions in this august House that this Department of Education consumes more than 30% of the budget of this province. The question you must ask ourselves is: What we do under these abnormal circumstances?

Of course, there are quite number of factors that have contributed to the abnormalities in education in this province. We must talk about the infrastructural challenges, which the department is faced with. Infrastructural development is a challenge, and it is the cause of all problems the department has. The majority of our schools have poor infrastructure and our learners are schooling under serious abnormal conditions. It is not, of course, as I have already indicated, the responsibility of the MEC but a collective responsibility, because education, like I said, remains a societal matter. Some of our deep rural villages do not have access to school and our learners travel a distance to access schooling. The department has outsourced its responsibility of building infrastructure to particular institutions. They cannot build a school for our kids. The management and process of building schools take long and the department takes the blame for this failure. The question that we still want to pose is: What then do under these obvious circumstances? Is the system working for our people? These are the critical questions we need to ask ourselves. The reality is that our people are beginning to lose hope despite the fact that we have taken good decisions. When they lose hope, it therefore means that the decision to outsource our responsibility was not good at all. When people demand answers, they go to the Department of Education, because is the institution responsible for providing answers regarding infrastructural development, particularly the building of schools. We must change our decision informed by objective reality to hold people responsible and accountable.

The Department of Education has over the years received qualified audit opinion. This, of course, was exacerbated by several factors amongst them, which I have already alluded to, and we must take into cognisance the need to realise unqualified opinion. This is one of the departments that has, over the years in terms of what the Auditor-General and the portfolio committee have said, been associated with irregular, unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditures as well as failure to fill critical vacant posts. However, we must report, as the portfolio committee, that we did commit ourselves to do oversight work and we indeed witness the progress and commitment by the department to implement such recommendations, which the Auditor-General and ourselves, the portfolio committee, made. Amongst the recommendations we have made to this department are the following:

- The implementation of consequence management;
- The urgent filling of vacant and critical posts despite the frustration and the limited budget the department is encountering;
- Honour payments of contractors in time;
- Minimise unnecessary and useless expenditure;
- Ensure contractors comply with contractual agreements;

- The public schools are equipped with the necessary tools for good learning; and
- The public schools are equipped with the necessary tools to curb the transmission of covid-19.

During our oversight work over the department, the department demonstrated its frustration due to limited budget resources to address some of this backlog. The condition of our people is also appalling, and there is a need to address urgently those conditions. The behavioural aspect of our kids in education is worrisome. There is a need to develop an educational programme that will address issues of bullying in our schools.

In peroration, since this department is one of the biggest departments, there is a need to address many issues. However, we as the portfolio committee want to conclude by saying that the department has the sole commitment to address the embarrassing phenomenon of incomplete projects. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. Hon Manganye is absent. I call upon Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker and good morning to the MEC for Education as well and Members in this august House and those connected on the Teams platform. Education has got a way to allow us to express ourselves in this portfolio committee. It is a very vibrant portfolio committee and we do hold the executive and department to account. Let me focus on the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Department of Education. It should be noted that the department got disclaimers for five consecutive years from 2011 to 2016 and has gotten a qualified audit opinions for three consecutive years since 2016 to date.

The department has incurred irregular expenditure to the value of R72,6 million in the 2016/17 financial year, with 62 matters of emphasis as compared to the matters of emphasis in the previous financial years. The department has also in the 2017/18 financial year got a qualified opinion with 59 matters of emphasis and in the 2018/19 financial year sat with 60 matters of emphasis of irregular expenditure amounting to R694 million compared to the R957 million of the previous financial year.

It is clear that the department's repeatedly poor audit opinion performances are a result of recurring issues that they have failed to address. The department has consistently failed to deal with these issues of poor procurement and contract management as well as a lack of consequence management for wrongdoing and expenditure management. Irregular expenditure has been incurred as a result of these contraventions in supply chain management regulations. The annual report reveals that the department underperformed on many of the performance indicators in programme 2. This is largely due to teachers' low levels of competencies, teachers' failure to attend training, reprioritisation of the budget to fund other priorities, vacant promotional posts, which could not have been filled due to budget constraints and poor record keeping.

In the financial year of 2019/20, the report further indicates that seven independent schools with 1 332 learners underperformed while under the provincial average for the grade 12 pass rates, which led to their funding support being stopped. More support needs to be given to the schools as well to ensure that they can improve on their quality of education to our learners.

Infrastructure development must be one of the biggest weaknesses by the department when they were only able to spend 67% of the allocated funds, leaving R312 million underspent. In the 2019/20 financial year, the department underperformed, deviated and has also underspent on the budget allocation to this programme. The reason for the deviation was due to the delays within the supply chain management concurrence.

The examination and educational related services programme also underperformed. The poor performance in the programme is attributed to changes in policy prescripts with regard to learner progression and multiple exam opportunities. The tens of thousands of learners in these programmes will now need to be supported to ensure that they do not fall behind. The other reason put forward was that question paper 1 and 2 for Mathematics were more difficult than the previous years. These reasons highlighted the failure of the department to prepare learners and adjust to changes in policy. It is clear that many matters need to be addressed in the Limpopo Department of Education. The most important of these out of the committee's recommendations are an effective, efficient and transparent system of internal controls regarding performance management. There must be effective steps and corrective measures taken in order to prevent unauthorised, irregular as well as fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Consequence management and disciplinary measures against officials who incurred irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure or any other wrongdoing must be carried out and record of these actions must be kept.

We do support that all children, especially primary children, and those close to an exam year should all go back to school, as they simply cannot cope with the volume of work and the staggered timetables. Our learners cannot afford to lose any more time within the classroom. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. I call upon Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, thank you. Hon Premier, leaders of opposition parties, Members of this House and MEC for Education, I greet you. In terms of the Bill of Rights in section 29 thereof which is embedded in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, everyone has the right to a basic education. This places a huge responsibility on the Department of Education to ensure that this basic right is accessible to citizens of the province and that they must provide a suitable environment for this right to be realised. This department therefore bears a huge burden in making sure that proper management and sound financial systems are implemented and to ensure that no resources are wasted and that all possible financial means reach their destination.

Hon Speaker, I just want to apologise for the short of breath, I am battling again. Children are the next generation and we have to make sure that they receive the best

possible education despite their background and status in the community. Education is fast evolving into new challenges and technology will play a huge part in future learners. Therefore, it is imperative that this department takes this responsibility seriously. We cannot accept that there are still no schools that are not up to the standards in terms of the [inaudible] facilities. Poor infrastructure must be eradicated and sanitation facilities be fast tracked. The underperformance from the part of the department is unacceptable.

The quality of learners and teachers has a direct impact on the performance of pupils, low competency levels of teachers and the underperformance of learners goes hand in hand and therefore the situation must be prioritised and corrected. Discipline in schools is also of great concern as teenage pregnancies and bullying are some of the factors that have a huge negative impact on the lives of our children. The department must act and implement strategies to prevent such impact on learners.

As I mentioned before, this department plays a huge role in the lives of our next generation leaders and thus calls for responsibility and leadership to step up to the task. This focus must be an effective management and positively result to the benefit of the children. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz, and get well soon. I call upon committee chairperson, Hon Mathye.

MS MATHYE

Inkomu, Manana Xipikara. Ndzi pfumeleri ku xeweta Swirho swa Huvo yo Endla Milawu leswi nga kona hi ku hambanahambana ka swiyimo swa swona, leswi hi ririmi ra xidyanhlampfi hi nge: all protocol observed. Avuxeni! Hikwalaho ka yini mi endla onge a mi ndzi twi? Ndi matsheloni. Inhlukanhi. A ndzi swi tivi ku ri mi ri yini hi Xisuthu. Inkomu.

Hon Speaker, the achievements of the Department of Education are based on two fundamental principles, namely: improved service delivery of quality education and improved capacity of the department to support delivery of quality education. The department has spent 98,9% of its allocated budget. We believe this was spent well to enhance the quality of education in our province. The highest percentage is on human resource in the form of compensation of employees.

As the portfolio committee, we are happy to report in this House the following positive achievements by the department:

- The appointment of subject advisors: In the year under review, there is an appointment of more than 300 subject advisors. This is commendable and welcome as we know this is towards improving the quality of education in the province. We hope that the department is doing more to ensure that it attracts younger members in its employ.
- The achievement of 73% pass rate: We also commend the province for achieving 73% and would want the department to now focus on the so-called

gateway subjects. Indeed, we need to produce more Maths, Science and Technology to ensure that these pupils have better options in terms of the studies that they want to pursue. We would like to see Limpopo reaching the top five of the best performing provinces.

- Achieving qualified audit opinion: We welcome the fact that after many years the department has finally managed to receive a qualified audit opinion. We, therefore, want to congratulate the MEC and a team for a job well done. Qualified audit opinion indicates that we are spending the public purse wisely and will make sure that money allocated to programmes is spent appropriately. Indeed, for the department to receive qualified audit opinion is no small feat. As the department was stuck on disclaimer and qualified audit statement for almost a decade, we will therefore want the department to pull up its socks. We know, honourable MEC, that under your leadership, we can do it. In our language we say “Mithirho ya vulavula.”
- The appointment of personnel in infrastructure programme: We also welcome steps taken to appoint the necessary personnel such as engineers to address infrastructure backlogs and challenges. We would like the MEC to indicate where these personnel backlogs were and how they have been addressed. We hope that these appointments will go a long way in expediting ongoing infrastructure projects within the department. We believe that these will go a long way in reversing the problems of aged schools, storm-damaged schools and pit latrines in the province. We also want to emphasise the importance of hiring appropriately qualified professionals in this field and believe that the department has gone out of its way to ensure that this happens.

As we all know that success goes with challenges, even this department is not immune to that. As the committee, we have identified the following challenges:

1. Failure to procure machinery and equipment: We are concerned, however, that the procurement process for machinery and equipment could not be concluded on time. We are concerned that this could have a negative impact on the quality of education services that should be provided to learners in the province. We would like the MEC to clarify why this situation was allowed to happen and what the implications were.
2. Failure to procure equipment for learners with special needs: We are also worried that in the year under review, equipment for learners with profound and severe learning abilities could not be purchased on time. This means that learners had to be taught without the necessary supportive devices. MEC, it cannot be acceptable, especially if we are to be seen to prioritise the needs of learners with various disabilities. We would want the MEC to update us on the status of the supply of equipment for learners with learning disabilities.
3. Failure to meet performance targets: We are concerned that the department has failed in its own set targets with regard to the following:
 - Percentage of schools where allocated posts are filled and an achievement of 33% was met against the set target of 90%; meaning that the department was not able to fill posts for teachers as per the needs of schools; and

- Percentage of learners who complete the whole curriculum each year and have an achievement of 49% against the set target of 70%; meaning that these learners were unable to finish their curriculum, perhaps due to COVID-19 challenges. If children fail to finish their curriculum, how sure are we that they are ready for the next grade?
4. Failure to spend on programme 6 which is infrastructure: We would like to highlight a very serious challenge in programme 6: Infrastructure Development Programme. The programme had an underspending of 33% as a result of delays in supply and delivery of mobile classrooms. What situation led to this delay in supply when officials in the department knew the number of mobile classrooms that they had to deliver? MEC, this means someone is sleeping on duty and thus resulting in children attending classes in hazardous buildings. This cannot be accepted, MEC, given the dire need for classrooms in the province. It is also reported that the failure to spend was also due to final accounts on completed projects. It seems once again, MEC that the Infrastructure Development Programme is not performing on its key functions to the detrimental of our learners.

Indeed, we cannot complain year after year about storm-damaged schools, dilapidated schools and collapsing pit latrines, but still fail to spend funds allocated to this programme. MEC, we would like you to play the necessary oversight on this programme, and we hope that the newly employed infrastructure specialists will be able to ensure that this situation does not happen again.

5. Poor financial management: While we applaud the department for achieving an unqualified audit opinion, we still raise the following concerns:
- The department incurred an amount of R1,997 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure. This is despite that the department is currently using a procurement checklist to enforce compliance with the supply chain management legislative framework. This simply means that individuals in charge working in supply chain simply fail to comply with the requirements of the checklist;
 - The department continues to incur irregular expenditure as a result of non-adherence to supply chain prescripts. This simply means that financial officers in charge continue to defy the financial regulations of the Public Finance Management Act and do as they please. This obviously opens up the system for manipulation and subsequent corruption. This was due to interest on late payments, catering, bookings and officials not showing up. The department must recoup moneys from employees who were booked for official functions but never attended.
 - According to the Auditor-General's report, there is poor consequence management, as mentioned by Hon Selane, in the department. We would like to see sufficient disciplinary steps taken against the officials who continue to incur unauthorised expenditure as required by section

38(1)(h)(iii) of the PFMA. We would like to see this situation corrected moving forward.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker and honourable MEC, we believe that if the MEC attends to these matters raised, we will move forward in seeing a better managed department. Indeed, honourable MEC, if your house is in order in other aspects, you will be able to focus on your core mandate which is providing quality education to the children of this province.

Ha switiva ku ri mi nga swiendla Muchaviseki MEC, hikwalaho hi vekile ku tshembha eka n'wina. Inkomu. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Mathye. We shall now call upon the MEC, Hon Boshielo, to come and respond to the debate made by honourable Members. Hon Boshielo, you are given three minutes to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

I was going to ask, Hon Speaker, how many minutes do I have, because in Education, you might have seen with Hon Selane, we quote and we educate. You know, it is education here.

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I think in terms of what the chairperson has raised, I am very impressed with the type of education that you were teaching us, and that we must always refer. I was impressed and I think you were representing the youth of our country well. We agree with you that we need to prepare our youth for the relevant skills that are needed in our country. That is why we are resuscitating the 8 agricultural schools, 26 technical schools, 3 mining schools and Dinaledi schools for Maths, Science and Technology.

I want to give you an example of Phaladingoe High School in Mogalakwena where we partnered with De Beers Mine. Those learners are taught about electrical engineering of the mines. They are taught by operations managers from the mine. During school holidays, they go and work in the mines. The principal was telling me that during school holidays, they make a lot of money because they fix kettles, irons and stoves. Those are the learners that we really want to produce, and I think we are on course.

The Minister has also talked about the focused schools and the GEC (General Education Certificate) of Grade 12 where some people were insulting the Minister and thinking that we want learners to leave school in Grade 10. We were just saying give them the certificates so that they can be able to choose which fields to go to because not every learner wants to pursue academic studies. Some want to do vocational studies such as tourism, massage, and all those kinds of things. Others want to pursue technical studies like engineering. Research has taught us that about 40% prefer to go to universities. We are giving these opportunities to those learners. We are going to focus on these schools, and I am happy that the portfolio committee is looking at that.

We are also shifting the ECD (Early Childhood Development) from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education, because we want to start them young so that as they grow they are already rooted in what the education is. Also, in the foundation phase from Grade R to Grade 3, we are teaching them in their mother tongue to assist them understand their mother tongue. As we go on, we also want to introduce it in the senior phase. Last week, Friday, we went to Sekhukhune with the Executive Mayor and Molteno; we donated 26 400 books to schools just for reading in Sepedi. We are on course in terms of transforming our education to be what it is.

In terms of the education being a societal matter, yes, indeed, we have seen everybody rallying around us when we had challenges of bullying; when we had challenges of accidents and all other things, everybody rallied behind us including the priests and political parties. As Members, we can also play our little role where we live in order to lead by example. I was impressed, and I was with MEC Makamu at his village in Nkuri at Matsambu School where the MEC donated 80 tablets to 74 Grade 12 learners, and a water tank and a guard house. It was not the first time. The principal was telling me that three years ago, MEC Makamu donated money for extra lessons and the school was able to get 88% pass rate. We should emulate him and not complain, but be able to play our part. While I was the Speaker of this Legislature, we donated 12 interactive boards and mobile science labs to 10 schools in Seshego. We can share the little that we have. We want to thank MEC Makamu.

Hon Smalle, we have noted your advice as always and you know that we always take them seriously. In terms of the issues of supply chain – I think it was said by almost all the Members – I am the most unpopular person in the whole of Limpopo today, because of the feeding scheme. I am the most unpopular person. When people look at me, they just want to kill me because most of them did not qualify. We had to take rigorous processes in terms of cleaning the system. We subjected all the 7 000 applications for auditing by the Department of Treasury. We took all the vehicles to eNatis. We went and got the financial statements and had to do the internal audit ourselves and the A-G had to assist us. Indeed, some fell off along the way as we were trying to clean the system. There was a fake list which went out and people were accusing us of not awarding them the business, because they said the fake list passed the audit. I don't know where those processes come from because PFMA is clear in terms of supply chain processes. In terms of our processes, we are sure that those were awarded the tender, it was through a fair process which can stand any scrutiny including in the court of law. It is part of taking the advice that the portfolio committee always gave us. I am the most unpopular, but I know that we will pull through because what we were doing for our own people. Part of the consequence management, Hon Smalle and Hon Selane, that we are doing, we are subjecting some of our personnel to SSI vetting because they leaked documents and even sell information.

We got a report that one of our senior managers got money from services providers and he accepted. We will definitely take action. We have also asked the Public Service Commission to verify all the qualifications of our senior management so that we are sure that people who are there are supposed to be there. It is a mammoth task, but you are there to guide us, we will be able to accomplish that.

Hon Maritz, please get well. We need you to be able to guide us in this difficult journey. We have noted your concern about the technology. For sure, you observed that

besides the challenges we have, we have put aside R25 million to introduce e-Learning in quintile 1 to 3. It is not much, but at least we are trying somewhere. We said we will try with Grade 1 and Grade 8. Bana ba Limpopo le bona ke batho. They must know how to deal with technology and not know see them when they get to university.

In terms of poor infrastructure, I have taken the committee into confidence. In this province, we are not allocated any budget from the provincial equitable share unlike other provinces. We only depend from the DBE (Department of Basic Education). In KwaZulu-Natal, besides the grant of R2 billion that they got from Department of Basic Education, they get around R500 million from the provincial equitable share for infrastructure. That is why they are able to open a state-of-the-art school every other week. The same with Gauteng, Mpumalanga and all other provinces. We just depend on grant. Ke gore ke rena Sassa in terms of infrastructure, no matter what we do or no matter the plans we have. We have the designs for the 123 storm-damaged schools, we have everything. I've got all the information about all the 3 773 schools. I have got a dashboard about what their problem is and what they need. But, if you don't have money – I'm one person who doesn't go around promising people things that I don't have and would rather surprise them when I get little. I will never go to our people and promise to build them schools when I don't have money. I would rather be honest. One day, we will have all the money and be able to improve schools. People must not think that we are just sitting and looking at these dilapidated schools, laughing and not doing anything at all. You should know better; you are the ones who apportion the budget to us. You know that you are not even giving us a cent and we are trying to do our best with nothing. I will never come here and complain, but I will always do with what I have.

In terms of the qualified audit opinions, I must congratulate the portfolio committee under the stewardship of Hon Violet Mathye. If you look at the qualifications that Hon Smalle was talking about, you can see that it was really bad. We had to work hard with the committee, and I am happy to say that the qualified report we obtained now is only with one matter of emphasis. We are dealing with that matter. I can assure that next year we are going to get a clean audit. Yes, a clean audit. We are working hard on it. We are not ignoring any advice. We take all the criticisms in good spirit and not as if le a re tshwenya.

In terms of procuring machinery and equipment and failure to look at the learners with special needs, Hon Speaker, if I can just get a little, I will be able to run. In terms of special schools, for sure you are aware that we relocated temporarily the learners at Rethuseng School, who were attending classes in the 'kokoisis' to Noko Primary School. We renovated the school and even gave them mobile hostels. It is even better where it is. We also went to Setotlwane and gave them new beds, mattresses and blankets because it was very cold. In fact, I had to ask for donation. There was no money, but I could not bear to see the learners under such conditions. At Rivoni and Asiphumelele, we gave them new hostels, I guess that you have seen them. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, I gave you three minutes, you took ten minutes.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

There were lots of questions. I did not want to sound as if I am undermining what the Members have raised. Honourable Members, I just want to conclude by saying that that we are a department hard at work. We might not be complaining to you – yes, it is very difficult; yes, it is very tough; but we shall conquer. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

- 7.3. Consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 fourth quarter report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development.

Committee chair, the floor is yours.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Department of Social Development, I, Sarah Monyamane present the reports of the 2019/20 fourth quarter and Annual Report for consideration and adoption by the House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, I did not say 2019/20 Annual Report. I said only 2019/20 fourth quarter report. Is there any seconder to the 2019/20 fourth quarter report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, I support what you have confirmed to what the chairperson of the committee has said.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development of the 2019/20 Annual Report. Committee chair, the floor is yours again.

MS MONYAMANE

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Department of Social Development, I, Sarah Monyamane, present the report of 2019/20 Annual Report for consideration and adoption by the House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, raise my hand to second Hon Monyamane on the presentation. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Hon Selane, the floor is yours. You are allocated 10 minutes, Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Speaker. I hope that I did not omit to say something important in the previous debate. Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Premier, the Leader of the Opposition in absentia, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee for Social Development, receive my revolutionary greetings.

We are gathered in this august and majestic House confronted by a bizarre crisis which is tearing our community apart. This crisis has affected our communities in this province and the country at large and touches the lives of most of the families in one way or the other. The crisis of gender-based violence (GBV) which is characterised by the unrelenting murders and abuses of women and children in this province. This has psychologically affected our people, especially the survivors of sexual violence and abuse. Be it physical, psychological or economical, it often leaves scars for the rest of their lives. The reality is that when abuse has occurred in situations of trust, whether in family settings, churches, schools or elsewhere, the sense of betrayal is intensified.

A few years ago, the President of the Republic of South Africa convened a summit on the National Plan of Action against this notorious gender-based violence. This was followed by the marvellous work done in this province by the MECs for Social Development; Transport and Community Safety against gender-based violence.

Hon Speaker, it was important as the portfolio committee that we support this particular department to ensure that they have a multi-sectoral approach to respond to the demands of our people in their [inaudible] to ensure that we strengthen the broad intervention to address the cause and effect of this particular violence, hence we condemn the consistent and constant attack on women and children in our province. The perpetrators of gender-based violence must be prosecuted.

We have seen the Department of Education in this province having to quicken the pace of curriculum to ensure that our learners understand the question of gender-based violence.

The researchers have appreciated that alcohol and drug abuse are the most and major risk factors associated with gender-based violence. Our province experiences a number of substance abuse problems. As the portfolio committee, we saw the need for the department to develop programmes and policies intended to solve or prevent this substance abuse. Besides, we have indeed tolerated this violence against women and children for some time, and often what is disappointing is that the victims are forced to withdraw the cases against the perpetrators.

As a province, we must express our deep gratitude to those MECs who led the struggle against sexual violence. We must affirm our commitment to support them. We are pledging with all departments that they must henceforth in all their communication strategies and media galleries speak about gender-based violence.

There are general and frequent complaints about community safety and the court system, which are not fully equipped and capacitated to assist the survivors of gender-based violence and sexual assault. This has resulted in several women and children being turned away from the police stations as they go and report cases. We have also observed the number of rape and sexual assault cases which were never prosecuted. What gives us hope is that both MECs showed commitment because they were at the forefront of fighting against gender-based violence.

As the portfolio committee, we are honoured because the department saw the commitment to fast track the litigation process and recover the moneys lost as a result of the dereliction of duties. We cannot afford to have people who know that they have not performed and yet they get paid performance bonuses, and when they are instructed to pay back these unduly paid bonuses, they refuse to pay back the moneys they unduly received. That is totally embarrassing. The fact that in this House adopted the Social Assistance Amendment Bill aimed at providing additional payment to social grants recipients such as child-headed families and to provide relief to social distress in the event of disasters is proof that this august House is committed to help departments in dealing with issues of gender-based violence and other social ills. We must ensure that the department carries this mandate to serve the people of Limpopo with pride. However, this Department of Social Development is very dicey. It is dicey because over the years, it received unqualified audit opinion, qualified audit opinion and so forth. This problem of inconsistency has resulted from the failure to fill critical vacant posts and unnecessary expenditures as alluded by the portfolio committee.

We are fortunate to report that the department has agreed unanimously with the portfolio committee that it will:

- resolve the pandemonium at the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre;
- resolve the question of land issue at GaPhasha;
- recover the money by ensuring that those officials who were administratively excited pay back the money;
- appoints cooperatives and NPOs with the necessary requisites for distributing social relief food;
- establish the centres which are aimed at addressing the question of gender-based violence;
- ensure that school uniform reaches our children on time; and
- ensure employment equity in the senior management level.

Those are the things we have already indicated as the portfolio committee that exacerbated that led to the department obtaining the qualified audit opinion. If indeed, they were committed, Hon Speaker, this department would have addressed these problems and achieved a clean audit.

Hon Speaker, it is quite unfortunate that the problems we are raising are the same problems faced by other departments. This department is interrelated with other departments such as the Department of Education, CoGHSTA. It is not immune to the

problems facing those sister departments, especially on the question of corruption. Coincidentally, the A-G, Scopa and ourselves, as the portfolio committee, speak the same language. We have advised the department to implement the recommendations from the A-G, Scopa and ourselves. I hope that in the coming financial year this department will receive a clean audit. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Selane. Buthane is not present. I then call upon Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The department spent 98,2% of their budget allocated which is slightly below the expenditure norm of 100%. Regrettably, the department regressed from unqualified to qualified audit opinion in the 2019/20 financial year. Some of the findings responsible for the regression included the following:

- Financial statements not being prepared according to the financial reporting framework;
- Internal control deficiencies which resulted in non-compliance with the legislation;
- The action plan relating to audit findings was not adequately followed up by the management; and
- Some contracts were awarded to bidders who did not submit the declarations on whether they were employed by the state or connected to any person employed by the state.

The Auditor-General stated that the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) conducted investigations related to allegations relating to tender irregularities within the supply chain management unit of the department.

The department, however, needs to be commended for managing to achieve 55% of women representation in senior management and 2,1% representation of people with disability within the department. The department also managed to appoint the Chief Financial Officer in the 2019/20 financial year.

It was then shocking and embarrassing to hear that the absorption of social worker bursary holders graduates remains a challenge within the department. The committee noted with concern that the number of unemployed social workers graduates was standing at 1 180. The committee emphasised that the role of the social services professionals is very critical, and therefore, they should be well-resourced in order to perform their duties. By then the department managed to exceed the planned target with regard to facility maintenance.

Concern, however, was expressed over the incomplete infrastructure projects which included Seselamane and Bela Bela, Mecklenburg, Moutse, Tshilwavhusiku, and Dzumeri. The Saseleman project started in 2017 and its completion was long overdue. A further five new projects and budget allocation was made and did not commence in the 2019 financial year. According to the department, this was due to their reprioritisation of the budget due to COVID-19. The Seshego Treatment Centre's unauthorised expenditure transfer of R10 million by IDT was still not resolved and the

inability of the department to resolve historical irregular expenditure amounting to R47 million incurred as far back as 2011/12 continues to reoccur.

About 20 630 elderly persons accessing community-based care and support services was targeted and 21 354 was achieved. This exceeded the target by 724 people due to new centres established in Mopani. The target of children with disability also accessed registered ECD services was 205, and 226 was achieved.

Gender-based violence and violent crime remain a constant societal problem we struggle with. The number of victims of violent crime exceeded the target by 2 627. The department needs to intensify gender-based related campaigns throughout the year. The department managed to reach over 458 000 people through substance prevention programmes. It was further reported that 67 instead of the 72 targeted people depended on substance also received rehabilitation services and additional 735 people of the 800 targeted received out-patient based treatment services.

Hon Speaker, the department also need to ensure that social services professionals are resourced with tools of trade in order to perform their duties as expected. An audit plan to deal with irregular and unauthorised expenditure as well as to ensure the department's compliance with procurement and contract management are key for the fulfilment of its mandate. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Phala. Hon Monyamane, it is your turn.

MS MONYAMANE

Hon Speaker, the Premier in absentia, Hon Deputy Speaker, Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable MECs, honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, good day.

The people's movement, the ANC, has always been emphatic about its love for the children of the revolution. The Freedom Charter of 1955 encapsulates the future of tomorrow and with it a better life for our descendants. It speaks about a South Africa which belongs to all who live in it, black and white. Four out of the 10 clauses of the Freedom Charter have been dedicated to ensure that yesterday's child has a brighter future tomorrow. The Freedom Charter provides in its second clause that all nation groups shall have equal rights, there shall be equal status in the bodies of states, in the courts and in the schools for the Africans, Indians, Coloureds and Whites as far as their national rights are concerned. All people shall have equal rights to use their own languages and to develop their own folk culture and customs. This is what the charter emboldened 20 years before the 1976 June uprising where it allows the youth access to their own language of choice.

Hon Speaker, nonetheless, the revolution struggle is in its infancy. It will be a long hard road. The democratic South Africa is ageing into the prime of its teenage years, and we look forward of its coming of age shortly. The scars which have been inflicted over more than 300 years of oppression cannot be easily removed over two decades of democracy. Some things in life are not as simple as using toner to remove

[inaudible]. The department has worked hard in ensuring that poverty, which is one of the triple challenges, is addressed through its social welfare services.

The committee commends the department for reaching out to 21 354 of elderly persons accessing community-based care and support services and thus exceeding its target of 20 630 by 734. Of the old age persons, the department targeted 579 and achieved 578. The department is also concerned that although there was over-achievement in the HIV programme, however, R6,8 million was not spent. While the committee commends the overachievement by the department, an over-expenditure of R15 million for the elderly and an over-expenditure of R5,9 million for people with disability was reported. These funds were overspent during the year under review. The committee is concerned about the over-expenditure and the accounting officer is expected to account for this overspending. When public funds are approved, they must be spent in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) as amended.

The Children's Act of 2008 has placed considerable obligations on the state, although welcome. The department must be committed to meeting the huge task placed by this Act. In addition to this increased responsibility, the department is faced with a challenge of vacant positions for social workers. There were 1 181 vacant positions of social workers while 113 were on internships. However, though there are social work vacancies, a lot must be done to develop the level of skills and specialisation of staff in this field.

The department reported that in 2019/20 financial year, although 7 infrastructure projects were planned; only 1 project in Mookgophong was completed. Saseleman was not completed while Bela Bela, Mecklenburg, Moutse, Tshilwavhusiku and Dzumeri could not commence due to delays with IDT. The committee is also concerned with the unresolved matter between the Department of Health and Department of Social Development about Shiluvana Frail Care Centre.

In conclusion, the honourable MEC knows that this year ahead will require hard work and commitment from the whole DSD team. The committee is determined to play its part and deliver in its oversight role.

The committee supports the adoption of the report with the entirety of its recommendations. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Monyamane. We shall now call upon the MEC for Social Development to come and respond.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Greetings to Hon Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, colleagues in the Executive Council, honourable Members, the Chief Whip of the majority party, and the Leader of the Opposition in absentia.

Let me take this opportunity and appreciate the comments made by the members of the portfolio committee, and to indicate that we really appreciate the guidance by the

portfolio committee. I think there are a number of challenges that have been indicated by the portfolio committee which I believe, we are working together and they are assisting us in making sure that we deal with them. I think what is critical amongst them as indicated by Hon Selane is the issue of gender-based violence which is a thorn in the flesh. Just this morning, we received bad news that in a village called Fondwe in Vhembe, a man woke up and killed his wife, killed the one-year-old boy and committed suicide. These are the issues that, inasmuch as we continue to talk about the issues of gender-based violence, we shall try our level best to come up with campaigns as much as we can, it seems as if our messages are not reaching the relevant people.

Sometimes, Speaker, you might end up thinking that the more we talk about these issues on radio and other platforms, people seem to enjoy getting coverage and seeing it as a way of becoming celebrities – we don't know. Those are some of the issues we try to look into and make sure that we deal with them.

I agree with honourable Members on the issue of substance abuse. We always say that you cannot separate issues of gender-based violence most of the time with issues of substance abuse. These days we have the issue of bullying which our analysis tells us that you can't separate bullying from gender-based violence because children observe this abuse happening between parents at home, and when they go to school or anywhere, they want to transfer their stress to any person that they think could be a victim by attacking them.

I must also indicate on the issue of the qualified versus unqualified audit opinion, I think we must acknowledge that there are still some historic issues that we will have to deal with. The issue of Phasha-Selatole as indicated is one of the critical issues that we are working together with the Office of the Premier to make sure that matter is brought to rest.

On the issue of the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre, which was indicated by two Members, I must indicate that the matter is now in the Office of the Director-General. The sooner the matter is resolved between us and the Department of Health the better, because it is just a few months before the expiry of the contract of Life Esidimeni, and then the question becomes which department should take over. That is what we want the Director-General to assist us to solve that matter so that whichever department that takes over should be ready by that time. Remember, we are talking about the lives of the people who cannot do anything for themselves; they need assistance from us as government.

I think the non-absorption of social workers is a critical issue and a worrying factor. I must indicate, Hon Speaker, that it is a challenge because the social workers that we have currently are overburdened. They are experiencing fatigue. They are expected to deal with the issues of gender-based violence; they are expected to deal with issues of foster care and are now expected to deal with the issue of bullying in our schools in the province. This means the number of social workers that we have cannot be able cater for all these assignments. The sooner we get the budget to appoint more social workers the better. We will greatly appreciate such funds as a department.

We have noted most of the issues and will update the portfolio committee on the progress we are making. On some of these issues, we are expected to come back

and provide more information to the House. We will definitely do that. We really appreciate the support we are always receiving from the chairperson and all the members of the portfolio committee and their availability. I think we want to appreciate the support that you give us. You must know that the direction you are providing direction all the time is not because you are being personal, but it is because you want to see that department moving from one level to another, especially, because it is a department that deals with the social well-being of the people of the province.

It is important that we make sure that we do our work as much as we can by ensuring that we double our efforts to make sure that the department progresses from an unqualified audit opinion to a clean audit opinion. This is going to be a mammoth task given the issues we are looking at amidst the budget constraints.

As I conclude, we are facing a situation wherein we are unable to fill several positions that are being vacated either through resignations or retirements when people go on pension. The fact that we are unable to fill those positions, even critical positions is a serious challenge to us as a department, because to be able to continue doing the work we are supposed to do. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, MEC for Social Development, Hon Rakgoale.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any other announcements? There are none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned to Tuesday, 15 June 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

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**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 2021
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]

We may all be seated. Honourable Members, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Do we have any notice? Hon Smalle, I'm calling all these items for the purpose of recording; I'm told that you have agreed in the Programming Committee that there would not be any tablings.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Do we have Statements by Members in terms of Rule 200? There are none.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers? There are none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Let's proceed to item 7.1 and call upon Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration to table the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Office of the Premier. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. I was checking something before you could present. Thanks, honourable committee chair. Is there any seconder to the motion? Over to you, Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I'm seconding the motion raised by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Kekana.

MS KEKANA

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to debate the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Office of the Premier. Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Hon Premier in absentia, Hon Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members, and officials, I greet you.

Madam Speaker, embedded in our constitutional dispensation is the need for our public servants to be professional, ethical and competent. The South African public has a legitimate expectation to receive a people-friendly and caring administration from a receptionist to a Director-General employed by our government.

The Office of the Premier's mandate is to coordinate and manage the performance of the provincial administration. Its role is to provide a strategic direction on policies and programmes of government.

The Administration programme had a budget of R170,148 million for the 2019/20 financial year and the department spent R167,927 million or 98,7% for the programme. There was, however, an underexpenditure of R2,221 million for this programme – a cause for concern.

However, there is on average an improvement in the audit outcomes for the provincial departments, with the Office of the Premier being exemplary for obtaining the clean audit. Hon Speaker, we are satisfied that the programme, I have mentioned, provides administrative support to the Premier, the Executive Council and the Director-General in fulfilling their legislative oversight function and promoting corporate governance.

The committee also congratulates the Provincial Treasury; Transport and Community Safety and the Limpopo Gambling Board for maintaining clean audits and other departments which improved from qualified to unqualified audit opinions. We must urge the Department of Education and GAAL to improve on their audit performance, and we hope and believe that with the presentation they made last week, they are going to make it.

Hon Speaker, the paradigm on outstanding invoice payments is lowered from 14,69% in the first quarter to 1,7%, which is an enormous improvement; and we hope this can be upheld going forward.

The revenue and debt recovery mechanism are surely ascertaining minimal losses of financial resources in obsolete equipment and other related goods or services. Hon Speaker, for the period under review, the Office of the Premier has implemented all the internal auditors' findings and shown improvements in implementing the external auditors' findings. Out of 8 recommendations made, 7 were implemented. However, the irregular expenditure [inaudible] provincial departments seemed to be utterly stubborn to uproot. The challenge then becomes the age-old irregular expenditure that the Heads of Department are not applying for their condonation, which may require other mechanisms to deal with them or the situation will hang over the heads of the provincial administrations.

The COVID-19 pandemic was noted as an emerging risk in their fourth quarter. We must acknowledge that the Office of the Premier surrendered R12,9 million to the Treasury for the purpose of COVID-19 funds. We are aware that the whole world is still caught up in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we should strive to make Limpopo a safe and attractive destination of choice for investors and visitors.

In these difficult times of COVID-19, it remains important to highlight matters of poverty alleviation, not merely in our talk but also in our actions. The difficulties brought on by this pandemic have the real ability to reverse the gains of democracy as more people are thrown into more vulnerability and further instability. The mismanagement of COVID-19 relief funds and resources meant for the most vulnerable, if found, must be met with the disdain it deserves, and swift corrective actions must be taken.

We congratulate the Department of Health for being amongst the two provincial departments out of nine to comply with Treasury guidelines for the procurement of PPEs and the savings made in that regard. We also applaud the momentous and tremendous strides for rolling out phase 1 and 2 vaccination programme, which include the plight of our health workers and senior citizens, and we hope the same will continue with other phases.

On Institutional Development service, there was a lament for the prioritisation of women and empowering them, and in the 2019/20 financial year, strides have been made to that effect. The provincial administration has a staff complement of 115 609 of which 99 732 posts are filled, leaving 15 877 funded posts vacant. The vacancy rate as of the 2019/20 financial year stood at 13,7% against the norm of 10%. The concern is not only on the fluctuation but posts that are not filled when funded. Let no money be forfeited for job creation when graduates and skills leave the province for the betterment of their lives elsewhere. There would rather be lower ranked posts of notches to fill vacancies than to lose the fiscus appropriated to the province due [inaudible] with so many people living below the poverty line. The departments that contribute to their high vacancy rates are Treasury; Agriculture and Rural Development; Transport; Public Works; Education; and CoGHSTA.

On a good note, Hon Speaker, the committee is proud of Kgothatso Montjane, a renowned wheelchair tennis champion who flies our provincial and national flag high throughout the world and showing the world that we can achieve our goals despite all

odds. However, there were five departments that have not realised the 2% of disabled persons' employment.

Hon Speaker, the developments on gender mainstreaming have experienced notable strides of improvement from the implementation of the Sanitary Dignity Programme, Hon Boshielo. We are also celebrating all the women athletes and some departments' improvement in gender parity at SMS level. Madam Speaker, we are in the Fourth Industrial Revolution and even during this period of the Coronavirus restriction, we still have a department that does not have rightful people heading the ICT section and one department which was still struggling during the year under review in 2019/20 in terms of GITO which may lead to negative audit outcomes.

Hon Speaker, the municipalities required shrewd support to exercise good governance and sound financial management, particularly the conditional grants to spend the Municipal Infrastructure Grant efficiently within the prescripts provided to circumvent adverse findings in its relation towards obtaining the desired unqualified audit without findings. However, we applaud the Office of the Premier for launching the district development models in all the municipalities.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, as we mark the 45th anniversary of the student uprisings on 16 June 1976, we must ensure that our youth have better opportunities for employment in our province. Youth unemployment is still questionably high as recorded in the current Stats SA Quarterly Labour Force Survey. As government remains the biggest employer in our province, we must ensure that experience does not add a barrier to entry for many young graduates who are looking for employment in the public service. Our public service needs an injection of young people who bring innovation and technology to the public administration. As the then President O R Tambo once said: "The children of any nation are its future, a country a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future."

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Kekana. The next speaker on our list is Hon Buthane. He is not present. He is followed by Hon Maharaj, who also rendered an apology. The last speaker on our list is Hon Monama, the committee chair.

MR MONAMA

Madam Speaker of our Provincial Legislature, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Jeremiah Ndou; Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; honourable Members of the Executive Council; chairpersons of portfolio committees; honourable Members of this august House; Chief Whip of the majority party, I greet you.

Madam Speaker, first and foremost, we want to take this opportunity to applaud and commend the visionary and judicious leadership of our Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, whom under his capable leadership and for the first time in the history of our province managed to ostracize the province from the bad image of disclaimers and adverse audit findings that characterised the provincial administration before the invocation of section 100 of the Constitution.

Hon Premier, eight years ago you stood in this very august House to outline bold plans on how you were going to turn around the situation and the fortunes of this province and to propel our province to the highest socioeconomic prosperity. There is an African adage that says that no matter how beautifully the chicken dances, it never pleases the hawks.

The Portfolio Committee on Public Administration met with the Office of the Premier on 25 May 2021 for a briefing on the 2019/20 Annual Report, which explicitly articulated the achievements and challenges experienced in attaining the objectives and targets as outlined in the Annual Performance Plan, the Budget and the Auditor-General's report.

For the period under review, the Office of the Premier expended R426,509 million which translates to 97% of its overall budget adjusted appropriation of R439,476 million, which is quite remarkable. The Office of the Premier did not have any unsolicited bids during the financial year under review. The Supply Chain Management internal controls were in place to prevent irregular expenditure, and as a result there were no challenges encountered. The Office of the Premier as a department implemented the national and provincial notes on cost containment measures and its systems and procedures to ensure compliance with applicable supply chain prescripts. It is therefore not surprising that OTP managed to overachieve its total revenue collection target by 212%. It managed to implement 100% of all the internal audit recommendations.

For the 2019/20 financial year, the Auditor-General reported that Limpopo province under the capable leadership of Hon Premier noted a remarkable improvement in audit outcomes as auditees continue to enhance their control environment. Five entities obtained clean audits with no disclaimer and adverse findings.

As enshrined in sections 125 and 127 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Public Service Act, the role of the OTP is to coordinate the functions of the provincial administration, its departments, entities and municipalities. In practical terms, it means that the OTP manages the performance of the provincial administration, monitors and evaluates service delivery and governance in the province. The OTP's overall audit outcome on financial statements has improved from unqualified audit opinion to clean audit with no findings on performance information.

The portfolio committee takes this opportunity to applaud the Office of the Premier for attaining the clean audit outcome during the 2019/20 financial year. Clean audit means the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Cognisance should be taken that those credible financial statements are crucial to enable accountability and transparency and it is the only diagnostic barometer to gauge clean administration and good governance. We, therefore, make a clarion call to all and sundry that sustainable solutions are required to prevent accountability failures, and ensuring consequence management. It is more effective to invest in preventative controls and measures than to deal with the impact of accountability failures such as financial loss, fraud and corruption, the misuse of public resources, and poor service delivery.

As the portfolio committee, we, therefore, implore the Hon Premier to continue strengthening preventative, detective and corrective controls on those auditees that

have not achieved clean audits and intensify corrective actions and consequence management to deal with deficiencies and non-compliance in order to sustain and improve outcomes.

There is a negative narrative in the public domain, Hon Premier, that the Department of Education did not get a qualified report, but instead got a disclaimer. It is true that the department got a qualified opinion. But we have to qualify this statement because others are using this statement to advance their selfish and nefarious political agenda. The department was qualified due to historical challenges emanating from the section 100 intervention, and the then appointed administrators are nowhere to be found to account for the **malfeasance** that they have committed.

Hon Speaker, local government is at the coalface of service delivery, hence, collectively we have to double our efforts to improve accountability and governance. Needless to say, if local government fails, service delivery fails, and the province fails.

We also welcome the concrete intervention, Hon Premier, to continue leading the way in good governance and sound public resource management. We applaud your leadership prowess in providing political guidance and direction in ensuring that we have responsive, accountable, effective and efficient municipalities, hence the tremendous improvement in audit outcomes at this sphere of government. In the same vein, we applaud Capricorn District Municipality for obtaining clean audits in two consecutive financial years. In this era, we need a leadership that inspires our common purpose of improving services to our people.

Hon Premier, Oliver Tambo, the longest-serving ANC President once said: **"We did not tear ourselves apart because of lack of progress at times. We were always ready to accept our mistakes and to correct them. Even in bleak moments, we were never in doubt regarding the winning of freedom. We never been in doubt that the people's cause shall triumph."** Indeed, as disciplined members of the ANC, we are the people with an indomitable spirit. We are the children of great warrior men and women, who have never retreated. We are unconquerable and will emerge victorious in the battle of pushing back the frontiers of poverty and underdevelopment.

It is now incumbent upon the Provincial Legislature to sharpen and enhance its oversight tools and capacity to ensure prudent utilisation of public resources. This beautiful province of ours must at all material times lead in governance and sound public resource management.

In conclusion, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration recommends to this august House to consider and adopt the 2019/20 financial year Annual Report of the Office of the Premier, because the Auditor-General has authenticated everything and confirmed that they are clean. That's why we can't say there are some fault lines in the report. Who are we, after all? I move accordingly. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chairperson, Hon Monama. We shall now call upon the Hon Premier to come and respond to the debate made by the honourable Members. Over to you, Hon Premier.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me greet all Members in this House, the leadership of the ruling party, the leadership of the opposition, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Chief Whip.

All I can say in response to the debates made here by honourable Members is to thank this honourable House. We accept and take into cognisance the fact that despite the harsh material conditions that we find ourselves in today, despite the current situation that we are finding ourselves in, together, we are still sailing afloat. Together we are still above the waters, and it is simply because all of us took a resolution. We resolved that we will join hands, and we resolved that we will carry each other and make **each others' keepers**. It can't be more or better said than what the honourable Members have already said, that our history is known to all of us as a province. Where we are coming from as compared to where we are today is known to all of us.

Honourable Members, a few years ago, we came to this honourable House and said that today is definitely better than yesterday and certainly tomorrow will be better than today. We are today living in the tomorrow that we promised to you honourable Members, which definitely is better than yesterday. It has been said by many, including the Auditor-General, that this provincial government is now on the right path. This provincial government can now be put on autopilot, because all the basics have been set and they are correct. This provincial government can be put on autopilot simply because all systems have been put in place. I remember, at some stage when we said the days of disclaimer audit opinions will come to an end, we were criticised even the media. I remember one member of the media saying that that what we were saying was a pipedream. We have had that before. It will never happen again. But we are in those days today. The concept and vocabulary called "a disclaimer audit opinion" has been liquidated in this province. We got all 16 provincial entities having been audited by the Auditor-General, and out of all of them, we don't even have one disclaimer audit opinion.

The MEC will soon be presenting here the latest audits of the municipalities. In those municipalities, we are also saying that there are no disclaimer audit opinions there. That in itself says to you that today is better than yesterday indeed. That says to you that the tomorrow that we are talking about in 2014 is a reality now.

At some stage when the Office of the Premier and the Department of Treasury were the only two departments which got clean audits, I think it was somewhere there in 2015/16, the criticisms that we were receiving then were that the two departments must translate that performance to other departments and the municipalities. By then we had more than 50% of municipalities being under disclaimer audit opinion. We had 11 out of the 16 provincial entities that had the disclaimer audit opinion. We then took a resolution as the Executive Council –and I must say thank the portfolio committee, Hon Gannye Rodgers Monama. I must say thank you to you, because you have been doing your oversight work correctly and to such an extent that we ended up succeeding in all the plans and the support that we were getting from you. We ended up succeeding in all our plans – and said that we will establish a professional hub within the Department of Treasury that will assist both the municipalities and other provincial entities. This professional hub, through the HOD of Treasury, will report to EXCO in every meeting of EXCO about the progress made. Today, Hon Speaker, we are

reaping the fruits of those efforts. Today, we are able to say, we have a dashboard that tell us where and when we are overheating as the provincial government. As a result, I must say, our history will remain there. Irrespective of how bad or negative it may be, it's our history.

We learned from our mistakes, and we will never put this gear into a reverse gear. We have got the right path, and we have crafted the right path for ourselves. I am sure, Hon Speaker, that you even the day when Hon Deputy Speaker and I will be retiring, we will say, at least we left you with a good government. We will be leaving you with a stable government. Hon Deputy Speaker, we are leaving them with a stable government, and we can safely take a retirement ra ya go diša dikgomo. [LAUGHTER] Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Premier, for the response.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA

Over to the committee chair, Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and a very good morning to honourable Members and MECs as led by the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA to table the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Department of CoGHSTA as it appears on the ATC for adoption and consideration by this august House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable chair. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Lekganyane.

MS LEKGANYANE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on our list is Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, honourable Members of the august House, Members of the Executive Council, traditional leaders, religious leaders, colleagues, I greet you all in the name of Jesus.

Madam Speaker, this debate occurs in the month that our glorious movement and the nation celebrate extraordinary human beings, the youth of 1976, who defied all odds and shattered all glass ceilings. It is in their resilient spirit that today we stand and speak in this august House and thus ensuring that democracy is strengthened and further that the people enjoy the fruits of freedom. Today is a gathering of people whose interest is to serve Limpopo province tirelessly, to ensure that each and everyone leave in security and comfort, to ensure that one day all the citizens will have a secure home to call their own; a home surrounded by all the amenities that are needed for a middle-income economy such as ours; where every child can go to school in a racially integrated school within 5 km of their home and every adult person can access an integrated clinic within 5 km of their homes also; and every community is serviced by highly mobile clinics; [inaudible] services where there are amenities for our youth to keep them occupied; where every citizen understands it is their responsibility to report crime, to protect their children and be responsible to keep a clean environment; where as we give as government, citizens must understand the [inaudible] responsibility.

Madam Speaker, the committee would like to remind the staff of the department that their commitments to the task they are employed to execute, are the ones that will take our province forward. The personnel of this department should commit themselves to the principles of Batho Pele in ensuring that quality services are delivered to the people. The staff of this department should remember that the youth of 1976 fought for the space where they are now. As such, they must up their sleeves and deliver better and quality services.

The ANC-led government has promised the people that there shall be houses, security and comfort. The committee is concerned, Hon Speaker, that year after year the department is counted as one of the departments that are expected to deliver service to the people. This implies that something is not right with those who are involved in planning or those who are implementing.

The executive authority should be concerned about this anomaly and take action sooner than later. There should be a commitment from the executive authority to lay a foundation that one day those who come after you will say these people have strived to make the life of the province a better life. In that case, you would have built on the foundation laid by the youth of 1976.

Hon Speaker, the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the department to improve the audit outcomes does not augur well with the committee. This is not synchronised with the ideals of democracy that our forebears fought for. However, the conduct of the department calls on the committee to strengthen its oversight role as an important part of the activities of a developmental state. We must be the catalysts of development at all levels and sphere of government. For that to happen, we must also ask ourselves if we have the right systems, the right place, the right people who are sufficiently motivated, compassionate, responsive, and ethical.

Madam Speaker, our province has the lowest number of informal settlements in the country. Delivery of houses is the cornerstone of service delivery of this department, not underestimating other services. The department must strive to ensure that houses are delivered and to the rightful people. There are a number of projects that are implemented by this department and are far from being completed. How far is the

department in completing the Marapong Housing Project? Just to mention one project, Hon Speaker.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the 2019/20 Annual Report of the department be adopted and be supported with all the recommendations. I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mochadi. The next speaker is Hon Buthane, who has rendered an apology. Over to Hon Smalle. Put on the mask, Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

I was in a hurry to speak. Good morning to Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this august House and our colleagues across the social platforms within our province.

Hon Speaker, the department has been stagnant on an unqualified audit opinion for the last three years and has made impaired provisions of R16,4 million during the 2018/19 financial year in respect of the doubtful receivables. The department further did not make any provisions in the financial statements for any liability that may result from litigations with various service providers and third parties. This matter is recurring, as it was once raised by the AGSA.

The purpose of programme 3 is to capacitate municipalities in order to implement their legal mandates through the following sub-programmes: Development Planning; Municipal Infrastructure Development; Local Government Support; Inter-governmental Relations and Public Participation and Governance. This led to the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, which is a major contributor for municipalities to provide basic services to the communities, so the 25 municipalities in our province amounted to R2,9 billion in the 2019/20 financial year, of which only 84,7% of R2,4 billion was spent with various municipalities achieving the 50% benchmark. Much more needs to be done to make sure that great expenditure does take place within the confines of our legislation to avoid unwanted expenditure.

It was resolved in the 2018/19 financial year that forensic audits will be conducted into the finances of municipalities that invested funds into VBS. To date, we have seen very little of action against officials and politicians for their role in the collapse of the VBS and the loss of the R1,6 billion towards municipal grants.

The Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement remains not only the biggest key indicator for the department, but also the biggest underperformer. The Auditor-General, in his report, indicated that the achievements for the following targets were misstated, as not all actual performances were recorded and included in the department's performance report. These include the subsidies approved by Flisp, the number of sites installed with water, sanitation and infrastructure as part of the IRDP, the UISP reported achievements, which included 5 560 units, and the number of job opportunities created through the construction of houses and servicing of those sites. The Auditor-General identified material misstatements in the Annual Performance Report submitted for auditing and raised material findings on the usefulness and the reliability of the report and the performance of the department.

Effective and appropriate steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R1,19 billion as disclosed in the financial statements as required by the PFMA. The majority of the irregular expenditure was caused by the awarding of contracts during the 2016/17 financial year without applying the preference point system. The rollover amounts during this financial year of R47,7 million were approved by the Provincial Treasury. This included conditional grants of R31,9 million for title deeds, grants of EPWP as well as R16 million and R60 million on equitable share not being spent on traditional council offices. There were no rollovers approved for the CRU units, SH units and land acquisitions.

During this financial year, CoGHSTA was the biggest contributor to the irregular expenditure of this province, which amounted to R3,4 billion to the tune of R1,2 billion up from R845 million from the previous financial year, mainly due to the bids not being evaluated, as I said, according to the preference point system, which gives effect to a transparent tender system.

We also dealt with the **ULTRA** Bill during this period and it must be noted that the **ULTRA Bill** is an apartheid piece of legislation that cannot be tinkered with and made applicable to the rest of the Republic of South Africa in the democratic dispensation. It must be completely redrafted to reflect the democratic ethos that the people of South Africa espouse. There is a need to dismantle a dual system of land tenure in South Africa. Such an intervention, as envisaged in section 25 of the Constitution, is long overdue and should be considered in the context of addressing the wider South African land question. The Bill currently would not solve these issues in its current form. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Over to the committee chair, Hon Aphiri, the last speaker on our list.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Ke dumedishitse peleng ka ge ba re madume ga a fele. Madam Speaker, let me start off by saying we all have the opportunity to think out of the box to enrich our understanding and plans to fast-track not only the economic transformation, but also radical socioeconomic transformation, an inclusive economic growth if we could just be part of the national discourse while serving our people in every ward, district and province to the best of our abilities.

Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee received a brief from the Auditor-General concerning the audit outcome of this department, which indicated to us that it has received an unqualified audit opinion. We are saying, Hon Speaker, the unqualified audit opinion is a good audit opinion. We are, however, concerned that for three consecutive years, which is 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20, the department has been stagnant on the same opinion without improvement. The committee is advising that the department must implement the recommendations and advice of the Auditor-General in order to improve and achieve the clean audit.

The committee is further concerned about the non-spending of the total budget of the department, particularly on the Human Settlement programme, an amount of R106 million in the 2019/20 financial year, while there was a rollover of R91,968 million from the 2018/19 financial year was not spent. That budget was allocated for the township proclamation. We are saying as the committee, every KPI must be performed by the able-bodied personnel in the department which this department is struggling to do.

Hon Speaker, the delivery of human settlements to the needy people in the province is the core mandate of this department. The Freedom Charter of the African National Congress outlines its mandate by saying: "There shall be housing, security, and comfort for all". Access to adequate housing is equally espoused in the Constitution of this country. The criteria for allocation of houses are biased towards people living with disabilities, child-headed households, and households headed by women, and the construction of houses and servicing of sites should assist in the creation of the much-needed job opportunities, thereby reducing the number of poor households in the province.

Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee has noted with concern that construction of community residential units is moving at a snail's pace. The project commenced way back in December 2016 and was expected to be completed in July 2020. To date, Hon Speaker, not a single unit has been completed. Other CRUs were expected to be built in Tshikota, and to date nothing has happened. Another project in Lephalale, the **Altostood Project**, aimed at developing 5 050 housing units, has completely stopped, Hon Speaker. Challenges experienced on CRUs need to be resolved to curb the escalation of costs. The portfolio committee is worried about these projects, which seem to be taking the similar pattern of the Bendor Ext 100, which took decades to be finished.

Hon Speaker, municipalities are at the coalface of service delivery. The portfolio committee appreciates the support the department is providing to these municipalities. The committee is, however, concerned with outsourcing of Annual Financial Statements by many of our municipalities and the extent of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Some of these UIFWs are a result of double payments of contractors. We urge the department to put measures in place to detect anomalies in expenditures by the municipalities.

Hon Speaker, I want to end on a good note. The Premier touched on it when he was responding to the debate. The committee appreciates the support the department is providing to municipalities, the support provided to borehole projects funded by the DBSA intervention in Mogalakwena. The committee further appreciates the financial management support provided by both this department and Provincial Treasury to our municipalities. Through their support, all the 2019/20 Annual Financial Statements were submitted on time. The reliance on consultants which we have been complaining about as the portfolio committee for the preparation of Annual Financial Statements has decreased from 78% in 2018/19 financial year to 63% in the 2019/20 financial year.

There is also an improvement in respect of the audit outcomes. There is no municipality that received a disclaimer. Hon Speaker, we need to commend the Capricorn District Municipality for receiving a clean audit and hope others will follow.

We further appreciate the support provided to institutions of traditional leadership, the construction and refurbishment of offices as well as purchasing of new furniture. These institutions play a critical role in promoting social cohesion. The department should hasten to resolve the traditional council disputes.

Hon Speaker, the committee, having considered and scrutinised the department's Annual Performance Report for the 2019/20 financial year, moves that it be adopted as the report of this august House and that the Budget Vote 11 for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, be passed. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri. We shall now call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to respond to the observations made by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Premier of the province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Members of the Executive Council, committee chairperson and members of the portfolio committee and all Members of the House present and those who have connected virtually. We must appreciate the fact that we receive guidance from the portfolio committee and we will continue engaging with you. We will always take criticism and support you give us.

Let me first acknowledge the fact that it is true that the department has been sitting on an unqualified audit opinion for three consecutive years. This is a matter that can no longer be celebrated by the department. We have an obligation to move from an unqualified audit opinion to a clean audit opinion. Measures have been put in place and one of those measures is that we have appointed a Chief Financial Officer. This post was vacant for quite some time. We hope that all the issues which have been raised by the Auditor-General over the years will be taken care of. We hope for the better in this financial year.

I must indicate that the Human Settlement programme, which honourable Members have raised a number of issues including performance in relation to the delivery of housing units, it is correct that we lost R50 million in the previous financial year. We were able to identify challenges which included what was happening in the previous financial year. Indeed, there are challenges in terms of project management in the department. There are challenges in terms of contract management. There are also challenges in terms of decision-making in the department. We are busy resolving those issues and are trying to put measures in place to address these challenges.

I also want to comment on the issue of the performance of the CRUs – the Lephalale-Marapong, the Tshikota and Talana. During this year's Budget Speech, we were able to make commitments in terms of our interventions to resolve the challenges with the Marapong CRU. I can confirm, Hon Speaker, that measures have been put in place to make sure that we complete this project and then move to Tshikota and Talana CRUs.

I must also indicate that there are a number of challenges which were there in terms of Human Settlement, especially the township establishment. You will remember that

it has to be done also by the district municipality and local municipality where we could not perform or there was a delay in that aspect. We are supporting our municipalities to resolve those issues especially the new township establishment. I must confirm that it has been resolved. We are going to establish a new township in Vingerkraal in the Bela-Bela Local Municipality.

Hon Smalle spoke about the VBS matter, and I think we should put it on record and that people should commend where good work has been done. The forensic audit report compiled by the Provincial Treasury, which spoke about all municipalities that invested in the VBS, it is this provincial department that was able to implement that forensic audit report. Painful as it was, in some instances we had to remove Mayors; we had to remove Municipal Managers and CFOs. I can confirm that we were supposed to be the best performing province in terms of filling vacant posts of senior managers of municipalities. But, because of the implementation of these reports, we had to remove most of CFOs and Municipal Managers and we have implemented that. And this will not be regarded as one of the fruitless expenditures incurred, because we were implementing the recommendations of the report. We went a step further and completed the addendum, which was talking about Thulamela and Capricorn District municipalities.

We have also as the Department of CoGHSTA, spoken to the local and district municipalities to make sure that they implement the recommendations of the forensic report and we are busy doing that. I think we should be commended that we have not hidden anything from the implementation of the VBS matter.

I must also comment on the issue of irregular expenditure, that it is true that we contributed negatively to the provincial administration in terms of our irregular expenditure. This is mainly due to the procurement which was done in the 2016/17 financial year which was the pool contract. You will understand that if it for three years, for the mere fact that we'll continue to use contractors who are in that pool, we will continue incurring the irregular expenditure.

We have since appointed a new pool and the audit we received this financial year seems to suggest that we are on the right path. We have already done what is required from us to request for condonement from Treasury and we will come to the House and report on how far we are was doing.

I must also indicate on the issue of the Altostate that we are aware that almost R700 million has been invested in the Altostate and bulk services are there. We are busy looking for partnerships so that we can have top structures. It is a project that we also pronounced during the Budget Speech and the Premier pronounced in terms of how we are going to work with the Risima Housing unit this time around to help in financing, because these finances of government are not up to scratch to deliver on each and every programme we have.

Above all, we should be able to appreciate the fact that we got criticisms and we should be working to resolve the issues raised. Where you raise performance issues, these are the matters that we are going to make sure as the executing authority, we lay the foundation that the Premier has said today that they would want to leave this government in stable hands. We'll also be able to lay a strong foundation in the department, so that whoever will take up forward will be able to find that we have put

systems in place so that we will never return money to the national fiscus. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.3. Consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 third quarter report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport

Over to you, committee chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, on behalf of the honourable chairperson, Ms Seono, rise to table the 2019/20 third quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable acting chair. Is there any seconder to the proposal? I recognise Hon Lekganyane.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Che Selane. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. We then move to the consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 third quarter report for GAAL. Over to you, committee chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, on behalf of the committee chair, Hon Seono, rise to table the 2019/20 third quarter report on GAAL. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, the acting chair. Is there any seconder? I recognize Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as tabled by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. We move to the consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety. Over to you, the acting committee chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee for Transport and Community Safety rise to table the fourth quarter report on the 2019/20 financial year for the Department of Transport and Community Safety. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Radzilani.

MS RADZILANI

Thank you, honourable Chair. I rise to second the fourth quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety as presented by the acting chair. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Radzilani. We are now on consideration and adoption of 2019/20 fourth quarter report on GAAL.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Chair. I, Che Selane, rise here on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety to table the fourth quarter report on GAAL for 2019/20. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, acting chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thanks, Hon Chairperson. I rise to second the report as tabled by the acting chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We move to the consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety. Over to you, committee chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you. I, Che Selane, rise on behalf the Portfolio Committee for Transport and Community Safety to table the Annual Report for 2019/20 financial year. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable acting chair, Hon Selane. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Kekana.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to second Hon Che Selane for tabling the report for 2019/20 Annual Performance Report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We move to the consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report for GAAL. Over to you, Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. With the last power bestowed upon me by Hon Seono, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee for Transport and Community Safety, I hereby table the Annual Report for 2019/20 for GAAL. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honorable acting chair, Hon Selane. Is there any seconder to the last move? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Chairperson. I rise to second the report as tabled by the acting chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speaker's List. All these reports are going to be debated simultaneously. The first speaker on our list is Hon Mphahlele. Hon Mphahlele rendered an apology. The second speaker is Hon Phala. Over to you, Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the department on their improved audit outcome for the current period under review by the Auditor-General. It is however, unfortunate that GAAL's position remained unchanged during the 2019/20 financial period. The department held considerable underspending for its budget by over R33 million in transport operations and over R90 million for transport regulations by the end of the financial year. This is apportioned to non-delivery of traffic police uniforms which were already from the service providers. The committee noted that while the department managed to achieve most of their 11 performance indicators, it has exceeded its target except in their reduction of their road crashes and fatalities.

Amongst others, there are over-performance achieved related to processing of operating license; compliance; inspections conducted to speed up operations conducted and checking of roadblocks conducted. The department has an irregular expenditure amounting to over R12 million which is over by R2 million from the previous years.

The regular expenditure was due to non-compliance with regard to transfer of functions according to Public Service Act, non-compliance with Public Service Act on arbitration towards non-compliance with local content and single sourcing of quotation without Treasury's approval. The increase in irregular expenditure occurred despite previous annual report resolutions from the committee. The department should submit a report and take remedial action against officials who are exposed to fruitless, wasteful and irregular expenditure where transgressions are found before the end of the third quarter of the 2018/19 financial year as well as that of the department to strengthen its contract and procurement management unit capacity as there are deficiencies while dealing with tender specifications.

Having engaged with the department, as the committee, we put these recommendations:

- That the department should expedite process towards settling and finalising legal disputes which are now attracting adverse audit findings.
- That the department should ensure that remedial and corrective measures are taken with regard to failure to obtain Treasury's approval on sourcing a single quotation that buses failed to honour their contractual obligations should be made to subcontract their services to ensure commuters are not denied access to public transport.
- That the department should ensure that the current fleet of buses are equitably distributed in all districts in the province.
- Lastly, the department should, through relevant forums, strive to ensure that there is sufficient and suitable allocation of resources to various police stations in the province.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. I call upon Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Good morning, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council and leaders of the opposition parties. In terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, all citizens have the right to life. It is therefore the mandate and duty by the Department of Transport and Community Safety to ensure that people of this province are safe and their rights to life are protected but unfortunately the Department of Transport and Community Safety is failing the people of this province as it is unable to protect them due to its inadequate integrated approach to fight crime such as murders, mob justice, gangsterism and service delivery protests. These are crimes that are out of control. There are no community safety plans in place and there are no solutions on how to combat crimes in the province, especially in rural areas.

Some traffic officers in the province are on duty without being issued with firearms and that causes endangerment to their lives as well as to the members of the public. How can the lives of the citizens of this province be protected with such an attitude towards crime and the protection of vulnerable communities?

These are just some of the several problems in the department due to lack of proper financial governance and management. The situation causes the department to lose a lot of income and negatively impacts on the service delivery to the community it needs to serve. Poor performance, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, budget cuts are some ongoing problems within the department and it does not seem to have a solution or rather the care to create any solutions to these problems at hand. This department cannot continuously make same the mistakes without realizing that they need to have an action plan and implement a turnaround strategy.

GAAL is one of the examples of an entity that was allowed to operate and receive budget that was not properly managed. Millions of Rands were lost due to this mismanagement and poor performance and will probably never be retrieved. Real action with real plans needs to be implemented to ensure that this department serves its mandate to the people. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. I recognise Hon Selane. You are the last speaker on the Speakers' List.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, the Hon Chair of Chairs in his absentia, the Hon Premier, the chairperson for the Portfolio Community for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Seono, honourable Members of this majestic House, good morning. Hon Speaker, it is not easy now for the South African population in these 27 years of democracy and freedom to forget the pain of its birth. We must look back on the experiences we had, especially on the political violence that engulfed this country immediately after the unbanning of the liberation movement in February 1990. During the first month of 1991, there was an increase in violence in this country and the African National Congress began to motivate for a Peace Summit between the opposition by then, of course, with apartheid enterprise, subsequent to such historic and positive political development there was a long and often bitter engagement or negotiation between the parties and the apartheid government, which of course resulted in the signing of the National Peace Accord. This was done on 14 September 1991. The accord or agreement contained the general provisions or principle that seeks to ensure that police shall endeavour protect the people of South Africa from all criminal acts and shall do so in a rigorously nonpartisan fashion regardless of political belief, affiliation, race, religion, gender, or any ethnic group.

The National Peace Accord or principle states clearly subsequent to the act that, "The police shall be guided by the belief that they are accountable to the society in rendering the policing service and shall therefore conduct themselves as to secure and retain, to respect the approval of the public."

Despite this particular National Peace Accord, what are the lessons that you can make out of this particular agreement? These are men and women in blue uniform who are prepared to protect our people and the country at large. The reality is that these men and women are confronted with many challenges politically and administratively.

The fact that the crime rate in our province is reduced at this juncture shows the commitment which the police had to abide by what the ANC has advocated from time to time immemorial. These men and women have worked under serious appalling conditions which continue to demotivate them. The mere fact that these police or men and women with blue uniform do not have adequate resources like police vans, enough police cells to execute, and of course, their responsibility is the cause for concern and malfunctioning of the police force.

The mere fact that our system takes time to repair police vehicles indicates our weakness as an institution and this is something which continues to demoralise them. We have an obvious answer to this because it is only our people who can simply ask a question, what do we then do? As honorable Members, we only know what is to be done. COVID-19, of course, is here with us. These men and women in blue uniform are working every day with our community. They are the first volunteers where there is crisis and they do so with sole intention to protect our community especially from criminals.

We need to ask ourselves a critical question as to whether in our line of duty do we prioritise them in our plan to value their selfless efforts, especially of helping our people? We have indeed developed good Community Policing Forums and street committees in the entire province. The question that we also need to ask ourselves is whether those community forums are effective or not. The reality is that some of these committees are effective because we see a lot of crime being reported and community issues being resolved.

The obvious challenge that characterizes all these problems or challenges is when as leaders we fail to give communities moral support and community services necessarily because, this will compromise all aspects of Community Policy Forums because our people need leadership with moral and economic support. However, it is worth mentioning that our province through the Department of Transport and Community Safety is doing the best to eliminate all these possible failures. We need to deal with long process of supply chain system that, in actual fact, has engulfed this Department of Transport and Community Safety in this particular province.

This process, to a certain extent has failed the department because most of the things are done nationally or at national level and service delivery become compromised because our department will apply and wait for long processes and sometimes it will get the response from the national office after a year. What is even worse is that the processes of supply and repairing motor vehicle in this particular province is being centralised with no alternative.

What we must do is to help this department to continue to increase staff morale; to increase human resource and increase its own Budget to function efficiently. In the beginning of this month, we came here and spoke at length as the Portfolio Committee for Transport and Community Safety.

We have noted about the unproductiveness and unskilled labour which has been characterised by GAAL and we have made clear recommendations in black and white that the department through Hon MEC must turnaround this particular department to resuscitate its creativity for the purpose of creation of massive employment in our province.

Notwithstanding the fact that we must congratulate this department for receiving a good audit opinion for the financial year 2019/20 necessarily because this good report audit opinion cannot go unnoticed, though we must encourage the department to sustain this remarkable achievement after some years of unqualified audit opinions. We have said in black and white, that it is something that this department, through the honourable MEC, has to go and implement what the Auditor-General and the Scopa have said. We will appeal to this majestic House that we must, in actual fact, consider and adopt the third quarter, fourth quarter reports and the Annual Reports for both GAAL and the Department for Transport and Community Safety. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. We shall now call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to respond to the debate. Over to you, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ndi matsheloni. Hon Premier, my colleagues in the Executive, the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs who is also the acting chair for the committee, honourable Members of the committee, honourable Members in the opposition and the honourable Members in the House and those that are in attendance virtually. I want to take this opportunity and greet you this morning. Indeed, we have been in this House. As the department, we have been able to present the report to the committee as honourable Members have been debating since the acting chair presented our report.

We want to thank the committee for the guidance and the support. As the department we have arrived where we can now be proud to say that we have got an improved audit report. This is through their guidance and their analysis that they do to their reports and the engagement and debates take us to where we are as a department.

We want to acknowledge that indeed as much as COVID-19 has affected us, you will remember that in the financial year under review there were some months that buses could not be able to work. We acknowledge that we have underspent in terms of bus subsidies on Road Accident Fund. We have come here to this House the other time and presented that we have got new measures that we are introducing as we deal with the whole issue of single policing. We are getting support from the national department where we have got more traffic officials being deployed on our national roads so that our own teams can be able to go and work on our own provincial roads.

We acknowledge that on the process or on the report of the irregular expenditure, a list has been compiled and all officials that have been affected are being followed up. The list has been submitted to the EXCO for analysis and thorough discussion is under the stewardship of the Premier. We acknowledged the other issues raised by Members on the bus contracts. As the department, we have also submitted to deal with the

anomaly for us not having complied with what the Department of Treasury wants in terms of supply chain.

We have submitted and given offer to extend bus contracts by 10 months which currently as the department and the Department of Treasury are in discussion to say, in terms of us, to be able to run business of buses in the province that might not be profitable for the company. We are busy discussing on the extension that will be guided by the study that we are doing with the University of Pretoria and other institutions.

Currently, bus contracts have been extended by 10 months. We also want to acknowledge and thank the committee for the analysis that the Deputy Chair of Chairs as our acting chair of the committee has just done with regard to men and women in uniform in blue. Indeed, we want to say to Hon Maritz that as the police stations are being built in our own communities, the nearest areas share the police station as you know.

In rural areas our CPFs and CSFs exist together with other structures. What you should be able to understand is that in farm communities where we do not receive attitude we have got functional farm structures that are constituted by police and farmers themselves. Where the structures want to function in isolation, police always receive attitude and I think honourable Members can help us to continue to make sure our public are safe. I want to thank the committee for the analysis that they've just given us because indeed, at a provincial level honourable Members we established the helpdesk that is called Police Secretariat which assist us in monitoring police work that they execute daily.

I think in the last NCOP as we discussed, we talked about increasing the Budget, especially on key areas where we saw either in crime or in the GBV, the items were rising. The Minister has been able to give us a Budget as a province. We want to conclude by indicating that on unskilled personnel that we have at GAAL, we have completed an organogram that speaks to technical skills that we need. It has been submitted to the EXCO committee at the provincial level where the organogram has been submitted for review and analysis. In the last EXCO meeting these matters have been discussed.

As the department, we are in the process with the Department of Treasury, and we have already made submissions to the Department of Treasury for the analysis that they should be able to assist us in analysing the organogram in order to determine which posts can be funded over the next financial year in order to deal with technical skills that are not there. On other issues that Members of the committee might have raised that we might not have been able to answer is that as we sit in our own committee with the members, we would be able to submit more information. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya.

7.4. Consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism

Over to you, committee chair.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, standing on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of LEDET, present the report for consideration and adoption together with the agencies. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honorable acting chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

I, Simon Mathe, hereby support the presentation and adoption of the report.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Mathe.

THE SPEAKER

We move to the consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report on LEDA. Over to you, the acting chair.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise again on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of LEDET, Hon Selamolela. I present the Annual Report for the agency LEDA to be considered and to be adopted. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, the acting chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Lekganyane.

MS LEKGANYANE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We move to the consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report for LTA. Over to you, committee chair.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

I, Sekutu Monica Mochadi, on behalf of Hon Selamolela, I rise to present the Annual Report for consideration and adoption for LTA agency. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, acting chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, support everything that is contained in the motion raised by the Hon Mochadi.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We move to the consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report for LGB. Over to you, acting chair.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, on behalf of the chairperson of Portfolio Committee of LEDET, I rise to present the motion to adopt the 2019/20 Annual Report for LGB. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Thank you, acting chair for the presentation of the annual report on LGB. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

I, Monama Rodgers, rise to second the presentation of the 2019/20 financial year Annual Report as presented by the acting chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Limpopo Gambling Board. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Mathe Simon.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker. The Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive, Members of the opposition parties and of course, Members of this august House, greetings are extended to all of you and Hon Speaker. Thank you very much for this opportunity to debate on 2019/20 Annual Report for the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism coupled with its entities. The portfolio committee indeed was briefed by the department on these reports. The Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities have an important task of growing the economy of our province.

The economy has not been growing in the preferred rate. This was even made worse by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It is for this reason that there needs to be an economic recovery plan with clear long-term targets. The department has successfully spent 99% on the allocated Budget and meeting the set targets. As the committee, we encourage the department to continue in ensuring that invoices are all paid on time so

that small businesses do not suffer. Of importance, will be to ensure that the department plays its critical role in procuring from the local businesses, especially those that are owned by youth, women and people with disabilities.

While the vacancy level is within the threshold of 10%, we are concerned that some of key vacancies such as those in business regulation have not been filled. The committee has also noted with concern that the department has not been able to meet the employment equity targets. It has been reported that senior management has 43% female representation whilst the representation by people with disabilities was below the target at 2%.

This non-compliance has been observed even in some of the departmental entities which include the boards. We have continuously recommended to the department to ensure compliance in this regard.

The committee has continued to express concern on the fact that the department is not able to adjudicate disciplinary cases within allocated timeframes. But of course, it is done due to reasonable reasons and acceptable reasons which include postponement of cases due to unavailability of chairpersons or presiding officers. It is of common knowledge that this in turn affects service delivery because in some units, employees will continue to work well in unresolved cases and that, naturally, would affect their morale.

As the department we worked with the provincial government, in particular, Office of the Premier, to find a workable solution to this problem. The committee has noted that LEDET, LTA and LEDA have received unqualified audit opinions from the Auditor-General. We would like to implore that these entities develop and monitor audit action plans in order to achieve a clean audit.

On a positive note, we would like to congratulate Limpopo Gambling Board for achieving a clean audit. It will be important that this standard is maintained and sustained even across other LEDET entities and LEDA subsidiaries. Clean governance should be a non-negotiable and of importance will be to ensure that there is value for money in all our entrepreneurs.

We commend the efforts of the department in continuing to support SMMEs and cooperatives. More still needs to be done in this regard to ensure that we turn around our economy. Of importance will be to ensure that we provide skills development and procurement opportunities for these entities, particularly SMMEs. The department should continue to play its role to ensure that it develops black industrialists who are based in the province. Deliberate efforts will be directed to you to support these businesses that should be seen occupying the referred industrial parks which is one of the priority projects of the government.

This will also aid in ensuring that the province attracts and maintains investment developments and implementation of township and village revitalisation strategy which is critical in ensuring readiness for the local entrepreneurs to meaningfully contribute to the economic goal. The department and provincial government need to ensure that small businesses owned by women, youth and people living with disability in various sectors benefit especially through the preferential procurement regulations.

This will demonstrate our commitment towards radical economic transformation in the province. The portfolio committee has noted with concern that there are challenges in business regulation especially in liquor regulation. In addition to not processing applications and not addressing consumer complaints in time, the department is not decisively dealing with the issue of liquid outlets that are established near important facilities such as schools and churches. While you worship there is somebody playing jazz next to you.

This ongoing scenario contributes towards social ills within our communities, thereby negatively impacting on the future of our young people. We acknowledge the department's efforts to promote local economy. However, the ever-increasing number of illegally owned businesses and spaza shops is concerning. We urge the department to work with law enforcement agencies and municipalities to root out all illegal businesses operating in the province which include sectors such as mining as well as gambling where it is also prevalent because illegal mining in one area of the province seems to be normal.

The Limpopo Economic Development Agency has been strategically placed as a vehicle to drive economic growth in the province. However, the entity has not been performing as expected. The entity has a number of subsidiaries and associate companies which are expected to fulfill developmental mandate and also generate revenue in order to ensure that there is self-sustainability. However, the committee has noticed that some entities such as Great North Transport, Corridor Mining Resources and New Era Life are not generating sufficient revenue which leaves them largely dependent on government for their survival and operations.

The department needs to have a clear implementation plan in order to ensure that entities are self-sustainable. The committee has recommended that LEDA should continue to provide a comprehensive report on all subsidiaries, joint ventures and companies to ensure that they are profitable.

The Limpopo Gambling Board has continued to play a critical role in regulating the gambling industry while generating the much-needed revenue for the province. We also appreciate the improvements in governance in this entity. Even though we are concerned that the entity's capacity remains limited while the sector has grown. The committee emphasized that LGB will ensure that there is transformation within the gambling sector that different gambling facilities should ensure that there is compliance with BEE regulations. And this should be extended to the businesses that are suppliers in this sector.

The entity should also ensure that gambling establishments comply with all license conditions. At all times the effort to ensure responsible gambling should be maintained. The portfolio committee continues to encourage the entity to work with law enforcement agencies to root out the ongoing challenges of illegal gambling. It negatively affects the legal establishment as well as the revenue generation in the province. Our province is richly endowed with natural resources which include biodiversity.

We commend the department for continuously ensuring that these natural resources are protected and sustainably utilised in order to expand our economy. It will be important to ensure that these resources are sustainably utilised to enhance job

creation in sectors such as tourism, green economy, and so forth. The creation of jobs in this sector through EPWP also goes a long way in alleviating poverty. However, more efforts should be directed towards creation of sustainable jobs.

The department has continued to fulfill its role in protecting the biodiversity, especially through nature reserves. These reserves, if properly managed, could contribute significantly to attract tourists to the province. However, it has been noted that some of the infrastructure projects have been taking longer to complete. The department used to finalize this revenue enhancement projects and ensure that the state-owned nature reserves are in a state where they can compete with private ones in attracting their share of visitors. Tourism is one of the key industries that are targeted for growing the economy of our province as per the Limpopo Development Plan.

It is therefore imperative that the department continues to fulfill its role in regulating the industry and ensure transformation in the industry. The department has tasked the Limpopo Tourism Agency with a critical role of ensuring that it markets the province as a tourist destination. The commuters continue to emphasize that the entity should work with municipalities to aggressively market all areas of interest, which include parks, cities, towns, world heritage sites to potential tourists. It is for this reason that the committee noted with concern that Kruger National Park has not been adequately marketed in the province, even though the province has about 70% of land in the park.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that the department, its entities and the provincial government should create opportunities for the citizens of this province in order to participate and benefit from the development of the economic growth. Deliberate efforts should be put in place to ensure transformation in the economy of the province in all sectors. In implementing this economic recovery plan, there should be clear monitoring plan with tangible activities. There should also not forget that they should be compliance with COVID-19 regulations in all sectors. On behalf of the committee, let me say thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Yes, thank you Hon Mathe. Over to you, Hon Raphela. He is not present. I recognise Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Once again thank you, Hon Speaker, honorable Members and the MECs present. As a Schedule 3D agency, LEDA's mandate is to promote and carry out the economic development of Limpopo province in their agricultural, commercial, financial and industrial fields, mining, transport, housing, finance, exports and investment promotion. From the latest unemployment statistics which amplify that 1 out of every 2 people in the Limpopo workforce are unemployed or have lost all hope of ever getting a job, it is clear that LEDA has not only failed to implement its mandate, but disappointed the trust vested in it by the people of this province.

There has been little or no progress in the implementation of very key projects such as the SEZs, bus refurbishments, investment centres, industrial parks, accreditations and Science and Technology caused by LEDA. Their organizational structure's lack of capacity and vacancies in LEDA and its subsidiaries affects the performance and

the delivery on their specific mandate. The financial position of LEDA and its subsidiaries is dire as there is a negative return on investment as well as significant reduction in the profitability of LEDA and its subsidiaries. Furthermore, material impairments amounting to R142 million and R137 million were made to other financial assets as a result of irrecoverable loans and debts.

A business module that focused on funding enterprises is a vulnerable position meaning that without the support of government funding, they will not be able to continue with their operations as the liabilities exceeds the assets. Great North Transport and Corridor Mining Resources are prime examples. They are currently on the brink of financial collapse and they will not function without government assistance. Corridor Mining Resources did not accumulate an income or profit, therefore, no dividends were declared to the shareholder. CMR's net profit percentage was minus 300%. There was no appropriate audit evidence that disciplinary action steps were taken against officials who incurred irregular expenditure and fruitless and wasteful expenditure as required by section 51.1. One of the PFMA, relates irregular expenditure amounted to R13,276 million. As of now it disclosed fruitless and wasteful expenditure amounting to R1 million, which was increased from the previous financial year.

LEDA continue to struggle to meet each occupancy rate when it comes to leasing of open floor space. It was only able to let up 15% of its 100,000 sq/m against the target of new leases of area space of 3 765 sq/m.

The final rounds of public participation on the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Makhado-Musina SEZ was recently finalised. It is clear that the outcome of the EIA will have a negative impact on the implementation of the SEZ and the lack of transparency by LEDA has created friction between themselves and the surrounding communities. LEDA must prioritize this project by amplifying the correct legislation and rebuild relationships to create trust between themselves and the affected communities. Great North Transport has developed a turnaround strategy and of which implementation was delayed by COVID-19.

The focus is on reducing headcount, pilferage and implanting a fleet management system to contain the cost. The GNT will be diversifying into a new income generating business stream. The following key activities will be undertaken to achieve self-sustainability: sub-contracts on all unprofitable routes, procurement of fleet management systems, outsourcing of inspection services and the shrinking of GNT's business by downsizing the company as part of restructuring. There will be a further reduction of the headcount through early retirement and voluntary service packages and mounting skill redeployment of staff, to name a few. The province has secured assistance for 294 tourism establishments from the National Tourism Relief Fund with funding to the value of R14,7 million.

The province will also supplement it further with a further R10 million in addition to cater for those who were not covered by the National Tourism Relief Fund. There will be a re-commercialization of a number of Limpopo nature reserves through Private-Public Partnerships Model. This initiative is targeted to uplift our communities and certain identified provincial parks. The first batch of our candidates' beneficiaries will be Masebe Nature Reserve, Rust De Winter Nature Reserve and other nature reserves. Other candidates will also be further considered in the following years. The

number of research projects have also been reduced during this financial year due to threat posed by the pandemic and the entity had forecasted to have more research projects in the coming year.

Research is very critical in sales, marketing, marketing of industries like tourism, in order to take informed decisions, to seize new opportunities and to stay relevant and therefore, it should be prioritized. The industry has continued challenges with ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, your time is up.

MR SMALLE

... illegal gambling as many are on that trends which might be deteriorated by the rise of online gambling that is not properly regulated in this country. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. I recognise Hon Mochadi, the acting chair. Honourable Members, when you are on the podium make sure that you stand on your right-hand side.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chief Whip of majority party, honourable Members of the august House and those who are attendees through different media. We are standing on this day; the eve before the 45th celebration of June 16 boycotts which took place in Soweto and other parts of the country. Many students were wounded, and many lost their lives and many others had to flee the country and go to foreign lands. Today, we continue to salute them like Hector Peterson, Mbuyisa Makhubu, Tsietsi Mashinini and all the youth of 1976, whose sacrifices ensured we could be free today.

It is their direct contributions and of successive generations that allow us to sit here today. As free men and women, we pay tribute to all progressive student movement from Nosas, Sasso, Azaso, Sansco and Sasco for their contribution to the struggle for our liberation. Young people have been the vanguard of our democratic revolution and they've been radical. The Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism met virtually with the Department of LEDET on 26 March 2021 for a briefing on the 2019/20 Annual Report of the department.

The purpose of the briefing was to monitor and determine the actual achievements of the department and its agencies. About the set targets as outlined in the Annual Performance Plan department reported that, in terms of employment at senior management service, 56,41% employees were males and 43,59% were females. Regarding levels 1 to 12, 56 points where 99% were males and 43,01% were females. The department reached 2% target of salary level 13 to 16 while for level 1 to 12 it was at 1,7%.

That department did not fully achieve targets in few indicators, which include adjudication of disciplinary cases, representation by females at SMS level, representation by people with disability, percentage of invoices paid within 30 days and number of infrastructure projects implemented. The portfolio committee commended strides made by the department to close the gender gap at work, particularly at the level of SMS. We, however, insist that the department must prioritize qualified and capable women to close the gender disparity gap at the SMS level with the department.

Madam Speaker and honourable Members, the portfolio committee is particularly concerned by the level of significant uncertainties in the department. According to the AG's report, the department is currently involved in litigation. The department is opposing claims as it believes it has reasonable grounds to defend the claims. The ultimate outcomes of the matter cannot presently be determined and no provision for any liability that may result on that has been made in a financial statement.

Furthermore, financial statements submitted for audit were not prepared in accordance with the prescribed reporting framework and supported by full and proper records as required by section 40(1) of the PFMA and material misstatements identified by the auditors in this submitted financial statements were corrected.

The supportive reports were provided subsequently, resulting in the financial statements receiving unqualified audit opinion. The department developed a plan to address internal and external audit findings, but management did not timeously monitor adherence to plan. Management did not prepare regular, accurate and complete financial and performance report that are supported and evidenced by reliable information. We urge the department to identify the root causes of these significant uncertainties as identified by the AG and implement appropriate consequence management and corrective measures to improve on all audit findings within 2020/21 financial year. Let me steal the words from a revolutionary Amilcar Cabral:

“Always remember that the people are not fighting for ideas, nor for what is men's minds. The people fight and accept the sacrifices demanded by the struggle in order to gain material advantages, to live better and in peace, to benefit from progress, and for the better future of their children. National liberation, the struggle against colonialism, the construction of peace, progress and independence are hollow words devoid of any significance unless they can be translated into a real improvement of living conditions.”

The portfolio committee is not accepting that in this day and age that the department or the agency as important as the LEDET and its entities in terms of economic development plan of our province, in particular, with the advent of COVID-19 in terms of provincial economic recovery efforts that they still cannot submit the correct financial statements for auditing.

It is totally unacceptable and as the portfolio committee, we would like to strongly say that the department must find the source of this anomaly and act accordingly to correct expeditiously such anomaly that it does not repeat itself in the coming financial years A-G's report.

The portfolio committee commenced with trials that made the department to close the gender disparity gaps as I have already alluded to. We want to applaud the department because one of their entities has achieved a clean audit. This is wonderful and in this way, it shows that if all departmental agencies can commit themselves to achieve clean audit it will be far much better for service delivery in the economy of our province. The portfolio committee is particularly concerned by the level of insignificance certainty as I said in the departmental A-G's report. It is not acceptable by this time that some of the agencies are unable to fulfill their mandates as the extended arm of the department.

In conclusion, we believe that if the MEC were to take heed of the advice given we will move forward as a province. We already welcomed the unqualified audit opinion and will encourage the MEC and his team to work even harder in achieving more. I therefore recommend for the consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report for Vote 6 together with all its entities. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mochadi, the acting chair. We shall now call upon the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Mokone, to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR LEDET

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief Whip, Members of the august House, colleagues from the opposition, members of the portfolio committee, Ndza mi xeweta hinkwerhu. Laha hi humaka kona i kule, laha hi ya ka kona i kusuhi. Leswi i ku landzelerisa marito ya Ndhunakulu Tatana Mathabatha loko a ku, "namutlha ku tlula tolo." Hi mpela hina va Xifundzankulu xa Limpopo hi tiyimiserile ku tirha hi matimba ku yisa nhluvuko wa vanhu va ka hina emahlweni.

Madam Speaker, I'm standing before this august House to deal with the Annual Report of Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, which is LEDET, Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) and Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB). It gives us joy that indeed, Limpopo Gambling Board has achieved a clean audit. Again, Risima has also received a clean audit and all the entities have received unqualified reports.

We stand before you understanding the counsel that the committee gives us, to indeed move forward and get clean audit and we are working tirelessly to do so. We indeed came up with the socio-economic recovery plan which was short-term and long-term. We have been able to implement the socioeconomic recovery plan as a short-term plan. We have put aside resources to assist our people in that regard. As you will note, tourism was the most hard-hit industry and people lost their jobs.

We had to close many of our businesses and as you know, in towns, most of the shops are being closed because of COVID-19. The socioeconomic recovery plan has been able to assist us on a short-term basis to deal with those problems. Most of the issues which we have achieved have been outlined in our annual plan. And of course, we'll continue to deal with the long-term strategy. The industrialisation of our province is

high on our agenda. What we can say is that you will note that in all mining towns, people always destabilise those areas and it's because of high rate of unemployment.

We are going to have a mining indaba in August to deal with that. This is just to make sure that we bring together all the stakeholders to deal with that matter so that our people should understand that we must allow those mining towns and mining companies to operate so that our people must have the much-needed jobs. We're also going to have an investment conference in September where we are going to bring local and foreign investors on board because we are saying that it's time that we need to deal with the issue of socio-economic recovery plan.

On GNT, everyone accepts that, even Hon Smalle in his presentation said that we had a turnaround strategy which was disturbed by COVID-19. It has put us back. As we're speaking, we are not sleeping. We are making sure that we deal with issues that need us to revamp the Great North Transport. When we are in town you will see our buses ferrying the neediest people from all villages and all over the province. So, it is therefore important for us that what we have inherited we make it a point that we leave it as we found it. Like the Premier has said that when we leave we must make sure that all the institutions that we found working, we must leave them working and that's our aim.

I want to indicate that all the issues that the committee has recommended we will be able to deal with them. The issue of employment equity, the issue of disciplinary cases and the issue of misstatements; we're saying hi Xitsonga, va ri, "loyi a ku byelaka, i wa wena."

We are talking about the one that advises you. It means that person loves you more and we know that you love us too.

We are, indeed, going to do as you said. Let me take this opportunity to thank the committee for its wise counsel. We are sure that as the Premier said that tomorrow or today is better than yesterday. We'll make sure that those much-needed jobs are created. The national government is supportive of the SEZ. We are going to host the Minister for DTI. We have put aside R200 million for the Musina-Makhado SEZ for this financial year and in three years' time we will put aside R600 million. The national government has come to the party. They have already given us R200 million and very soon we'll start seeing dust in the northern side of the Musina-Makhado SEZ. We have put aside the R35 million for the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ and very soon we'll be starting with the implementation of that SEZ. Leswi kombaka leswaku hi mpela, mitirho ya vulavula. Ndza khensa. Inkomu. Khammambo. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.5. Consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report and Oversight Mechanism Committee of the Limpopo Legislature

Over to you, the committee chair.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby present the report of the Portfolio Committee of Oversight Mechanism on 2019/20 financial year for consideration and adoption by this House. I so move, Hon Speaker

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honorable chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

I, Monama Rodgers, stand to second the presentation as said by the chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. Let's move to our Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Radzilani.

MS RADZILANI

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier of our province, MECs, Deputy Speaker, the Hon Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip of the House, Hon Chair of Chairs, Leaders of the Opposition and honourable Members, ndi masiari vhathu vhothe including those who have connected virtually via Teams and those listening to our debates via social media platforms. Ndo livhuwa Muhulisei Mulangadzulo wa Vhusimamilayo ha vundu la Limpopo u newa tshifhinga hetshi tsha u sedzulusa mashumele a Limpopo Legislature kha nwaha wa muvhalelano wa 2019/20. The financial year 2019/20, especially the last quarter was compounded with the global outbreak of Coronavirus.

As a province the virus is still with us and we continue to fight the spread of COVID-19 as well as it's controlled thereof. Coronavirus has caused socioeconomic problems in our society and continues to provide challenges on our daily operations. Our economy is not doing well. In addition, poverty as well as unemployment have risen in our province as caused by the outbreak of Coronavirus. In the midst of this global health crisis we have to adapt to the new ways of doing things. The circumstances dictate that we should conduct our business unusual. As the committee, we commend the Limpopo Legislature for complying with COVID-19 regulations. We are currently holding Legislature meetings virtually and our Sittings are hybrid. All these efforts are done to save the lives of Members, officials and all stakeholders in the province.

As Legislature we should continue to commend our health workers for their sacrifice in the fight against COVID-19. Hon Speaker and Members of this august House, we are debating today in this House a day before we commemorate the contributions of young people to our democracy. After the 1994 democratic breakthrough, June 16, was set aside as a public holiday to honour the courage, bravery and sacrifice of the courageous youth who were at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid and Bantu Education. Young people are remembered for their determination to fight for their rights and for not flinching in the face of the brutal, violent and repressive apartheid regime.

The democracy we currently enjoy today was achieved through their hard work and sacrifice. In the year under review, despite COVID-19 challenges, the Limpopo Legislature managed to host the Youth Parliament in honour of young people of this province. The platform provided young people with the opportunity to share ideas and come up with solutions to their current socioeconomic challenges. In the financial year 2019/20, we are proud of the achievement of the Limpopo Legislature. We salute the leadership of the Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; and the Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou; which led to the Legislature obtaining a clean audit for the first time since its existence. This is a clear demonstration of teamwork, dedication and committed leadership.

For the 2019/20 audit outcomes, the Auditor-General of South Africa urged the public institutions in this province, focus on the critical areas in order to sustain the improved noted areas such as continuous review of the control environment and strengthening the preventative and detection controls. I'm sure all of us will agree that we have learnt through this COVID-19 pandemic that when you face new circumstances, you cannot continue with the old internal controls that are there. The new environment must also encourage us to review the controls that are there. The A-G also encouraged us to adopt a culture of zero tolerance against blatant disregard of laws and regulations, especially within Supply Chain Management space and to take decisive action to hold the responsible officials accountable.

As the committee we won't accept any audit finding other than the clean one. We therefore advise the leadership of this Legislature to develop and implement internal control measures that will ensure that the institution sustain its clean audit status. It is our responsibility as the committee to monitor the implementation of those control measures until we are satisfied with the progress made. Even though we commend the good performance demonstrated by the Limpopo Legislature in 2019/20 financial year, there are certain matters that needs to be addressed before they become significant issues.

On HR-related matters, we have observed that the Legislature is taking long to fill funded vacant posts. We therefore request the leadership of the Legislature to ensure that all funded positions are filled within the required period. We further request the Hon Speaker to ensure that the organizational structure is approved as soon as possible.

We are currently living in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This requires our systems to be at the same level with a growing demand on the use of technology. Unfortunately, there is slow progress with regard to the implementation of the chamber system despite the availability of the budget. The current chamber system is outdated and needs to be urgently replaced with a new and modern system. This will improve sound quality and smooth debate. We are aware that the Limpopo Legislature and its precinct is categorised as the National Key Point area. The Legislature should fully comply with the National Key Point requirements. One of the requirements is that the security management at Parliamentary Village should be handed over to the SA Police Service.

It is the responsibility of the Limpopo Legislature to ensure that security management at Parliamentary Village is handed over to SAPS as soon as possible. Hon Speaker, Limpopo Legislature requested the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to refurbish Block Three offices. The offices have been refurbished and

handed over to the Legislature. The staff should therefore move with speed and occupy those refurbished offices. We will further appreciate the role the Legislature provide and support to political parties represented in this House. Those resources provided go a long way to ensure that there is a smooth operation and proper functioning of political parties. Limpopo Legislature should continue to provide support to political parties in a sustainable manner.

We have observed that the Legislature has underspent its Budget in the year under review. As the committee, we understand that this could have been mainly caused by the outbreak of COVID-19, which resulted in the postponement of Sectoral Parliaments, public gatherings and physical meetings of the Legislature should be planned better to avoid under or over expenditure of funds.

In conclusion, despite various challenges experienced in the year under review, the Limpopo Legislature has performed extremely well and you deserve our applause. The institution has executed its constitutional mandate without fail despite the outbreak of COVID-19. Well done team of Limpopo Legislature, we encourage you to maintain your clean audit status. Ndo livhuwa, Mulangadzulo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Radzilani. Hon Mohlala is not present. I call upon Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Legislature is an oversight body and it is mandated to conduct oversight over the Executive, make laws and conduct public participation. The Legislature has three mandates namely: oversight, law-making and public participation. Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Legislature has done so well in the 2019/20 financial year. That landed the institution on a clean audit opinion as per the A-G's findings. The Legislature has provided information to clarify instances where targets were not met as many of the targets are dependent on the programme of the House and Committee's programme, and units or division needs, but mostly on the availability of the Budget.

The A-G believed that the audit-supporting documents submitted were sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for a clean audit opinion. This is based on the Legislature having been compliant in presenting its financial statements in all material respects to the financial position of the Limpopo Legislature as at 31 March 2020. Its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with South African standards of Generally Recognized Accounting Practice and the requirements of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act of 2009.

During the year under review, the Legislature had claims against it in a number of labour-related lawsuits. The Legislature was opposing claims as it believes that it has reasonable grounds for defending them. Unfortunately, the ultimate outcome of the matters could not be determined and no provisions for any liability that may result was made in the financial statements. On resolution tracking, the Legislature was encouraged to move from an unqualified audit opinion to a clean audit report which they did, address the ERP functionality and effectiveness of the ERP system, research

capacity in certain programmes or portfolio committees addressed political party funding as well as delayed submission of audit reports which the A-G was happy with in the 2019/20 financial year. During the year under review the Legislature had planned to provide administrative and financial support services to political parties through training sessions. So far no training was provided as these trainings could not only be provided on the basis of training needs but the availability of the budget.

On the basis of the submissions of financial statements by the political parties, the Legislature managed to transfer 99,2% of funds. The report shows that of the four NCOP events it was only two NCOP events were conducted as these are dependent on the NCOP programme. These targets could not be met as they are dependent on the NCOP programme. To promote public involvement and education in the legislative process, 10 public hearings were planned however, only three that could be conducted as these hearings are dependent on the programme of the Legislature and committees and some of the hearings were cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown as members of the public were expected to observe COVID-19 resolutions. The rest of the programmes under programme 3 performed well. The prevalence of COVID-19 played a huge role in influencing the availability of public hearings as members of the public could not converge due to COVID-19 regulations. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Over to you, Hon Lekganyane, committee chair. You will be the last speaker on the list.

MS LEKGANYANE

Hon Speaker, Ms Molapo; Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou; our Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Selane; Hon Chief Whip of the majority party and his Deputy, Hon Mochadi; our honourable Members of the Executive Committee present here, honourable chairpersons of different portfolio committees, leaders of the opposition and all our honourable Members, ntumeleleng ke tšee sebaka se ke re, kgotso ya Modimo a e be le rena. Kgotso e be le batho kamoka.

Honourable Members, we are gathered here today, 15 June 2021 under the theme, “The year of Charlotte Maxeke – Growing youth empowerment for an inclusive and transformed society.” We must continue to remind our people that the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over. The surge of COVID-19 infections is going up fast with force and speed.

Our communities must continue to obey and follow COVID-19 protocols. We have observed that in many occasions, especially in rural areas and in some instances in most of our cities and towns, people do not wear their masks and protocols are not observed in some gatherings. This is a matter that should concern all of us in this august House because Coronavirus storm is more destructive than anything we have known before. Allow me to join my colleagues in congratulating the Legislature for obtaining its clean audit.

This is indeed commendable considering the fact that it took years for the Legislature to mitigate the challenges of asset management. The committee is expecting that

same audit outcome must be maintained by the Legislature. The Accounting Officer must ensure that work is executed within the confines of the rules and regulations governing the finances of the Legislature. Targets set out according to the approved plan must be met, even though the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act (FMPPLA) of 2009 permits them to make virements.

The Legislature must consistently monitor and verify assets in order to avoid attracting audit queries. Democratic legislatures are open forums where elected representatives engage in arguments over policy or policies. The Legislature's debate, therefore, is a fundamental part of democratic law. In all legislatures, Bills are debated before they are voted upon. The 54th ANC National Conference resolutions stated that the Legislature is constitutionally required to provide a platform for public dialogue on issues of strategic and national importance. During the year under review, the Legislature played an important role in ensuring that communities are taken on board through public participations on Bills that were processed. Although the Legislature could not meet the target of 12 Bills to be processed, only six of these targets were processed.

For transformation of the status quo to be realised and enhanced, the Members through the support of the Legislature must be hard at work. The oversight role is to ensure accountability and compliance as well as to instill a developmental approach to the state. We must commend the Legislature for the support given to Members to ensure that the Executive is held accountable. The role played by Members of the Oversight Committee is highly commendable. This role is critical in nature and assists in ensuring that quality services are delivered to our people in order to better their lives.

We also want to assure the Executive that when we critique their work, it isn't because we are at loggerheads or on a witch-hunt, but it is our call to ensure that service delivery, especially on projects, is expected to our voters. We also want to see value for money as the public has entrusted us to. The Legislature may play an important role in social transformation and realization of socioeconomic outcomes. The Legislature received a high number of petitions from our communities during 2019/20 financial year.

Of those petitions received, the committee managed to attend and resolve 13 cases. The cases were resolved to the satisfaction of the petitioners which translates to quality service provided by the Legislature. It is important that as the institution we have direct contact with our communities. Funds are made available for committees to execute their functions without hindrances. The committee is encouraged by the commitment and dedication shown by its Members who provide leadership at all cost when resolving cases.

The Legislature reported that there is an indication of improvement in the transfer of funds to the political parties. Although funds were not 100% transferred; 99,2% of transfers were achieved in 2019/20 financial year. The hindrance to the accomplishment of the goal was rendered to be submission of financial statements by the political parties, non-transfer of 100% party support funding. This was firstly due to result in the violation of clause 2(2) of the Limpopo Legislature political party funding policy and section 60(1) of FMPPLA. The committee advised the Legislature to ensure that political parties are assisted in order to comply with all requirements for the

transfer of funding to them in due course for effectiveness and efficiency as well as to comply with the financial regulations.

It is also reported that 64 political trips were achieved against the target of 55. This implies that Members exceeded the target by nine trips. The trips were dependent on requests according to the report. The Legislature must assist Members to execute their mandate within available resources which should be critically monitored considering the implications thereof.

In conclusion, Limpopo Legislature's committee is commended by the committee for attaining a clean audit opinion for 2019/20 financial year. The committee also commended the Legislature for filling 30 vacant funded posts within the 2019/20 financial year.

The portfolio committee therefore recommends to the House to adopt and consider the 2019/20 financial year report of the Limpopo Legislature. I therefore move that this report be adopted as the report of this august House. Let me also thank the portfolio committee Members for the sterling work that they do in playing an oversight for our Executive.

Let me also thank the portfolio committee Members for the sterling work that they do in playing an oversight over the Executive. Let me also thank the Members who deliberated on this report, Hon Radzilani and Hon Phala. We thank you so much, honourable Members. We also thank our committed officials for assisting the committee on playing oversight over the Executive, I thank you. Re a leboga. Motšwagabo ga a laele.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane, committee chair. We shall now call upon the Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou, to come and respond to the observations made by honourable Members. Over to you, Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity to respond to the debates by members of the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism. To the chairperson of the committee and the Members of the Executive, the leaders of the opposition parties and the Members of this Legislature, those who are in the House and those that have connected through the digital network, we want to take this opportunity to appreciate the members of the Oversight Mechanism Committee, led by Hon Lekganyane. We would want to take this opportunity to welcome the comments, inputs and proposals that have been made which are meant to contribute to the smooth operation of the Legislature. This oversight role that the committee is playing further contributes to the efficient, effective and economic use of resources allocated to the Legislature. Members have raised several matters which we agree with most of them; and we do commit ourselves that we will continue to improve on the proposals that they have made.

The transition of moving from the normal to the current situation of COVID-19 that we work under has not been easy. We have, as the Legislature, done our best to make

sure that the work of the Legislature is not disrupted, and that the Legislature continues to play its role as stipulated in the Constitution.

Yes, the Auditor-General has raised issues, through the management report. An action plan has been drawn up to address the A-G and internal audit findings. Hopefully, the implementation of this action plan will be monitored on a monthly basis.

There was an engagement with the administration on the organisational structure and we do hope that the stakeholders have been engaged and we will soon finalise that matter.

On the chamber system, the Internal Arrangements Committee has discussed this matter and agreed that we need to procure the system as soon as possible so that it can improve the current one which has been giving problems. But we have been trying to make do with what we have currently.

The Political Party Funding Act, as all of us know, repeals the current Political Funding Act. It means that the Legislature can no longer fund political parties as before – giving money to political parties to run their activities. We can only do it within section 116 of the Constitution by creating an environment for political parties to do their work of the Legislature – that's constituency office work, and political work of going to meetings and all the normal things that you should do. In our meeting of the Speakership and the leaders of political parties, the issue was ventilated. This year, we agreed that we will then distribute the moneys that were there to various political parties represented here. We think that by now political parties might have received the moneys that were distributed to them. The aim was to make sure that we ensure that political parties continue to do their work. The point to emphasise is that the money that we distributed to political parties this year is not guaranteed that next year it will be there. There must not be expectations that parties will get the same amounts depending on what they were allocated. As the Legislature, we will allocate according to what is available. It must not be seen as a standard allocation that will be there throughout.

Yes, we agree with the issue of the underspending. It has to be dealt with as all of us know that most of the activities of the Legislature were impacted by the COVID-19 situation. We agree that we should implement this National Key Point issue that has been raised. Remember that the responsibility lies squarely with the Department of Public Works. We have spoken to Public Works and have agreed as to what needs to be done, so that Public Works hands over the responsibility to the Police. I think it's something that we need to work on. This resolution was arrived at in the last Internal Arrangements Committee meeting and therefore it that needs to happen. Of course, there were certain issues that needed to be sorted out. That's what we did agree on and hope that when we come back in the next session when we are supposed to report, we will be able to report positively.

The new offices that have been completed we have agreed that they must be occupied. The only issue that is delaying the occupation of those offices is that there is no network cabling in the offices. The cabling needs to be cabled. It is going to be difficult for officials to move in before the cabling is done. Initially we had thought that it is within the mandate of Public Works, but then it was realised later that actually it is the responsibility of the Legislature to make sure that the cabling is done. Currently we are still using the old offices for officials while the cabling is being completed and

we have emphasised that the cabling needs to be completed as soon as possible, so that staff can occupy those offices.

There are funded vacant posts that need to be filled. There has been a process of filling them. Some had been filled already; others have been advertised and processes of interviewing for some posts have been done. We do hope that the process will be speeded up so that we are able to fill all the funded vacant posts. I think we have covered most of the matters that have been raised. If not, I think others were proposals and suggestions that we take to make sure that we improve.

Therefore, I would like to thank the chairperson of the Oversight Mechanism Committee, Hon Lekganyane, and all members of the committee for ensuring that the Legislature's resources are managed effectively and efficiently. With your oversight work we got a clean audit as an institution. Thanks to the Secretary and his team for the sterling work that they continue doing to make sure that we get this clean audit. Thanks to the staff who are always assisting us here – the two ladies from IT who are sitting here, who make sure that the Legislature continues to work and adjust to the new normal. We have hiccups here and there, but we continue to improve to make sure that the Legislature continues with its work. Well done to them. I also wish to thank the Table here which continues to advise and guide us as presiding officers to make sure that we run this institution well. Thanks to our service officers who help us inside the Chamber when we need them. We appreciate the work that you do and hope that you continue to do your best to help us in the Chamber.

Madam Speaker, thanks to you for the leadership that you continue to give to this institution as we took over from very efficient leaders who were there before. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, for the response.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? There are none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This Sitting is adjourned to Thursday, 17 June 2021 at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 17 JUNE 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
THURSDAY, 17 JUNE 2021
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 meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may all be seated. Good morning honourable Members and welcome to our Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any Motions without Notice in terms of House Rule 145? If none, we move to item 3.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any Notices of Motions in terms of House Rule 146? There are none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements in terms of Rule 200? There are also none, we move to item 4.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 201? In the absence thereof, we move to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any Tabling of Committee Reports, Other Reports and papers? There is nothing; so we proceed to item 7.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Second Reading, Approval of Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill 2020 [B01-2020].

- 7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Provincial Treasury

Committee chair, you may take the podium.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury Budget Vote for the 2021/22 financial year be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

It is surprising though, that on the other side of the House there is only one Member. The rest of the Members are not here. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any seconder to the move? Hon Lekganyane, you are recognised.

MS LEKGANYANE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. We shall refer to the Speakers' List and the first speaker on our list is Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; the Deputy Speaker; the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, Hon Rudolph Phala; MEC for Provincial Treasury, Cde Seaparo Charlie Sekoati; other provincial cabinet members; colleagues in the House; friends and compatriots; receive my warmest greetings this morning.

Hon Speaker, yesterday the people of our country united in song, united in dance and words as they remembered the towering generation of 1976. In our province the Hon Premier did as he did a year ago to address the people of our province, particularly the youth about the significance of June 16, 1976. This, he did using the virtual platform as a result of the restrictions imposed on all of us by the COVID-19 pandemic. I wish to take this moment to join him in his words of paying salutation to greet young men and women who are at the forefront of the struggle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Their bravery, selflessness and commitment remind us of the 1976 generation of martyrs. As the Premier said, they too shall be engraved in the books of history like their 1976 counterparts as those who responded to a call to serve the nation when that was so much required of them.

We salute the young doctors, the nurses, the pharmacists, the medical technologists, young administrators in the health fraternity; and above all, all young people who are at the forefront of this struggle from all spheres and all sectors of life.

The role of Provincial Treasury, as a catalyst for advancing developmental agenda in every government, cannot be overemphasised. It is against this background that most

advanced economies in the world have the most effectively and efficiently run treasuries as the backbone for their development and advancement. We are confident that our Provincial Treasury has all the necessary requisites and capacity to take us forward in the midst of all existing challenges, mostly compounded, as we earlier alluded to, by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Provincial Treasury's allocation for the 2021/22 financial year amounts to R364,910 million, which represents a decrease of 30% from the R512,3 million which was allocated in the 2020/21 financial year. Comparatively speaking, it is the sharpest decrease over the MTEF period of 2019/20 to 2021/22 from all the budgets of R506,8 million for the previous financial year.

Out of this total allocation of R364,9 million, an amount of R160,2 million which represents 44% of the total budget has been allocated to Corporate Services; R62 million, which represents 17% has been allocated to Sustainable Resource Management; R42,8 million which represents 13% has been allocated to Assets, Liabilities and Supply Chain Management; and subsequently an amount of R60,3 million, went to Financial Governance while Shared Internal Audit Service received R36,6 million, which represents 10%.

As the committee, we noted the department's external and internal environmental analysis and plans in place to address all the trends and risks identified thereof. As a matter of concern, we viewed and deemed the threats posed by the external environment, which include the shrinking revenue base, the influx of foreign nationals, the increasing number of indication cases against the departments in the province, poor IT infrastructure and COVID-19 as contagious to the provincial economy and to our capacity to deliver at the level of the state.

From this narrative, we must learn to work with what we have and survive as the people with the available means. This narrative is also a clarion call to all and sundry to tighten the belt to eliminate unnecessary losses within the fiscus and to avoid wastage. It is clear that there is no room anymore for wasting resources as the basket keeps on shrinking relatively, increasing social and economic demands of our people everywhere in the province.

The committee also found that the Compensation of Employees received R2,83 million which is a decrease from the R339,1 million, which was allocated in the 2020/21 financial year; Goods and Services received R79,1 million, a decrease from R15,9 million which was allocated in the previous financial year; Transfers also went down to R924 000 from R4,7 million in the previous financial year. The decrease was mainly caused by the non-awarding of external bursaries over the previous financial year, and the payment of capital assets, which received R1,5 million, a decrease from R17,6 million allocated in the previous financial year.

After the committee's engagement with the department, it was clear that the 30% decrease in the provincial budget was going to impact negatively on the support offered by the Provincial Treasury to the department and its entities, including the support that they offer to municipalities. We also identified as a committee that the Provincial Treasury had plans in place to assist financially distressed municipalities, which is necessary if we are to achieve our commitment of ensuring a local government that delivers to the people. We also identified that unwanted expenditure

caused by non-compliance with supply chain prescripts were leading reputational damage to the name and the image of the province. There were drastic reductions on public sector risk management on compliance assessment.

Finally, we also identified that the Provincial Treasury had plans to condone irregular expenditure in the province as required by the National Treasury's irregular expenditure framework. However, against the above understanding and against the above findings, the committee recommended amongst others the following:

- Despite reprioritisation and sharp cuts in the budget, Provincial Treasury should find innovative ways to deliver on its support and monitoring function;
- Regular and quarterly updates on the implementation of plans meant to assist financially distressed municipalities should be presented during [inaudible]
- Capacity building on supply chain management should be strengthened, and where non-dedication by officials has been observed, there should be consequence management and it should be strictly adhered to;
- Compliance to risk management and assessment should not be compromised as it might impact negatively on the audit outcomes in the province; and
- Condonation of irregular expenditure should be procedural and duly communicated to the portfolio committee but also by extension to the House without delays.

Hon Speaker, colleagues, friends, and compatriots, with the above presented scenarios and the information we obtained through our engagement with the department, it is clear that these are hard times, and that the task ahead of all of us particularly our colleagues in the Executive is compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. We, however, have no choice but to triumph. Like our forebears, we must never dishonour discourse. We are the sons and daughters of great men and women who taught us never to shiver in the midst of challenges. We soldier on and we must soldier on. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Hon Maharaj, you may take the podium.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Maharaj is not present today, but we did inform your office that I will be presenting on his behalf.

Good morning, Hon Speaker, MECs present here today and honourable Members. The reduction of the Provincial Treasury's budget allocation for the 2021/22 financial year to R364,9 million, which represents a decrease of 30% from the R521 million from the previous financial year threatens to affect the crucial role the department plays in ensuring the efficient use of public funds. These reductions threaten to affect the functioning of key programmes within the department although they are not necessitated by the current conditions that the province is facing.

A decrease in the Sustainable Resource Management programme ceases from R62 million which is a decrease from a budget of R99,7 million. This is likely to affect the programme's task of ensuring favourable audit outcomes and a sustainable fiscal policy for the province. The Assets, Liabilities and Supply Chain Management programme that is mainly tasked with the management of assets and liabilities and monitoring supply chain compliances has been allocated an amount of R45 million, which is a decrease from the R55 million that was allocated the previous financial year. This programme is key in ensuring a reduction in irregular, unauthorised and wasteful expenditure due to non-compliance to supply chain management regulations, and this reduction may affect the effectiveness of the department in the area in which the province already struggles with.

It is clear, there is a high probability that the 30% decrease in the Provincial Treasury's budget is likely to negatively affect the work of the Provincial Treasury and the support it can offer to departments, municipalities, and entities. Our province has historically struggled with non-compliance with legislation, lack of internal controls, lack of consequence management, poor financial management as well as distressed municipal finances which have often led to poor service delivery. With the COVID-19 third wave looking more likely sooner than later, we hope that the department ensures that municipalities and departments are better prepared than in the previous financial year. The Limpopo Provincial Treasury must exercise its monitoring function to ensure that no underspending is incurred by any of the departments. In the previous financial year, the impact of delays in government department projects due to COVID-19 and lockdown was named as a reason for the underspending.

The increased expenditure by departments in preparation for a possible third wave surge in COVID-19 infections must also be monitored to ensure there is no improper use of these funds.

We are encouraged by the department's plans to assist the financially distressed municipalities to ensure better financial planning as well as the work of their programmes within the department. The department will, however, need to find ways to be more efficient with their resources to address the same systemic problems in our provincial departments and entities but with less resources.

Consequence management for poor leadership, non-compliance with legislation, corrupt and fraudulent activities must also be enforced across the board to start addressing these provincial challenges. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. The last speaker is Hon Phala, the committee chairperson. Hon Phala, please take the podium.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. I think one should start off by thanking and congratulating these Members who complied with the proposal by the leadership that because of the June 16 commemorations yesterday, Members who would like to wear school uniform today can do so. As you can see, Hon Masemola is

wearing his grey school uniform; I am wearing my khaki school uniform. [LAUGHTER] You can see from what Hon Che Selane is wearing that he didn't just go to any high school, but he went to a higher school than high school. Amongst all of them, Hon Ndalane is the one who complied to the rule. She is wearing a full school uniform with a dungaree. We hope that more Members in the future. will do the same.

Hon Speaker, we are debating the budget of the Department of Provincial Treasury, and as we know it is a department that has been doing very well for several years, both within the department and working for the provincial government. In general, we focus on the role that the Provincial Treasury plays, which is compelled by the Public Finance Management Act for the entire finances of the province. That role is set out in the PMFA. Aside from providing a budget, they must look at how it is spent and where there are things that are not going right, they must take certain measures and steps including the ones that are for intervention in section 18 of the Public Finance Management Act, to rectify them. To that extent, we are concerned. Hon Selamolela covered the positions of the committee very well as we discussed the budget. Thanks very much, Hon Selamolela.

We are concerned essentially about the province as a whole. That is because we usually focus on outside role that the Provincial Treasury plays. The provincial government as a whole has an accumulated irregular expenditure of R15 billion as we speak. This is according to the Auditor-General's report we received last week in the Standing Committee on Public accounts. There is also an accumulated unauthorised expenditure of R252 million, and an accumulated fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R587 million.

These are the things that we are concerned about, in the provincial administration that it must be attended to. One of the issues we are looking at working with the Department of Provincial Treasury and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, is to follow up on various investigative reports. Various forensic, and other investigations are done, but once they have made recommendations, most of the recommendations just gather dust and nothing is done further. On many occasions even where there are instances of wrongdoing, no consequence management is affected. Even where money must be recovered from negligent people, no steps are taken to recover the money. I am sure you see that with the huge amount of irregularities, unauthorised, and fruitless and wasteful expenditures.

With regard to those reports, we will be following up in the coming period, including in the hearings of the Standing Committee of Public Accounts. It is the irregularities that led to the collapse of GAAL (Gateway Airport Authority Limited). We usually forget that as we speak here, we don't have an airport. The airport has collapsed, but we haven't heard of any action being taken against officials including the board of RAL who allowed the collapse of the only airport that we use as a province. You have seen some of the companies that were dependent on the board parasitically, like those car hiring services, are now without business, because of the collapse of the Gateway Airport.

We are going to follow up on the issue of the collapse of the airport in our province, what measures are being taken to recover moneys and act on the people that are responsible, including officials and the board of Gateway Airport. There is the issue of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) in which few years ago, it was over committed, and it

spent money the way it should not have spent, and we haven't heard of any action that has been taken or consequence management on people responsible for that.

There is the issue of irregular land acquisition in Tubatse where land worth R16 million was bought for R133 million by the provincial government and no action was taken up to now against officials and office bearers who are responsible for that irregularity. We are going to follow up on that land scandal that happened in the province. You can't buy land worth R16 million for R133 million and we keep quiet. It can't happen. We are going to follow that up.

There is the issue of the collapse of Great North Transport in recent years where there were huge irregularities. There was a forensic audit, and we are going to follow up on that. Great North Transport is coming out very well now, and they even bought new buses. But, the fact that those things happened, action must be taken on people who are responsible for that collapse.

There is the Mapungubwe Arts Festival in which multiple security companies were paid even though some of those companies did nothing. Many Members will remember that more than R2 million was paid for an artist who was in America or Canada who never even flew to South Africa. This artist was allegedly paid, and no one is talking about it. We are going to follow up on this payment and find out who received the money and if indeed that artist received money for not even flying out of America or Canada to come here to perform. We must recover that money from that artist.

There is the issue of the laundry tender in the Department of Health given to a company that had no capacity. The company was washing hospital linen in a river in Vhembe. You can't wash hospital linen with your hands amidst the diseases and transmissions confronting us these days. Again, you also can't wash hospital linen in a river because people further down the river drink the water and use it for household chores. We haven't had any action been taken on the official responsible for that laundry tender irregularity.

There is the issue of broadband allegations in the province, which we are following up also. We are following up on the 88 computers that were allegedly stolen from the Department of Agriculture. We are going to follow up on the Talana housing project in Tzaneen, where houses were officially opened when they were shacks. Everyone agreed that they were shacks, but there are people who are responsible for signing documents in the department. We haven't heard of any action being taken on the Talana housing project, and we are going to talk about similar housing shacks in Tubatse and many others We will make a follow up on that as well.

Those are the things we will be working on with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and other committees but today, this department called the Department of Provincial Treasury, is the best performing department in the whole provincial government, and it is one of the best performing Provincial Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. We say that and repeat it without contradicting ourselves. It is the department that has ensured that the entire provincial government improves its books in recent years. The books of the provincial government as a whole, have improved, that is why we obtained the four clean audits and a lot of unqualified audit opinions.

The provincial government as a whole has improved, partly because of the tireless and thankless work done by the Provincial Treasury. We thank them for that, and we will continue to do our work of oversight as a Legislature to ensure that the provincial government performs even better.

With those few words, Hon Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, to come and respond to the observations made by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker, honourable Members of this august House, my colleagues in the Executive Council, I greet you all. Let me take this opportunity once again and thank you for allowing me to come and respond to matters that have been raised by the portfolio committee as led by, Hon Alfred Kgolane Phala and Members of the committee who have raised various matters pertaining to issues of governance in the province on how we utilise resources allocated to various departments. I would like to agree with honourable Members, particularly on those issues that were raised by Hon Phala, that indeed we are docked by matters of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure in the province and we are following up on those matters as the Provincial Treasury.

We have written letters to various departments to investigate issues that relate to irregular expenditures and that they should report. Also, in other areas where they would like matters to be condoned, they must move with speed to ensure that they ultimately deal with all those matters. If we are not able to arrest these processes, especially of non-compliance, they will continue to make the provincial government and the people of Limpopo to look bad. We have said to everyone that we would like to see action taken where investigations have been concluded, moneys must be recovered, and we will continuously follow up to make sure that we get those reports, and report to the portfolio committee.

Matters of support to municipalities are indeed important because there is no way that we can transform society and better people's lives if our municipalities' finances are in shambles and government is not in a good state. Therefore, we need to make sure that as the base of development in this country and this province, everything that needs to be done is done as expected. We are going to strengthen the Provincial Treasury so that we can continuously support these municipalities to build good governance and make sure that we get value for the resources that are allocated.

When it comes to matters of investigations, with regard to what the honourable Members have raised, let me indicate that there are a number of investigations that have been concluded. There are areas where we still need to see action being taken, where various departments have been informed and where they did not have reports. We have requested the political heads to get those reports and they implement whatever recommendations. Also, there should be action taken against the culprits

that are found to be in the wrong. We are hoping that working with various departments we will continue ensuring that all those reports and investigations are implemented.

We have, as a Provincial Treasury put together a team of investigators so that wherever there are areas in need of investigations, we should not waste time looking for investigators. This team will make sure that every time there is something that needs to be investigated, it is done speedily, and we are also able to see results. Those are some of the measures that we are trying to undertake. We are hoping that with the support of the committee, we would live up to our expectations in all those matters that have been raised.

Once again, we would like to heartily thank the committee for continuously supporting the work that we are doing, and for their guidance. I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.1.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Committee chair, over to you.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, I hereby table the Budget and Annual Performance Plan for consideration and adoption by the House. And that, I am doing as duly mandated and authorised. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you acting chair, Hon Mathe. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby rise to second Hon Matsobane Simon Mathe for tabling the report of the Portfolio Committee on the Department of Agriculture for the 2021/22 financial year as duly mandated and duly authorised by the actual committee chairperson, Mmabogahla Isaiah Messina Masekoameng. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Let us now move to the debate on Budget Vote 4: Department of Agriculture. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Madam Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo; Hon Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Hon Deputy Speaker, Dingaan Ndou; Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, Essob Mokgonyana; Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, Che Selane; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; Members of the Executive Council present; all attendees on different media platforms, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Yesterday was 16 June 2021. The day marks 45 years since the Soweto uprising. The commemoration of National Youth Day has been celebrated throughout South Africa. This is the day the country reflects on the massacre of school children during the Soweto uprising of 1976. Allow me, Madam Speaker, to steal the words of the then President of Burkina Faso, Thomas Sankara, a military captain, a Marxist revolutionary, and a Pan-Africanist's words: "You cannot carry out fundamental change without a certain amount of madness. In this case, it comes from nonconformity, the courage to turn your back on the old formulas, the courage to invent the future".

The President was speaking about what the June 16 riots or uprising students did to change the mentality of the apartheid system of teaching them every subject in Afrikaans. In this case they were nonconforming. They did not conform with the system of the day. Young people took part in political campaigns. For the early years, many political formations established at the close of 19th century, and early in the 20th century were made up of people of old age. Some of the most important figures were young men and women when the tragic events of 16 June 1976 erupted in Soweto. The question posed to the whole of South Africa is 'So, where to go now?'

When we read the word of God in Genesis 1:11, it says Modimo a hlola dienywa kamoka mo lefaseng go ya ka dipeu tša tšona. The agricultural sector increased by nearly 20% from a growth of 15,1% in the second quarter of 2020. The growth could be attributed to an increase in the production in the following fields: horticulture, crops, and animal products. The maize consumption is at 10,8 million tons and a total of nearly 5 million tons of maize surplus could further reignite the [inaudible] in the fourth quarter of 2020. The budget allocated to Agriculture and Rural Development, for 2021/22 is R1,547,708 billion. The budget is made up of R1,220,531 billion of the Equitable Share allocated and Conditional Grant amounting to R327,249 million.

The purpose of Administration in this department is to manage, formulate policy directives and priorities and ensure their appropriate support services to all the programmes with regard to financial, human and information resources. The administration programme is confined to support service delivery for the institution as a whole and not specifically to the programmes. The programme has been allocated R266,547 million to cater for administrative costs as well as contractual obligations, including R8 million for audit fees.

Let's acknowledge the efforts made by the department so far, since the COVID-19 pandemic caused substantial disruption in all essential departments. It has created profound disruption in the South African economy and society.

The lockdown experience for the first time brought along certain implications for all the citizens in the country, it impacted on peoples' lifestyle and sometimes modified their

quality of life. As the committee, we noted the performance made by the Department of Agriculture under these hard conditions. There are a few targets that could not be achieved, and the department cited lockdown regulations as reasons for non-performance. As much as we reiterated on COVID-19, the 23rd General Assembly Agenda must be well catered for. The aims are to eliminate poverty and to reduce inequality according to the plan. Limpopo can realise these goals by drawing on the energies of its people growing an inclusive economy, building capabilities, enhancing the capacity of the state, and promoting leadership and partnership throughout society.

Here, the focus will be to establish 36 agricultural infrastructures to promote the adoption of climate smart agriculture technologies. About 1 200 hectareage will be rehabilitated, 400 ha cultivated under conservation agricultural practices and 1 500 hectareage cleared of alien invasive plants. Given the drought caused by climate change, the department is encouraged to note that food security interventions remain paramount, particularly at household level. The department needs to paddle down the support to the households. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 found a vulnerable South African economy. In fact, at the time when the pandemic reached our shores, the South African economy had experienced two consecutive quarters of recession. The COVID-19 pandemic deepened the economic crisis; let alone two casualties brought along by tropical cyclone Eloise, which brought heavy rains and strong winds in the country's lowveld areas and northern parts of Limpopo.

The MEC in her Budget Speech has indicated that the youth in agriculture programmes are also a priority which will be broken down to fund various programmes aimed at empowering the development of youth who are participating in agriculture. There is a serious threat of unemployment amongst youth in our province and the country at large. The whole country in general, is facing unemployment of young people. At times, we forget that work is central to most of our lives, it enables us to get by in the world but is also the key to how we define ourselves to our sense of self-worth. The percentage of vacant posts in different departments need to be attended to as a matter of urgency.

The Department of Agriculture is one of the departments topping the list on a number of funded vacant posts. Honourable Members, we need to be sober when we come to this issue. The fundamental outcomes of unemployment could result in a social breakdown when they reach unmanageable levels. Joblessness remains the fundamental cause of the social evil, commonly associated with high levels of crime. These social problems cannot be predicted when they will occur, but they certainly will occur when unemployment becomes uncontrollable. Youth unemployment can be defined as a bomb waiting to explode.

Statistics show, as recorded in 2019/20, the burden of unemployment is concentrated amongst the youth between the ages of 15 and 34 years as they account for 63,4% of the total number of unemployed persons. Almost four in every 10 young people in the labour force did not have a job, with the unemployment rate within the group at 39,6%. In the first quarter of 2019, just under 30% of the youth had jobs and about half of the 48,8% participated in the labour market.

According to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey results released by Statistics South Africa, a decline in employment down by 237 000, and an increase in unemployment up to 62 000 in the last quarter of 2019 compared to the fourth quarter

of 2018 led to a decline in the labour force participation rate which is now standing at 59,3%. Unemployment in the first quarter of 2019 increased to 0,5 of a percentage point, bringing the rate to 27,6%. Insofar as the government is concerned, the aim is not to attend to the youth as if they are some separate and special species from outer space. Our central approach should be to ensure that young people are fully integrated into the social, economic, and political life of society.

Therefore, today more than ever, we require a programme of fundamental and radical socioeconomic transformation to ensure the words of President Mandela that: “The political freedom which we have spoken should go side by side with a freedom from hunger, want and suffering”. These eminent problems associated with unemployment present significant challenges to many governments in seeking to provide solutions to problems of unemployment. The fundamental approach utilised by many governments remains the creation of jobs within the informal sector.

The Agricultural Education and Training programme received an allocation of R117,758 million to cater for two colleges of agriculture: Madzivhandila and Tompi Seleka. We welcome the 80 students who will graduate with an agricultural qualification in the fourth quarter of 2021/22. A total of 250 participants will be trained in skills development programmes in this sector. This gives hope to the future of Limpopo. Farming is a basic human right which we must toil to realise and achieve the said target of the farmer support programme. We must do so because government is expected to make progress in tackling poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

Let us all rise to the challenge of the freedom that we have won. That challenge is to create a better life for South Africans, to create jobs, to provide free quality education and open up opportunities for skills training to build houses, to provide health facilities and other basic services. Let us together answer the question; “So, where to go now?” with a new youthful determination to learn, to build and to live life to the fullest. The country’s thirst for young talent and energy to be employed. Kamoka ga rena e tlang re rwaleng megoma re tsene fase re lemeng re be dithakadu. Thobela. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mochadi. Hon Smalle, you are next speaker on the list.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning, honourable MEC and honourable Members. When our economy took a plummet in 2020, there was one sector that remained steadfast and contributed positively to South Africa’s growth, and that is the agricultural sector. By doing so, the agricultural sector inspired confidence in its ability to lead the province’s economy and its recovery. During COVID-19, the farmers came to the rescue of the hungry.

Farmers did not stop working to ensure South Africans’ food security. In fact, according to the year on year’s unemployment statistics for the period March 2020 to 2021, the agricultural sector created 10 000 jobs, from 126 000 to 136 000 jobs. Behind these statistics lies a message of hope, hard work and commitment by our farmers and farm workers. To all of you, we thank you. Honourable MEC, it is time for action and less

lip service with regard to the long-awaited revitalisation of our agricultural and agro-processing plants.

The revitalisation can and should assist the sector to create more jobs and access to markets, especially for our small and emerging farmers. The pandemic caused undue hardships to subsistence farmers, and more so, to those who farm in the drought-stricken areas like the Molemole and Blouberg Municipality. When the national department made funds available for the COVID-19 disaster support funds for small holder farmers and communal farmers, eligible farmers received vouchers worth R8 300 that could be used at specific agents to purchase agricultural supplies like seeds, fodder, and day-old chicks to enable them to continue with their farming activities.

The DA is concerned that whilst this project had noble intentions to assist struggling farmers, the prices charged by the agents were massively inflated and farmers received little value for their vouchers. Mr Noko Lamola, a farmer in Limpopo is a victim of the Presidential Employment Stimulus fund of R1,2 billion. When he received his voucher of R8 300,00, little did he know that he needs to pay a middleman who earned 25% commission resulting in him buying items of R6 225.00. Prices of calf self-starter pellets, which normally cost R300.00 but priced at R633.00. About 50 kg of yellow maize which normally goes for R145.00 was priced at R455.00, and lucerne that costs R100.00 was priced at R400.00. These prices are inflated by between 100% to 300%.

When the DA welcomed the employment stimulus packages, it did not expect the middleman to generate over 50% of income. The Drought Relief Assistance Scheme currently implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is concerning. During the previous financial year, the department confirmed that only R18,6 million was available for drought relief.

Furthermore, these funds are only for relieve projects of livestock farmers and was to be utilised for drilling and equipping of boreholes, provision of drinking troughs, a stand and to support our five district municipalities. Stock and game farmers in Limpopo were currently exposed by the limited food supply from the natural land and water levels of existing boreholes which have dropped significantly. This puts severe strain on our communities and negatively impacts on our social security and our job creation. These funds should have also assisted people in dire need, especially our communities that are dealing with game. According to the 2017 census report for commercial and agriculture Limpopo, game farmers sold almost 40% of all game nationally. It is estimated that game farming and hunting in this industry in Limpopo supports 8 382 direct jobs.

We must increase training opportunities for our youth, women and people living with disabilities to secure sustainability of our agricultural sector. About R177,7 million was catered for our two agricultural colleges within our province, which is a huge chunk of their own budget. Key programmes include student academic programmes, college infrastructure, revitalisation, and skills development programmes. A total of 110 students have enrolled for the current academic year. Our two colleges must ensure that the programmes within the agriculture sector align themselves with the quality council portrayed and occupation system in the process.

We acknowledge the good work done by veterinary services with limited resources but urge the department to expand these programmes to be ready for emergency interventions and for containment of the sporadic outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease which we saw outside of the red zone in the previous financial year. Let it be clear, the Democratic Alliance supports land reform and will keep on fighting for just and equitable land transformation. The brave stunt taken during his 18-year long old fight with government, Mr Rakgetse, an 80-year-old gentleman from the farm Nooitgedacht in the Thabazimbi area has opened the door for many farmers like himself to have land ownership.

These are the individuals that we must continue to support, not only financially but also by means of tittle deeds so that they have true ownership of their own land. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Hon Mathe, the acting chair please take the podium.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Members of the Executive present here today, Members of the Provincial Legislature and Members of the opposition parties who are absent in their majority – it then becomes a clear indication that there will never be opposition – I greet you all. Madam Speaker the people of Limpopo remain our priority. The restoration of their dignity, health, wellbeing as well as the preservation of their land and farming is high on our agenda.

As we continue to celebrate 27 years of freedom and achievements of the last two decades, we are mindful of the need to further improve the lives of our people through quality and sustainable programmes and services. Both small holder and subsistence farmers can play a greater role than they do at present in providing food for urban and rural households. According to the 2013 General Household Survey, 18,9% of South African households are involved in agricultural production with most crop production taking place in backyard gardens.

As the Portfolio Committee responsible for Agriculture and Rural development, we are committed to contributing towards nation building and continue to unite the people through our programmes. In addition, we seek to promote development and increase the contribution of these sectors towards economic growth and job opportunities. The entire province was characterised by below normal vegetation conditions which were an indication that most areas are water stressed. This condition continued from 2018/19 and have negatively affected the agricultural production, especially the livestock farmers in the communal farming systems.

The situation requires continuous implementation of drought mitigation measures through the livestock feeding scheme. As stated in the National Development Plan, transforming the economy, and creating sustainable expansion for job creation means that the rate of economic growth needs to exceed 5% a year on average. To bring about this, we propose that we should increase exports focusing on those areas where South Africa already has endowments and comparative advantage such as mining,

construction, steel manufacturing, agriculture and agro-processing, higher education, tourism, and business services.

Agriculture accounts for about 10% of South Africa's formal employment. As a result of the global economic crisis and the subsequent domestic recession, employment in the sector fell from 738 000 in the first quarter of 2019 to 650 000 in the first quarter of 2020, making the sector the second largest source of job losses in this period. The Farmer Support and Development programme provides training and other technical support to farmers with an emphasis on emerging farmers. It also oversees the implementation of the land reform, agriculture, and rural development programme. The committee recommends that the department must at all costs avoid giving support to fighting beneficiaries since this often results in government funded properties being vandalised.

The department must make sure that all conflicts are first resolved before providing any support to the beneficiaries. It is of no use to continue to pump in the little resources that we have into fighting beneficiaries. The households need to be provided with production input to enable them to produce various commodities for food sustenance and the surplus is sold within their localities to generate income. The production inputs include seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, production stock for poultry and livestock feed. We have only two colleges of agriculture in the province namely Madzivhandila and Tompi Seleka Colleges of Agriculture.

Limpopo did not show any crucial funding for this function in 2019/20, and this could prove detrimental in the longer term. This programme receives an allocation of R117,758 million to cater for the two colleges of agriculture in the province. Key programmes include student academic programme, college infrastructure revitalisation and skills development programme. A total of 110 new students have enrolled for the 2021 academic year. A total of 250 participants will be trained in skills development programmes in the sector. Infrastructure revitalisation will include the completion of water supply and lecture hall at Madzivhandila College, renovation and upgrading of a six- storey hostel and installation of CCTV cameras as well as upgrade of main gate entrance access control structure at Tompi Seleka College.

The increase is intended to support veterinary services. The increase is intended to support monitoring and minimising of animal health risks and improving the hygiene management of animal products in line with national and international standards. The Primary Animal Healthcare programme will ensure that animal health services are spread to the remote areas of the province. The programme has been allocated R52,992 million to render veterinary services. The sporadic outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease continues to give us sleepless nights. Of concern is the latest strand of outbreaks in the free zones. This calls for increased concerted efforts from relevant government departments and entities in terms of the maintenance of the Kruger National Park fences, improved management of border fences with our neighbouring countries and timeous availability of vaccines.

We highly support the MEC on her plan as part of overall animal disease control. About 4 500 dip insertions will be conducted for communal cattle so that we are able to reduce the level of risk associated with meat handling for public consumption. About 480 inspections will be conducted at facilities that are producing meat and meat products. These facilities include abattoirs and meat processors. In relation to rural

development, the purpose of the Rural Development programme is to initiate, facilitate, coordinate, and catalyse the implementation of a comprehensive rural development programme that leads to sustainable, equitable and vibrant rural communities.

It is a cross-cutting programme that requires partnerships with multiple stakeholders within and outside government. Budgeting, planning and implementation of this project therefore, cuts across different departments. The programme receives limited funding partly because of uncertainty about the roles of other provincial departments.

As I conclude, let me indicate that the department is encouraged to work with private sector partners and the communities to identify gaps in farmer support sites that could be developed with the aim of promoting sectors of our interest. This could assist in both attracting investors to the province and make the province's history and commitment to democracy more visible while growing a feeling of belonging and identity with Limpopo and South Africa amongst all the provincial citizens.

Each of us has a role to play, none will be a spectator. We need to focus on the promotion and development of farming, as well as preservation and management of our resources with the view of maximising the contribution towards economic and job opportunities, social cohesion, and nation building. The land and agriculture sector faces significant challenges. Agriculture, land reform and rural development all need to be strengthened.

Regions can support the process by making maximum use of partnerships with commodity organisations and farmer associations to grow the sector. I want to take this opportunity to thank you, Hon Speaker. I want to indicate that all honourable Members representing the ANC in this august House, have never or attempted at any given moment to misrepresent their qualifications on their curriculum vitae, but the only sin that they did was to ensure that they provide clear and achieved academic records which, indeed, are not misrepresented and this is clearly demonstrated by how Hon Selane is dressed today. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. I now call upon the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Speaker, honourable Members, Hon Premier, good morning to you all. We have taken into cognisance the matter that has been raised emanating from our budget speech for the financial year 2021/22. Amongst others, they include the need for the department to increase projects aimed at benefitting women, youth, and people with disabilities.

This august House will be pleased to learn that our business plans for programmes such as CASP, Letsema and EPWP conditional grants, present targets for ensuring that women and youth are beneficiaries for service delivery. During the financial year 2021/22 we have planned eight mentorship programmes to capacitate young farmers with practical skills. A total number of 120 unemployed graduates will be placed in agricultural enterprises for practical skills development. Qualifying graduates from our

two agricultural colleges as well as other institutions are placed at commercial farming enterprises for practical experience.

Female farmers are supported through the Female Farmers programme, while farmers living with disabilities are supported through the Persons with Disabilities programme in Agriculture and Rural Development. Hon Speaker, each time we come to this august House to detail our plans for the financial year, we are mindful of the fact that we raise expectations to the masses of our people. It is through these plans that our people expect their conditions to improve. As a result, we do not take these plans and commitments lightly.

We will strive to ensure that all our plans are implemented, particularly infrastructure projects which must be delivered within the budget. We have taken a very tough stance against underspending in the department. Our firm view is that all the resources made available to improve the farming conditions of our people in the province must be used adequately and efficiently. We will ensure that checks and balances are in place to monitor spending on a monthly, quarterly, midyear and annual basis.

Monthly consultative meetings provide a platform to interrogate spending. We fully agree with honourable Members on the rebuilding of irrigation schemes and the House will be updated on a monthly basis. We are mindful of the responsibilities bestowed on us. We do not take lightly the job at hand. Furthermore, we are aware of the massive expectations from the masses of our people. Failure is not an option. We will toil hard, sparing no effort to ensure that the promises, the target and importantly the overall mandate for the department is effectively implemented and delivered.

The ANC remains the only hope to provide a better life for all our people. We continue to march to that reality, and the reality is our determination of such a nature that no mountain is too high to climb, victory is certain. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC Hon Ndalane.

7.1.3. Consideration and Adoption of the following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget

I call upon the committee chairperson. [APPLAUSE]

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Good morning, Hon Speaker and Members. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here to present the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure for 2021/22 financial year for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and adoption by this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second the tabling of the report done by Hon Makhurupetje. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Consideration and Adoption of the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Roads Agency Limpopo. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Nna, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, ke eme go ala pego ya Komiti ya Mešomo ya Setšhaba, Ditsela le Mananeokgoparara, malebana le ditaba tša ditšhelete, e le go Leanophethagatšo la Ngwaga ka Ngwaga le Tekanyetšo la Etšentshi ya Ditsela ya Limpopo go lebeledišišwa le go amogelwa ke Ngwako wo o hlomphegago.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the committee chairperson, Hon Grace Makhurupetje for tabling the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Roads Agency Limpopo for the financial year 2021/22. I second accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. The debate on Budget Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and Roads Agency Limpopo. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and the first speaker on our list will be Hon Mathe. You are given ten minutes. The reports will be debated simultaneously, both the department and the agency.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me once again extend my greetings to the Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial Legislature and, of course, members of the opposition parties. The Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure was briefed by the department on the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and the Budget in a virtual meeting held on 16 April and 05 May 2021.

The purpose of the meeting was to scrutinise the APP of the department and service delivery intentions or commitments for the people of Limpopo. Informed by the above Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, having considered the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget would like to report as follows to this august House.

The sub-programme Property and Facility Management is responsible for the provision and management of immovable properties, which serves as a platform for the efficient delivery of various government services. It facilitates the provision of office accommodation to the provincial government. These functions are performed in line with the broader departmental goals for improving service delivery; complying with corporate governance requirements; promoting black economic empowerment and contributing to the transformation of the property industry.

The main purpose of this sub-programme is to ensure that immovable assets owned or utilised for the delivery of government services yield functional, economic, and social benefits to the province. The department must compile its user asset management plan in terms of the Government Immovable Asset Management Act. The committee expects the department as the custodian to ensure that there is effectiveness and efficiency in the assessment of all the user management plans, all user asset management plans towards development of custodian asset management plan, as directed by the provincial Treasury Practice Note 5 of 2014 in terms of GIAMA planning cycle and infrastructure delivery management system.

On Construction Management, it was noted that the department intends to complete three health facilities, of which one health facility has to be renovated in this financial year. The committee will continue monitoring the department as it will continue to implement projects as per the submitted user asset management plans and infrastructure programme management plan by client departments.

On EPWP, it was noted that for the current financial year, the DPWRI will create 1060 work opportunities in 2021/22. It was the conviction of the committee that there is a need for the province to improve on the number of work opportunities created through projects funded primarily from the Division of Revenue in respect of Infrastructure Grant for provinces and in relation to the Municipal Infrastructure Grant including discretionary funding from the Equitable Share of implementing bodies to maximise on the Incentive Grant.

It was indicated that the department convened monthly infrastructure sector meetings where all municipalities are represented, and Incentive Grant performance is discussed. The committee found it prudent that it will continue monitoring the number of fulltime equivalents expected to be created through targets which were not indicated in the 2021/22 APP.

On Roads Infrastructure, the strategic objective is to improve accessibility and mobility through construction and maintenance of sustainable road infrastructure and network. In respect of construction, 107 km of gravel roads will be upgraded to tar roads, for example 11 km in the first quarter, 27 km in the second quarter, 27 km in the third quarter and 42 km in the fourth quarter.

This raised a serious concern to the committee, informed by the backlog in the province. Also 155 463 sqm of roads would be rehabilitated, for example 4546 sqm in the first quarter, 113 866 sqm in the second quarter, 113 866 sqm in the third quarter and 182 184 sqm in the fourth quarter. There are also four bridges to be completed in 2021/22, one in the first quarter, one in the second quarter, one in the third quarter, and one in the fourth quarter.

It should be noted that in respect of role classification, this would be for RAL. In relation to maintenance by the department, 80 000 km of gravel roads to be bladed for 2021/22 financial year, which effectively translates to 15 000 km in the first quarter, 25 000 km in the second quarter, 25 000 km in the third quarter, and 15 000 km in the fourth quarter. About 180 km to be re-gravelled and it will be 35 km in the first quarter, 45 km in the second quarter, 45 km in the third quarter and 55 km in the fourth quarter.

There will also be 170 000 sqm of black top patching and it will be done as follows: 30 000 sqm in the first quarter, 50 000 sqm in the second quarter, 50 000 sqm in the third quarter and 40 000 sqm in the fourth quarter.

The department has further indicated that there are 22 household-based projects to be implemented for the year 2021/22 and 22 in each quarter. As I indicated that this would only be three minutes. I thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Hon Smalle, are you going to stand in for Hon Maharaj? Okay, let me now call on the third speaker on our list which is Hon Makhurupetje. [APPLAUSE]

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable MECs, and honourable Members of this august House, good morning. Thobela. Hon Speaker, the debate on the 2021/22 APP and Budget for Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as well as Roads Agency Limpopo takes place just a day after the celebration or remembering the youth who in 1976 took to the streets to fight against the apartheid regime for introducing Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in our schools in the South African education system.

And 45 years later, our youth is still experiencing major challenges of unemployment, poverty, and inequality. The then President of the ANC, President Oliver Reginald Tambo once said, "The children of any nation are its future; a country or movement or a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future." In the same breath, Mme Makgomo Charlotte Maxeke, said, "This work is not for yourselves – kill that spirit of self and not live above your people, but live with them. If you can rise, please bring someone with you."

Madam Speaker, as the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, we value the work of this department so greatly because we know that the interventions and investments in infrastructure will lead to direct and indirect jobs and spill over positive effects into other economic opportunities. Like Hon Mathe already said, as this portfolio committee we met with the department and RAL, and they briefed us in terms of the work they do. Hon Mathe has given some of the details, but it is important to indicate that the committee received a report that indicates that the department has been allocated a total Budget of R3,2 billion which is less by 9% from the previous financial year's budget. This budget includes programme 4, which is the Road Infrastructure programme, where in an amount of R2,1 billion will be transferred to Roads Agency Limpopo. Furthermore, in terms of grants allocation, an amount of R1,3 billion for Provincial Road Maintenance Grant (PRMG) and R5 million

will be for EPWP Integrated Grant and in total it will be R1,3 billion for Conditional Grant.

It is the expectation of the committee that this department should strive towards the goal of achieving consistently high administrative standards in its operations to provide maintenance and provide provincial infrastructure operations, EPWP and Road Infrastructure. This noble objective can only be achieved through effective, efficient, and strong administration.

The committee has noted with concern the long outstanding matter regarding their organisational structure; capacitation of the office of the CFO and still awaited progress on the non-filling of critical posts, especially Chief Director, Planning and Chief Director, and Construction, just to mention a few. It was reported to the committee that the proposed organisational structure has been referred to the Office of the Premier and Treasury for consideration.

We hope this matter will receive the attention with the urgency that it deserves. In relation to property and facility management, it was reported that Limpopo provincial government represented by the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as the custodian of immovable assets, was talking about taking part in the 'Operation Bring- Back' project, but at the time of reporting it had a list of properties that were disposed as well as a list of illegal people that had taken the land. Some of the challenges that the province was facing at the time were incidents of state land invasions and in such cases, measures were put in place to defend the right of ownership by the Limpopo provincial government. The committee will continue monitoring this programme to find its achievement.

The department mentioned that 300 ha of land would be released for economic purposes during the financial year. The department intends to verify 200 immovable assets in the immovable register in accordance with mandatory requirements of the National Treasury. The department also intends to have 35 planned maintenance projects completed. The committee was concerned about the department being unable to ring-fence provincial maintenance budget of infrastructure. The committee also noted with concern the slow pace of the transfer of two R293 towns.

The committee will continuously monitor progress by the department on the relocation of essential services from Lebowakgomo to Sekhukhune District. We were informed that engagements with CoGHSTA are taking place. Memorandum of understanding with the Council for the Build Environment to assist the department with the registration of construction project managers and engineers with the various professional bodies as well is on course.

The committee advised the department to vigorously engage with client departments regarding all planning, consultation, and advice on how best to deploy resources in line with the spatial development framework, national policy and improvement plans on social infrastructure delivery. Madam Speaker, on EPWP, Hon Mathe has indicated that the department is planning to have 1060 work opportunities and with regard to maintenance he indicated that 80 000 km of gravel road would be bladed and 180 000 km to be re-gravelled; black top patching to be done on 170 000 km road and 22 000 household projects as well.

About 9 550 jobs are to be created, about 5 250 will be for youth, 5 250 will be for women and 190 will be for people with disabilities. The committee has noted with appreciation that a fully-fledged RAL Board has been appointed and it was the view of the committee that the stabilisation of the board and the executive management will create a culture of good corporate governance. This will be possible through full compliance with the applicable legislation requirements, rules, and codes and standards.

Furthermore, the agency must develop a sound communication strategy to update the shareholders of all developments in the institution. Essentially it would mean the agency has to skilfully be strict on adherence to statutory and regulatory requirement compliance with PRMG conditions; implement effective contract management and strengthen effective legal advisory services. Effectively it must adhere to quarterly and report accordingly to comply with the Public Finance Management Act, King IV Report and Companies Act.

The committee has noted issues that need to be addressed by the agency, such as political violence from communities' protests, backlogs in terms of Bermuda roads, road accidents on Limpopo roads; safety measures; payments of contractors and sub-contractors. On the issue of safety measures, I need to expand Hon Speaker, we are worried in terms of the standardisation of, for example speed humps and how they do storm water drainage. It looks like where roads are done by different contractors, they use their own measurements. Especially where municipalities are doing their own projects. It needs to be attended to as a matter of urgency.

The committee will monitor challenges and successes in respect of stakeholder management informed by the severity of community protests on road delivery, management of political commitments and hot spots. Furthermore, a plan would be developed to ensure enough consultation with traditional authorities, municipalities, and communities in respect of roads delivery in the province.

Hon Speaker, after the committee has scrutinised the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget, for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as well as Roads Agency Limpopo, we recommend that this august House adopts these committee reports for 2021/22 APP and Budget.

On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, I hereby move that this report be adopted as the report of this august House. I move accordingly. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Makhurupetje. We shall now call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to come and respond to the debate. Hon Masemola the time is yours.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. A very good morning to the Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council as well as the Members of this august House. I would firstly like to appreciate the inputs that have been made here this morning by

honourable Members of the portfolio committee in persuading this august House to adopt the Budget and the APP of both the department and the Roads Agency Limpopo for the financial year under consideration.

Indeed, various aspects which are very pertinent to the plan have been commented on. Serious recommendations and concerns have been raised on areas where the committee would like to see the department paying the necessary attention to those matters. I would like to take this opportunity to make a commitment that those aspects that have been raised in the reports in the form of discussions and debates here, will indeed receive our unwavering commitment and follow up as a department, to the extent that in the next meetings of our oversight, as we will be appearing before the committee, we will keep the committee updated with respect to those important issues. However, just to comment on one or two points which have been raised here Hon Speaker. It is firstly about the capacity of the department which is hindered by the need to finalise the organisational structure given the high vacancy rate at the top management of the department.

It is indeed true that the department does not have a chief director appointed for roads, for construction, for planning and design and as well as cooperate services. We are tempted to fill those posts, unfortunately there was a condition that we need to review our structure first before we could move onto that process. I must report to this honourable House as I respond very shortly to the debate that we have finalised that process as a department. It has been submitted to the Office of the Premier and last week in the Executive Council meeting we were briefed that the report has been forwarded to the Minister of Public Service and Administration for its concurrence.

I'm looking forward to the signature of the honourable Minister on that report so that we can have a solid structure as a department for the first time after ten years, so that we can move swiftly to strengthen the administrative leadership and systems of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. Equally important, Hon Speaker, we are working very hard to stabilise Roads Agency Limpopo, cooperating very seriously with Treasury on various aspect which have been referred to us in our bilateral meetings. I think progress in that regard has substantially been recorded to the extent that the moneys which have been referred to earlier on as well as on the use of conditional grants for something that they were not necessarily supposed to, particularly the PRMG.

We have since taken a very firm decision that, that grants cannot be used for any other purpose except for maintenance of the roads of the province, to make sure that Roads Agency Limpopo does not have serious financial problems going forward. We take note of the problems that are in the in various parts of the province particularly the concerns of communities on the state of their roads, but also their demands for new roads from gravel to tar.

We remain committed in that space to provide those necessary services and upgrades. However, we take note of the concerns and the violent meetings that quite often take place. We are at the service of those communities, and I think on a daily basis we meet those communities to explain our plans and our commitments on how best, together with them, we could provide the necessary services – so that we stabilise the relations between the agency and the communities within the province.

We try to explain some the commitments that have been made in the past and how best we are going to navigate through that process.

I'm in serious discussions with the MEC, my colleague here Hlabirwa'a Hlabirwa with regard to how best we can look at other mechanisms of strengthening this area of service delivery in the interest of the province. Given the primary importance of the good state of the roads which are upgraded to tar, their impact on our economy, as well as the social use, I am quite certain that those discussions might or will mature into something very beneficial for the province at an appropriate time, if indeed we are able to make progress interacting with National Treasury.

Having said these few points, Hon Speaker, I want to thank everyone who made this process a success up to this point in time. Thank you so much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

8. SNAP DEBATE ON YOUTH MONTH

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and our first speaker is Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive Council present here, honourable Members of the provincial Legislature in the House and on the virtual platform, ndi matshelelani. Avuxeni. Thobela. Blessed morning. Young, talented and in majority but still left behind. Who are we to blame Hon Speaker? We are clothed in black Hon Speaker. We are dressed in black because we are a nation in mourning. We mourn the lives lost of the 1976 generation and maybe, before I continue, let us also mourn the unfortunate circumstances and situation around the current generation too. June, a month tarred with painful agony. A reminder of the faithful day of the 16th in Soweto. A day where the youth of 1976 stood up against the regime to fight for academic injustices that were martyred against them. What did they take to the streets?

They took to the street, ideologies, selflessness, dedication, and determination. But what did the system bring forth as a response? Hon Speaker, live ammunition, teargas, a loud and self-inflicted anger towards a black child brought without remorse and they said, "You have five minutes to disperse". But before the last of the first minute, the trigger-happy apartheid government started shooting at the marchers, who had only used dustbin lids for protection. Painful as it may, the youth of 1976 lived and died for an idea that will later form part of the political freedom in South Africa.

Hon Speaker, yesterday marked 45 years since the 1976 uprising and 45 years down the line, young people of this country are still fighting the demon of unemployment, poverty, and inequality. Hon Speaker, it is the former struggle icon, Tata Nelson Mandela who assured us as young people of this country that, "Let me say this with outmost conviction, the nation owes you a clear policy and practical measures to ensure that youth contributes too and benefits from our new democracy."

It is in that vein that we ask again, Hon Speaker, who are we blaming for all these challenges? Do we blame our colonisers; do we blame the Codesa negotiators; do we blame our forebears; do we blame our leaders, current and past? Who are we to blame for the current socioeconomic challenges that have engulfed the young people of this country? Hon Speaker, we know and appreciate that we went through a colonisation of a special type in South Africa and appreciate all efforts that were taken to get us to 27 April 1994. And today standing here, we are saying to you Hon Premier in absentia that we yearn and are ready for economic freedom as young people of this country.

Economic freedom that is dully characterised by a fundamental shift of the ownership of the means of production. The return of the land to our people; creation of dignified employment opportunities; the development of a state-owned bank, the provision of free and quality education for the poor and the promotion of youth entrepreneurship. These policies are clearly enshrined in the Freedom Charter.

Hon Speaker, the policies that seem quintessential, we as young people might not see them through if we don't move at the speed of light for their total implementation and attainment thereof. We are saying this because it is only in South Africa where the minority who are just 8,4% are in charge and completely in control of the country's resources including its economy. It is only in South Africa that the land is 72% owned by white people, 15% by coloured people, 5% by Indian people and only 4% by the native forces who are the largest ethnic group in the country.

The Commander-In-Chief of all armed forces, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, yesterday made a clarion call to all young people of the country, that we as young people are here and are ready to be counted. He was further spot on when he reiterated the fact that young people are resilient and never give up even when it is difficult. But we can only be counted when the economic structure of the country is set in a way that is conducive for its youth.

In that breath we welcome and appreciate the establishment of the Presidential Youth Service that will create opportunities for young people to meaningfully contribute to their communities and develop critical skills to participate effectively in the economy. While we appreciate the efforts the ANC-led government has set in place for young people, we are saying, let this month of June be a reminder of hardships and bloodstained history that brought us to this day.

Let this month be a renewed devotion towards strengthening the resolve of changing the lives of the young people. Affording young people of this country a conducive space to thrive even under these difficult circumstances; to work together, to move South Africa forward towards realising the outcomes of the National Development Plan through harnessing young people as instruments and assets for development despite the current setbacks they face due to COVID-19.

While we speak of COVID-19, we cannot raise our voices sharply about the racism that is slowly raising its ugly head in most provinces around the country. Racism has no place in South Africa. A country that comes from the dark days of apartheid; a country where racism immorally strips off a black nation of its dignity; sense of humanity and morality. It is in this context that we borrow from the radical work of Amilcar Cabral when he said, "In combating racism, we do not make progress if we combat the people themselves, we have to combat the causes of racism. If a bandit

comes to my house and I have a gun, I cannot shoot a shadow of a bandit. I have to shoot the bandit. Many people lose energy and effort and make sacrifices combating shadows. We have to combat the material reality that produces the shadow.”

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the youth of this country is eager, ever ready and present for outright change of our situation. Young people are silently chanting a slogan that says, “Nothing about us, without us.” Hon Speaker, I might not be privy to how all of us chose to celebrate this year’s Youth Day, but I hope and believe that we all took into cognisance to reflect on the incredible actions of selflessness of the students who fought for equal rights and the significant ways in which we as the country and as a province can help to earn power and uplift the current and the future generations of this country. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Hon Lebea. Hon Phala is not present. I shall now call upon Hon Selane, the last speaker on our list. Let us please clap hands for Hon Selane for the academic regalia that he is wearing. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker, the Deputy Speaker in his absentia, the Chief Whip, the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Chair of Chairs in his absentia, Hon Premier also in his absentia, the honourable Members of this majestic and august House.

This week the majority of our people wore school uniform in memory of the 16 June 1976 Soweto uprising, and some amongst us took a bold step to wear academic regalia in celebrating the role played by the towering giant of our revolution. This is done with revolutionary consciousness following the words of Milan Kundera, who said, “The struggle of a man against power, is the struggle of memory against the struggle of forgetting.” Indeed, our struggle is the struggle of memory against the struggle of forgetting. We cannot easily forget that apartheid was a crime against humanity. It was exactly yesterday that the whole country celebrated its 45th anniversary of the 1976 June uprising in which students fought relentlessly against the apartheid government.

In 1974, a decision was taken to declare Afrikaans alongside with English to be compulsory as a medium of instruction in all schools. The progressive revolutionary student movements at that time, such as the Black Consciousness Movement and the South African Students Organisation (SASO), rose to the occasion to conscientise students politically, to join the wave of anti-apartheid sentiments which was expressed by the community at that time. It is because their believe was that the decree was the remnants of the 1953 Bantu Education Act, which was aimed at segregating black communities from the white communities. On 16 June 1976, the students marched peacefully to demonstrate and protest against Bantu Education. This was exacerbated by many protests wedged by students across this country. In the process of that march, students met heavily arrogant and armed police who fired teargases and later live ammunition on the demonstrating students.

These resulted in a widespread revolt that turned into an uprising against the useless government. Countless unarmed people were incarcerated, tormented and machine

gunned in favour of our free and democratic and prosperous South Africa. The generation of Onkgopotse Abram Tiro, Thamsanqa Rubusana, Tsietsi Mashinini, Steve Biko and Oscar Mpetha and many others have fought tirelessly and fearlessly for the attainment of freedom and democracy in this country.

This generation profoundly changed the socio-political landscape in South Africa. Since the strategic defeat of apartheid in 1994, it has brought unresolved challenges to graduates; it has brought unresolved challenges of poverty; inequality; lack of free and quality education; high unemployed graduates and jobless growth. These challenges have negatively affected the youth of South Africa to realise economic freedom in their lifetime.

What lesson can we learn from this previous generation? At that time, this generation had zeal and oomph to fight for access to free quality education. What is it that the youth of today can do in honouring the role that was played by the previous generation? However, we must acknowledge the challenges that are confronting the youth of today – which of course have got direct consequences because of colonial and apartheid enterprise. These challenges relate to lack of employment, family problems, and substance abuse, crime and pressure which is perambulating amongst our society.

At the centre of these challenges, the youth is graduating in their majority but with no guarantee for employment. However, unemployment does not only affect the new graduates, but the youth in general. If unemployment is affecting those that have graduated, then we must know that we are facing a worse situation than what we have ever faced even before. The youth of today is fighting to be represented in parliament. The youth of today is fighting to be represented in governing structures, but still there is no free access to quality education.

In this country, to a particular extend, we need to be serious to say, we have poor quality education which has resulted in most strategic sectors of our economy demonstrating poor leadership and lack of leadership with necessary skills to realise the developmental agenda of the South African government. The National Development Plan speaks of high- quality education which must be accessible to all. However, we are delighted by the fact that this National Development Plan encourages colleges to develop a curriculum which will help government to half unemployment and reduce inequality.

The TVET colleges were established by this precious government to assist learners and the youth in general to acquire skills and knowledge relevant to the demands of the economy. We must encourage our youth to play a part in the curriculum that will develop themselves and the community at large. We must encourage our youth to pursue the courses that are relevant to the demand of the economy so that they can grab jobs and be able to employ others.

The youth cannot at all material times, enrol for courses such as Human Resource Management in these 27 years of democracy. We need the youth to focus on programmes or curricula such as Agriculture and Engineering for them to create food security and more jobs. We appreciate this government for such programmes because they will help the South African people.

This caring government has established the Sector Education Training Authority, and this is an initiative of the National Skills Development Strategy. SETA was aimed at facilitating training for out of school youth as well as anyone who needs additional schooling to further education and training. This will also help our youth in their majority not to only depend on government, but rather to create a conducive environment to create jobs to help the people of South Africa.

The NYDA has been established by our government to mainstream youth issues and to facilitate youth development in all sectors of our society. This agency provided the youth with financial and non-financial support to young entrepreneurs so that they can grow their businesses. It is impossible for the government, through the departments and municipalities, to absorb all young people in this province. These agencies have been created by the ANC-led government to assist the youth who aspire to be in business and women to grow their businesses so that they can create jobs and sustain themselves.

We must ensure that this agency is localised, and it is also accessible to help the vulnerable youth that are left unattended in the streets. This will only be done to increase the funding and to meet the demands of our youth. The youth constitute most voters in the election process. They are the ones who suffer from failures of our service delivery; they are the ones who see us every day when the departments fail to fill critical funded posts; they are the ones who see us every day when we return budgets to the national fiscal; they are the ones who see us every day when we fail to deliver the promises to our people.

Like it happened in the Anglo Boer War, the colonial government recruited our people to fight their own tribal wars and promised our people bicycles and suits, and that in fact could not happen. The colonial government, insomuch as it has promised people “unpromisable” promises, angered many young people during that era and young people started organising themselves against the regime. Subsequently to those historical incidences is that we are not humane as the generation of today to be confronted by students who are fighting for free quality education.

We are not humane as a generation to fight for the youth and for high unemployed graduates and jobless growth. We need to scrap-off all the requirements in all entry level posts. We must fill all the vacant posts to reduce the rate of unemployment in our province. There is no need for us to have many internships which we obviously know that they will not absorb these young people. Majority of our departments have shortages of boiler makers and engineers, but, yet we train many people to do the same job we cannot be able to absorb them. Private companies continue to milk our departments and therefore exploiting the majority of young people on the ground. Let us insource some of the work like cleaning, security, and laundry services and empower young people in this province.

The narrative that seeks to say if we are to empower or absorb our people into the system, they will start to be lazy, was tested and falsified, and found to be fictitious and unfounded, if not vexatious. Abraham Maslow in his literature: The hierarchy of needs, though he was liberal, emphasised the fact that in terms of theory X and Y, it is not through money that workers can perform in the field of work. Workers are motivated by compliments and appreciation from their employers – which means that

we must employ our people and do the right thing. This will minimise this fictitious and unfounded propaganda from those who are opposing this precious government.

Like I have said, not everyone intends to work for government. There are institutions which are responsible to assist our government to make sure that they venture into business and create jobs. Our government must continue to lay a proper foundation for creating a conducive environment for effective business to prosper so that the youth can participate in the business mainstream. Without wasting time, for us to defeat these possible threats, let our institutions implement the precious policies and legislation which this government has developed without failure.

They must do so with the sole intention of helping our people, not for their own personal accumulation. I thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. I also want to thank you, Hon Selane, for wearing your academic regalia. To me this is a clear demonstration to our young people that they should go to school and acquire tertiary education. This is the way to fight poverty and unemployment. Thank you very much.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? There are none.

10. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned to Friday, 18 June 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



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**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

FRIDAY, 18 JUNE 2021

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**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
FRIDAY, 18 JUNE 2021
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]

We may all be seated. Honourable Members, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? There are none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements in terms of House Rule 200? There are none.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports, and papers? There are none.

Honourable Members, before we proceed, I have a concern that I want to raise particularly to the Members of the Executive Council. If you could check our Order Paper, we were forced to change it in the morning because of the unavailability of other Members of the Executive Council, particularly MEC, Hon Mokone. I think he is doing this for the second time. I just want to raise a concern that we are not happy as the office.

Hon Sekoati, as the Leader of Government Business, should make sure that this concern is addressed in your meetings. We are not going to tolerate this again. Members of the Portfolio Committee on LEDET were prepared fully to debate, but the MEC for LEDET tendered an apology late yesterday. We are not going to condone this again. Thank you very much.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Item 7.1: Consideration and Adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on the Oversight Visit by the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety to Polokwane International Airport. Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker and Members. I, Monama Rodgers, take this opportunity on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety to table the report on the oversight visit by the portfolio committee to the Polokwane International Airport on 22 April 2021. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, acting chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second the motion by Hon Monama. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monyamane. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Selane. It seems as if he is not present. Let's move to Hon Phala. It seems as if Hon Smalle will represent her.

MR SMALLE

Malibongwe! My apologies, Hon Speaker. Hon Phala has just fell ill as you entered the House and Hon Selamolela had to take her to the hospital. She's not well and she asked me to present her speeches. I apologise.

THE SPEAKER

We are sorry for that.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, they say that if you are a politician, you must be able to address all people. Sometimes we may need to put on our pink shirts and appreciate what women do for us. Hon Speaker, on behalf of Hon Phala this morning, let me address the Members of the Executive Council that are present here today as well as Members in this august House and Members on the various platforms wherever they might be.

Gateway Airports Authority Ltd manages and develops Limpopo airport to the benefit of all communities in this province. The primary role of these facilities is to provide

ease of access to our province for both our tourists and investors. Currently GAAL has only one airport to manage which is the Polokwane International Airport. Following the downgrade from category 7 to category 2 by SACAA on 06 April 2021, which thus came after the airport has been operating without a provisional license for some time, while required to deal with safety and compliance issues identified by the regulator SACAA to which there was non-compliance downgraded the airport. To reclaim its airport license, certain aeronautical and non-aeronautical areas within the airport as was pointed out by SACAA needs urgent attention. After the conclusion of the portfolio committee's oversight, the following recommendations were made to GAAL:

- In addition to the newly appointed board, the executing authority should ensure that the entity is able to recruit relevant skills and experience with the view of reinforcing capacity within management and workforce of the entity;
- Officials implicated in unauthorised, wasteful and fruitless expenditure related to the R14 million intervention grant be subjected to both internal and criminal prosecution once forensic investigations are completed;
- The entity should ensure that security at the airport is beefed up, and that both cameras and security personnel are deployed at all strategic areas within the airport;
- The entity ensures that it utilises all available capacities to leverage and utilise opportunities to aggressively market product offerings that come with Polokwane International Airport on a domestic and international scale;
- The board of directors should expedite the processes for the appointment of transactional advisor relating to the envisaged public private partnership; and
- The entity should ensure that all procurement processes aimed at addressing SACAA's findings are conducted within the prescripts of applicable legislation and policy frameworks.

The board of GAAL can no longer be allowed to run the entity deeper into the ground as well as continue placing undue burden on the provincial fiscus. A report compiled in September 2020 by the Research and Evaluation Unit of the Limpopo Legislature revealed damning information on the state of GAAL's affairs. GAAL is expected to generate its own revenue. However, in the period under review the entity has been operating at a huge loss, relying mainly on government's grants for its operations. GAAL incurred a net loss of R11,438 million in the 2018/19 financial year as disclosed by the Auditor General's report. The Legislature, after following an intensive hearing by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, took a resolution based on the 2017/18 audit outcomes that the Chief Executive Officer of GAAL must take steps to ensure that over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework the entity winds off from the provincial fiscus and ensures sustainability. These is yet to be implemented.

Firm political leadership, guidance and assistance on consequence management from the MEC is required to ensure compliance of the recommendations indicated above. Hon Speaker will recall that in the debate of the Treasury yesterday, it was announced that Treasury will do its oversight onto the board; and honourable MEC, we cannot express it more to say that people responsible for the downgrade of the Polokwane

International Airport must be held accountable. That includes senior management, that includes board members and people within your own office that advise you. We did not take action when the red lights started to flicker and questions must be asked why we did not take action. We expect your office to hold people accountable and return the state of affairs of Polokwane International Airport to its former glory. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle, for displaying leadership and collective work. I hope Hon Phala would get well soon. Let's move to the last speaker on our list and call upon Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, honourable chairpersons of the portfolio committees, Members of this august House, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety to report that on 22 April 2021, the portfolio committee embarked on an oversight visit to GAAL which manages the Polokwane International Airport. Hon Speaker will understand that this industry is highly regulated, and it is imperative that the aviation industry fully and consistently comply with the required standards set by the regulating authorities.

The Gateway Airports Authority Ltd is entrusted with a mandate to ensure that Polokwane International Airport complies with the required legislation to attract both investment while providing safe and quality services to its customers. Similarly, stability in both governance and management coupled with befitting capacity, expertise and skills is sacrosanct for the entity's growth and development.

As a way of background, following a briefing by the entity on the decategorisation of the airport license by South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), the portfolio committee undertook that particular oversight visit. The briefing included the corrective action plan that GAAL claimed that they will reclaim that license after addressing pertinent issues raised by SACAA. It is in that context that the portfolio committee visited critical areas that we felt they need to be fine-tuned or complied with before we could satisfy ourselves that indeed it will return to its former glory. The apron, Hon Maseko, in terms of the airport authority or industry is where we have a tie down facility installed for smaller aircrafts. We went there to ensure that it is working. We also visited the taxiway echo for holding positions and the runway friction test, whereby it mustn't catch fire. We were satisfied as the portfolio committee that all those things were in the process of being repaired. The fire-fighting infrastructure and personnel and the location of the airport stimulator were some of the areas that needed attention. The state of safety at the airport is also a concern. The airport in its nature is supposed to be a national key point. It is supposed to have a room fitted with all the cameras to ensure that it complies with security measures in the country. The state of the air traffic and navigation systems and quality assurance and management was also supposed to be looked at. These issues were raised in 2016 by SACAA to say there are some areas that need to be addressed by the then board. These are not issues which were raised this year MEC, Hon Mavhungu. Treasury gave them R14 million conditional grant to address all those anomalies and deficiencies identified, unfortunately the board then did other things that were not recommended by SACAA. As a result, when

SACAA later came back, it was discovered that they have not complied with all those things that have been raised in 2016, hence they decategorised the airport from level 7 to level 2. I just wanted to give that background. As a result, the CEO was charged and fired, the CFO resigned and the one who was responsible for operations was also suspended. In fact, there is a just a Hollywood show, but currently a new board has been appointed with the set of skills and we are happy as the portfolio committee with these appointments.

We also have the challenge of the land ownership. That land was owned by the South African National Defence Force, but has since been transferred to the Department of Public Works nationally and then the national department transferred it to their provincial counterparts. Currently we have a deed of donation to that authority. They don't have any excuse in not making some improvements.

We were also worried about the entity's governance and leadership. Now that we have a fully-fledged board, we hope that things will start operating and that the shareholder has sent a person who is acting in that particular area. Our findings as the portfolio committee are that:

- The entity has addressed most of the findings by the SACAA and seems to be on the way to reclaim full operation at the Polokwane International Airport;
- Management disregarded all relevant procurement legislation and policy framework such as participation in contracts arranged by other organs of the state;
- Despite apparent management and leadership [inaudible], there are some sense of entitlement with a corrupt culture that had grabbed itself within the entity previously;
- The appointment of a transactional advisor was flawed from the beginning and a new board has to start the process afresh;
- Poor record management especially in relation to keeping proof of training for emergency personnel and proof of servicing of the airport emergency vehicles;
- The matter related to medical fitness and fire fighters was reported to the Human Resource and Management, but nothing was done;
- The information relating to wrongful construction of stimulator was not disclosed with the sole purpose being to avoid wasteful expenditure;
- Most of the personnel in the Fire-Fighting Department are at an advanced stage and struggling to perform their tasks as expected;
- Due to deficient and dysfunctional CCTV cameras, the security personnel in the control room is unable to monitor the entire perimeters of the airport land mass; and
- The possibility of relevant officials in Finance and Procurement engaging in circumvention and manipulation of procurement processes.

As the portfolio committee, we therefore, after all these overarching observations, want to submit to this House that:

- In addition to the newly appointed board, the executive authority must ensure that the entity is able to recruit relevant skills and experience with the view of reinforcing capacity within management and the workforce of the entity;
- Officials implicated in unauthorised, wasteful and fruitless expenditure relating to the R14 million intervention grant be subjected to both internal and criminal prosecution once forensic investigations are completed;
- The entity should ensure that security at the airport is beefed up, and both cameras and security personnel are deployed at all strategic areas within the airport;
- The entity must ensure it utilises all available capacity to leverage and utilise opportunities to aggressively market product offering that comes with Polokwane International Airport on a domestic and international scale;
- The board of directors should expedite the process for the appointment of transactional advisor relating to the envisaged public private partnership; and
- The entity should ensure that all procurement processes aimed at addressing SACAA findings are conducted within the prescripts of applicable legislation and policy framework.

Hon Speaker, we therefore, as the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, table this report in this House for deliberation and adoption. Finally, we accordingly request the House to support the report as presented reflecting the department's performance plan during the period under review. I therefore, move that the report be adopted as the report of this House. I move accordingly. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Monama. We shall now call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me take this opportunity and greet the honourable Members in the House and those that have joined us virtually. Hon Premier, my colleagues in the Executive Council, the chairperson and members of the committee, and the Members who participated in the debate; Hon Speaker, I see that the House is full of chairpersons of committees, if you were to look all over the House today, the Chief Whip and all Members present, good morning.

Hon Speaker, we take cognisance and acknowledge all the issues presented by the speakers that were here on the podium before me and want to quickly run on the issues as part of the progress since the last visit by the members of the committee. On critical areas that were visited as the honourable Members have alluded to, the

first one is the apron. The tie down facility for the smaller aircrafts was installed in April, and the information has been submitted to SACAA and the inspector has confirmed to have received the information which concludes the closure of the finding until their next visit for inspection.

With regard to the taxiway echo for holding position, I wish to report that more than one holding position on the taxiway was addressed by sand blasting. The unwanted holding position and the information was submitted to SACAA and they have confirmed receipt. I think Hon Monama was also referring to this. The test for the runway friction test was conducted in April, the results were provided to the airport, and the information was submitted to SACAA. On the fire-fighting infrastructure and personnel, Hon Speaker, you'll remember that when they visited the airport, the trucks were serviced, but we could not locate the reports. The service was done, and the service records were forwarded to SACAA and were accepted. Currently, due to the challenges of major breakdown with other fire trucks, it must be noted that only one fire truck was fully serviced as you would have seen them when you did your visit. There is the issue of the registration of the trucks, which the department is working together with the service provider to find a proper solution. The medical equipment in the vehicles and the terminal building which has expired have since been replaced in April, and the information has been submitted to SACAA and has been accepted. The medical and physical fitness of fire fighters was supposed to have been finalised and forwarded to SACAA and the information is available and awaiting their next inspection. On the staff complement with the fire station, the challenges will remain there since we cannot rely on the EPWP workers whose contract is expiring in October 2021 this year. The airport should ensure that the gap is closed by employing permanent officers.

To address the finding on the location of the aircraft simulator, the airport has appointed a contractor who have since removed it. Hon Speaker will remember in our last sitting, I indicated that it is going to take 21 days. The 21 days has passed, and the simulator has been removed from the 4 metre of the operational runway and relocated it to its new position and evidence was submitted to SACAA. The airport has further issued a notam to cancel the previous notam on the same issue which was wrong, and we were able to capture some of these issues that I'm talking about especially the simulator on camera when the service providers were moving that.

With regard to the state of the security at the airport, I wish to report that in addressing the CCTV coverage the airport is working on the assessment of the areas to be covered by the CCTV with the intention of adding installation thereof. Furthermore, the airport is also looking into having a service and maintenance contract with a service provider to service the cameras. This will assist in ensuring that when some cameras show non-functionality, the service provider will come and attend to them without having to go through the process of seeking this service by sourcing out quotations each time the problem occurs. The parameter intruder detector system is not installed as yet and this is one area which the airport will only be able to install with the help of the shareholder pending the finalisation of the budget processes. We are waiting for the finalisation of the budget processes together with GAAL. The airport is going to advertise a tender for the provision of security for a three-year contract after the previous tender was cancelled due to non-compliance with Treasury Regulations. Hon Speaker will remember about the report that was in possession of the committee when they visited.

The state of the air traffic and navigational system and automated weather observation system are not yet installed. The [inaudible] have been there, but due to lack of maintenance and not having the technical expert and the aging of the equipment and the IT infrastructure, it has not been working of late. GAAL has advertised for the appointment of the service provider with IT and technical knowledge to come and connect the system. The submission of the AIP was done to SACAA and the inspector has confirmed receipt.

In terms of quality assurance and management, the airport did not have a person responsible for quality assurance and management, but we have since appointed our Risk and Compliance Manager and the information was submitted. They have confirmed receipt of the appointment and accepted the performance which then closes the finding. The appointment of the Risk and Compliance Manager as an official responsible for quality assurance means that the officer will focus on findings related to quality assurance and maintenance as well as adherence.

On the issue of apron manual, you will remember that this manual is about what the airport will be doing in terms of maintenance. It has been provisionally approved. The airport is waiting for the final approval of the manual. We have appointed a consultant who is working on it and in the next three weeks we'll have our apron manual submitted to SACAA.

An investigation was done by the Treasury on the issue of the R14 million intervention grant. The outcome of the investigation was referred to the Special Investigating Unit for further investigation related to criminality. Officials involved have been charged. We have got officials who were part of the system by then and have now resigned and those who have exited the system through pension. The SIU has assured us that even if the person has exited the system, they are still able to follow up because those are criminal activities. That is how far we are with that issue. Hon Monama spoke adequately about the issues of land ownership, the entity's governance and leadership and the appointment of the new board.

Lastly, Hon Speaker, as the shareholder and the board, we are now busy looking at the best options of strategic partners for GAAL. You will recall that there were debates in this House on several issues and one of the issues raised was about GAAL being run by us as a shareholder under PPP. There are other processes unfolding at EXCO level and a report is being prepared. In the past few weeks, our HODs have been discussing the reconfiguration of all SOEs in relation to making sure that they become sustainable. As part of the reconfiguration discussions, we'll also revisit some of the EXCO decisions taken around the issue of PPP. These discussions at EXCO level are at an advanced stage to look at the airport and say how do we locate it as a cargo hub in the province and ensure that it generates its own income. Those are the debates and that's how far the progress on what has happened since the visit of the leadership at GAAL. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Item 7.2: Second Reading Approval of Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2020 [B01-2020]. Consideration and

Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health on the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget. Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present here, honourable chairpersons of the portfolio committees, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party in the Legislature, I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health and its collective leadership, hereby move for the consideration and adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health on the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Health. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chairperson. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, I, Gannye Rodgers Monama, rise here to support the motion tabled by Hon Matlou Joshua. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

We shall now deal with the debates of Budget Vote 07: Department of Health. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs, honourable MECs present here, honourable Members, good morning.

Hon Speaker, the country has moved back to lockdown level 3 as a result of the third wave and delays in procurement of the vaccine. The country reported 13 246 new confirmed recorded cases of COVID-19 infections and 136 deaths, bringing the death toll to 58 223 on Wednesday, 16 June 2021. In supporting the health system, we must encourage communities to mask up, maintain social distance, wash hands regularly and be very careful when moving around. Let's observe all COVID-19 protocols.

The committee received a briefing from the Department of Health that the overall Budget allocation was R21,9 billion in the 2021/22 financial year compared to the Budget of R22,1 million in the 2020/21 financial year, thus resulting in the decline of 0,4%.

The committee observed an admission by the department that the Budget for the 2021/22 financial year does not sufficiently address the reduction of the vacancy rate, funding of maintenance and equipment, procurement of medical and allied equipment, funding of ideal clinic, funding of the integrated school health programme and the reduction in the funding of non-negotiable items. The committee admits that the COVID-19 pandemic has negative impact on the growth of the Budget. However, the

department should find better avenues to develop key performance indicators that will assist in addressing service delivery issues. The committee noticed that in terms of reporting on the equitable share, there is a discrepancy between the budget as presented by the MEC and the Annual Performance Plan as presented before the committee. The department reported that its equitable share showed a 2,8% baseline increase for the 2021/22 financial year as compared to the 2020/21 final main appropriation.

During the Budget Speech, the MEC for Health announced that the equitable share allocation included an amount of R1,9 billion that was earmarked for the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. It was not reported in the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan about the Budget and plans for the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. How will that discrepancy be corrected and the Budget and APP reconciled to ensure alignment of these key performance indicators as well as the targets? How is the department going to account for the non-disclosure in the APP when presenting quarterly reports?

Hon Speaker, during the briefing on the Annual Performance Plan, the department reported an increase of 9,46% which is R346,2 million of the total conditional grants allocation for the 2021/22 financial year. This was planned to assist in addressing the shortfall experienced within the antiretroviral treatment programme, combating the COVID-19 pandemic, and the introduction of mental health and oncology services grant. The committee is concerned that the combating of COVID-19 pandemic is being addressed from the equitable share allocation and from the conditional grant. Government also has a major task to create jobs. How are the two equitable share allocations and conditional grants going to be accounted for during the year because the targets on the equitable share allocations are not reported in the Annual Performance Plan? The Annual Performance Plan indicated that the main purpose of programme 1: Administration is to provide strategic management and overall administration of the department, including rendering of advisory, secretarial and office support services through the sub-programmes of administration and the Office of the MEC. The department reported that R291,4 million was allocated for 2021/22 financial year. This is a decline from R330 million of the previous financial year. It is also reported that R291,4 million will be spent among others: the filling of critical vacancies, improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the supply chain management, monitoring and improving the departmental audit outcomes. With how much are these critical posts going to be filled, which were not filled when the allocation was R330 million? The committee agreed that the creation of jobs is key. However, this must be done when time and space allows, because time and tide wait for no man. The committee commended the department for an improvement in achieving an unqualified audit opinion in the 2020/21 financial year. The committee further received a report that the department plans to achieve another unqualified audit opinion during the fourth quarter of the 2021/22 financial year as a target. The department reported that an audit action plan was developed each year to address the audit findings that were raised by the Auditor General. Some of those findings raised by the A-G were irregular expenditure due to not following prescripts, revenue management and contingent liabilities.

The committee will exercise its oversight role to ensure that the department does not regress on this target. The department must further ensure that it executes its target within the confines of the Budget and Public Finance Management Act of 1999. The committee applauds the department for achieving 100% compliance on payments to

suppliers within a period of 30 days. This was achieved, despite the fact that in 2020/21 financial year accruals were incurred. The department did not report those accruals which were carried over in the 2021/22 financial year's Annual Performance Plan. The department also did not report on the activities that were effected by the department of accruals and on plans. The committee is concerned that the department does not show improvement in reporting or compilation of the Annual Performance Plan.

The MEC for Health announced that through the revenue enhancements strategy, the department managed to achieve and surpass its targeted amount by R56 million over the past two financial years of 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively. The MEC further elaborated that due to COVID-19 pandemic, the department revised its 2020/21 targets and strategies, and this will continue to source out more opportunities. The department reported on targets to collect R222,9 million in revenue in the 2021/22 financial year. The committee is concerned that the department did not report about the opportunities that will be achieved through revenue collection and how they plan to achieve this in order to augment the budget deficits in the province.

The committee seconds the adoption of the APP and that the Budget be passed with all the recommendations made in the committee. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monyamane. We shall now call upon Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Once again thank you, Hon Speaker, and good day to all the honourable Members and the Members of the Executive Council. The 2021/22 overall Budget for Health Vote has decreased by 3% from the adjusted appropriation last year. The equitable share decreased by 3,8% from the 2021 adjusted allocations. The total Budget declined by R600 million from R22,6 billion in 2021 to R22 billion in the current financial year. COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we socialise, learn, work and live in general as human beings. One of the biggest changes it has brought is that it has forced us to face shortcomings in our systems and institutions. The Limpopo Department of Health is no exception. A large number of vacant posts, lack of resources as well as equipment and infrastructure challenges have all been brought to the fore. We hope that the amount of R1,9 billion earmarked for the fight against COVID-19 pandemic can make a significant impact on defeating it, especially as it seems that the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic is imminent.

It is encouraging that the department has been able to see a decline in TB cases from 12 709 from the previous financial year to 8 874 in the current financial year. We have also seen a decline in TB deaths. There have been significant decreases in malaria cases. About R94,2 million in equitable share and R62,7 million from the conditional grants [inaudible] the department control the malaria diseases in the province. The R885 million allocated for the running of emergency medical services in the province needs to be used significantly to strengthen the resources available such as ambulances to improve the availability and hopefully improve response time. The R1,4 billion allocated to the Health Infrastructure Programme should be used to improve infrastructure in our facilities, especially in our rural areas to better deal with COVID-19 pandemic.

The MEC stated that the department has started a scanning and archiving project for all records that have resulted in volumes of paper records, and mentioned that it would help with medical legal challenges as the department will no longer fail to produce records. The reality is that there should not be so many legal claims against the department in the first place. It is embarrassing to note that we are currently sitting with over R11 billions of legal claims against the department, and it is clear that there are opportunists when it comes to taking government through litigation processes, especially the Department of Health.

The DA is deeply concerned by the extremely high vacancy rates in critical medical posts, including specialist nurses and essential services personnel such as cleaners and porters in the province's health care facilities. It is a positive move that the department has appointed 174 permanent staff and COVID-19 personnel which include medical officers, nurses, nursing assistants, radiographers, and porters. These additions are however not enough to address the staff shortages.

The 109 would-be specialists, the MEC mentioned, who will qualify as specialists in four years' time are also a positive news, but Limpopo needs specialists now. The other issue is that without proper equipment and infrastructure in our facilities these specialists might leave us for greener pastures. The Budget also allocates R198,7 million for training of health professionals. This amount covers medical students in the Republic of Cuba, Limpopo Medical School and other medical schools in the country. The department should take us into confidence and share information on the progress of these students and the type of support they receive in greater detail.

As the DA, we support the Budget, but hope our concerns are taken on board as the different programmes are run, especially with regard to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing the vacant positions and infrastructure challenges.

Honourable MEC, as we enter into the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic, the challenges will be great for our province. All of us are expected to play our roles in making sure that we are as effective and efficient as possible going forward. I truly hope that Treasury do support the challenges and shortcomings your department faces, because if we are not going to be able to deal with this pandemic as we should, our economic situation will be dire. Our people will be on the streets and will be looking at this government for answers. We need to make sure that our foundation becomes strong and starts by making sure that our COVID-19 relief programme is as efficient and effective as it should be. Hon Speaker, the Democratic Alliance supports this Budget. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. The last speaker on this list is Hon Matlou. Committee chair, the floor is yours.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker present here, the Hon Premier in absentia, Members of the Executive Council present here and those that

are joining us through Teams, chairpersons of portfolio committees present here, Hon Chief Whip of the ruling party, leadership from the opposition, colleagues, good day.

Hon Speaker, the President of the Republic of South Africa presented the COVID-19 speech in what we usually term ... to remind the citizens of the country that the scourge of Coronavirus is not over yet. Instead, we are in the third wave hence we are back to level 3. It is our task as Members of the Legislature to remind communities that the President is not doing this for himself, but for the people of this country. If he had not taken that decision, we will regret it and the blame will be on him as the President and the commander-in-chief of the Republic. We must encourage those traveling in public transport to always wear masks and sanitise before boarding. We must take responsibility in our families as well by ensuring that we sanitise before sharing utensils.

Hon Speaker, my colleague Hon Monyamane has said that the committee received a report from the Department of Health that its overall budget allocation for 2021/22 financial year was at R21,9 billion compared to the R22,1 billion of the 2020/21 financial year, showing a 0,4 decline. The committee welcomed the report regarding the budget and accepted the decline due to the slump in the economy resulting from COVID-19.

During her Budget Speech, the MEC for Health in our province, Dr Ramathuba announced an equitable share allocation of an amount of R1,9 billion that was earmarked for the fight against the COVID pandemic. We must report to the House that the budget and the plans for the fight against COVID-19 were not reported in the APP 2020/21.

The ANC government must ensure that all structures of government including municipalities provide requisite amenities in communities, which will encourage healthy lifestyle and improve the quality of life on the people. The department should strengthen its primary healthcare facilities in order to monitor and improve the quality of healthcare received by our patients. The department reported to the committee a 45% improvement in patients' experiences of care satisfaction rating for the year 2020/21 and targets to reach a 65% improvement in the second quarter of the 2021/22 financial year. The committee observed that the department's plan to maintain the same rate of 45% of the ideal clean status obtained in the 2020/21 financial year. The department must improve on that status since it was presented during the budget speech as one of its priorities.

Hon Speaker, the committee further observed that the opening of a new clinic is not incorporated in the department's Annual Performance Plan. The department should ensure that this is corrected and a detailed report be submitted to the House through the portfolio committee.

Hon Speaker, the ANC in its 54th national conference states that: "Litigation and medicolegal hazards must be decreased through improved clinical care." Introducing mediation and the usage of also legal tools, the health sector must continuously strengthen measures to improve the quality of care delivered by health practitioners in the public and private sectors. The department must ensure patients and staff safety as well as reduce the waiting period in hospitals and clinics. This will assist the

department to ensure that patients do not collapse or give birth while queueing, awaiting assistance from nurses or doctors.

The department reported on plans to improve its management of adverse events by 100% in the 2021/22 financial year, with one incident reported within 24 hours using the safety assessment code (SAC). The department reported its plans to achieve 100% target in patient safety incidents and case closure rates in the year 2021/22. However, the 2021/22 APP did not show the target as removing the medicolegal cases and the management of patient safety incidents reduced which was incorporated in the 2020/21 APP. This needs to be corrected and reported on. Plans on how to deal with medicolegal cases should be submitted to the House through the portfolio committee as promised by the honourable MEC.

The committee received the report of R885,1 million that was budgeted for emergency medical services. The budget allocation in this programme was also aimed at improving the efficiency of the planned patient transport (PPT) services such as the acquisition of vehicles for transporting patients from hospitals. The department should ensure that the purchasing of these ambulances is executed to reduce the long awaiting periods and the response time by ambulances. As you are aware, the honourable MEC and Premier also unveiled those ambulances that were purchased by the province. Ambulances that have accumulated more than 300 000 km remain one of the main challenges in our department due to the refurbishing action plan as well as the service plan that is still within the department at national level. This ultimately results in difficulty to maintain or service the ambulances. The department should report to the committee on the maintenance plan for these ambulances.

The department further reported that a computerised-assisted call tracking and dispatch system be implemented to ensure that ambulances' response time to the scene are improved. This should be fast-tracked to restore hope in communities about services provided by ambulances. The department reported that it intended to attract and recruit advanced life support paramedics in order to improve personnel availability to respond to critical calls. The target must be set on the numbers to be recruited. The department should also provide a comprehensive report on plans and budget allocation to purchase ambulances, training of EMS personnel and the implementation of the computerised tracking device as this was not reported on in the 2021/22 APP. This way of planning and reporting by the department on its APP is not acceptable and should be reviewed. The MEC must institute consequence management to the accounting officer regarding misreporting on the target of the APP.

The committee commended the department for providing training and development opportunities as available for its actual and potential employees. This is very critical in addressing the shortage of health professionals in the province such as nurses, EMS practitioners, medical doctors, and so forth. The department was allocated R6,059 million to achieve this purpose. The committee proposed that the training enrollment of employees of this skill not be prolonged until the fourth quarter, but should be done soon and in the second quarter the committee should receive a progress report.

We are aware that there is a shortage of professional nurses in the province. The department should fast track this process considering that they allocated R201 million to the funding of nursing colleges. It should be reported to the House that of that training that was reported on by the department to the committee, no mention was

made of a plan in the APP for the training of nurses and emergency services. The department budget of R4,8 million on EMS colleges and training, however budget was allocated for them ... The committee will exercise its oversight role and monitor progress on how these programmes are going to be implemented. The department should also provide a progress report on the Cuban scholarship programme, because we are aware that we are fading on that particular Cuban scholarship programme and possibly a new programme will be introduced.

The committee received a report from the department on plans to continue with the agreement it has with the HWSETA (Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority) to offer assistance students to study bachelor degrees in Health Science at universities and its plan to continue sustaining the Limpopo College of Emergency Care Accreditation for offering the intermediate life support training. We applaud the department for this move because it is a move in the right direction.

The department also intends to enter into a memorandum of understanding with local institutions of higher learning to enhance staff development. The department should therefore report to the committee on the progress regarding this plan. The committee is concerned that the department is only speculating on this matter and our view is that direct contact with the two most important universities in our province, the University of Limpopo and the University of Venda (Univen), will be key in helping the department in this regard.

Hon Speaker, the committee is concerned about the state of infrastructure around the province. During our oversight visits to some of the hospitals and clinics around Limpopo, we noticed that some of the buildings of hospitals and clinics require demolition and replacement, while others need new buildings. The department would prioritise this in its annual budget. It is becoming important for us as a committee to make sure that we deal with this matter to its finality.

The department was supposed to focus on upgrading the rehabilitation and maintenance of hospitals, clinics and other health facilities in our province with a minimal budget. We therefore call upon the department to make sure that this particular budget is increased and that there is effective realisation of refurbishing our hospitals and clinics.

The department reported to have allocated an amount of R1,3 billion during the 2021/22 financial year to address the health infrastructure, which increased from R1,029 billion that was allocated in the 2021 financial year. The department reported that only 5% of the planned health facilities needed major refurbishment during the 2021 financial year as compared to 10% in the previous year. It is concerning that the department could not be specific about hospitals, clinics or health facilities that needed new structures. The committee is concerned about this as it is not possible to revamp so many structures in one year. It is important to be specific. The department also reported on the plans to upgrade health facilities such as the forensic pathology and nursing college. The structure should be upgraded and used to its full potential. Once upgraded, particularly the nursing college, students should be enrolled ensuring that we plan for the future so that we have enough capacity as a province. The committee is further concerned about the building of a new academic hospital and the EMS stations. It has been years that Limpopo was promised to host the new academic hospital. Even in terms of the review, it says 2028 in terms of its completion. The

committee should be furnished with a progress report on this particular matter. The maintenance plan as developed by the department should be implemented without delay. The department should also improve in the procurement system for procuring maintenance material to avoid delays. The committee is emphasising this matter because during our oversight, it was reported that maintenance of buildings takes time due to these procurement delays.

Hon Speaker, we also want to welcome the department's achievement of its unqualified audit opinion in the previous financial year and awaiting eagerly for an improved performance outcome in this financial year. We also welcome the A-G's report on the cleanness of Limpopo as a province in terms of PPE procurement, and the payment of service providers on time.

Hon Speaker, the committee supports the adoption of the Annual Performance Plan and its Budget for the Department of Health with an emphasis that recommendations made by the committee be implemented. I so move. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou. We call upon the MEC for Health, Dr Ramathuba, to respond.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members, all of us who are here, members of the opposition party, those who have joined virtually and those who are present here.

Let me appreciate this opportunity, Hon Speaker, to give our own inputs, and welcome all the inputs that have been presented. Hon Speaker, I must indicate that I welcome the debate from Hon Jacobus Smalle from the DA, which is realistic and supportive to the Budget. It is very clear from your debate, Hon Smalle, that this is a clear indication that the situation we are faced with today as a province is a call for all of us to work together and defeat the pandemic. It is very clear that time for political point scoring is not necessary this time around, because we have one common enemy, which is COVID-19. Your realistic debate, which provides a diagnosis of the challenges faced by the department and looked at the areas where we have been making some improvement, I must indicate that as a department, we welcome that debate.

I must also indicate, Hon Speaker, that yes, indeed, what Hon Monyamane is raising is subject to interpretation. The budget speech is a roadmap whilst the APP is more of an operationalisation of the very same roadmap only in one year. Some activities, honourable Members, might end up overlapping and the Budget only relates to the one financial year. The budget speech, Hon Speaker, is mainly expressed in the way of outcomes and impacts that may in some cases link with the APP by implementation. Of course, the APP expresses the political speech in measurable terms.

We need to indicate that as a department we have met with the portfolio committee, as the chairperson has indicated, and most of these questions were raised, honourable chairperson, and we have debated and responded to them in terms of what will be our way-forward and how we were going to address the issues raised.

The issue of the shortage of nurses, we have indicated and even raised our frustrations and challenges that while the National Treasury has come up with a proposal and legislation that you are allowed to retire and take early retirement without losing any of your benefits, unfortunately, in our department, people that opt to retire at the age of 55 are those that we need most. People who are taking the 55-year-old retirement are your nurses and your clinicians. We had thought that maybe it would be the administrative staff, because our structure is bloated and we have always been raising the issue of us spending 76% on COE (Compensation of Employees) and thus leaving us with 24% to deal with the core business of the department. The desire for us continuing to run 24-hour clinics will be affected by this particular clause where we are losing the very same people we need. Currently we are not allowed to make replacements since there is a moratorium on the appointment of those employees.

Our relationships with the universities are very strong. That is why, even now, as we will be expanding our vaccination programme, both the University of Limpopo and the University of Venda have already committed all their fourth-year professional nursing students. They will be joining our teams; you will see them doing outreach throughout the province. You might have heard the Acting Minister of Health indicating that Limpopo is one of those provinces which are not found wanting when it comes to vaccinations and registration. As it is for now, we are in the top four of the provinces, if you use numbers. If you use percentage, we are up there, because we cannot compete with a province that has more than double our population in terms of numbers. We can only compete percentagewise, which we are doing well. Unfortunately, the challenge that we continue facing is the one of nurses; but relating with the universities we are doing well. You will note that at our medical school, as I have indicated during our budget speech, the students are in their final year and soon will be graduating. We all know that for a medical school to exist, you need the Department of Health. That is our baby, which we gave birth to in 2016 as the department, because the training of a doctor requires 60% of the Department of Health and only 40% of Higher Education.

Yes, Hon Smalle, you are quite right. These specialists are needed now, because they are the teachers of those students. That is why we continue recruiting new specialists to join us on daily basis, while for the long-term, we continue sending our students to go and specialise. In that way, we will be able to retain while recruiting our specialists so that they continue doing their work.

Our Cuban training, we have explained our current challenges even to the portfolio committee. Indeed, we will continue to work with our portfolio committee, especially when it comes to issues of our academic hospital. To enable us to retain all these specialists, a centre is needed where they are able to train students, expand their knowledge, do research while at the same time performing the breakthrough operations to the benefit of our people.

Let me thank you once more members of the portfolio committee and the chairperson for continuously providing that oversight guidance. Together, as I have indicated, we can fight and win this war. It is having an impact on our performance as a department, but that should not stop us from working together in order to fight this pandemic. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC for Health. Let us move to item 7.2.2: Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development on the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget. Committee chair, over to you.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, table the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development of the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Do we have any seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. You will notice we are cutting the monotony of perennial seconding of Hon Monyamane by Hon Monama. I hereby second the report as tabled by Hon Sarah Monyamane, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development. I second accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Maseko.

MR MASEKO

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Deputy Speaker, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members and the chair of the portfolio committee, Hon Monyamane, I greet you.

We received a briefing from the department about the Annual Performance Plan and its Budget allocation. The department reported to have received a Budget allocation of R2,016 billion, which allocation has declined from the R2,36 billion of 2020/21 financial year. From the presentation, Hon Speaker, the allocation received will obviously affect the functioning of the department. The reduction is as a result of economic downswing and because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The major share of the Budget was meant to benefit Children and Vulnerable Families with about R876 million, followed by Social Welfare Services with R396 million. The departmental budget also covers NGOs like Isibindi with R300 000, Early Childhood Development Grant with R16,8 million for maintenance of facilities, and R126,6 million for subsidy, EPWP with R9,5 million, HIV/Aids programme with an allocation of R500 000, as well as Shiluvana Frail Care Centre with an allocation of R75 million.

The committee is concerned that the department budgeted for Shiluvana Frail Care Centre, while the management challenges are not yet resolved between the Department of Social Development and the Department of Health. It is a matter we have raised with the department and hope that this matter will be addressed so that

the implementation of the budget allocated to this care centre should be very smooth based on the capacity of the management to do that. An amount of R1,5 million has been ring-fenced for COVID-19 related expenses for the procurement of goods and services. The committee is aware of the risks posed by COVID-19; however, the department should be able to plan targets in the APP on COVID-19.

Hon Speaker, the committee is also concerned that the department is faced with the serious challenge of absorbing social worker bursary-holder graduates, who were funded by the department to pursue studies at university.

The department reported that it planned to review the current approved organisational structure, obviously due to the budget cut or a reduction on compensation of employees, amounting to R257,982 million. It was explained that the budget constraints propelled the department to review the structure and align it with the allocated budget, which is quite commendable. It was also reported that the department has almost 40% of unfunded posts and further that the vacancy rate of social workers and community development officers was at 41%. The department should ensure that the allocated funds are spent in accordance with the prescripts of the law. The committee encourages the department to ensure that a plan is developed for the absorption of funded student social workers. Students should not have a feeling that the profession is no longer relevant.

In relation to employment equity, the department plans to achieve 50% on appointment of women in SMS positions and 2% on people with disability. It was reported that equity targets for women were not achieved in 2020/21 financial year, and we hope the department will have to improve on the empowerment of women, hence it is the department that addresses challenges of vulnerable women, who are in the majority. The committee would monitor progress during the financial year with an eagle's eye.

The committee noted that the human resource policy on performance tracking and evaluation seems to be targeting the social work profession and there is a need that other professions are also taken on board. The department explained that the signing of the performance agreement between social work supervisors, social work and social auxiliary services was in terms of the supervision framework.

It was explained, Hon Speaker, that the [NO RECORDING: TIMESTAMP: 1:26:18 – 1:27:21] in that 3 751 people will receive care and support services in community-based centres. However, the committee observed a drastic decrease in the community-based centre services targets from 22 300 to 3 751, which means that there is a decrease of 18 549 in the community-based centres that were supposed to benefit. That is because of the budget cut. This reduction, Hon Speaker, does not augur well with the committee and the department must still give us a comprehensive report with regard to the challenge.

There are allegations of racism and non-supply of PPEs leveled against an old age home called Ons Tuiste in Makhado. We wrote a letter to the department seeking clarity on the matter because racism is a very serious national challenge that should be dealt with. The response from the department pointed to a non-payment of bonuses and that the matter was before the CCMA, which was a labour issue. While the committee acknowledged the information provided by the department, however, their response on the letter from the department to the committee was about the allegations

of racism and non-PPE supply and we requested the department to make a follow up particularly on the matter of racism.

Hon Speaker, inequality, unemployment and poverty underpin the social ills in our communities. As such, education and skills development that equips the youth with skills required and appropriate to the economy and economic opportunities are also important pillars of building social cohesion and the nation. The type of education we give to our people must be relevant to the economic activities that are taking place in the province.

The committee acknowledged the MEC's pronouncement in relation to adopting a new approach for the provision of school uniform by utilising the NPOs and cooperatives and that is highly acknowledged, because we will be empowering our organised business formations on a small-scale level. The MEC further pronounced that R2,6 million was allocated for the procurement of school uniform for vulnerable children. The department also indicated that all systems are in place in terms of shifting from utilising private companies to sourcing school uniform for the vulnerable from local businesses. We welcome the approach and advise the department to ensure that the school uniforms reach Limpopo children on time. However, through its constitutional mandate, the portfolio committee will exercise its oversight role on this key performance indicator as planned by the department.

Hon Speaker, the committee seconds the move for the adoption of the Annual Performance Plan and Budget with all the recommendations made by the portfolio committee and the Office of the Auditor General. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko. I call upon Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and once again good day to all honourable Members and the MECs present today. As we move for the consideration and adoption of the budget, the House must note the long outstanding issues of the unresolved payments of undue performance bonuses, the unauthorised expenditure amounting to R10,4 million incurred on the Seshego Treatment Centre, the filling of critical funded posts, progress of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre and the resolution of the land issue regarding the Ga-Phasha One Stop Centre.

Furthermore, in relation to employment equity, the department plans to achieve 50% on appointment of women in SMS positions and 2% on people with disability. Sadly, the equity target for women was not achieved in the 2021 financial year. One of the positive steps by the department is that after the drastic budget cut on substance abuse and gender-based violence in the previous year, they have prioritised and earmarked an amount of R39,9 million to combat gender-based violence and for victim empowerment centres in the province. This is proof that the department is committed to deal with GBV (Gender-based Violence), DVPs (Domestic Violence Programmes) and VECs (Victim Empowerment Centres). During the period of lockdown alone, 1 422 sexual offence cases were reported in the province during the last quarter of crime

statistics under review. Limpopo recorded the highest increase in sexual offences nationally.

The DA welcomes the increase of R11,5 million towards domestic violence programmes and R14,9 million towards gender-based violence programmes. The increase in the budget of victim empowerment centres from R10,9 million in the previous financial year to R13,5 million for the current year will provide hope and the much-needed resources to assist victims of gender-based violence. Victim empowerment centres play a central role in the prevention of domestic violence, the provisions of victim empowerment programmes, counseling services, and the provision of shelter for our victims of abuse.

The DA further welcomes the collaboration of the Department of Public Works with the Department of Social Development in identifying two buildings in Thabazimbi and Thulamela Municipalities, which will be used as shelters for victims of violence.

The department has also indicated that they intend to conduct district izimbizo, followed by local izimbizo to popularise the fight against GBV. The R30 million allocated for substance abuse in the current financial year will assist in strengthening the fight against drug abuse and addiction in the province. It is an addiction that the drug abuse is being prioritised. Last year, the Seshego Treatment Centre for Drug Abuse received only R300 000. The Seshego Treatment Centre has been operational and has offered the much-needed assistance for the service users admitted for rehabilitation programmes and the hundreds of people assisted through outpatient treatment services.

The vacancy rate of social workers and community development officers is at 41% as the department fails to absorb its own social work graduates, despite the fact that they continue to carry the burden of the Life Esidimeni Shiluvana Care Centre. The Department of Health is in no condition to take over its responsibility as stated by the Health Minister three years back.

Hon Speaker, as a committee, we are gravely concerned by the huge amount of R38,8 million allocated to fund maintenance of departmental infrastructure programmes of 20 offices in the 2021/22 financial year. The department has eased our concern and responded that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has conducted an assessment on the maintenance of infrastructure and it was reported that the assessment findings illustrated a significant maintenance backlog of an estimated R70 million. The findings further identified that some of the one-stop centres were in very bad conditions. Therefore, the department has decided to prioritise the maintenance of 20 one-stop centres across five districts. A R38 million allocated amount is also meant for the payment of final accounts for the 2021 financial year, amongst which was the Saseleman project, which the department mentioned will be completed during June 2021.

The Ga-Phasha One Stop Centre remains a headache to the committee. This R6 million centre was completed and later claimed by a community member who won a court judgment due to the non-attendance of state lawyers. It remains an unresolved matter that has been sitting with the Office of the Premier's legal advisors. As a committee, we are not pleased and noted with great concern that the legal

representative from the Office of the Premier was not available to engage the committee when the resolution was taken on 22 April 2021.

A forensic report dated 17 March 2020, which dealt with allegations of tender irregularities with a Supply Chain Management unit had the investigation's recommendations. The department was requested to provide a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations. The department responded that two officials were implicated. It was explained that one of the recommendations was that a criminal case for injury to property be opened against one official. This was informed by the fact that the official destroyed the files that belong to the department. It was indicated that the case was opened, a case number was issued, but there was no progress. It was added that disciplinary processes against the two alleged officials were conducted, concluded and the department was awaiting the outcome from the chairperson of the disciplinary committee.

As the Democratic Alliance, we support the Budget and will throughout the current financial year visit victim empowerment centres across the province and all areas of commitment as mentioned by the MEC for Social Development to conduct oversight to ensure that these plans are admitted. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Hon Monyamane, committee chair, please take the podium.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Premier in absentia, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs in absentia, honourable MECs present, honourable Members, good afternoon.

Hon Speaker, the committee is concerned about the management of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. The department reported that Shiluvana Frail Care Centre was under the care of Life Esidimeni and the contract was ending in September 2021. It was reported that the ending of the contract without systems in place poses a serious challenge. It was further indicated that the province has not yet taken a decision on the future of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. The Departments of Health and Social Development should ensure the challenge of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre is brought to finality. The portfolio committee will convene a joint meeting between themselves and the two departments at Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. The committee is concerned about planning by the department that information mentioned in the budget speech and the APP is silent about the key performance indicators. The department plans to spend an amount of R884 000 on Social Relief programme. However, the committee observed that the report did not provide details on the performance indicator for the Social Relief Programme for 2021/22 financial year. Furthermore, the information on how the Budget will be spent and the specifics with the Budget breakdown was not provided. The department explained that budget for social relief was spent according to the need, as these were emergency cases and could not be preempted. However, the Annual Performance Plan should disclose all key performance indicators and targets.

Hon Speaker, in relation to Crime Prevention and Support, the committee noted with concern that there was an increase in the number of children committing crimes in groups. It was observed that a budget of R77,096 million was allocated for Crime Prevention and Support services. It was further observed that the budget of R77,096 million decreased from R88,501 million in 2020/21 financial year. It was noted that 5 940 people will be reached through the Social Crime Prevention programme. It was further noted that 1 147 children in conflict with the law will be reached through various restorative justice programmes, which included access to secure centres and diversion programmes. The committee further encouraged the department to tighten security at centres, as some of the patients are unruly. The department should also develop training programmes that will keep them busy and skill them for rehabilitation purposes.

The committee applauds the pronouncement by the MEC during budget that two buildings have been identified to address the issue of gender-based violence matters. The pronouncement by the MEC was welcomed, noting that victims will also be accommodated in those centres. Furthermore, more centres should be established across the province.

The committee noted with concern that the Victim Empowerment Programme budget was reduced to R56,038 million in the current year from R82,889 million in the previous year. It was indicated that though the committee understands the issue of budget constraints, the reduction was drastic. The committee expressed concern with the increase of incidents of GBV during the lockdown, yet the budget was reduced.

Hon Speaker, the department was concerned about the bullying that took the life of an innocent girl at Mbilwi High School. The concern is that it seems bullying was prevalent in that school and the school management ignored it. The department highlighted that the issue of bullying at schools was receiving the attention it deserves. It was explained that following the incident of bullying at Mbilwi High School, a Crisis Intervention Team was established. It was further explained that the objective of the established team was to intervene and provide psychosocial services to members of the family of both the victim and perpetrator, learners and educators. The department must also visit some of the schools to provide psychosocial services in order to mitigate the challenge.

The committee received a report from the department that two secure centres, which are based in Mavambe and Polokwane and formally owned by Bosasa are now incorporated into the department this financial year. The department indicated that the budget of R22,1 million was allocated to Human Resource and R26,6 million to Goods and Services.

Hon Speaker, during the 2019 election campaign, in our election manifesto, we promised voters that we will create jobs. The department reported that Compensation of Employees continue to be reduced from the adjusted appropriation. It was explained that there was a shortfall of R54 million in terms of funding personnel. It was further explained that the Compensation of Employees included R30 million for Seshego Treatment Centre. The committee is concerned that this reduction might affect the existing employees and filling of critical posts. Therefore, the department should ensure that planning is done properly in a way that does not affect the recruitment of

critical employees. The department must also consider that they should strive to find better ways with regard to absorbing social workers.

The committee noted that Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Services was allocated the budget of R68,457 million. It was further noted that the service will be offered to 14 634 people, 14 134 will benefit from prevention programmes and 500 dependent on substance will access treatment services. The committee encourages the department to develop mechanisms to ensure that people who were assisted with treatment and rehabilitation, when released are not addicted again or make use of drugs and other substances. If possible, services of social workers should be deployed to make family visits.

With regard to the action plan of the two secure care centres, the committee sought progress on the implementation in the 2021/22 financial year. The department responded that the budget of R22,1 million was allocated to Human Resource and R26,6 million to Goods and Services. It was indicated that office furniture, computers and domestic equipment will be procured. It was further indicated that 161 posts were filled for the secure care centres at Mavhambe and Polokwane, which was formerly managed by Bosasa.

Hon Speaker, the committee supports the adoption of the APP and Budget with recommendations. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monyamane. We shall now call upon the MEC for Social Development to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, the chairpersons of portfolio committees, the Chief Whip of our majority party and honourable Members, good morning.

Let me take this opportunity, Hon Speaker, to appreciate the guidance, comments and the advice by the portfolio committee, and to respond on some of the issues raised as follows: Firstly, on the absorption of social workers, I wish to report that the department is currently unable to absorb any graduate social workers due to financial constraints. The department only secured funding from HWSETA through Wits health to appoint unemployed graduates on an internship programme of which only 206 were appointed on a twelve-month programme, which is ending in July this year. Provincial Treasury further allocated R2,4 million to appoint 50 unemployed graduates on a six-month contract, which ended on 31 March 2021. The department is awaiting possible budget adjustment allocations, which we think and believe that we can be able to upon some of the social workers. Currently there is no funding for the MTEF period to appoint social workers graduates. The department does not have any funding to replace the social workers exiting the system due to a variety of reasons like natural attrition and retirement.

On the ECD function shift, Hon Speaker, let me indicate that the Provincial Project Management team constituted, comprised the DSD and the Department of Education.

Nine work streams were constituted to oversee and coordinate the work of the task team, which is legal and legislation, human resource and labour, communication and stakeholder management, risk management, monitoring and evaluation, infrastructure and curriculum design, which is an ECD programme. Proclamation has been gazetted and awaiting for the President and Premier's signatures. There are bi-weekly engagements by the two departments supported by Provincial Treasury and Office of the Premier. The draft proclamation has been translated into provincial languages. Progress report on the rollout of the Limpopo ECD function shift plan was presented to the Limpopo social cluster. Consultations with organised labour and affected employees will only take place after the signed proclamations.

The MECs for the Department of Education and the Department of Social Development are in the process of concurring with the transfer of the identified ECD functions and concomitant resources from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education. Consultations with labour will only be done when the proclamation has been signed.

Just to give a brief on the ECD stimulus package; in order to help the ECD sector to recover from the loss of income brought about by COVID-19, a relief funding in the form of a Presidential Employment Stimulus package was introduced to cater for all types of ECD that are registered, conditionally registered and unregistered. In Limpopo, more than 4 429 ECD centres with 17 614 employees will benefit out of the allocation of R58,241 million. It should be noted that R15 491 204, which is a top up, is still to be appropriated to Limpopo and therefore the total allocation for the province will stand at R73 732 204. The rate per ECD employee is R4 186.00 and the department is currently waiting for the Provincial Treasury roll over to cater for the remaining ECDs.

Hon Speaker will agree with me that every Member was talking about the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre, which I think we must all agree is a thorn in the flesh. The matter has been escalated to the level of the Director General of the province to provide further guidance. The D-G arranged a special meeting with the task team of Shiluvana to give each other feedback on the progress report compiled by the task team. It is just a matter of looking into recommendations and therefore be able to act on them. The matter has been tabled to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development and the latter has since convened a meeting with the Portfolio Committee on Health, on Friday, 11 June 2021. The two decided to visit Shiluvana Frail Care Centre on 30 June 2021. As the MEC, I must indicate that we really appreciate the support we are getting from the portfolio committee, especially of making sure that the issue of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre is brought to rest.

With regard to gender-based violence, there is an established provincial gender-based violence and femicide technical committee addressing GBVF in different sectors, and the department is currently funding 67 VEP centres. There are two shelters in the province, one is run by government and the other one funded. The department is currently implementing programmes such as the Men and Boys Championing Change programme, family matters and parenting programmes, YOLO and Anti-substance Abuse, Committee Capacity Enhancement, Traditional Leadership programme and ChommY.

As part of the measures, plans and strategies to curb substance abuse, the department has increased access in the utilisation of both outpatient and inpatient treatments. I think Hon Monyamane emphasised much on this. I must also indicate that the department is also implementing the drug master plan in collaboration with partners like SANCA, SAPS, faith-based organisations, civil society organisations, etc. I would also like to indicate that SANCA has outpatient walk-in sites across all the districts. The department is continuously monitoring this site to ensure compliance and the effective rendering of services. The department is currently funding the organisations that assist us to fight the substance. A total of 28 substance abuse NPOs are funded, providing preventative programmes. One inpatient centre, the Seshego Treatment Centre, which is run by government is offering treatment free of charge. The department is assisting private centres to register and offer inpatient services, one given conditional registrations and two Waterberg and Mopani awaiting assessment finalisations.

Regarding social crime, there are two secure centres in the province meant to address issues of social crime prevention. The Bullying Awareness programme is being rolled out to schools in this 2021/22 financial year. The anti-gangsterism strategy is approved and implemented. Diversion programmes are fully implemented for petty crimes and comprehensive social implementation programme aimed at children susceptible to crime. Collaboration with SAPS, Department of Education and safety is in place in addressing social crime interventions.

Currently there is no food relief programme going on as at the end of May 2021. The department is however anticipating resuming feeding by 01 July 2021. However, because of COVID-19 pandemic alert level three, which prohibits gatherings larger than 50 people, the department will not be able to feed all beneficiaries at once and is devising strategies to deal with this issue. The strategy might be able to have sessions of 50 throughout the day, which might have complicated logistical arrangements.

With regard to NPO funding, the funding of non-profit organisations and their role as the extension of the service delivery arm of our Social Development Services is also having a positive impact, as they assist us through the victim support programmes, among others. At a provincial level, we were able to set aside R2,6 million for the provision of school uniform for identified vulnerable children. This initiative intended benefitting orphans and vulnerable children in the five districts.

With regard to social relief of the distressed, I think we are able to note the concern raised by Hon Monyamane in terms of progress on the strategy to utilise the NPOs for school uniform. The department intends to issue a call for proposals in August 2021 to appoint one NPO per district. The NPOs will be dealing with SRD, which is the social relief of distress in the form of food, blankets and school uniform.

I must indicate, Hon Speaker, that we have noted the concerns raised by portfolio committee members. I also want to take this opportunity to appreciate the support that we are getting from the portfolio committee. We will heed to the call in terms of making sure that we attend to some of the challenges that they have raised.

We understand the issues of the absorption of social workers as well as equity target raised. We have noted these and all other issues and as a department are going to ensure that we address all of them. The reduction on the usage of residential facilities,

which the portfolio committee expects a detailed report from the department, we will be able to do that. We have also taken note of the committee's directive to the department to submit a report with regard to the concerns of racism in one of the centres that the department is funding. Hon Speaker, we will definitely address these issues as indicated.

Let me take this opportunity to appreciate the time allocated to respond to the issues raised. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements?

9. ADJOURNMENT

In the absence of any announcements, the House adjourns to Tuesday, 22 June 2021 at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 22 JUNE 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 22 JUNE 2021
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]

We may all be seated. Good morning, honourable Members and welcome to our Sitting. Let's proceed with our programme.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145?

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146?

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Statements by Members in terms of Rule 200?

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 Tablings of Committee Reports, Other Reports and Papers?

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Item 7: Second Reading Approval of Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B01-2021]. Honourable Members, I'm thinking of skipping item 7.1.1, I shall come back to it. Let's move to item 7.1.2: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA on the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan (APP) and Budget for the Department of CoGHSTA. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MS APHIRI

A ke go leboge, Mospikara. Ke dumedise baetapele ka moka ka mo Ntlong go ya ka maemo a go fapafapana a bona. Modulasetulo ke ema mo go ala pego ya Kgoro ya

CoGHSTA on behalf of the portfolio committee on the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for 2021/22 financial year as it appears on the ATC for consideration and adoption by this august House. Ke a go leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chair, Hon Aphiri. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. Hi mina Falaza Mdaka. Ndzi yimela ku seketela leswi boxiweke hi mutshamaxitulu wa komiti, yena Manana Johanna Aphiri. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Maseko.

MR MASEKO

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Hon Deputy Speaker, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Council present here, and Members of the Legislature, good morning.

Hon Speaker, the department is not immune from the negative effects imposed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 which found that the South African economy was already on a slump. The pandemic will have a serious impact on service delivery which had already stretched available resources to the limit. Even the most pessimistic amongst us could not have imagined the magnitude and the ferocity of the storm that hit us in early 2020. Statistics South Africa also highlighted that economic activity is also impacted negatively due to the lockdown regulations.

The committee has a constitutional mandate to hold the executive accountable through its effective and efficient oversight. The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs briefed the committee on how the Annual Performance Plan and Budget are going to be implemented. The APP should be linked to the strategic plan, the Budget and the MTEF (Medium Term Expenditure Framework) and should be informed by any updates to government's long-term plans. The committee reports to the House about its observations from the interaction with the department.

Hon Speaker, the department reported that this 2021/22 financial year, a strategy has been adopted that aims to deal with negative outcomes which continue to pull down its performance and that of municipalities. The department also reported that it has incorporated the President's priorities as indicated below: (1) spatial integration, human settlement and local government, (2) economic transformation and job creation, consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services and a capable ethical and developmental state. The department should address these priorities by upgrading informal settlements, fighting corruption in local government, building housing units and providing support to traditional councils.

The District Development Model is the new approach to development that will be more practical, more achievable, implementable, and measurable and will be aligned to the key priorities of government. This model seeks to strengthen intersphere planning and budgeting for impactful service delivery, incorporating both the private sector and civil society's contribution. It will be one plan, a district-wide IDP (Integrated Development Planning) that delineates the desired socioeconomic development future of each district. The committee advises the department to ensure that this strategy as adopted and which the committee is reporting about to this House is implemented in totality. The committee will be exercising an oversight role, since we are made to believe that it will mitigate most of its challenges.

The committee is concerned as to which year will the department present its budget policy statement on the hills of an achievement that they could not help but be proud of. For the 2020/21 financial year, the Auditor General has awarded the department with an unqualified audit outcome. The department must develop a comprehensive plan to improve its audit outcome and move towards a clean audit as per the statement by the Hon Premier. The department must also develop a plan to deal with unwanted expenditure, namely, unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, not only in the department but also in the municipalities; because there is a huge amount of money that falls within that cycle.

As COVID-19 ravaged our communities throughout 2020, the department should take a moment to reflect on the journey travelled over the past two decades, since the Municipal Systems Act was introduced in 2000. It is a journey that has gone smoothly in some respects but there has been a bumpy ride in others. It is a remarkable feat that a single unified local government system has been designed and established from the fragmented, undemocratic, unaccountable, and racially divided system we inherited.

Great strides have been made in establishing municipal systems and processes, as well as in strengthening and building institutional capacity. Our government has created an impressive and comprehensive legislative and policy framework for local government. However, a lot still has to be done in capacitating our municipalities to enable them to execute their duties, and that falls squarely within the competence of the department. The committee observed that in most municipalities, the overall premise of democratic accountability and the delivery of service to improve the lives of our citizens still proved to be challenging in their implementation.

It is undesirable that most of the municipalities are still struggling to spend their municipal infrastructure grant to the maximum satisfaction of our communities. The department must exercise its constitutional mandate to ensure that the Municipal Finance Management Act is implemented and where irregularities prevail consequence management must be instituted. Various oversight structures in municipalities must put mechanisms in place to instil financial accountability through the Municipal Finance Management Act. The department must provide support necessary to ensure that municipalities reduce the outsourcing of the preparation of the AFS (Annual Financial Statements) and get qualified audit opinions without material misstatements. It is very much critical for us to make sure that municipalities develop that capacity through the help of the department.

Chapter 2, section 26 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa gives the MEC for CoGHSTA and the department direct responsibility on ensuring that everyone has access to adequate housing. The committee is concerned that there are housing projects that take the department long time to complete. It might be due to a number of reasons, including lack of capacity by the contractors that are being appointed. The department must resolve the capacity in procurement so that huge projects like Marapong and others are awarded to contractors that they have got that capacity to implement such huge projects. The department must also enhance its project management and monitoring capacity.

Chapter 12, section 212 of the Constitution accords the department to acknowledge the role of traditional leadership as an institution at local level on matters affecting local communities and to deal with matters relating to traditional leadership, the role of the traditional leaders, customary law and customs of communities observing a system of customary law by the establishment of the houses of traditional leaders.

It is reported that Limpopo Provincial Budget for this 2021/22 financial year has been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the light of the budget cuts, the committee wishes to express itself on the need for the department to stick to its Annual Performance Plan and Budget. The department must not deviate from this Budget in an attempt to get maximum gains out of a tight budget. The total Budget for the department this financial year is R2,3 billion. Since the approval of the Budget is underpinned by this APP, the committee encourages the department that there should be no misalignment between the expenditure and the implementation of the APP.

Therefore, Hon Speaker, on behalf of the committee, I would want to second the move for the adoption of the Annual Performance Plan and the Budget with all the recommendations. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko. The next speaker is Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Good morning, Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council and honourable Members and other Members on the social media platform. Hon Speaker, the outbreak of the Coronavirus or COVID-19 occurred at a time when South Africa's economy had already experienced major downward challenges. The country has experienced a negative economic growth for two consecutive quarters, and therefore it was in recession. Chapter 2, section 26 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa gives the MEC for CoGHSTA and the department direct responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to adequate housing. Furthermore, Chapter 6, section 139 and Chapter 7 section 154 respectively mandate the MEC for CoGHSTA to intervene in the affairs of a municipality and the provincial government to support and strengthen the capacity of the municipalities to manage their own affairs, exercise their powers and perform their functions. The department has been allocated a Budget of R2,3 billion, which is an increase of R67 million from the previous financial year. This translates to about a 3% basis points.

The budget allocation for Human Settlements programme was the only programme that was increased during this financial year. The programme is divided into three subprogrammes namely: housing needs, research and planning, housing development, implementation planning and targets, housing assets, management and property management. A budget of R1,239 billion was allocated for this programme. During the year under review, the department planned to build 3 576 housing units through the different programmes in the housing codes. It is with regret and a concern of the committee that only 1 561 units were delivered. The target of the CRUs (Community Residential Units) and social housing units could not be achieved of the projects being halted due to noncompliance with health and safety regulations and that the contract of the principal agents was not extended. This is a far cry from the once 11 000 units that this department was able to build in one single year.

The Corporate Governance Programme has been allocated R257 million to support and to provide oversight to our five district municipalities and 22 local municipalities. The department must develop a plan to deal with the unwanted expenditures, namely, unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure that is being incurred by our local authorities.

During the 2010/11 financial year, I stood in this august House and tabled a Private Members Bill that was aligned to the Western Cape government to give effect and prevent officials doing business with government. During the previous financial year, R145 million of bids were awarded to state officials with no clear indications of consequence management and accountability. If passed into law, the Municipal Systems Amendment Bill will prohibit all municipal officials from holding elected or appointed office in a political party. Honourable MEC, why wait until the Bill is passed through a Parliament. Proactive measures can already be implemented to ensure that municipal officials are free from a conflict of interest.

The Municipal Systems Amendment Act, 2011, which the Bill will replace had a similar political office ban, but the ban only applied to municipal managers and their direct reports. Section 71(b) of the Bill goes further and the South African Local Government Association (Salga) deserves credit for advocating for the extension of this ban. We believe that the Bill represents a victory in the fight against any cadre deployment or policy, a practice that has destroyed the service delivery capacity of many municipalities. Restrictive employment practices such as cadre deployment have shrunk the pool of talent available in our municipalities. While the DA is not under the delusion that the political office ban will end cadre deployment in the municipalities overnight, but it will nutch parties and municipalities into the right direction.

The lack of qualified and competent officials within municipal finance departments is worrisome. More than a quarter of a million rand in grants is spent by the department to ensure financial record keeping. Although no municipalities received the disclaimer by the Auditor General for the latest period under review, unless skills transfer takes place and competent qualified individuals are appointed in critical vacancies, we can regress again easily.

We are observing the section 139 intervention in the Mogalakwena Municipality with a critical eye. The appointment of the administrator by the department supersedes all council decisions and must be respected despite factional disagreements. Therefore, it must be concerning that the local authority, Mogalakwena Municipality, is

challenging the MEC for trying to resolve outstanding matters in that municipality. All support must be given to the MEC to make sure that the administrator stays in the municipality, turns around the municipality and make sures that the irregular expenditure that took place in that municipality is dealt with, and people are held accountable. We cannot allow factions to bring disorder in a municipality.

For grassroots economic growth, which will assist the fight against the surge of unemployment, the department must hold the line on the investment in the new and in existing infrastructure assets. If this cannot be achieved, there will be no investment in our municipalities and no economic growth.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Committee chair, Hon Aphiri, it's over to you.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we are sitting in this important House as part of our responsibility as MPLs to debate the APP and the Budget of the Department of CoGHSTA, Vote 11. This department's mandate is to ensure that every citizen of this province has access to adequate housing. It has been and still is the ANC government's vision that all citizenry in the province have access to housing. Since 1994 our government has committed to working harder towards the goal of ensuring: "Housing security and comfort for all".

In May 2021, the portfolio committee had a virtual meeting with the department to deliberate on their APP and to ensure that access to services is achieved despite a reduction in resources. COVID-19, like other honourable Members have already alluded to, has affected the manner in which the department conducts its business. It has impacted on the availability of resources, thereby imposing changes on the planning and budgeting. With the budget that the department has been budgeted for this financial year, the department has planned to construct permanent housing units in Burgersfort Extension 10 to replace the temporary residential units. The department has also planned to build the long-awaited 50 military veterans houses. The portfolio committee welcomes this initiative by the department. We, however, like to request the department to consult extensively with all the stakeholders and build houses where beneficiaries are currently located. The construction of these housing units will create the much-needed job opportunities and the department will be able to quantify the number of jobs created.

The pandemic has not only impacted on the resources but has deepened poverty levels of many households in the province. COVID-19 requirements revealed inequality gaps in terms of access to water and sanitation between the poor and the non-poor. Prioritisation of intervention programmes is required to close the gap. In the words of the former President Nelson Mandela: "Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings." The municipal infrastructure grant is one of the major contributors in supporting municipalities to provide basic services. Access to basic services has been expanded to many households since the advent of democracy. The former State

President Nelson Mandela said: "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

Today, 70% of households have access to drinking water, 93,4% households have access to electricity and 63,4% households have access to improved sanitation. This is sourced from the Statistics South Africa General Household Survey of 2019. The Department of CoGHSTA is central to coordination of service through local government. Although there was improvement in the audit outcomes of municipalities in the 2019/20 financial year, the year was consultants-driven. We cannot ignore the immeasurable support CoGHSTA and the Provincial Treasury have and are providing to these municipalities. As the portfolio committee, we support these municipalities and the initiatives by the Provincial Treasury and CoGHSTA.

We are expecting more improvements in the financial management of municipalities in the next audit outcomes. The department supports municipalities to review or develop their informal economic strategies. The support should include the review of informal economic profiles of all municipalities, the review of Local Economic Development (LED) plan, the drafting and circulating of social distancing guidelines, based on the COVID-19 trading regulations, and the review of the LED assessment criteria to ensure that municipalities provide meaningful support to their informal economies.

There are 11 areas in Limpopo that have been declared as priority human settlement housing development areas. These areas include, among others, Musina-Makhado SEZ, distressed mining communities of Northam and Tubatse and urban growth point areas of the province. It is imperative that the department prioritises monitoring contractors' performance on a daily basis in the construction of all housing units. The department must ensure that they improve in their project management and in monitoring their programmes, because it is the backbone of their department. It must ensure that the work allocated to its agency, which is HDA (Housing Development Agency) is monitored and timeous reporting is done on a monthly basis.

The traditional authorities play a major role in the development and growth of communities. About R57 million has been allocated for the construction of traditional offices across the province. The portfolio committee welcomes the support that the department is providing to traditional council. However, as the number of traditional councils increase, more pressure is put on the available resources especially in the provision of tools of trade.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, the committee having considered and scrutinised the department's APP and Budget for 2021/22 financial year, moves that the report be adopted as the report of this honourable House.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri. We shall now call upon the MEC for the Department of CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu, to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Premier of the province, Members of the Executive Council, the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Chief Whip and Members of the Legislature. I stand here to make some observations on the debate made by Members of the portfolio committee, but more will be to accept the guidance that we are being given by the Members of the portfolio committee. Safe to say that it is correct that the Budget and the Annual Performance Plan we presented have been aligned to the strategic objectives of the departmental mandate and to those of the Limpopo Development Plan and the National Development Plan.

There are a few things that we'll want to make comments on. The first one being on the unqualified audit opinion that we received. You will remember during the Budget Speech, we indicated that we have currently appointed the CFO in the department, who will be working on the issues which were raised previously by the Auditor General in trying to improve from the unqualified audit opinion that has been stagnant for almost three years in the department. It's a priority in the department to ensure that we go out of the unqualified audit opinion.

Another matter which was raised with the department is the issue of the unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. I must indicate, Madam Speaker, under your guidance that the department does not have a single cent on unauthorised expenditure. We only have a challenge with the irregular expenditure and fruitless and wasteful expenditure. I must report to the House that we are doing very well in trying to resolve the issue of irregular expenditure, mainly because of the appointment of contractors for construction of houses for the 2016/17 financial year, which was a three-year panel, which we're handling now. And due the appointment of the panel which we are utilising currently, we are no longer incurring irregular expenditure. It's because we did consider the BBBEE which was not considered then.

With regard to the issue of municipalities as you are guiding us, we can confirm that we are going somewhere as we speak. There is one municipality which needs to be mentioned, which is Molemole Municipality which does not have a single cent on irregular expenditure. This means that they have considered their supply chain management regulations in procuring all the services they had to, and that is a step in the right direction. We are also saying we are going to support all municipalities to move towards that.

The financial management in the municipalities, Hon Smalle, is showing a sign of improvement. If we managed in the 2019/20 financial year, that no single municipality regressed in the audit outcome, is a sign in the right direction. The 26 municipalities in the province got what we call qualified, unqualified, and clean audits. It is only one municipality in the form of Mogalakwena which remained on an adverse audit opinion. I think financial accountability in giving confidence to our people as we go to the 2021/22 local government elections, will be there for everybody to see and we think that is a step in the right direction.

The issue of consultants has been raised by all of you. It is correct that most municipalities improved very little whereas they are using consultants. We have agreed with the Provincial Treasury to establish a team that will be continuing to build capacity within our BTOs (Budget and Treasury Office) in municipalities in ensuring

that preparing the annual financial statements should be done in-house by the employees of the municipalities. We have few municipalities, amongst others, Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, which prepare financial statements on their own and were able to receive unqualified audit opinion. So, there is work that is being done.

On the issue of the Human Settlement, I must indicate that without necessarily taking each and every programme we spoke about, we have identified in the department that project management and contract management decision making are matters that need to be attended to so that we can resolve the challenges of Marapong, and some of the delivery of the housing project that we have like the Bendor Extension 100. We are busy working with HDA to get to the bottom of the challenges to resolve the problem. I would not want to talk specifically on all those, but there is a plan to make sure that what we said in the Budget Speech and what has been allocated this financial year will be spent accordingly.

There is an issue on the conflict of interest in terms of municipal officials occupying political positions, which has been a subject matter for the amendment of the Municipal Systems Act. I think now you know that it was declared invalid by the Constitutional Court. Hon Smalle was suggesting that I should not wait for the Bill to be passed and we should be proactive. I should be able to remind you Hon Smalle that in terms of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, each and every member has got the right of association, and they should be allowed to do that. At the same time there are in these political parties, rights and obligations of members. Once they become members, they are allowed to exercise particular rights. We will continue to caution because as a department, we firmly believe that political office bearers cannot be in senior management. We have made that submission. When the law is still not determined to decide what should happen, we should be able to live with that and support it.

I should be able to comment the chair of the portfolio committee on the construction of the houses for our military veterans. You said a very important point that we should consult with stakeholders to build the houses where they want them. I can confirm with you that during this financial year, the 50 units that we are talking about, some of them will be built here in Polokwane because some of our military veterans have requested to be closer to these areas and the Polokwane Local Municipality has been able to offer us almost 34 sites that we'll be able to utilise to build houses for military veterans who should be accommodated within the urban periphery.

We have planned and we know that the resources are very minimal to construct the traditional offices. But those that we said we are going to construct and those that we said we're going to refurbish, will be done this financial year. You might have seen in the previous financial year that we even bought furniture for almost 33 offices. We will continue to make sure ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Your time is up, MEC.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much. I think we will continue to take the work of the portfolio committee seriously. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Members of the Executive Council are given only three minutes to respond to the debate, please! Most of the issues you will raise them during your committee meetings. Thank you. Let's proceed.

Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Administration on the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Office of the Premier. Committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. I, Monama Rodgers, as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, table the 2021/22 financial year Annual Performance Plan and the Budget for the Office of the Premier to be considered and adopted by this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS LEKGANYANE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The first speaker on the list is Hon Kekana.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to debate on the Budget of Vote 1: Office of the Premier. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members and officials in their House and those who have attended virtually, I greet you.

Madam Speaker, 45 years ago on 16 June 1976 across many townships of our country, sacrifices were made by the youth of that time. People laid down their lives for the sake of freedom. Today, their reward and award lie in us to defend our democracy not forgetting those who had to surrender their lives for us to be spared today. As we take stock of our accomplishment and shortcomings, we should lose sight of our one's ambitious dream for education, total economic emancipation, democracy and freedom for all.

We have mourned the passing of nearly 50 000 of our fellow South Africans as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The damage caused by COVID-19 runs deep and we

share in the collective pain of many South Africans who have lost their jobs. The brave and fearless sacrifices of our frontline workers continue to save thousands. We salute all our healthcare and essential service workers who remain standing as a frontline of our fight against COVID-19. We also salute the many South Africans who rally to help others survive. Picking up from the State of the Nation Address, more than anything else, this crisis has revealed the true character of our remarkable nation. It has revealed the spirit of the people who refuse to be defeated. It is this South African spirit that must drive our resolve to build a new and more equal economy and a better country for a more just society.

The year ahead must be a time for change, for progress and for rebirth. The issue of economic reconstruction and recovery as alluded to by the President in his State of the Nation Address must be top on the agenda. We are debating the provincial budget at a time when the country is dedicating this year to the life and time of Mama Charlotte Maxeke, a renowned daughter of our country who dedicated her adult life to a tireless pursuit of the liberation of our country and her people.

Over this past month, the third wave of COVID-19 and the economic crisis in general have resulted in some tiny changes on the edges of the ANC policy and how we live. The Office experienced significant budget cuts during the 2020/21 financial year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we did not allow these budget cuts to impede us from executing our operations and mandates. The Office had to do work even under these difficult circumstances imposed by the COVID-19. However, we also appreciate the current initiative by the World Health Organization by identifying South Africa to host a technology hub for the COVID-19 vaccine, which provides the know-how and train local manufacturers to boost production of influenza vaccines, which is a step in the right direction.

In the past financial year, the Office had managed to spend over 97% of its allocated Budget. Youth unemployment rate in South Africa increased to 63,30% in the first quarter of 2021, from 63,20% in the fourth quarter of 2020. A total Limpopo labour force is recorded to add to 1,821 million out of this 391 000 individuals are unable to find work while 531 000 persons have given up looking for a job altogether. Members, our noisy rhetoric on initiatives aimed at bettering the lives of the youth is like popular deep house beats with no lyrics. There are adopted policies after policies with no clear implementation strategy and no evidence showing whether the so-called initiatives are bearing fruits in the lives of the youth. We are failing to improve the lives of our youth leaving them exposed to catastrophic activities such as drug abuse, prostitution, criminal activities and absolute poverty. The high unemployment rate is at its highest peak and continues to increase as economic growth fails to improve.

To this challenge, as a matter of fact, during the period under review 100% of our suppliers and service providers were paid within the prescribed period. Members will agree that paying service providers on time is vital for the financial health of small and medium enterprises. The sustainability of our SMMEs is highly dependent on us paying their invoices as and when they become due and payable. Let us not surrender our future to doubt or despair or to those who are permanently negative to the work that is being done to improve the lives of our people. Today, we enter into a covenant that we shall build a society in which all South Africans, both black and white will be able to walk tall without fear in their hearts, assured to their inalienable rights to human dignity.

More than two thirds of women, 77% in Limpopo have experienced some form of gender-based violence in their lifetime, including partner and non-partner violence. About half of them, which is 48%, admit to perpetrating gender-based violence at least once in their lifetime. Recently, Limpopo is fast becoming a dangerous place for women and children to live because of the escalating number of gender-based violence. Though we welcome the sentencing of Aubrey Manaka to two lifetimes in prison for the rape and murder of Precious Ramabulana, we would like to encourage community members to work hand in hand with SAPS to squeeze these shenanigans of robbing our sisters and children's lives.

As I conclude, we soldier on during these difficult times. The mandate from the people of this province remains our campus and conscience in all the efforts we make. We do not take the people's trust in us for granted. In the context of local government, this trust is based on our unparalleled achievements in the rollout of basic services, infrastructure, and good governance.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Kekana. Hon Maharaj, it's over to you.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, effective service delivery requires every single person in this government to share our values of competence, accountability, integrity, responsiveness, and care. It is indeed extremely concerning, the COVID-19 pandemic notwithstanding, that Limpopo province has the second highest expanded unemployment rate nationally. One out of every two citizens in the provincial workforce are now without a job. The issue compounding this high unemployment rate is that majority are youth who have given up the prospect of finding a job.

The Office of the Premier must be the engine of this government and must enable and lead a capable provincial government by institutionalising a culture of innovation and collaboration. The Premier has previously alluded to the fact that he has contracted the Executive in terms of key performance areas, which we welcome. However, we now need to see the Premier actually holding his Executive to account in line with these contracts. We still advocate and encourage and plead with the Premier for him and his team to undergo lifestyle audits, as we believe that this will take the people of the province into the confidence of the provincial government.

Whilst we applaud and welcome the Office of the Premier in paying suppliers within the 30 days, still far too many departments are failing dismally on this and this adds to an already strained economy especially for SMMEs. Whilst focus has been on the employment equity targets, still much work is needed in terms of the appointment of persons with disability. The province is still unfairly being subjected to incompetent and incapable officials, who still fail at curbing the irregular and unauthorised expenditure in some departments and municipalities without any consequence management. This culture of impunity and in instances, malicious compliance must

cease urgently, especially with a shrinking budget, which must ensure that the funds are being utilised for their intended purposes.

Over the past year, we have seen the importance of being digitally connected, whether it was a patient who was able to video call their loved ones from one of the our temporary COVID-19 hospitals, learners using the internet to continue learning, or job seekers connecting to opportunities, access to broadband and Wi-Fi has been helpful and we have stayed connected at a time when we couldn't be in contact with any person.

Hon Premier, the half a billion-rand broadband scandal emanating from your Office could have changed the digital landscape of the province. The Western Cape digital ecosystem operates 47 Cape access centres, 1 045 public Wi-Fi spots, 1 911 broadband sites, of which the majority are over 100 megabytes per second or higher, 13 citizen contact channels and the Western Cape ePortal. That is responsible governance that harnesses innovation and collaboration.

Hon Speaker, SOPA after SOPA, we hear repetitive promises to fight corruption and consequence management. It would seem that you are losing this fight Hon Premier. No more talk, we want action. We need to become leaner, smarter, and even more agile in responses. The people deserve answers to the numerous investigations that have happened including the investigations into the 11 municipalities who invested at VBS, why some of these persons implicated were actually promoted into other positions or transferred to other municipalities. This R2 billion investment was done in contravention of the MFMA and other legislation and is now lost to the people of Limpopo, who are in desperate need of service delivery.

The province is currently facing a ticking time bomb. The Department of Health medical claims have increased from R8,3 billion to R10,6 in a year. This has the potential of placing the province under administration. It would appear as if we do not have a grasp on this problem as consequence management is lacking.

On a positive note, well done to you and your team on the 145 000 COVID-19 vaccines that have been administered thus far in the province. While it is still far from achieving herd immunity the 6 million population for the province, comparatively we are faring better than other provinces.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Committee chair, Hon Manama, the stage is yours.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable chairpersons of the portfolio committees, honourable Members of this august House, Chief whip of the majority party. Madam Speaker, cognisance should be taken that at this political conjecture our country is confronted with serious financial constraints and limitations for equitably sharing her fiscus amongst the three spheres of government to sustainably address

the socioeconomic needs of our citizenry. These chronic fiscal constraints emanate from the weak economic growth exacerbated by the scourge of novel COVID-19 pandemic. Our province, of course, is not immune from these deep-seated structural reforms and downwards economic growth.

I must mention that the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration met with the Office of the Premier on 23 April 2021 to deliberate and deal with the strategic overview of their APP and Budget allocation for the 2020/21 financial year and outer years. All APPs and Budgets presented in this august House depict a brighter picture that this ANC-led province is poised for development trajectory that reflects the steady progress in infrastructure investment, building cohesive, sustainable and caring communities with improved access to social immunities, which is a precursor for sustainable livelihood. Undoubtedly, the ANC-led government has made substantial progress since 1994. We have to acknowledge that more still needs to be done.

We are empathetic that the APPs are just expressions of desired deliverables. But as the portfolio committee, we are going to be more robust in our oversight in ensuring that we move from expression to practical action which will have impactful contribution on the livelihood of our people. The 2021/22 financial year APP and Budget must assist us to respond pragmatically so that we don't incur unwanted expenditure, but tangible deliverables with clear-cut value for money on the projects and programmes that are going to be implemented. The ANC's resolve to good, clean and accountable governance has to find expression in how we translate these funded plans into practical actions.

Our expressed conviction is that the 2021/22 financial year APP and Budget will bring concrete intervention measures in meeting the primary objective of rolling back the quagmire of the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. The APP cannot be defined by hope alone, but by practical evidence of the ANC-led government in work and in action. The dynamic nature of our province requires our collaborative efforts to comprehensively address the overwhelming needs and aspirations of our people.

The portfolio committee applauds the decisive leadership of our Premier that out of the 245 officials, they processed 205 cases of officials who are allegedly conducting business with organs of state in the provincial administration. The portfolio committee has to be provided on a regular basis with progress reports on the outstanding 45 cases in this 2021/22 financial year. Hon Premier, we are quite aware that you don't possess magic wand to turn the economic tide, but we are confident that the rollout and the implementation of the high impact catalytic growth project will result in inclusive economic development and acceleration of sustainable growth of the provincial economy thus creating the much-needed productive and sustainable employment.

For this financial year, GAAL cannot continue as if it is business as usual. The Board of Directors must undertake a business reengineering process and put together a comprehensive and credible plan for ensuring that the airport which is the pride of our province is revived and run sustainably. The portfolio committee is looking forward to witness exponential improvement by provincial departments of paying legitimate invoices within the prescribed 30 days period. Hon Smalle, I think this is a policy of government that they have to implement, there is no excuse in not implementing this

policy. We just wanted to amplify that point and to put it across that all the departments, all the state-owned entities and municipalities must just comply with this piece of prescript.

The reconfiguration of the provincial state-owned entities has to be fast tracked in order to reposition our province to the highest economic trajectory. Unwanted expenditures will be drastically eliminated and financial health of the state entities and municipalities improved. The OTP's (Office of the Premier) transversal support to provincial administration must ensure that we have more clean audits. We also welcome the R58 million appropriated specifically to improve the e-governance in the province in line with the digital economy that we are hoping for.

Hon Speaker, having considered the 2021/22 financial year Annual Performance Plan and Budget allocation of the Office of the Premier, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration accepts the reports and recommends to the House to consider and adopt the 2021/22 financial year Annual Performance Plan and Budget, Vote 1, with allocation of R405,049 million.

I move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chair, Hon Monama. We shall now call upon the MEC, Hon Mokone, to come and respond on behalf of the Hon Premier.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER]

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Whip of the majority party, opposition parties, Members of the august House, good morning. Madam Speaker, I have been requested by the Hon Premier to respond on his behalf. Indeed, we stand before this august House to affirm our stand that we will continue to move Limpopo forward. Madam Speaker, we all know that COVID-19, as we always say, has wrecked our lives. Our people are continuing to be anxious; people have lost their lives and people are continuing to be sick. We are dealing with the issue of the vaccine which will give our people hope. In Xitsonga xo hlatsweka, va ri mitirho ya vulavula, mitirho leyinene a yi tumberi nakan'we.

Hon Maharaj, indeed, we are with you on this journey, because you are also a Limpopo citizen. We represent you. We will keep the flag of the province flying high and thank you for congratulating us for doing what we are supposed to be doing. We want to thank you for that. We are doing this because we are committed. Our people must register for the vaccine and receive the vaccine. For a rural province like Limpopo to surpass Gauteng and Western Cape, it shows indeed that our provincial government is committed to doing the right thing. The issue of unemployment that has been raised, we have taken a resolve to zoom into this stubborn enemy called unemployment. You will realise that even during COVID-19, we came up with a socioeconomic recovery plan for our province in support of what the President and the national Government have said.

As a short-term measure, we have provided short-term programmes that will alleviate the suffering of our people and in the long term we will continue to deal with industrialisation of the province. Indeed, the chairperson of the portfolio committee indicated that we are committed to make sure that we continue with our programmes like mining. We are going to have a mining indaba to talk to the mining industry and say how do we deal with this unemployment we are faced with. How can we use that sector to deal with that? We are going to have a tourism indaba to deal with those things. We will continue to deal with agriculture. If you were to look at what agriculture is doing in the province, we are engaging with the citrus growers in the province, who are playing a significant role. Our province is steadfast on that.

On the issue of the 30-day payment, most of the departments are almost at 97% and there are some departments that are at 100%. The chairperson of the portfolio committee has alluded to that this is government policy. We know that if we continue to do that at this difficult time it gives confidence to our people. Our people will be able to get that little money and use it for other things.

You are right that the Premier has signed a contract with all Members of the Executive Council. The issue of consequence management as the chairperson of the portfolio committee has alluded to, we have dealt with that.

The issue that you are raising about Limpopo Connexion, as far as we are concerned it is a rumour. People want to tarnish the name of the province. There have been investigations after investigations, but there is nothing that is coming to the fore. We have committed money to deal with the issue of Fourth Industrial Revolution. There are programmes that we are implementing to make sure that we deal with this issue.

When MEC Makamu spoke earlier, he said that nobody has dealt with the issue of VBS than we have dealt with it. Consequence management was applied, and even now we are continuing to apply it. Give us credit where it is due. **Just speak in Swivuli hi Xitsonga** ku ri mitirho ya vulavula. U nge dlayi hi nchumu, u nge dyi hi nchumu, ndlela ya wena yi ta va yi basile.

The last thing that we want to say is that we will continue doing what we are supposed to do. We are determined as a provincial government to make sure that we work with our stakeholders to move Limpopo where it is supposed to be. We know our province, we know our endowment and we will make sure that whatever we are able to do we will make sure that Limpopo continues to be a shining example. I want to take this opportunity to thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. We shall now move to item 7.1.3: Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture on the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR MASEKO [ON BEHALF OF MS MAHASELA]

Hon Speaker, I, Funani Jerry Maseko on behalf of the chairperson of the committee, Hon Mahasela, stand here to present the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and adoption. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko, the acting chair. Do we have a seconder to the move? Hon Mdaka, you may take the floor.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. Hi mina Falaza Mdaka, ndzi yimela ku seketela leswi boxiweke hi muhlonipheki hi ku yimela mutshamaxitulu wa komiti ya Ndzawulo ya Mitlangu, Vutshila na Mfuwo. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mdaka. Hon Maharaj, you will be the first on the Speakers' List, I think the honourable chair has rendered an apology.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The overall main appropriation for the 2021/22 financial year reduced from R524,8 million in the 2020/21 financial year to R473,3 million in the 2021/22 financial year. This R51,2 million reduction is significant and raises concerns around the performance of programmes in the department. The department managed to achieve an unqualified opinion for the first time in almost a decade. This improvement on the audit outcome from a qualified audit opinion to an unqualified audit opinion is commendable. This department needs to start to consistently receiving clean audits. The department clearly needs to improve its financial controls, good financial management and ensure that there is consequence management where necessary. Vacant critical positions especially in senior management also need to be prioritised in the current financial year.

Last year the COVID-19 relief programme for artists was introduced to help ease the hardship caused by COVID-19 and the regulations introduced to curb the spread of the virus in our communities. This relief programme was under resourced and it is unacceptable that a total of only 222 artists have benefitted through the relief fund. More needs to be made available to support our artists in this province. The department must also be acknowledged for their efforts to invest in technology, virtual platforms to roll out some key events as part as service delivery to the citizens of the Limpopo province. It is a pity, however, that many in our communities remains to find these virtual platforms inaccessible. The MEC congratulated Shudufhadzo Musida and committed to work with her through the Shudufhadzo Musida Foundation on issues on mental health and stated a total of R1 million has been budgeted for this initiative. While we share the sentiments of congratulations to her and her achievement, we think in a year of large budget cuts, the department should focus on implementing its own programmes and leave the support for mental health initiatives to mandated departments like Health and Social Development to play that role.

It is long overdue that we are delighted to find the year of progress around the provincial theatre. The MEC indicated the construction phase is planned to commence during the last quarter of the 2021/22 financial year and R30 million has been set aside in this financial year for the second phase of this long-awaited provincial theatre. The department's collaboration with the Polokwane Municipality in the process of implementing the central garden of remembrance of Limpopo is a positive step. A project of this is important to keep our history alive while acknowledging the roles that different people played in the liberation struggle.

In the last financial year, the committee's oversight visits to library construction projects revealed that most were behind schedule and seemed to have been poorly managed. We hope that the R40 million that has been set aside for the feasibility study of four new libraries and the R5,1 million for the maintenance and upgrading of libraries in the province will be efficiently used. The department has allocated R8 million that will maintain and support 300 rural sport development clubs through league participation and sport equipment. This will create opportunities for our aspiring athletes. The collaborations with the national Department Sport, Arts and Culture and Polokwane Municipality of the construction of Polokwane Softball Stadium at a cost of R90 million over a MTEF period will go a long way to support a largely neglected sport with meaningful infrastructure. The department, however, must make sure that it is fully utilised and does not become a white elephant in the province.

It is clear that all vacant positions need to be filled as soon as possible to ensure stability across all programmes. As we enter the third wave of the COVID-19, the department needs to ensure its support to athletes during this period and not delay period of relief. The 10% reduction in funds requires for the department to be creative and innovative to stretch resources and ensure that all the targets of the department are met. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Maseko, the acting chair, you take the floor.

MR MASEKO

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Hon Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Council and honourable Members of the House, I greet you. On behalf of the chairperson of the portfolio committee, allow me to indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic was declared a global public health crisis in March 2020, and it affected every element of our lives. The entire sport, arts and culture sector was taken by surprise. The pandemic has closed museums, cancelled concerts, plunging many cultural institutions into uncertainty and immediate financial loss while threatening a long-term effect on the arts. The pandemic has dissipated arts and culture in South Africa wiping out as many as half all the jobs for performing artists and musicians and nearly a third of jobs for all who work in the creative economy, broadly spanning arts, music, design, entertainment and media.

We therefore need a bottom-up all hands-on deck effort to save Limpopo's artistic and creative system and we need to do it now. The number of museum infrastructure upgraded and maintained will be three and fifty jobs will be created through Arts, Culture and Heritage programme during this financial year. The museum holds the

place of prime importance in the field of education. Any education is incomplete without proper cultural education and awareness. Museums play an undeniable role in this respect. It holds the cultural history of a nation and its many inhabitants along with the history of other cultures as well. The only other mode of imparting cultural history of a nation would be through verbal dissertation. That is not as effective as museums since it lacks the element of being able to interact and physically see and touch the artefacts being presented.

As Katherine Locke said: "Museums tell stories so much better than textbooks do. And that's what history is, isn't it? It's just a really big story. That's what makes it important. And museums get that. Textbooks don't." The province has seven museums which are directly managed by government either at provincial and/or local level. Four of these museums are in Capricorn, two are in Vhembe, and one is in Mopani.

It was reported that the department is planning to conduct a feasibility study to determine the development of a museum in Waterberg. It was further indicated that a better coordinated approach to market our museums with the tourism authorities will be implemented. It is impossible for mankind to progress if we are not aware of our past, and museums provide the only window to that history. The artifacts thought and displayed in museums help us to understand where we come from, and thus determine where we are going. The APP indicated that COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in serious budget cuts for the previous financial year, which resulted in cancellation and discontinuation of historical events such as Mapungubwe Arts Festival and Marula festival. Wearing masks, sanitising, social distancing, and isolation became part of our daily routine. But sadly, also the reality of losing loved ones through rising death tolls, where it became difficult and, in many cases, impossible to share final words and goodbyes not even being able to show our last respects when loved ones were laid to rest. It is also through this period of isolation that digital media has become enormously important for our interactions with colleagues, friends and loved ones.

Madam Speaker, libraries truly are remarkable places, and in today's world, we need them now more than ever. Let every one of us champion the good spirit carried by Nelson Mandela by finding out how one can support local libraries and get to work protecting one of the most important public institution and the country needs that.

The committee learnt that the department is managing a total of 96 public libraries through service level agreements with municipalities, and 12 out of 96 mobile libraries in remote and rural areas. The indication is that the province has an estimated backlog of 220 new libraries. Every ward must have a fully functional library. Currently four new public libraries and are under construction in Runnymede, Mavalani, Mulamula and Seleteng and planning for four new libraries will commence in this financial year. The department is encouraged to peddle down the construction of the libraries in previously disadvantaged communities, both upgrading and maintenance of the libraries. The committee further recommends that when designing and constructing libraries, the department should ensure that a disability friendly zone becomes a standing specification in each and every library.

Whether you are a family looking for the fun story time and immigrant in need of a language resource, an unemployed individual searching for a job or a community member who needs help on their taxes, you can all go to one place, the library. There

communities come together to learn to share, celebrate where they live, who they are and what they want to become.

Madam Speaker, the measures that archives must take to gather, preserve and share historical records to ensure that the bridge to our collective histories does not disintegrate, comes at great cost as the records in our archives are invaluable for future historical pursuit. The budget allocated to this subprogramme during the 2020/21 financial year was R8,3 million and now as we are speaking, it has decreased to R6,3 million for the year under review. The APP indicates that 10 record classification systems will be approved, 5 archives and records training sessions conducted and 6 oral history projects will be undertaken. Behind the announcement of a lockdown lies a severe crisis for learning and the production of knowledge and some opportunities as well. Scholars and students need access to books, manuscripts, musical scores, photographs, graphic materials, moving images, and many more. This access is not a luxury, but it is essential. Since the COVID lockdown, we find ourselves thrust into an important decision-making position. It is in fact that digital technology allows us to provide access to our collections at any time and from any location. This is a short step in addressing the access to information required to meet the 2030 agenda.

Allow me to conclude by highlighting that the scale of socioeconomic challenges confronting this department as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic scares us. However, the real hero is the man who fights courageously, even though he is scared. We must also commend the department for having moved upward with regard to the Auditor-General's outcome and we hope that they will move a step up again to ensure that they achieve a clean audit.

I move that this House considers and adopts the APP for 2021/22 financial year for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko, the acting chair. We shall now call upon the MEC for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Moraka, to take the floor.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Members of this august House; those who are here with us and those who have joined digitally.

Let me start first by appreciating the words of guidance from our members of the portfolio committee, in particular the acting chairperson, with his remarks when he was debating on the APP and the Budget Vote for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in Limpopo. Indeed, Hon Maseko, the devastating effect of COVID-19 on this sector is hugely felt by our people who had looked upon this department to change the lives of those athletes and artists for the better. But seated here we are with those situations being proven otherwise. I believe the call that you are making to us here is not falling on deaf ears when you are saying we need to have a bottom up all hands-on deck approach in an endeavour to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on our people who are reliant on the provision of services related to sports and recreation, arts and culture in the province.

I want to really salute your able leadership when you are calling upon our people to start appreciating and visiting our museums. Indeed, Hon Maseko, museums play an important role in any process to inculcate the culture and the heritage in the lives of our people. We need to start visiting our museums so that we get to know about the history that is there within those museums, because our people are not really taking into cognisance the issue of visiting our museums. We have now embarked on a programme where we need to upgrade all our museums in the province.

The department is working in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, in an endeavour to upgrade the Schoemansdal Museum to be a museum that can help us share information with our people, and also to be at the centre of information dissemination within the province of Limpopo. I believe that through your support as the portfolio committee, this project is going to benefit our people immensely in that regard.

I also want to echo your sentiments, Hon Maseko, when you say digital media remains the platform for our people to thrive economically particularly our artists. It is high time we need to encourage our people to say, gone are the days wherein we undermine the digital way of doing things, because COVID-19 is really dragging us through an era where we need to be innovative and come up with new ways on how we can be able to survive as humanity.

I am speaking here when the department has managed to move towards that digital media platform. For instance, we have managed to deliver our Freedom Day celebration this year with the utilisation of the digital innovating technology. We also celebrated Africa Day through digital platforms. I believe that through your guidance, and your collaboration, we can be able to make sure that we encourage our people in the creative arts sector to start moving with the rest of the world in the process of embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The call by the honourable Member to ensure that every community has a library is what we have always been emphasising in our Executive Council meetings. Community libraries will assist us to end the narrative that says that to hide information from Black people, you must put it in writing. We need to start building state-of-the-art libraries in our communities. Those libraries that you have mentioned, which we are building in Seleteng, Runnymede, Dumela and Mavalani, if you look at the scope and the designs of those libraries, they meet the requirements of user-friendliness to the people living with disability. I believe that as you were performing your oversight functions at these libraries, you have observed this. We are going to make it a point that in the coming financial years, every library that we built takes your concern into cognizance to say. We will ensure that we build user-friendly libraries for that are accessible to the people living with disability.

I want to also indicate that the state of our archives in the province is a cause for concern ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, you are left with one minute.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

The state of the provincial archives is a call for concern. If you look at the budget that was allocated for us as the department to manage our archives, this year we are given R6 million which is a reduction compared to the previous financial year. We will do everything in our power to make it a point that we utilise these allocated resources in an endeavour to make it a point that we change the state of affairs in our archives. Because without the proper management of our archive centres, we will not have information that we need to preserve for future generations.

I want to thank you, honourable Members, for all of you who have contributed to the debate of the APP and the Budget Vote. I believe that working together we can change the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and be able to improve towards achieving a clean audit in the upcoming financial years. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Oversight Mechanism Committee on the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Limpopo Legislature. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby present the report of the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism for the 2021/22 financial year on the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Limpopo Legislature Vote 2 to this House for consideration and adoption. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Is there a seconder? Hon Monama, you may take the floor.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I think I am not breaking any rule here by supporting Hon Lekganyane on the presentation, because she has also supported me. [LAUGHTER] I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Radzilani.

MS RADZILANI

Hon Speaker of this august House, Hon Premier, Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council of Limpopo Government, the Hon Chief Whip of the House, Hon Chair of Chairs, and the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Lekganyane, and honourable Members, blessed morning to you.

Hon Speaker, as public representatives of this province our debates in this august House should focus on important issues affecting our people. The people of this province rely on us to implement proper decisions that will in turn better their lives.

Before I go any further, allow me to join other honourable Members and acknowledge and celebrate the young people of our province, the future leaders of this province. It is a known fact that on the 16th of this month, we were reminded of the visions and dreams that were fought for by thousands of South African youths. It is of great importance that the youth of this country, the youth of Limpopo, realise the standard of their fallen soldiers who had little resources by then, but great will power and passion to fight. It is up to our youth to stand tall and take on the baton and keep running the race to better our country.

It is our responsibility and duty as Members of this Legislature to debate in this important House issues that affect our people and the province. Part of the debate is to show how service delivery can be enhanced in order to improve the lives of our people, particularly in rural areas. But mostly we engage in this exercise to share how the Legislature plans to spend the Budget in delivering services as per the mandate and to ensure that such services delivered has a meaningful impact in the lives of our people as part of our oversight role.

Hon Speaker, let me point out that the Oversight Mechanism Committee, led by Hon Lekganyane, has been assigned the responsibility to oversee the Provincial Legislature. The committee has had the meeting with the Provincial Legislature on their Annual Performance Plan and Budget for 2021/22 financial year. Their Oversight Mechanism Committee has received and welcomed the briefing on the priorities and Budget plans of the Provincial Legislature. The Legislature received R395,479 million which is 2,7% more than the Budget of the 2020/21 financial year.

The committee is thrilled to announce to this august House that the Provincial Legislature has presented in the Annual Performance Plan 2021/22 financial year that there will be an update on the organisational structure that will outline critical and vacant positions. The updated organisational structure will shed some light as to which are the critical vacant posts still available, when, and how all the vacant posts will be filled going forward.

Honourable Members, the committee raised a concern with regards to the availability of tools of trade for the Members of the Legislature, which made it difficult and at times impossible for Members to do their work effectively due to aging and outdated tools of trade at hand. The committee is pleased to report that the Legislature committed to engage the Information Technology Section to ensure that all issues pertaining to tools of trade for Members of the Legislature are addressed accordingly.

The committee, however, takes into cognizance the resolution taken by the Internal Arrangements Committee at the beginning of the 2021/22 financial year, which prevented the Legislature from taking contracts on behalf of Members of the Legislature as prescribed in the policy. The committee is excited to announce that the policy has since been reviewed, and the Legislature is now able to take contracts on behalf of their respective Members. The availability of up-to-date tools of trade will go

a long way to assist in rendering the mandated responsibilities with ease especially during this pandemic era of COVID-19.

The committee raised a similar concern regarding the available fleet used by both officials and Members to travel on official business which has gone beyond the required kilometres rendering them unsafe. The committee pointed out that it will be wiser to purchase new vehicles as the alternative will be to spend a lot of money on maintaining the aging fleet, which is not economically wise.

The Legislature reported to the committee that an amount of R44 million was put aside for four political parties represented in the in the House. The funds, however, could not be disbursed due to the implementation of the Political Party Funding Act. However, the Legislature reported that it is the process of engaging other legislatures to establish what is prevailing in the different institutions regarding the allocation of the political party funding. To date a meeting has been secured with the Independent Electoral Commission in this regard.

Hon Speaker, in each financial year when the APP and Budget of the Legislature is presented in this House, there is a key performance indicator on Sectoral Parliaments with targets. However, we want to bring it to the attention of this House that the committee is worried that concerns raised during the Sectoral Parliament Sittings do not find expressions in the Annual Performance Plans of departments. It is also important to appreciate that regardless of COVID-19, Sectoral Parliaments are still being held virtually. The Legislature is still doing its best to ensure that the people and the stakeholders of this province are afforded the opportunity to take part in their own government.

When we come to the issue that we have raised previously in relation to the refurbishment and renovation of the Limpopo Legislature's building, we want to bring to the attention of the House that as the committee, we were not pleased, particularly because the implementation of the project was delayed, taking into cognizance the fact that the implementing agent is the Department of Public Works. Their completion period was anticipated to be the end of September 2020. The challenge raised was the shortage of funds. The committee views this prolonged completion as poor planning by the Department of Public Works. The accounting officer must account to the House through the portfolio committee why budgeting for the renovation was poorly done. The Legislature has not yet occupied the building, because of the network cables that are yet to be installed. We are happy to report to this House that the Legislature is planning to complete the cabling in the 2021/22 financial year.

As I conclude, the committee has noted that for the successful achievement of priorities as planned in the Provincial Legislature's Annual Performance Plan for the 2021/22 financial year, there is a need for the Oversight Mechanism Committee to play an oversight function in a way incomparable and different to the approach followed when exercising the oversight function over the state departments. It is on that note that the committee has requested support equal to that of the task and responsibility that the Oversight Mechanism Committee has as an overseer of the oversee. The committee has since been provided with support to ensure that the committee renders the mandated responsibilities effectively and efficiently. This will ensure that the committee exercises its oversight role with confidence to enhance the Provincial Legislature's overall performance.

It is the responsibility of the portfolio committee to ensure that the Provincial Legislature continues to improve its performance to retain the clean audit.

THE SPEAKER

You have one minute left.

MS RADZILANI

The A-G's audit findings have shown that the Legislature has great potential of retaining a clean audit and thereby set a very good example as an oversight body to the departments and that has been proven in the 2019/20 financial year. The Oversight Mechanism Committee is hopeful that with the support rendered to the Legislature, it is highly possible to maintain the clean audit and prove to the public that we live the gospel we preach. Ndo livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Radzilani. Hon Smalle, you may the floor.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Members of this august House and other Members on the Teams platform. With reference to the Legislature, it is important to understand and note that the Legislature is an oversight body and is mandated to conduct oversight over the executive, make laws and conduct public participation. The Legislature has three critical mandates namely oversight, law-making, and public participation. The Legislative staff, led by the Secretary took the committee through the specific performance indicators and targets that the institution aims to achieve in this current financial year in pursuit of strategic outcomes, goals and objectives that were set out in this Strategic Plan.

Tools of trade are a great need for Members of this House to carry out their expected responsibilities. Therefore, as a committee, we raised the need of laptops and iPads replacements as per the indicated timeframe of the Legislature. It was highlighted that though this is of importance, the Legislature was looking at procuring the mentioned tools of trade for Members who did not receive these tools during the 2019/20 financial year.

On further engagement, the Legislature highlighted that it would prioritise the purchasing of the chamber equipment, which is commendable. The much-needed specific focus on the chamber upgrades is primarily important due to the current equipment that is no near the standard required to provide quality Hybrid Sitzings, hence Members who are supposed to be speaking on any item on the Order Paper should physically be in the House. Therefore, in an effort to be abreast with technology, the Democratic Alliance supports the Legislature's purchasing of the new chamber system to replace the outdated system, which cannot withstand the growing demand on the use of technology in our daily operations.

A policy that restricted the Legislature to take cellphone contracts on behalf of Members has been reviewed and the Legislature is now able to take contracts on behalf of Members. It will now be a fair choice of Members taking the cellphone benefits to run these cellphone accounts personally or surrender cellphone benefits to be administered by the Legislature. The committee recommended that the Legislature must ensure that the Department of Public Works puts all systems in place to allow SAPS to provide services as required at the Parliamentary Village.

On party funding, the previous Member went to great lengths and depth to indicate that PPFM funding will no longer be accessible to Members, and, therefore, how we operate and manage our financial affairs as political parties must be reviewed in line with the new support that will be given to political parties. It must be noted that much clearer regulations must be put forward to make sure that political parties do not find themselves wanting in that situation.

The Department of Public Works is done with the renovations of the administration block of the Legislature in this Lebowakgomo Government Complex. The Legislature has not yet occupied this building, because the network cables are not yet installed. It was anticipated that it would have been completed by the end of September 2020, but was unable due to funds constraints. The Limpopo Legislature is planning to complete the cabling by the 2021/22 financial year. I would urge the Speaker and the Secretary to fast track this as political parties would want to occupy their offices that were vacated because oftentimes parties would want to operate from those offices.

An amount of R125 million will be transferred to political parties voted into the Limpopo Legislature. This amount will cover costs for political parties for constituency administration, administrative fees, salaries and related costs of political party support staff, traveling and subsistence for Members.

The Democratic Alliance wishes to thank the administrative staff for providing support for political parties especially taking into consideration the new dispensation we find ourselves and operate in. Hon Speaker, we thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Hon Lekganyane, the committee chair, you may take the floor.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou; Hon Premier in absentia; Hon Chief Whip; and Deputy Chief Whip; honourable Members of the Executive Council; chairpersons of different portfolio committees; Members of the august House, kgotso ya Modimo ga e be le rena.

The Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism has considered the directive of the Limpopo Legislature to consider an adopt the report on the Annual Performance Plan and Budget allocation of the Limpopo Legislature, which was tabled by the Speaker in terms of section 133 and 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and House Rule 81(1)(b), (c) and (d) of the Standing Rules of the Orders of the Limpopo Legislature. The committee reports to the House that section 5.2 of the National Treasury Framework for managing programmes performance states that the

accounting officer of an institution is responsible for ensuring that the institution has processes to review performance and take necessary corrective actions to ensure that service delivery stays on track.

The committee welcomed the report by the Limpopo Legislature that the total Budget allocation for the 2021/22 financial year is R395,4 million. The committee has noticed that the Budget allocation has been cut by R41,2 million as compared to the previous financial year. The committee is encouraged that since the Limpopo Legislature got a clean audit, the Annual Performance Plan and Budget will be implemented within the confinement of the Public Finance Management Act, 1995 and the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act (FMMPLA). There should be no misalignment of the APP and Budget in terms of implementation, Hon Speaker. The APP details the specific performance indicators and targets that an institution will aim to achieve in the budget year and the next two years of the MTEF period in pursuit of strategic outcomes, goals and objectives set out in the Strategic Plan.

It is critical that Members and Members' properties are safe at their place of residence. The security to be provided by the SA Police Service is of utmost importance, hence Parliamentary Village is the property of the state. The committee received a report that Members of the Legislature are not guarded by the SAPS at the Parliamentary Village. Instead, they are guarded by security officers hired by the Department of Public Works. The committee also reports to the House that a recommendation was made that the Limpopo Legislature puts all systems in place to enable SAPS to provide the required services.

On the issue of political party funding, the committee advised the Legislature to speed up the process of ensuring that political parties access the political party funds to service their constituencies and further enable party caucuses to strengthen the administration. It was also reported that in the 2020/21 financial year, not all funds were transferred to the political parties on time.

The Oversight Mechanism Committee received a report that the Legislature had challenges with regard to bursaries awarded by the institution. The Legislature further reported that there was an engagement with the Human Resource Management and CFO to discuss the challenges regarding the budget allocation for bursaries for the year 2021/22 to establish where costs could be cut to cater for bursaries. The committee recommended that the process must be finalised, because when the Annual Performance Plan and Budget are approved, such approval is based on the target set for the specific financial year. The committee applauded the Legislature for complying with the payment of the invoices to suppliers within 30 days upon receiving the invoices. The Legislature must also ensure that assets are recorded properly to avoid queries by the Office of the Auditor-General.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank and applaud the members of the portfolio committee for a job well done. We also thank Team Legislature led by the Speaker, Hon Molapo, and the Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou, for their dedication and commitment.

In conclusion, having considered the Annual Performance Plan and Budget allocation of the Limpopo Legislature for the 2021/22 financial year, the committee accepted the APP and Budget of the Limpopo Legislature. Therefore, as the portfolio committee,

we recommend to the House to consider and adopt the APP and Budget for Vote 2 with an allocated Budget of R395,479 million. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane, the committee chair. We shall now call upon the Hon Deputy Speaker to come and represent the presiding officers and respond on the debate of Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Honourable Members of the House, let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Speaker and ourselves to appreciate the Oversight Mechanism Committee, led by Hon Lekganyane, for the work that they continue to do in advising and assisting us to continue improving the work we are doing as the Legislature. All the achievements that the Legislature is registering are because of the work that we do together with the oversight committee. We want to applaud them and encourage them to continue playing the oversight role, because it assists us to improve where we are supposed to improve.

I think there are only two concerns that have been raised. The first one is the tools of trade. Yes, it is correct. This issue is on the desk of the Speaker; she will ensure that the administration works on this and ensures that Members are provided with improved tools of trade to ensure that they conduct their work effectively.

The issue of the political party funding, we spoke about it last time. We are emphasising the point that the R44 million is the amount that is available this year. It is not like next year, we might have R44 million; we might not have it. Political parties must be aware of that. We have already spoken to leaders of political parties, through the Speaker, in terms of how the money has been allocated. I think political parties were content with the arrangement that the Hon Speaker has explained to them.

The other matters relate to the improvement on various areas such as sectoral parliament sessions, the clean audit, and the relocation. The relocation of the Legislature from here to Polokwane, the leading department is the Department of Public Works. The engagement involves Treasury, Public Works and ourselves, because this project has been registered as a public private partnership. Therefore, there are discussions about appointing transactional advisors and all those matters so that we can speed up the process. I think the process is taking long, of course, because of several reasons such as finance, amongst others. We hope that this process will be speeded up, so that the project kicks off from the ground.

We are attending to the issue of bursaries and we hope that it will not be an issue anymore.

We are ensuring that the cabling of the administration building is done as quickly as possible. We hope that we will be able to complete it within the period that has been mentioned by September and staff will be able to occupy those offices by that time.

We are also, as instructed by the Speaker, ensuring that this organisational structure which has been a draft for some time that somewhere by mid-July we should be done with it so that we have an approved organisational structure and thus ensuring that this issue no longer becomes part of the agenda in our discussions with the Oversight Mechanism Committee. We agree with the proposals and suggestions from the committee and as I said we can only succeed as this Legislature to continue improving with your help and your advice. We thank you for the work that you are doing with us. Madam Speaker, thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, for the response.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? There is none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned to Thursday, 24 June 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

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**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 24 JUNE 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
THURSDAY, 24 JUNE 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Please be seated.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there motions without notice in terms of Rule 145?

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there notices of motion in terms of Rule 146?

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Statements by Members in terms of Rule 200?

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 201?

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tabling of committee reports, other reports, and papers?

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There is a motion for the suspension of Rule 173, I call upon the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, House Rule 173 provides that: "Unless otherwise provided in these Rules, not more than one stage of a Bill may be taken on the same sitting day if objection to a further stage is made by four or more Members." It has therefore become necessary to invoke the provisions of House Rule 5 to suspend the provision of House Rule 173 in order to allow the House to finalise the Limpopo Appropriation Bill 2021 [B01-2021] today. I move accordingly, Hon speaker

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Monama Rodgers, rise to second the Chief Whip on the motion presented. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you.

7.2. The Second Reading and Approval of Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B01-2021]

7.2.1. Consideration and adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism

The first one is 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of LEDET. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MR SELAMOLELA

Where is my iPad? I had my iPad. [LAUGHTER]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You are out of order. You are there to table a report. Please proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

I was looking for my iPad so that I can table the report, but it is not here. I think they have taken it. [LAUGHTER]

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, the chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Limpopo Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism, hereby present for consideration and adoption the report for 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for LEDET.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Who is raising the hand? I cannot see properly. I call upon Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, hereby second Hon Selamolela.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for LEDA. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I Selelo Donald Selamolela, hereby present for consideration and adoption the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Limpopo Economic Development Agency. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second the move by Hon Selamolela, the chairperson of LEDET. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for LTA. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I Selelo Donald Selamolela hereby present for adoption and consideration by this august House the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Limpopo Tourism Agency.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Chair. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby second the proposal as put by Hon Selamolela.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Selamolela, after you have tabled, you sit down. The Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Limpopo Gambling Board, committee chairperson.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, as I stand up, I Selelo Donald Selamolela, the chairperson of the portfolio committee on Limpopo Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism, hereby stand to present for adoption and consideration by this august House the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Limpopo Gambling Board for the 2021/22 financial year.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Phala you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby second the motion as tabled by the committee chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Item 7.2.1.1 is the Second Reading debate on Budget Vote 06: Department of LEDET. This debate will focus on LEDET and its agencies, namely: LEDA, LTA and LGB. We shall refer to the Speakers' List and the first speaker on the debate is Hon Simon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present in this august House, Members of the opposition present in this House and those Members who have decided to go to unauthorised initiation schools and are not present today, and of course, Members of the Legislature; I greet you all. I appreciate the opportunity given to me to debate the Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities, namely: LEDA, LTA and LGB.

LEDET has a critical mandate of growing the economy of the province as well as ensuring that there is creation of jobs to alleviate the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. The department continues to play its role of regulating and creating an enabling environment for the economy to flourish. It is also expected that the entities including Limpopo Economic Development Agency and its subsidiaries, Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Tourism Agency, have the responsibility to implement programmes. These tasks are more important especially now since the provincial economy is still recovering from the effects of the recession as well as COVID-19. It is for this reason that the committee anticipates that the department and its entities should be well capacitated in order to deliver on its mandate, and they should have a clear economic recovery plan, which we believe has been tabled on various occasions.

Hon Deputy Speaker and Members of this august House, in terms of the capacity, the department and its entities have expressed that there are vacancies and the moratorium on the filling of those vacancies is affecting their capacity. The portfolio committee has recommended that the department identifies and motivates for filling of critical posts, especially those at senior management level, hence we appreciate the filling of key posts such as that of the CEO of LEDA amongst others.

We continue to be concerned with the non-compliance to employment equity in the department and its entities. As the committee, we urge the department to ensure that there is sufficient representation of female employees as well as persons living with disability. This for us becomes a non-negotiable point.

The committee notes the Budget allocated to the department and its entities for the 2021/22 financial year. Although the Budget has been reduced due to COVID-19 fund reprioritisation, we urge the department and entities to utilise the resources effectively in order to achieve the mandate during this challenging environment.

Hon Speaker, the state-owned entities have a critical role to play in the economy. However, lately these entities have been under scrutiny due to the need to reposition them effectively and efficiently to deliver on their developmental and profit generation mandates. For the profit generating entities within LEDA including Corridor Mining Resources, New Era, Limpopo Connexion, and Great North Transport (GNT). It is important that these entities become self-sustainable.

Of course, it is also important that LEDET and the Department of Transport should start engaging in terms of the relocation of GNT from LEDA to the Department of Transport. We call upon these two departments to begin engagements around that issue. As the committee we have requested the department to provide a clear action plan, which outlines the activities to be undertaken for the achievement of self-sustainability.

As the committee, we continue to be concerned that the economy of the province is still the same as during the apartheid era. Thus, mainly a primary economy where raw materials are produced in the province and transported to other provinces or countries for further processing. This situation results in the same manufactured products being sold to communities in our province at expensive prices. We recommend that throughout the province, there should be manufacturing centres for companies to ensure local beneficiation while creating more sustainable jobs. The development and support of cooperatives and SMMEs is critical for the provincial economic growth. Therefore, the department should continue to partner with other development agencies such as the Industrial Development Corporation, the National Development Agency, Small Enterprise Agency, National Youth Development Agency, and many others in order to leverage financial and non-financial support for SMMEs and cooperatives. The department will also continue regulating all the businesses in the province. We acknowledge the plans by the department to modernise business processes especially the liquor sector. The department will continue playing its regulatory role in all sectors of the Limpopo economy, and partner with other role players such as law enforcement agencies, where necessary.

The committee has noted with concern that the mining sector is negatively affected, and the instability in areas such as Sekhukhune, Waterberg and Phalaborwa are a serious concern. We appreciate the departmental intervention including the planned mining summit, which will assist in addressing the challenges of these mining communities. We urge the government to also tackle challenges in other sectors including the illegal activities such as gambling and illegal business establishment structures in nodal towns without having appropriate rezoning approvals.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone is a key mega project that could contribute significantly towards job creation and economic growth in the province, if implemented well. However, the project has taken time to take off from the ground and this negatively affects the trust of the expectant communities and other

potential role players. We urge the department to ensure that it communicates the delays to the citizens of Limpopo and all other role players.

Furthermore, as the department completes the EIA, it is important that the south side is fully ready for implementation along with the activities of the north side. The department and LEDA need to ensure that the allocated budget of R200 million is used efficiently towards the infrastructure that will be of benefit to the SEZ in the long term. In the same vein, the funds that are allocated to Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ should also contribute to the success of the very same referred SEZ. It is for this reason that we urge the department to ensure that the SEZ is designated. However, we are comforted by the fact that the areas have been economically active for years especially in mining.

The project on the implementation of broadband in the province has been touted as the critical project in enhancing the province to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution. However, the project has also its challenges with some notable delays in the implementation and subcontracting payment issues. We urge the department to ensure that as the project continues to be implemented, there should be compliance with the law in terms of reaching targets in relation to Black Economic Empowerment.

The Great North Transport is a critical entity in the province and has both a developmental and revenue generation mandate in order to sustain itself. However, the entity has been having challenges including broken down buses resulting in loss of market share and revenue. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You are left with one minute.

MR MATHE

A minute?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes.

MR MATHE

Then, thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mathe. The next speaker is Hon Maharaj. You have got five minutes.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The fact that Limpopo's unemployment problem is paramount is readily acknowledged, but the true magnitude of the problem is not always realised. This department and its entity's mission, to create and facilitate the development of a competitive economy, sustainable environment and tourism growth,

has not been realised fully to succeed in addressing our ever-growing unemployment rate. The chances of an unemployed person to get a job decrease as the time of unemployment becomes longer.

SARS statistics indicate that for the 2019 tax year, Limpopo had 162 269 taxpaying individuals. This is down by 105 877 taxpayers from the 2016 tax year. Our dwindling tax base coupled with 139 000 jobs lost over the past year and the unexpanded unemployment rate of 49,6%, coupled with LEDA and its entities' inability to turn a profit and to create jobs do not instil confidence for economic growth anytime soon.

LEDA certainly talks a big game, their lofty plans and intention to solicit funds for most of the projects are just unimplemented plans and intentions. Slow progress on implementation of key projects like the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (SEZ) which has been featuring in Premier Mathabatha's SOPA since 2014, bus refurbishment, investment centre, industrial parks accreditation, science and technology park and agro-processing is an impediment on our economic recovery.

Honourable MEC, since 2019, LEDA cannot facilitate the supply of chickens to the Lebowaqomo abattoir. How can we entrust the Limpopo largest economic project this Musina-Makhado SEZ to LEDA and expect a successful outcome? Why is LEDA's APP for the 2021/22 financial year focusing only on the amount of funds invested in infrastructure in the development of the Musina-Makhado SEZ and not focusing on specific issues such as construction levels, provision of water, roads and electricity?

The recently completed environmental impact assessment (EIA) made it clear that the land allocated to the Musina-Makhado SEZ is not suitable for a development of this nature, and yet LEDA remains mum on their position. How is it even possible that LEDA believes that Limpopo Connexion, Musina-Makhado SEZ, Limpopo Agribusiness, Great North Transport, Corridor Mining Resources and Enterprise Development Finance division will all reach breakeven points in the current financial year?

LEDA received more than half a billion rand from the department in the current budget and Great North Transport's irregular expenditure amounted to R78 million in 2016/17, R22 million in 2017/18 and R94 million in the 2018/19 financial years. It is a cumulative irregular expenditure totalling R194 million in three years. This subsidiary should be placed under debt rescue. With a decreased budget of R3,8 million, Limpopo Tourism must increase the opportunities at the disposal of the sector to include youth labour market, leveraging more destinations in Limpopo, the establishment of the special economic zones and the new mandate of the destination marketing that allows a renewed marketing focus.

The Limpopo Gambling Board will be allotted a grant of R60 652 000 in the form of equitable share from the department, which is 1% less than the appropriation made in the previous financial year after the COVID-19 adjustment. The entity also anticipates generating its own revenue to the tune of R68 million plus R17 743 000 and R1 526 000 from tax revenue, other sales and other activities unrelated to sales respectively. The Limpopo Gambling Board, as one of the optimally performing entities, should be weaned off the grant dependency to continue leading in this category. The revenue it generates can sustain it with necessary measures and monitoring provided to keep it afloat, then the grant can be reprioritised to other more deserving areas. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. May I then call Hon Donald Selamolela to come and address the House. You also have 10 minutes.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Deputy Speaker, in the absence of my iPad, I did find my notebook. I will try to speak from my notebook.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the MEC responsible for Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, and our dearest colleagues in the Executive Council of our beautiful province, friends, colleagues, allow me today to greet you in the name of the Freedom Charter, economic emancipation, and national democratic society that we all want to live in.

In two days to come, exactly 66 years ago, our forebears met in Kliptown to define the society that they yearn for, we, their children to live in. They have said in that occasion that they want us as their children to live in a society and a country where all shall share in the economy of that particular country. Those great men and women traversed the cold winter of that year from different walks of life. They walked from the far-flung areas, from the villages and from the peri-urban areas. Those forebears of ours climbed the mountains and crossed the rivers to come to Kliptown on that 25 June 1955 to define the future that they wanted their children to live. They walked and did all that, because for the first time, they had to define the South Africa of the future.

Today, as we look forward to celebrate the 66 years of the Freedom Charter, the people's charter, we must do that with the understanding that whatever we do in our efforts, whatever we do in our commitment, we live up to the expectations of our forebears. We must do everything not to disappoint them, for they spared no effort in that particular work of defining the future for us, and not sparing any effort but committing and working hard to ensure that the liberation struggle is fuelled from that particular point on that particular day, with a clear understanding of the society that we all must live in the national democratic society. It is with that understanding that when we engaged with you, Hon Mokone, we engaged with you as a committee with the understanding that as the MEC for the portfolio responsible for propelling the economy of this particular province forward, you have it in your understanding that whatever we do, must be about building an inclusive economy that responds to the needs of our people, and that our people must participate in that particular economy. I think Hon Mathe went a great deal to define some of the recommendations that we have made as a committee. We have made these recommendations with the understanding that they would assist the department in creating that envisaged society that the people's charter or the Freedom Charter of 1955 actually defines.

You know, Hon Mokone, that as a department you have a mandate to propel the economy of this province forward. In the language of Hon Phala, we have a duty to transform the economy from the bantustan economy to a developmental economy that responds to the need of our people in line with the people's charter, the Freedom Charter. Hon Phala will say, we must transform the bantustan economy of our province to be an inclusive developmental economy in line with what Hon Mathe was saying.

It is against this background that we have implored you, Hon Mokone, and your department to ensure that the critical posts in the department are filled to enable the department to be responsive and take the lead in driving the economy forward.

We have also implored you, Hon Mokone, that the challenges relating to the environmental impact assessment of Musina-Makhado SEZ must be finalised. They must be finalised because it is our understanding as the committee, that this mega project has the capacity to ensure that our people participate fully in the economy and further resolves the challenges that Hon Maharaj is complaining about, of the shortage of jobs in the province. To Hon Maharaj, Hon Smalle will tell you that we are on the same page, insofar as the understanding of these processes are concerned. We are agreeing that if we can overcome these challenges, the Musina-Makhado SEZ will move a great limp in terms of resolving the challenges of youth unemployment and unemployment in general. We will also make a dent in improving the economy of this province. So, you should not be worried, because we are on the same page. We have a common understanding and are moving together in unison; and Hon Smalle will attest to that fact.

We understand that COVID-19 has a denting impact on the economy of the province and on the lives of our people. We have received a presentation as part of this Annual Performance Plan and Budget from the department that included the recovery plan. We have called on Hon Mokone and the team to ensure that they speedily implement the recovery plan and that key identified initiatives relating to the recovery plan are speedily implemented in the province. We have also implored as a committee on the issues relating to Limpopo Connexion. While we are worried about bad reporting relating to this particular entity, it is our conviction and the understanding of the entirety of us as committee members that now more than any time ever before our people need connectivity. COVID-19 has taught us that we are nothing and nothing without connectivity. It is with this understanding that we have implored honourable ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

One minute left, honourable Member.

MR SELAMOLELA

It would seem like you want to deny me the opportunity to ... nonetheless, we have also noted some progress with the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. The department must ensure that they start putting pieces together to ensure that this particular special economic zone is finally approved so that it can add to the efforts of Musina-Makhado SEZ.

Insofar as tourism is concerned, we are worried about the impact that the Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL) has on the travel and tourism in the province. We call upon MEC Mokone to engage with the relevant Members of the Executive Council to ensure the closure of that particular gap.

We have implored on Limpopo Tourism Agency again to ensure that the marketing of towns and heritage sites of our province is heightened. It must be heightened, because

if we are to leverage on the economy of tourism in this province, and if we are to live up to the expectations of the Freedom Charter, that our people must participate in the economy, it must be on the basis of our people harnessing the fortunes relating to tourism. Therefore, the Limpopo Tourism Agency has a responsibility in that particular regard.

Insofar as the Limpopo Gambling Board is concerned, we have said that we need to ensure that we start seeing previously disadvantaged individuals of our province participating in the gambling space. The gambling space remains lily-white, the gambling space remains in the hands of the previously advantaged men of this country prior 1994. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Member, your time has expired.

MR SELAMOLELA

We are more than convinced that with this effort, we will live up to the expectation of the Freedom Charter. Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I wish to remind Members that they are allocated time to speak, and such allocated time is mentioned prior to Members taking the podium. When you come to the podium, immediately when you open your mouth to speak, that time starts counting. If you do not go to your issues, and you want to start by joking and all that, you are consuming your time. You get surprised at the end when you are left with two minutes. I am not even keeping the time; the time is kept by the Table here.

We call upon honourable MEC to come and respond to the debate. MECs should remember that they are only given three minutes to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Hon Speaker, just like Cde Selamolela, I too do not have an iPad; so, I shall use my notebook.

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, my colleagues in the Executive Council, , the Chief whip of the majority party, Members of the august House, members of the DA, our friends 'The Reds' in absentia, the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Donald Selamolela, and members of the committee, I am responding to the debate on the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; LEDA; LTA; and LGB. Indeed, we want to say that the road ahead is not going to be easy. COVID-19 has destroyed everything that we had. We had our plans in place. The provincial government did put money for us to implement what we thought we were going to do. But because we had to balance the issue of life and the economy, an amount of R420 million was taken away from our department, and with an understanding that we just have to move a step back and when the economy recovers, that money was going to be allocated back to us.

The MEC for Provincial Treasury assured us in the economic sector that he was going to give back the money when the economic downturn is over. Mr Maharaj, this issue has nothing to do with politics. It has to do with reality that all along Limpopo was resilient. When other provinces had problems, we were able to sustain ourselves, but this time we are the most affected province. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

As you conclude, MEC.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

We will deal with all the issues that have been raised including the issue of industrialisation and the issues of creating employment, just to name but a few. We will make sure that our socioeconomic recovery plan is implemented to assist in reigniting our economy. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.3. Motion for the Third Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B01-2021]

I call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Now that the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B01-2021] has gone through all the relevant stages of the legislative process of this House, I move that the Bill be read for the third time in terms of the provisions of House Rule 170. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the motion as made by the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall proceed with the Third Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B01-2021]. We are going to adopt the Bill and request Members not to go out as we are going to be voting on the Bill. We are adopting the Bill clause by clause. Those who agree with the Bill should say "Ayes", and those who disagree will say "Nay".

We will start with clause 1: Definition. Those who agree will say "Ayes".

MEMBERS

Ayes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those who disagree will say “Nay”. [SILENCE] The “Ayes” have it. Clause 2: Appropriation of money? Those who agree will say “Ayes”.

MEMBERS

Ayes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those who disagree will say “Nay”. [SILENCE] Clause 3: Amounts listed as specifically and exclusively appropriated? Those who agree will say “Ayes”.

MEMBERS

Ayes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those who disagree will say “Nay”. [SILENCE] The “Ayes” have it. Clause 4: Conditions for appropriations? Those who agree will say “Ayes”. Those who disagree will say “Nay”.

MEMBERS

Ayes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The “Ayes” have it. Clause 5: Authorisation of expenditure? Those who agree will say “Ayes”.

MEMBERS

Ayes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those who disagree will say “Nay”. [SILENCE] The “Ayes” have it. Clause 6: Spending before commencement of Appropriation Act for 2022/23 financial year? Those who agree will say “Ayes”.

MEMBERS

Ayes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those who disagree will say “Nay”. [SILENCE] The “Ayes” have it. Clause 7: Short title. Those who agree will say “Ayes”.

MEMBERS

Ayes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those who disagree will say “Nay”. [SILENCE] The “Ayes” have it. We are now going to adopt vote by vote of the Bill. Vote 01: Office of the Premier. [SILENCE]

Vote 02: Limpopo Legislature. You should say “Yes”.

MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 03: Department of Education?

MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 04: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development?

MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 05: Provincial Treasury?

MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 06: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism?

MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 07: Department of Health?

MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 08: Department of Transport and Community Safety?

MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 09: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure?

MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture?

MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA?

MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 12: Department of Social Development?

MEMBERS

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now call upon the Secretary to read the short title.

MR NKOANA [ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY]

This Act shall be called the Limpopo Appropriation Act, 2021. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members.

7.5. Consideration and Adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development.

7.5.1. The 2020/21 first quarter report of the Department of Social Development

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, present the 2020/21 first quarter report for the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the move as made by Hon Monyamane. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

7.5.2. The 2021/22 Second Quarter Report of the Department of Social Development

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, present the 2020/21 second quarter report of the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Rebecca Seono, raise my hand to second the report as presented by Hon Monyamane. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We now move to the 2020/21 third quarter report of the Department of Social Development.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, present the 2020/21 third quarter report for the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I want to second the move by the committee chair, Hon Sarah Monyamane.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Next time, Hon Selamolela, do not raise your hand and then hold your head. You should raise your hand straight, so that you do not confuse us.

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and therefore call Hon Violet Mathye to open the debate. Hon Mathye, you have got 10 minutes.

MS MATHYE

Hon Deputy Speaker, honourable MECs present in the House, fellow honourable Members, avuxeni. Good morning. Goeie more. Hon Speaker, in the first quarter briefing by the department, the committee learned that the department stopped offering bursaries in the 2020/21 financial year to prospective social workers. The department explained that the reason for not offering bursaries in the quarter under review was due to high number of unemployed social workers. The idea was to reduce the backlog. It was further reported that the department had budgetary constraints. However, 116 social workers who are graduates were appointed by the national Department of Social Development on a three-month contract to assist in the fight against COVID-19 and the contracts had ended. However, an amount of R2,4 million was received from the Provincial Treasury through COVID-19 budget adjustments, and the contract was extended with a further three months starting from 01 September 2020 to 30 November 2020. It was added that the department has developed a three-year recruitment plan in an endeavour to gradually appoint the graduates while also linking them with sector departments and institutions.

Furthermore, the department was working with stakeholders such as Health and Welfare, SETA, and Wits Health Consortium to temporarily place 210 unemployed graduates on internship. The committee is concerned that the department is unable to address this challenge. In our election manifesto, we made a promise to create quality

jobs. The department must develop a plan on how social workers could be absorbed. The committee believes that during this COVID-19 pandemic, social workers must be in demand to assist communities with psychosocial therapies for those who have lost their loved ones, particularly where families are headed by children.

The committee observed that the department is not addressing accruals which also recur in the next financial year. The department reported that 55 vehicles were purchased during the 2019/20 financial year. However, the payment was not made due to cash flow challenges. The department explained that a budget shortfall on capital payments was experienced. The invoices for vehicles were then processed in April 2020. The department reported that a request was made for a rollover which was declined due to COVID-19 budget reprioritisation. The committee is concerned by this non-compliance of 30 days payment policy.

The department also experienced a shortfall on payables for key accounts and contractual obligations estimated at R20,1 million and the committee is further concerned that non-payment of service providers leads to litigations which will further exacerbate unnecessary expenditures by the department. The committee commends the department on its achievements in terms of implementing the recommendations as made by the Office of the Auditor-General and in accordance with Scopa recommendations. The department implemented 50% in quarter 2, and 93% in quarter 3 of the recommendations. The departments must work hard in ensuring that this achievement is maintained and achieved at 100% in the fourth quarter.

The department reported to the committee about food security in the second and third quarter. The committee realised that the department was unable to achieve its target during the quarter under review. According to the APP, the department planned to distribute 150 000 food parcels, while in the third quarter it planned to distribute 175 000 food parcels. This was reported that 119 461 food parcels were distributed in the second quarter, and 131 608 food parcels were distributed in the third quarter. The department failed to achieve its targets during the quarter under review. It is undesirable that while we know that our province is poverty stricken and there are communities that are in dire need of food, we fail to deliver these services. The department must ensure that targets are met so that they can match the expenditure.

The committee supports the adoption of the first, second and third quarter report as presented in this House. I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mathye. Our next speaker is Hon Katlego Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. By quarter two in relation to the A-Gs recommendations, the department by then planned to resolve 50% on the audit findings. The target was exceeded by 86% and the department managed to resolve 23 of the 27 audit findings. The 86% achievement was attributed to the intensive monitoring of the action plan. This House should join the committee in commending the department for resolving audit findings exceedingly so.

Hon Speaker, as we debate the first and second and third quarter reports of the Department of Social Development, the department played a huge role at the height of COVID-19 lockdown before there was a need for health expertise. It was the Department of Social Development that was expected to secure and provide a place of safety, where we saw places of safety for the homeless across districts being implemented. The department was also able to reunite many homeless people with their families.

Many of the department's programmes underachieved within the quarters under review due to the impact of COVID-19. The department reported underachievement with regard to older persons accessing residential facilities. It was indicated that 552 was reached instead of the planned target of 568. It was further indicated that the underachievement was due to some deaths that occurred affecting older persons alongside COVID-19 impact. COVID-19 further affected the underperformance in relation to the persons with disabilities accessing residential facilities, 285 targets were reached instead of the 294. The underperformance was due to families who opted to take their family members to their respective homes due to fear of COVID-19 infections. Though some of its programmes underperformed due to COVID-19, the department overachieved in some. The department reported that the number of beneficiaries receiving psychosocial support increased and a target of 2 744 was achieved instead of the planned target of 113. The overperformance was attributed to isolation with family members, anxiety and depression during COVID-19. The department indicated that services were offered through social workers to those affected and infected.

In relation to Shiluvana Frail Care Centre, the department reported that the Life Esidimeni contract was coming to an end in September 2021. At a meeting held on 19 May 2020, the department stated that the former Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, indicated that the facility should be run by the Department of Health. Furthermore, the department pleaded with us as a committee to intervene in ensuring that the Department of Health understands its mandate insofar as leading the facility. The committee requested that the letter be submitted to the committee which the department weighed. It was recommended that the committee should request a meeting with the Portfolio Committee on Health to discuss the matter. This House should know that as a committee led by the Hon Monyamane, progress was made on this issue and joint meeting recently took place and resolved to have an oversight visit as soon as possible with both MECs present.

Hon Speaker, by quarter 3, 35 children were awaiting trial and 14 children were sentenced in secure centres. The high crime rate committed by children concerned us a committee. The committee continues to reiterate that a holistic community action plan needs to be developed to curb the challenge. The fight against children committing crime cannot be the sole responsibility of the department. Therefore, partnerships with SAPS, communities, traditional leaders, sister departments and private sector should be established.

The Phasha-Selatole One Stop Centre remains a headache to the committee. The R6 million centre, which was completed and later claimed by a community member who later won in court due to the absence and non-attendance of state lawyers then, is still not resolved. It is a matter that has since been sitting with the Office of the Premier's legal advisors. This august House should note that as a committee, we were not

pleased at all. We also note with great concern that the legal representative from the Office of the Premier was not available to engage as a committee as per the resolution taken on 22 April 2021. Though the legal advisor of the department briefed the committee, this is a long-standing issue that has been sitting with the Office of the Premier. The delayed actions of the Office of the Premier's legal people have afforded many of the department's officials who were involved with this project from its dawning days until finish an opportunity to escape without being held accountable, because most of them are no longer with the Department of Social Development and Public Works. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I call upon Hon Sarah Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs present, honourable MECs, honourable Members, good morning. The committee reported on several occasions about the controversy surrounding the Phasha-Selatole One Stop Centre and Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. The two centres involve the Department of Health, the Department of Public Works, and the Premier's Office. The Phasha-Selatole One Stop Centre is built in the Sekhukhune District at GaPhasha. During the briefing, the committee noticed that the land where the centre is built is alleged to belong to a private person. The committee noticed further that the centre is complete but cannot be utilised due to a court case interdicting the department access to the centre. The department reported that the matter is with the legal officers in the Premier's Office.

The department was requested to invite the legal officer from the Office of the Premier who was handling the Phasha-Selatole One Stop Centre case to come and brief the committee. The department failed to secure the legal officer with the reason that he had other commitments. The committee is concerned about the non-committal by the department to ensure that this matter is resolved, and that the one-stop centre does not become a white elephant. The committee is reporting to this House that the department must secure the legal officer concerned from the Office of the Premier for a briefing. If the department continues to waste too much time on this matter, they will continue to receive an audit outcome with material misstatement of fruitless and wasteful expenditure, which is undesirable. The Department of Public Works must also assist in resolving this matter as the custodian of public assets.

The other concerning matter is the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. The crux of the matter regarding this centre involves the Department of Health and Social Development. The committee is concerned that when it comes to matters of ownership and management, the departments involved are not willing to meet and resolve that on time before the matter gets out of hand. The Shiluvana Frail Care Centre also involves the contract of Life Esidimeni, which was on the front pages of print media in Gauteng. The committee intends inviting the two departments for a meeting during an oversight visit to this centre on a date to be determined. To resolve this matter, the committee will not allow this matter to drag until the end of this financial year.

The department was allocated a total budget of R2 360 027.00. The committee is concerned during the quarters under review, the expenditure by the department was

low and not in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999). The total expenditure in quarter 1 was 21% for all departmental programmes, the expenditure in quarter 2 was 34% instead of 50% and 57% instead of 75% on Restorative Services programme. If the spending is at 57% in quarter 3, how will the department spend 100% of its allocation on Restorative Services? The accounting officer must ensure that personnel concerned are able to execute their work according to the approved APP. The accounting officer must be able to institute consequence management on the personnel concerned. If this is due to lack of capacity that should be addressed.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the committee is concerned that there is a recurrence of fruitless and wasteful expenditure from the previous financial year. The fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R5,8 million is in relation to the GaPhasha Selatole One Stop Centre. The department must ensure that all recommendations are addressed, because the department has the potential to obtain a clean audit opinion. The committee will provide the necessary support by exercising its oversight role to ensure that the department achieves the desired goals.

The committee observed with concern the misappropriation of funds in relation to procurement of PPEs during COVID-19. However, that was a national challenge. Furthermore, the committee was aware that there was an investigation conducted by the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) that cuts across all institutions of provincial government departments in this regard. In his presentation of the SOPA, the Premier promised the people of Limpopo that the government is prepared to fight against corruption. The committee reiterates to the department that even though procurement of PPEs during COVID-19 was a national challenge, the department must assist the citizens of Limpopo in fighting the scourge of corruption. The department must submit the SIU report in relation to COVID-19 expenditure to the committee.

The committee support the adoption of the first, second, third quarter reports with the recommendations and further encourages the department to work towards obtaining a clean audit outcome at the end of the financial year. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The MEC is not here. I am told that Hon Boshielo will speak on her behalf. I must mention that she was here in the chamber and then received a message of bereavement from home. That is why she is not here.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. The MEC was here, but she received a message that her grandmother passed on. She had to go home. I also wish to indicate that MEC Moraka is not here; she lost her father yesterday.

Hon Speaker, we have noted what the committee is saying about the improvement in terms of Auditor-General's report. Yes, indeed, we need more social workers, because the department works in an integrated way where we need social workers to attend to problems such as bullying in our schools, GBV and those who are impacted by COVID-19. EXCO is busy with the matter, because there was a moratorium in terms of the compensation of employees (COE) and will report to the committee in due course.

We noted the concern about the 30-day payment and will improve in that regard. We will definitely implement all the recommendations of the A-G and Scopa. The issues of disability are at our heart of our programmes. Yes, I agree we need to improve in this regard.

On Shiluvana and Phasha-Selatole multipurpose centres, we are busy with them. It is unfortunate that we did not get the required support from Office of the Premier's legal unit, but I know that the DG is busy with the matter. We will be able to report to the committee.

Lastly, yes, we are dealing with corruption as the Premier has said we are not going to tolerate any corruption. Where corruption raises its head, we will deal with it decisively. When we get the SIU report, we will submit the report to the committee. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC, for that response. May I ask the House to rise and observe a moment of silence before we proceed.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. We move to consideration of an adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Education. The first one is the 2020/21 first quarter report of the Department of Education. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Education to move for the consideration and adoption of 2020/21 first quarter report. I so move, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I raise my hand to second the move as made by Hon Mathye. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Member. The 2020/21 second quarter report. The committee chair, you are recognised.

MS MATHYE

I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise to move for the consideration and adoption of the 2020/21 second quarter report. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MONYAMANE

Hon Speaker, I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second the move by Hon Mathye, the chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Education. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

7.6.3. The 2020/21 Third Quarter Report of the Department of Education

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise to move for the consideration and adoption of the 2020/21 third quarter report. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR MATLOU

Ndza khensa mufambisi wa ntirho. Mina ndzi ri Joshua Matlou ndzi yima laha ku seketela leswi Manana Mathye va swi vuleke leswaku hi amukela xiviko xa kotare ya vunharhu. Inkomu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Matlou. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and call upon Hon Joshua Matlou. Just a reminder that you have 10 minutes.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier in absentia, honourable Members of the Executive Council present, the august House, as a member of the Portfolio Committee on Education, we will be debating on first, second and third quarter report. As education is a precondition for development, we welcome the opportunity given to us to debate the quarterly reports of the Department of Education. Education and health, as you know, consume a greater percentage of the provincial allocations. This is because the ANC government prioritises education, because education has been proven time and again to be the centre of improving the overall living conditions. Being the precondition for development, it is therefore important MEC that this responsibility given to you must be executed with due diligence it warrants.

In terms of the inability to fill the vacant posts in the quarters under review, we are concerned about the inability to fill the vacant posts resulting in the continuous underspending in the compensation of employees. We understand that challenges

due to COVID-19 may have delayed the programme, but we would like to see the department moving faster in filling the vacant posts. This should also be the case with regard to the filling of posts of therapists that are to be placed in special schools. This is a long-standing matter, and we would like to see the department doing more in resolving the particular challenge.

In terms of the failure to spend on infrastructure, we are concerned that up to the third quarter of the year under review, the department continues to fail spending funds that are allocated for infrastructure. This is a common concern because every time we meet with the department, we continuously talk about the poor state of our schools' infrastructure. We continue to have dilapidated and storm-damaged schools, yet according to the report of the department by the third quarter, it has only spent 47% of the budget allocated for infrastructure. This points to a serious problem in the department, as such we would like clarity from the MEC on what exactly the problem is. The question of the construction of two special schools remains a pressing issue in the department. It cannot be that the programme seems to have a challenge taking more of because it was mentioned in the Budget Speech of both the Premier and the MEC since 2019/20 financial year.

We would like the department to update the House on other infrastructure projects besides the special schools. We would also like to be briefed on how far the department is with its other projects which are planned for the year under review. The department has indicated through the MEC that pit toilets will be history in the province by 2023. We are however concerned if this will ever be a reality given the slow pace in which these projects are moving. The department will also keep in mind that the longer the projects are delayed, the more expensive they become because prices for building materials escalate with every passing year.

On the migration of ECD from the Department of Social Development, we are concerned that this programme is moving slowly. We are not really sure what the challenges are all about. We would like the MEC to inform us on when this programme will be fully completed as well as highlight the challenges with regard to the migration of ECD. The programme has spent 71% of the overall allocation by the third quarter and as such, we would expect the progress report in that respect. The department should also ensure that trainings are provided for ECD practitioners. It has been recommended that the department conduct in-house training of ECD practitioners to reduce the reliance on external service providers. We would also like the department to apprise the House with regard to the progress on the training of ECD practitioners.

On merging of schools and challenges of teacher absenteeism, the department is doing very well in merging non-viable small schools. We would like to encourage the department in that respect and hope that the department will continue in this path as it saves a lot of resources. We are however concerned about the problem of teacher absenteeism in many districts. This is a serious problem given the fact that we have already lost a lot of time due to the COVID-19 pandemic and more time lost during the rotational system. We also want the department to explain to this House on what the challenges with teacher absenteeism are. We hope that this was due to COVID-19 epidemic and comorbidities against amongst teachers. This problem should soon be addressed by the vaccination drive that will be prioritised come 25 and 26 June 2021.

The issue of eLearning has been mentioned in the Budget Speech by the MEC, and we would like the MEC to inform us on the progress in the schools where eLearning has been piloted. We understand that schools such as Harry Oppenheimer were identified as pilot schools for eLearning. We also want to be briefed if the eLearning has been found to improve the overall quality of education. Indeed, as we move into the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we should also cater whatever new forms of learning and teaching to enhance and enrich schooling experience.

In conclusion, Hon Deputy Speaker, we want the department also to brief the House on how it is doing in terms of finishing the curriculum across grades given that most of the time has been lost during COVID-19 period and reduced teaching hours due to rotational classes. Does the department plan to have the winter enrichment classes for the grade 12? We also want to remind the MEC that once the budget has been tabled in the Legislature, it becomes policy and one should not deviate from that particular move. MEC, we should also ensure that the implementing agencies that partner with the department are more reliable and are equal to the task. We rely on the department to provide quality learning to our learners and as such we want to encourage you to swiftly address the challenges of teacher absenteeism. We also want you to encourage all teachers to vaccinate to halt the threat posed by COVID-19 as we know that the majority of our teachers are over 40 years and many have comorbidities which increase their risk profile.

We hope that the MEC has noted the issues raised and will move with speed in addressing them. The committee supports the adoption of the first, second and third quarter reports of the department. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou. I call upon Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. In the first quarter the department reported a decline in the number of learners benefiting from no-fee paying schools. The decline in learner enrolment is worrying and factors behind the fluctuation in learner enrolment need to be visited at length. The department had reported in the first and second quarters that there were 36 schools that were provisionally closed due to reduced learner enrolment. However, in the third quarter, the department reported to date that they are now 48 schools that do not use SA-SAMS (South African School Administration and Management System) as they were closed due to smaller learner enrolment.

Hon Speaker, in the second quarter, the department had spent 67% of the allocated funds in the Independent Schools programme; 46,5% in the Public Special School programme, and 45,9% in the Early Childhood Development programme. The most concerning programmes were the Infrastructure Development and the Examination and Education-related Services that had only used 24,9% and 12,2% of their allocation respectively. In the third quarter, the department had spent 71,7% of its allocated R33,9 billion to date. It also seems that that department had underspent in all the programmes as none had spent 75% or more with ECD and Infrastructure Development, spending less than 70%.

Special Schools have since spent 72,9% of the total budget allocation during the quarter under review. Once again, the Examination and Education-related Services programme underperformed in the third quarter having spent only 29% of its allocated financial budget. The programmes under 70% spending were largely due to the performance indicator reporting planned for the fourth quarter. The Infrastructure Development programme plays a key role in providing infrastructural support to the public ordinary schools, public special schools and early childhood development. The department has spent 62,8% of the allocated budget for the programme. In quarter 3, it was raised by the committee that the department should have briefed the committee on progress to date regarding the availability of basic resources necessary to meet the demands of the second wave of COVID-19 variant in schools.

Although not all the performance indicators for the examination and education-related services were not reported on because none of them were planned for the reporting in any quarter other than in quarter four, it is important for the department to provide learner performance progress updates on issues such as mid-examinations and support learners and schools were necessary to continuously improve Grade 12 performances. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. I call upon Hon Violet Mathye.

MS MATHYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning to my one and only Mercy Pakela, our MEC in tekkies. The committee welcomes the continuous efforts of both teachers and learners in these difficult times. As we all know that we are still engulfed in the crisis of COVID-19. As the committee, we continue to urge all to take the necessary precaution. We believe that the low numbers in Limpopo are due to compliance by the people of the province. For that reason, one would like to continue to remind our people to wear masks, wash their hands, sanitise and reduce unnecessarily movements. We commend the department for having provided the schools with all the resources that are needed in the fight against this pandemic. We further welcome the efforts by the Department of Health to vaccinate teachers. We want to encourage all our teachers and security personnel to make themselves available for the vaccine despite their different beliefs.

On the merger of schools, we want to commend the department on the progress made so far with regard to the merging of schools. This is against the knowledge that we have on the challenges that are faced by non-viable small schools. Indeed, in the past years many of these schools have contributed to the 0% pass rate. We urge the department to continue with this progress. We however want to know what the department is doing with the school infrastructure of the merged schools to ensure that they are not vandalised.

We are concerned MEC by the report of the 3% of teacher absenteeism in our schools. We would like the department to indicate the districts where we have a high rate of absent teachers. What are the factors that lead to this problem and what are the measures in place to address this challenge? The non-availability of teachers

obviously affects teaching and learning at schools. We should not forget our plea that teachers should be at school on time and teaching.

The migration of early childhood development (ECD) from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education seems to be moving at a slow pace. But as a committee, we commend the department for having taken us into confidence about the reasons behind this challenge of migration and we hope that as soon as there are enough funds, the project will move as expected.

We are concerned that infrastructure development is one of the slowest moving programmes of the department with the budget expenditure far lower than the norm. Quarter after quarter we get reports on progress with regard to the infrastructure programme, including storm-damaged schools and pit latrines. We are concerned that planned targets with regard to infrastructure development are not met in the quarters under review even though the programmes are fully funded. The reasons given that there are challenges in the supply chain management are not convincing. We would like to believe that the department has capable people at management level and there is no justification why this programme should be stalled continuously.

We were informed in our last interaction with the department that the three special schools, namely: Asiphumelele, Rethuseng and Rivoni schools are at the design stage with Rivoni school at the award stage. We are also concerned that the cost of this project will continue to escalate over time. While we understand that we are chasing never-ending targets, we should at least have some projects that are implemented and seen through to finish. We know that pit latrines will take time to eliminate in the province due to lack of funds.

We are aware that the problem of the appointment of therapists in special schools will remain a problem. We understand that the department has advertised posts, although there are still not enough therapists who applied for these posts. We would advise the department to make its package more attractive so that we can have the necessary specialists appointed in our special schools. We would meanwhile advise the department to rotate the specialists until such time that it is able to fill the vacant posts.

The department supported independent schools in accordance with the South African Schools Act. There were, however, some schools which did not meet the requirements and were not subsidised. These schools failed to comply with the set standards for them to qualify for subsidies. What steps has the department taken to assist these schools? It is important to assist these schools as they go a long way in the education of a significant number of learners in our schools.

In conclusion, we want to urge the department to spend in accordance with the PFMA. We are especially concerned that the infrastructure programme continues to move slowly in achieving its set targets. MEC, we would like you to ensure that a special team is selected to oversee the completion of projects that are lagging. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathye. We shall now call upon the MEC for Education to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I think we have noted what the committee has raised about the feeling of posts. As I said earlier, there was a moratorium on the filling of posts, because EXCO realised that we are spending too much money in terms of the compensation of employees (COE). As I am talking to you, the budget that people think is too much, 80,2% of it is spent on educators' salaries. We cannot even staff our offices and are eagerly waiting for the lifting of the moratorium so that we can fill the required posts.

In terms of infrastructure. I just want to say that when we tabled last year's APP and Budget in the Legislature, unfortunately we were not allowed to amend it to deal with the COVID-19 realities. We were advised to table the APP as is. It now appears as if Education was not spending on anything. Remember, schools were closed from 18 May to 31 August, as a result there was no way we could have spent or built anything. In terms of the infrastructure, because we do not get any allocation from the provincial funds – Moreki is here today, at least he can hear – We are Sassa and we got a grant from the national Department of Basic Education. They gave us instruction to use the same money to buy the PPEs. It is their money anyway and they can dictate. There was no way as the Department of Education, we could have defied the President under level 5, and went out and built whatever.

Let us be hopeful that we would be able to deal with some of these issues. That is why we are vaccinating all our teachers. In the next two days, we will be vaccinating 38 400 educators and in the next weekend, we would have vaccinated nearly all of them. On Saturday next week, as Limpopo we would have vaccinated 61 000. Do not panic when people say we are moving at a snail's pace. We are hard at work to make sure that we take our learners back to school full-time. You will agree with me that we cannot afford to have foundation phase learners going to school two days a week; when they return to school the following week, they have forgotten what they learned. Can you call that education? That is why we are going all out to do that. Please be patient with us. Give us some time to put our house in order.

In terms of the eLearning, we are still on course. Due to budget constraints, we are starting with Grade 1 and Grade 8. This has a huge impact, Hon Speaker. If you look at the private schools, they were able to get 93%. Just like the public schools, they too were closed due to lockdown regulations; but they were offering online lessons. Bana b arena le bona ke batho. Whether they come from Tshitutuni or somewhere else, they deserve to know and use the 4IR. Le bona ke batho. They were not born on the wrong side of the province. We will continue doing that no matter the circumstances.

As I said, we will not come here and complain. The meagre funds that we have, we will use them. With your support, we were able to improve in terms of how we use our money. Your criticism has built us. We are now stronger and are able to deal with issues.

It pains us to see the infrastructure that is not in good condition. We don't want to go back and start blaming our predecessors. We know we have got the dashboard; we have the heart to do them. Moreki, fakimali uzobona. As long as we get funds, we will be able to do that. I know this government is a very caring government, and it would

do everything possible to make sure that we invest in an infrastructure of high quality so that we give our learners quality education.

By the way, every child is an asset. We want every child to develop and have a bright future. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

7.7. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Education

7.7.1 Site Visits on School Readiness, January 2020

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Deputy Speaker. I, Susani Violet Mathye, rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Education to move for the consideration and adoption of the report on site visits on school readiness in January-February 2020. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand here to second the report as presented by Hon Mathye. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.7.2 Oversight Visits to Schools in all Districts of the Province

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Deputy Speaker. I move for the consideration and adoption of the oversight visit to all districts to check COVID-19 compliance. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall refer to the Speakers' List and the first speaker on this debate is Hon Falaza Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, honourable Members. Hon Speaker, Hon Chief Whip and the House at large, good morning. I stand before you on behalf of the ANC to contribute to the debate on the report of the Portfolio Committee on Education on its visit to schools last year. The debate is happening at a time when we are moving towards the end of the celebration of Youth Month in honour of the 1976 generation of young people who contributed immensely to our freedom. We are engaged on this debate in honour of our struggle icon Charlotte Maxeke, a highly educated woman of her times with a Bachelor of Science degree that was and still is the envy of many even today.

The committee managed to visit all districts in our province, namely: Vhembe, Mopani, Capricorn, Sekhukhune and Waterberg and the focus was on the assessment of the provision of quality education and infrastructure by the department. However, not all schools were visited; we visited only identified schools. In Vhembe, we visited Patrick Ramaano Secondary School, which is a high performing school with 100% matric pass rate and well-known for its high-level discipline. However, infrastructure was found to be a challenge at Patrick Ramaano High School and most buildings are dilapidated. It was reported that letters were written to the department applying for new buildings since 1993. It could be understood then, because that time we were still in an apartheid era, but we are now 27 years in democracy. Indeed, something must be done about those dilapidated buildings. In Lemana High School, the committee found that there were serious conflicts between the SGB and their principal. The committee promised to visit this again to follow up on this anomaly but delayed until the elections of new SGBs were over in order not to interfere and influence that process. We hope the department is done with the election of new SGBs so that the committee can make a follow-up visit to Lemana High School.

In Mopani, we visited Nyavani Primary School, the state-of-the-art school, but highly under-utilised, meanwhile, there is a high school nearby with a shortage of classrooms and dilapidated buildings. Hopefully, something must be done to ensure that this state-of-the-art school is utilised to the fullest.

In the Capricorn District, there was a serious challenge of Rethuseng Special School for the intellectually impaired children. Just before the lockdown the school and the mobile classrooms that were provided were damaged by a storm, and children were forced to stay away because it was no longer safe. Another disturbing issue is that there are only two toilets for the 111 intellectually impaired learners. That is not acceptable indeed, and the department must do something about this.

Hon Deputy Speaker, infrastructural challenges in the department are well known. The question is the implementation plan of all pronouncements made by both the Premier and the MEC in their Budget Speeches. Are we winning or are those pronouncements ignored by our own officials? We will never get tired to ask the same question honourable MEC. How far are we in eradicating the pit toilets in our schools? As a committee, we are not confusing our oversight with policing of the department. In certain instances, we also try and find solutions to the challenges faced by the

department. In our engagement meetings with the schools, we also try and motivate both learners and teachers including management of the schools. Thanks to our abled chairperson, Hon Violet Mathye, who has a soft voice, but not so soft in her approach.

We received reports that in other areas, it helped improve the results in those schools. We definitely enjoy her leadership; she really is leading the committee from the front. We mostly arrive early and if one of the teachers comes late, we would ask why they are coming to school late. They will have to explain. Remember, these are announced visits; we visit the schools unannounced. Where we find that the principal is not there, the deputy principals take over and explain to the committee why the principal is not there. We enjoyed our visits under the leadership provided by Hon Violet Mathye. Keep it up!

Unlike the 1976 generation of young people, the youth of today are following wrong models. Instead of fighting crime, they want to engage in crime. Instead of staying away from alcohol and spend more time with their books, they spend more time in shebeens and taverns. They engage in drugs. The issue of teenage pregnancies and bullying schools is the order of the day. How are they going to pass at the end of the year with such unwanted activities? We can set targets after targets, unless young people come to the party, we will always cry foul. Others will be quick to blame the ANC government for that matter. Meanwhile, it is not the government, but the people, the community, the parents who are not active in the education of their kids.

In schools where parents are active, we found that the results are indeed encouraging and outstanding. We must also at this level, stop lambasting one another and become role models of our students, our pupils, and our children. We must lead by example and not encourage wrongdoing, including corruption tendencies by some leaders among our ranks. Some young people today envy corrupt leaders and regard them as heroes and heroines. We must put a stop on this anomaly if we need a prosperous country that can be able to feed all its people. We cannot lose scarce resources and money that can contribute to the betterment of our people due to corruption. We must win the war against corruption. Our country and the society must win, not individuals who pull our country down.

In conclusion, let me pass a word of gratitude to Hon Polly Boshielo and the educators of those schools that we visited, who were hard at work when we arrived at those schools. We know you are working under difficult conditions exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, you are soldiering on to ensure that the educational year of the African child is not lost. We salute you. You have removed a self in you as Charlotte Maxeke reminded us to carry each other as we go up and not pull them down. We have to carry the nation on our shoulders.

The youth is the future. Without educated youth, the future of our country is bleak. We need better results for the province, MEC Hon Polly Boshielo. We can't compromise on that. I would like to thank you once more, because you lead from the front as well. You are always here. I always see you here each time I am here. Today we are having a festival of issues on education, and you are here. You did not send someone to come and represent you, but you wanted to hear it for yourself so that you can go and implement immediately. If you were to get it from someone else, there will always be line loss. Hi Xitsonga va ri, loko u rhumisa, ku ta va na leswi u nga ta ka u nga swi kumi. Va ri, "Mangwa yi pfumarile timhondzo hi ku rhumisa." Kutani n'wina mi na

timhondzo leti mi nga ta lwa hi tona eka mhaka leyi hi nga eka yona ya ku endla leswaku tiko ra hina ri antswa na ku va na varhangeri va ku antswa lava nga dyondzeka. Lava nga ta kota ku hi pfuna ku lwa na vukungundzwani.

We need ethical leadership and ethical leadership starts in education. If you are properly educated, you will be able to lead even in communities where you stay. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I call upon Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The portfolio committee did oversight over ten schools in all five districts. We found that the majority of the schools we visited lack the appropriate support from the department. It is common knowledge that the infrastructure and maintenance backlog for schools in the province amounts to over R20 billion. What we did not expect is that circuits made commitments to assist schools with additional classrooms and never delivered them. Schools like Phangasa High School, Sepeke Primary School, Tshimbupfe Secondary School and Makgotlo Primary School had serious infrastructure challenges ranging from dilapidated buildings to overcrowding and buildings on the brink of collapsing. Some of the general matters that came across were learners did not benefit from scholar transport, textbooks not being substituted when they are lost. Some schools were offering both the science and general streams of education and with some schools on the brink of merging or closing down, challenges around skilled personnel become a reality. Curriculum advisors do not pitch or are not monitored by circuits or the province especially with underperforming schools indicating a lack of monitoring and evaluation by the department.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the quality of teachers in our schools also remains a problem. Either teachers are teaching subjects they are not qualified for or they have poor content knowledge. This was evident in schools like Motlishi Secondary School and Serare Secondary School that had a 5,6% pass rate in 2019. The lack of water and sanitation, bullying and teenage pregnancies remain a historical challenge. The positives were that the nutrition projects were up and running and supporting most of our quintile 1, 2, 3 learners; scholar transport seemed to be provided where necessary in [inaudible] schools, except in Motlishi Secondary and Tshimbupfe Secondary School. Almost all the schools had received enough textbooks and stationery and a few schools needed to top ups.

We need to get government to commit to [inaudible] stronger and ring-fence the infrastructure grant allocations, specifically dealing with already existing backlogs before we lose control of the situation entirely. The department needs to ensure that teacher shortages are well addressed and provide infrastructure to bring relief to the disadvantaged schools as some of the schools were built in 1975 by community members. It is also embarrassing that we still have so many learners using pit latrines in 2021. Schools need proper sanitation facilities, consistent water supply to schools, scholar transport for learners where necessary, and support for poor and performing schools. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. I call upon Hon Mathye.

MS MATHYE

Hon Deputy Speaker, in October 2020, the Portfolio Committee on Education visited various schools across the districts to monitor compliance with regulations as set down by the Department of Basic Education. It must be noted that these visits occurred at a time prior to the discovery of a vaccine against the virus. It was important at that time to ensure that the necessary vigilant measures were taken to combat the spread of the virus. All schools reopened in July 2020 after the initial lockdown. In all the schools that we visited, learners returned to schools and there were no schools that reported a high number of absent learners. They were, however, concerned about teachers with comorbidities, who were understood to be at high risk of contracting the virus. This, however, seems to have been better managed as people started to learn more about the virus and how to combat it.

Many of the schools visited across the province were compliant with COVID-19 regulations. They all received the PPEs, sanitisers and all the cleaning materials. At the time of the visit, both teachers and learners were gradually getting used to complying with regulations such as keeping the necessary distance and attending classes on a rotational basis. This has since become the norm and both learners and teachers have come to understand that this is the new normal. We understand that the rotational programme has affected the hours of schooling received by learners. As a result, it was understood that in the year 2020, not all learners will be able to finish their curriculum. This was a concern, especially for Grade 12 and foundation phase learners. We appreciate the fact that the department attempted to address these challenges by having lessons broadcast on various SABC stations.

In all the schools, learners, food handlers as well as teachers were trained on the standard operating procedures and COVID-19 protocols. In some schools such as Patrick Ramaano High School in the Vhembe District, training was conducted by officials from the Department of Health. It can be said that everyone was on board and generally well-informed on COVID-19 pandemic.

Honourable MEC, while we were busy checking on COVID-19 compliance, we also had an interest on other issues. Most of our schools have got nutrition programme, which is handled well by the service providers. The food is delivered on time, food handlers are trained, learners are reminded about social distancing when going to get their food and stationery was delivered on time. Then pit toilets! I cannot talk much about this issue; it has become a song. We all know that we have a problem on this one. We also have a problem on lack of laboratories. In some schools, learners are learning science theoretically, due to the lack of laboratories. We are saying, honourable MEC, it was going to be better if the department could consider purchasing basic chemistry sets, which science teachers can use while teaching science subjects.

Hon Mdaka said a mouthful about the issue of infrastructure. When we were about to leave Serare High School, where Hon Selane comes from, Hon Mdaka did not want to leave that school because he was in class teaching Mathematics. We did not go back to the school to check the results to see how it performed. He was also brave

enough to enter inside some of the toilets to inspect them, when the rest of us were reluctant to get inside the toilets, because they were too dirty. Hon Mdaka was the only one went into those toilets and came back with the required information. We want to thank Hon Mdaka for his bravery.

Despite all odds, honourable MEC, we want to appreciate primary schools that continue to perform well in the province. These are firm foundations on which our education is cemented. We are referring to schools such as Penge Mine Primary School in Sekhukhune, Gavaza Primary School next to Phangasasa High School and Jamela Primary School where Hon Matlou comes from. These primary schools have received awards in reading and maths for good performance in provincial competitions. These schools report, amongst others, the involvement of parents in the education of their children as an important factor in ensuring success in the learning and teaching process. It was also reported that the support provided by the department's curriculum advisors was also central to the success observed in the schools.

Primary schools like Makgotlo in the Mopani District were also recognised among the top performing schools in the circuit. They, however, indicated problems with infrastructure, especially dilapidated classrooms. What we realised is that most of the schools with dilapidated buildings are the ones that are outperforming those with new buildings. This therefore means that buildings have got nothing to do with teaching and learning.

In conclusion, we hope that the MEC takes note of the observations made and the points raised and that she intervenes where necessary. We would like to believe that for our oversight to yield the necessary results, the Executive must take note of the challenges raised and act accordingly. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker and the House at large.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathye. May I now call MEC for Education to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to thank the committee for the visit. We take their advice and can assure the House that we will be able to implement. The support from Hon Mdaka is so humbling. I nearly cried, you know, because it is so tough. You may not realise that people see what you are doing. You have given me the wings to fly and I think I will be able to fly very high.

In terms of the toilets, let me just give you the latest report. Three months ago, we completed thirty toilets. We have now completed a further 51 toilets and are doing final touch ups on 105 touches. We are going to hand them over very soon. The national Department of Basic Education has completed about 150 out of the 300 toilets that they were busy with in collaboration with ASIDI (Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative) and Safe project. We are moving. It is not all doom and gloom. It is just that the media will never cover it, because that they do not cover good stories. But be rest assured, we are trying our level best to address the challenge of infrastructure.

I think Hon Mdaka should be given a temporary job to teach maths and science. We have noted the issue of absence of teachers. We will try to understand what is going on. We have moved Rethuseng to Noko Primary School. We have also given them new hostels. The challenge will always be – including Asiphumelele and Rivoni special schools – the challenge will always be community members. When we were giving Rethuseng special school, the contract to build new hostels, some community members wanted 30%. They also did not want us to provide water. In Rivoni, they chose the hostels and wanted me to pay R200 000 a month. We are always experiencing those challenges.

We are dealing decisively with corruption. As you have seen with the feeding scheme; I know people are very angry with me. But whoever got it this time, they got it the right way. Whoever is not satisfied must go to court and we will meet there, because I think we have implemented the recommendations that were given to us.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You are left with 30 seconds.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Honourable Members, we are trying as much as possible to improve the logistics in our schools. Like if SAB can deliver liquor to taverns in the rural areas, we can also do that. If Coca Cola can deliver Coke, I think we can also do that and improve our education. We want to move towards agricultural schools, technical schools, mining schools and Dinaledi schools, because we cannot keep on producing learners who cannot play a role towards improving the economy of our province. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for that response.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? There are no announcements? The House can wish Reneiloe Modiba a happy birthday. It was her birthday yesterday. She is the lady sitting this side who is busy making sure that you connect and are enabled to continue holding the sessions.

[SONG]

9. ADJOURNMENT

This House shall then be adjourned to Tuesday, 29 June 2021 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

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**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 29 JUNE 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
VIRTUAL SITTING
TUESDAY, 29 JUNE 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

Good morning honourable Members. We shall now have an opportunity for a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE ADMIRABLE WORK DONE BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ON ITS RURAL HEALTH MATTERS PROGRAMME
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the DA for this House to note the admirable work done by the Department of Health on its Rural Health Matters Programme. The programme saw the Limpopo's first plastic surgeon, Dr Thendo Netshiongolwe, performing a successful 5 kg breast reduction in our province. Doctors say many with large breast may experience shortness of breath as well as headaches and shoulder pain all stemming from the excess weight on their chest.

Despite the health problems that big breasts pose, even those with access to private healthcare are not assisted by medical aids as it is seen as procedure for cosmetic benefits. This leads to more financial costs on top of monthly medical aid contributions and many more women of this poor rural province of our not being able to afford at all.

Although breast reduction is still not popular, we urge the department to continue to educate and sensitise our women on the health benefits of breast reduction. We commend the Rural Health Matters initiative and hope to see the programme reach and afford many more women in this beautiful province and giving them a health opportunity that comes with breast reduction.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any seconder? Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Hon Speaker, I second the motion.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Boshielo. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Smalle, is your hand up?

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I was waiting for your administration to unmute me. Thank you for allowing me and good morning honourable Members.

**A CALL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INITIATE ONE HOME,
ONE GARDEN CAMPAIGN TO ASSIST POOR COMMUNITIES**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move that this House notes that food security is a fundamental human right. On that basis, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture initiated its One Home, One Garden Campaign to support households, schools, and communities to produce their food during the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

Since February 2021, the Western Cape provincial government has supported the establishment of 1 241 household gardens, 27 community gardens and 8 school gardens. Households have the options for vegetable gardens or chicken house and the aim is to assist the households to be able to produce enough food to meet basic household food security needs throughout this year. These gardens were established to assist the youth as the high level of youth unemployment limits their access to resources. However, the gardens provide a place for youth to contribute positively to food security and climate change while at the same time acquiring skills.

We further note the underspending of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the year 2020/21 financial year of R81,79 million. Such underspending of money was mainly in Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management, and Farmer Support Development.

We call on the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to improve their programmes by including similar initiatives to ensure that the poorest of the poor have the comfort of knowing that if all hardships can be assisted and met through such programmes, at least there will be food on their tables.

I so move. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Is there any seconder to the motion?

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Rasham Maharaj, second the motion as read by Hon Smalle.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Chief Whip, is your hand up?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Yes, Hon Speaker and thank you for the opportunity.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREEDOM CHARTER
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC in this virtual Sitting to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Freedom Charter, a people's consultative assembly that culminated into a South Africa that we all aspired for at the end of apartheid.

The Freedom Charter was launched on 26 June 1955 at Kliptown in Soweto and initiated as an ideological path to a free and democratic society. In addition to being revolutionary in character, the Freedom Charter also provided the black and disenfranchised masses with a unanimous voice, a voice that subverted the fictitious superiority of the white minorities.

It has propelled black people on a revolutionary trajectory and heightened our struggle for self-determination. Together with other historical milestones, like the Rivonia Trial and the 1976 Students' Uprising, the 1955 launch of the Freedom Charter counts as one of the many momentous occasions that had put an enormous pressure on the apartheid regime.

Some 66 years after its launch, the Charter's ideals of a free society have been attained and we are still on track to accomplish some of its objectives. What is more significant is that, indeed, the people are free, and they are governing.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder? Pardon me, honourable Members, I am struggling to see whose hand is up because on my screen I'm only seeing the initials of Members and not the surnames. Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Hon Speaker, I second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip of the majority party. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

DISREGARD OF THE COVID-19 REGULATIONS AND PROTOCOLS BY THE EFF
(Motion without Notice)

I, Simon Mathe, rise on behalf of the ANC that the ANC is alarmed by the Economic Freedom Fighters' disregard of the COVID-19 regulations and protocols, which went on record declaring that it will not conform to lockdown regulations as outlined by the President of the republic, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa.

In an act of brazen disregard of the COVID-19 regulations, the EFF led by their delinquent leader, marshalled its [inaudible] mob to the offices of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) under the guise of securing the approval of certain vaccines. To assemble in large numbers at the height of the third wave truly undermines the efforts of many health workers who are currently under intense pressure in our healthcare facilities.

All political parties are represented in Parliament where the government updates them on numerous developments in an effort to arrest the pandemic. We should be weary of those who project vaccination as the only tool to protect us from this pandemic. Our own behaviour should not contribute further to burdening the health system. The EFF engaged in this shameful populist act for political point scoring.

We call upon all leaders to provide responsible leadership at these challenges times so that we can all save lives.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Is there any seconder?

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathe. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MONAMA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

**CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING ON OF KENNETH KAUNDA, FORMER
PRESIDENT OF ZAMBIA AND JABU MABUZA, FORMER ESKOM
CHAIRPERSON**

(Motion without Notice)

I, Monama Rodgers, rise on behalf of the ANC to say that as the ANC, we have learned with great sense of sadness the news of the passing on of His Excellency, Dr Kenneth David Kaunda, the founding father and the former President of the Republic of Zambia.

Dr K K Kaunda, aged 97, passed away in the Zambian capital, Lusaka on Thursday, 17 June 2021. K K, as he was fondly known, led Zambia to independence from Britain in 1964 and was his country's first black President. He is ranked amongst those outstanding revolutionary figures whose leadership values and courage remain unmatched. This is a sad moment for South Africa and the African continent at large.

As the giant of the liberation struggle of South Africa and the continent has fallen, the story of the liberation of South Africa will never be complete without the full acknowledgement of the central role played by Zambia under President Kaunda. Another great African's heart ceased to beat. Great leaders and icons, like all human beings, live and die but what distinguishes them from the rest of us is the mortality of their ideas, teachings and imprints in their footprints. He was a supreme scholar and a teacher of the highest calibre.

We also convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of late Jabu Mabuza, the former chairperson of the Eskom Board. In our hour of sorrow and grief, our continent can be proved of producing such leaders of impeccable character. They have left such an extra ordinary legacy on this world. We pray for their profound souls to rest in peace.

As the ANC, we extend our deepest condolences to the Kaunda family, the Zambian Government and all the people of Zambia.

I move accordingly. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. Is there any seconder? Honourable Members, I will now be able to recognise you when you raise your hands. The IT Section has resolved my problems; I am able to see you. Hon Mochadi, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the motion without notice as presented by Hon Monama. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mochadi. Are there further motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? There are none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MS PHALA

Thanks, Hon Speaker.

VACCINE ROLLOUT IN LIMPOPO (Members' Statement)

The Democratic Alliance notes that Limpopo has been one of the most efficient provinces in the rollout of the vaccine in the education sector in the past few days. We saw the vaccination of over 16 000 educators on the first day and by the end of the weekend over 30 000 educators and support staff had been vaccinated.

The vaccines set aside for education sector has almost been completely used and with the Department of Education stating that one more day will be needed to complete the vaccine rollout. This House should be proud of the work being done by our healthcare profession in speeding the roll out of vaccines to workers that offer essential services.

Hon Speaker, as we continue to fight against the scourge of COVID-19 under level 4, we call on the Premier to ensure that more vaccines are allocated to Limpopo, based on our speedy vaccination to ensure that law enforcement officers and traffic officials are vaccinated as we expect them to ensure that Limpopo citizens adhere to level 4 regulations, fight against crime and combat the rising cases of gender-based violence. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any response from the Executive to the Members' Statement? Hon Boshielo, you can respond.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Let me also take this opportunity to appreciate the DA for seeing that we are doing a good job in Limpopo. Indeed, we are left with only 22 000 vaccines, and we will be doing a mop up this Friday and Saturday for all officials and teachers paid by the SGBs, ECD practitioners and teachers from private schools. We are waiting for our vaccines to come, and as soon as we receive them, we will wrap up the vaccinations. We were given until 08 July 2021 to finish vaccination, but in Limpopo we are going to finish on Saturday.

The Minister of Basic Education was in our Council of Education meeting encouraging other provinces to come to Limpopo and see how it is done.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank my counterpart, the MEC for Health, Dr Ramathuba. We were talking ten times in a day, I think, planning that everything must go well.

I saw the dedication of the health workers and let's pray for them so that God can give them more strength. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Hon Boshielo.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of House Rule 201? Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We were going to make an Executive Statement to give progress on the vaccination of teachers, but we are fine since it was covered by the DA's motion without notice.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports and papers? There are none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on the 2020/21 fourth quarter report

I now call upon the committee chair.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. As duly authorised by the chairperson of the committee, Hon Mmabogahla Isaiah Masekoameng, I hereby table the report for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Honourable Members, can you make sure that you switch on your camera when you are on the platform. Is there any seconder on the tabling of the report? I recognise Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members, Members of the Executive, Hon Chief Whip and the Premier, I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby second the tabling of the report as presented by Hon Mathe.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and the first speaker on our list is Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Members of the Executive Council present in this virtual Sitting, Members of this august House, the Chief Whip of the majority party, let me extend my greetings to you. Madam Speaker, we are humbled about the fact that we debate in the 150th year of our late revolutionary mother of the nation, Mama Charlotte Maxeke, who paved the way for our freedom.

In one of her favourite speeches, Mama Maxeke once said, "This work is not for yourselves – kill that spirit of self, and do not live above your people but live with them. If you can rise, bring someone with you." Hon Speaker, these wise words of Mama Charlotte Maxeke remind us of the task ahead which is protecting the fundamental right to dignity of all our people and to guarantee them a decent life. As government we understand that there is no true freedom as long as poverty still exists amongst us. In the spirit of Mama Charlotte Maxeke and other stalwarts who fought for this freedom and as the government of the people, we echo their spirit that as long as our people's freedom is sustained, they shall rise above poverty — which is why we have declared poverty as our number one enemy against the people.

In this House, Members have debated unemployment figures and reflected on the issue of food insecurity. All honourable Members have agreed that agriculture is one of the important sectors in terms of job creation and ensuring food security. Accordingly, as Limpopo province we have undertaken to embark on agricultural revolution. We have planned to intervene to stimulate the growth of the entire agriculture industry.

In this regard, in relation to Sustainable Resource Management, the portfolio committee noted with concern that during 2020/21 fourth quarter there were under achievements in the following highlighted areas: agricultural infrastructure establishment; green jobs creation as well as land care training and awareness session. The department reported that 9 instead of 5 disaster risk reduction programmes were managed. The additional warnings were issued and awareness conducted on flood hazards due to the Eloise Tropical Cyclone that occurred during the late summer season. It is indicated that one disaster relief scheme was managed and 60 farmers were assisted through schemes.

Hon Speaker, infrastructure leads to the expansion of markets, economies of scale and improvement in factor market operations. The development of rural infrastructure helps to enlarge markets with greater access to factors of production. Rural infrastructure, like other public investments, raises agricultural productivity which in

turn induces growth in the rural areas bringing about higher agricultural wages and improved opportunities for non-farm labour.

In relation to Structured Education and Training, the department indicated that 82 students graduated from agricultural training colleges, exceeding the target of 80. Furthermore, 61 instead of 100 agricultural higher education and training learners were registered in the two colleges for 2021. The shortfall was due to the delays experienced in the completion of the 2020 academic year and as a result the registration for 2021 academic year was still ongoing at Tompi Seleka College.

The portfolio committee appreciated that 199 participants were trained in agricultural skills and development programme exceeding a target of 100 since more participants turned out for training. The department had planned to assist 40 producers to access the markets, but only 22 were assisted since fewer producers requested market linkages support due to uncertainties around COVID-19. The department further reported that 567 agri-businesses were supported with production economic services, thereby falling short of the target by 1 000. The underachievement was agri-business information dates, value chain workshops and demonstrations could not be held due to the impact of COVID-19 regulations on mass gatherings. Since agriculture employs many people, it contributes to economic development and as a result the income levels as well as people's standard of living will always derive from this sector.

Madam Speaker, we recall in the 2019/20 financial year in one of our first visits outside of Makhado at the Mara Research Station Farm, after a devastating corruption happened. The estimated damage at the centre worth ±R1,57 million with losses of over 100 cattle. As much as we acknowledge officials and technicians who came together and helped in recovering some, their commitment to working hard can be an example for all of us in the province. The committee recommends that the accounting officer must on regular basis account to the portfolio committee on the theft of livestock, laptops and desktop investigations and appropriate action must be taken against responsible officials including the recovery of the lost assets.

As highlighted by the President, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, during the SONA 2021 when he said, "Despite COVID-19, South Africa's agricultural sector has performed remarkably well. In 2020/21 financial year, we became the world's second largest exporter of citrus and with strong export growth in wine, maize, nuts, deciduous fruit and sugar."

Hon Speaker, let's peddle down to the good relationship we are having with the Zebediela Citrus Estate by visiting time to time to ensure and it reclaims the farm status it had. The estate was at some stage the largest citrus plantation in the Southern Hemisphere with more than 3 000 ha of planted citrus. Madam Speaker, talking to farmers across the province some in the corridors, it is clear to me that they have a single and strong visionary management in the department and in two research centres, one that will be allowing the province to keep its standards and transform the potential of this sector into reality and better the lives of their families and of our people.

Of course, we are aware of the challenges which confront farmers and that can and should be addressed in the province and agricultural centres. Part of these challenges include lack of access to finance which inhibits the adoption of new technology and constraints in [inaudible], hence supply chain takes long to procure essential

equipment in Mara Research Station such as medication and gases for branding cattle.

Lack of access to information, training and knowledge hinders business expansion and new investments. At all times the department is encouraged to capacitate the supply chain management section to ensure that there are no delays in the processing of the procured goods and contracts in general. Members are envisaging a bright future to agricultural and rural communities in the future, provided that we take wise steps today guided by both National Development Plan and public policy.

As I come to conclusion, I want to take my mental and spiritual flight to the continent of my birth Africa and remind this House that Africa is our beginning and our ending. We owe a debt of gratitude to our forefathers and foremothers of our planet earth to this continent. So honourable Members, our contribution to the development of our agrarian innovation should rid our holy land of famine. Therefore, honourable Members, let us constantly be reminded of the role and responsibility we face through this department. On this note, the committee had attempted to provide a non-partisan agenda of ideas that can take us to a proper direction. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mathe. Maybe before I proceed, I want to remind Members that this Sitting is live on YouTube channel, let us please adhere to our rules. When you are recognised to speak, please unmute your mic and enable your video. When you are done, again mute and turn off your video. Our next speaker is Hon Maharaj. Hon Maharaj, the platform is yours.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I think there is some confusion, Hon Smalle is the one who should be debating. I do not sit on the Portfolio Committee for Agriculture.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, the time is yours.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. Hon Speaker, quarterly reports function as an early warning system by alerting departments to areas of weak performances, to potential problems and to where remedial action is required. The fourth quarter therefore summarises where the budget related to measurable results were made. In terms of the achievable of targets in all programmes, the department has achieved 44 out of its 67 indicators. This indicates 66% of its targets being met during the quarter under review with an underspending of R81,74 million. In the same period under review, the agricultural sector remained steadfast retaining 136 000 jobs than it had in the previous year.

There were material underachievements in the following indicators: Sustainable Resource Management which included agricultural infrastructure establishment; hectares equipped with infield irrigation system; environmentally controlled production

structures; green jobs creation; land care training and awareness sessions; and farmer support development, which included black producers support with infrastructure projects as well as production inputs and advice to farmers trained through CASP, mentorship programmes facilitation, and unemployed graduates placements in farming enterprises, producers participating in seed production and household support with agricultural food production initiatives.

The poor performance in the fourth quarter comes despite the indication that the department planned to develop a service delivery protocol that will ensure continued services while adhering to lockdown restrictions. This clearly did not materialise. The second underperforming programmes are targeted to reach environments for job creation and the Western Cape counterpart identified several ecological infrastructure interventions to assist farmers in both the short and long-term including implementing fencing projects; rivers stabilisation structures; clearing of alien vegetation; the rehabilitation of agricultural land damaged by fire and drought; stakeholder engagement and design and implementation of water pipelines to mitigate the future threat of water scarcity in the province.

The Western Cape will further create further 1 000 green jobs by clearing alien plants and to rehabilitate 50 000 ha of agricultural land. The pandemic caused undue hardships to subsistence farmers and more so to drought-stricken farmers like those in Molemole Municipality. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) made funds available for COVID-19 disaster support for smallholder and communal farmers. Eligible farmers received vouchers with R8 500 that could have been used at specific agents to purchase agricultural supplies like seeds, fodder and day-old chicks to enable them to continue with their farming activities.

While these projects had noble intention to assist struggling farmers, the prices charged by agents were massively inflated. The agents in Molemole Municipality area charged R399,30 for a 25 kg bale of lucerne where the same quantity of lucerne is being sold along the roadside across the province between R50 and R150 per bale. The price inflation clearly indicates that funding allocated to COVID-19 disaster aid was not used prudently and transparently for the sole purpose of alleviating the plight of our farmers. It also highlights the lack ...

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, you are disconnected. Hon Smalle, can you hear me?

MR MAHARAJ

Hon Smalle has indicated that he is having a challenge with connectivity and stability with the lines.

THE SPEAKER

Okay, let's proceed. We are now calling upon Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Mospikara wa Lekgotlatheramelao la Limpopo, Mohlomphegi Rosemarry Molapo; Motlatša Mospikara wa Lekgotlatheramelao la Limpopo, Mohlomphegi Ndou; Tonakgolo ya rena ya Limpopo, Mohlomphegi Chupu Stan Mathabatha; Modulasetulo wa Badulasetulo, Mohlomphegi Mashamaite; Motlatša Modulasetulo wa Badulasetulo, Mohlomphegi Che Selane; Sefepikgolo sa Lekgotlatheramelao la Limpopo, Mohlomphegi Mokgonyana; Maloko a Lekgotlatheramelao la Limpopo kamoka, ke dumedise le Balekgotlaphethişi kamoka ke re thobela. I am standing on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Masekoameng, to debate the 2020/21 fourth quarter report of the Department of Agriculture.

Madam Speaker, I am rising on the month which has an amazing history, a history which has brought us to where we are in terms of our freedom. There are two events which have shaken the lives of the people of South Africa and gave them their freedom. The Freedom Charter provides core principles of the South African Congress Alliance, which consisted of the African National Congress and its allies, the South African Indian Congress, the South African Congress of Democrats and the Coloured People's Congress. It is characterised by its opening demand: "THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!". It is written that the land shall be shared amongst those who work it in the Freedom Charter. Restriction of land ownership on racial basis shall be ended and all the land be divided amongst those who work it to banish famine and hunger. The state shall help the peasants with implements, seeds, tractors, amongst others to till the soil. The freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land. All shall have a right to occupy the land wherever they chose. The people shall not be robbed of their cattle and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished. The freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land.

Madam Speaker, there is no reason to doubt that agriculture always has an upper hand in terms of its contribution to the overall growth of our province. Special attention must be devoted to this particular sector so that farmers can benefit from the latest technological skills for agriculture which in turn can yield good results. The more we focus on agricultural activities the better the growth of our province. The portfolio committee held a virtual meeting with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on 13 May 2021 to brief the portfolio committee on the 2020/21 fourth quarter financial and performance report. The portfolio committee further met virtually on 20 May 2021 to consider and adopt the committee report.

Madam Speaker, the committee executed its constitutional mandate as part of oversight function to check whether the programmes for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development unfold as planned. The portfolio committee found that COVID-19 affected various activities such as capacity building, operation of farming entities as well as employment creation in the sector in the Annual Performance Plan of 2020/21 financial year. The department was allocated a total adjustment Budget of R1,698 billion to eight key programmes. During quarter four under review, the department spent a total of R4 065 358.00 or 27% of the adjustment budget. At the end of the fourth quarter the total expenditure was R1,616 billion or 95% was spent and the variance of the underexpenditure was R81,749 million.

The portfolio committee noted with concern that only one black farmer instead of the targeted seven farmers was supported. Also 1 580 instead of 4 887 black producers were supported with agricultural inputs. The underachievement was because of the

delay of the project completion due to slow progress of work by contractors. Infrastructure like other public investments raises agricultural productivity which in turn induces growth in the rural areas bringing about higher agricultural wages and improved opportunities for non-farm labour whilst agri-food sector jobs have been designated as essential in the context of COVID-19 crisis in many provinces. The measures adopted to slow down the pandemic may place further strain on the capacity of the sector to continue meeting demands, providing income and livelihoods, and ensuring safety and health for millions of agricultural workers and producers.

The department reports that it could not place the targeted 120 graduates in agricultural enterprises for practical skills development which was initially planned for quarter 3. The underachievement is reported to be due to the recruitment process which took longer as the COVID-19 regulations had to be adhered to. With regard to gathering of people and social distancing, this has affected the implementation of what has been planned in the APP. As recommended, let no money be forfeited for job creation when graduates and skills people leave the province for betterment of their lives elsewhere. There would rather be lower ranked posts or reviewing of notches to fill vacancies than to lose the fiscus appropriated to the province due to so many people living below poverty line. This will be a disappointment to our representatives in the NCOP that are fighting for the interests of our province at national level.

It was reported that 10 scientific papers were published nationally or internationally, 5 presentations made in technology transfer events whilst 7 demonstration trials were conducted. However, the department could not meet the target of the 6 research presentations nationally and internationally because the planned virtual sessions could not materialise due to cancellation on the side of the organisers.

To sum up, there is a need for the agriculturalists to grow intellectually and operationally from a narrow focus on agriculture and technological research and dissemination to a better understanding of the rural society and their needs. There is a need to seek greater understanding of alternative pathways for rural economic development, placing the role of agriculture in perspective and redefining the role, mission and strategy of agricultural institutes and agents as facilitators of rural economy growth. In addition, since agriculture already has a great influence on the economic development of our country, special efforts should be devoted towards its improvement. In fact, various beneficial schemes could be integrated with agricultural base activities for the growth of the farmers and proper guidance should be given to them on how to improve their ways of farming and learning innovative ways to better their skills.

In conclusion, it is important to take steps to overcome the incurred loss because of inadequate or heavy rainfalls so that our farmers can lead fulfilling lives. Agriculture is not only one of the major activities of our country but the most powerful one too. It is important that it must never be overlooked as it accounts for the high rate of our GDP. Agriculture can truly be the backbone of any state across the world, and the benefits of farming are enormous. So, let's make a pledge to support our farmers as much as we can and give them a favourable working environment. Let us also consider our youth who have interest in agriculture by availing land for them so that they can maximise the potential they have and make the GDP of this province to rise. Madam Speaker, I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mochadi, the acting chair. We shall now call upon the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Ndalane, to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, colleagues from the Executive Council, honourable Members, I greet you all. I appreciate the opportunity given to me to respond to the debate. Once more we must emphasise that the third wave is fully with us. For obvious reasons our farmers are also be affected. We must however indicate that food production is essential, and we must have plans to make sure that the agricultural industry is not affected. This simply means that farming will continue as usual. We are fortunate that the President has classified agriculture under essential services. As for today's debate, let me indicate that as a department we really appreciate the role played by the portfolio committee. On the issue of the missing cattle around Mara Research Station, the SAPS assisted in the investigation.

We must inform the House that the portfolio committee also paid a visit to the research station. As I reported during the last Sitting, we have recovered some cattle. Our reliable reports indicate that only one is still missing.

I must indicate further that the Premier's Office together with the officials from the department are busy with disciplinary processes and officials are being charged.

The issue of missing laptops is also receiving attention. One official has gone through the disciplinary processes and has been dismissed. SAPS has already charged one official and the portfolio committee will be updated on the matter.

We are in a process of finalising the service delivery protocols amid the Coronavirus. It is a fact that supply chain needs to be capacitated. The department is fully aware that the future of our farming industry lies with the youth. To this effect, we have developed plans to support youth farmers in citrus farming, vegetables, and red and white meat production. This will go a long way in improving the production of the farming industry.

As I conclude, once more we urge everyone to be careful because the COVID-19 is destroying our families. To the portfolio committee, we thank you for the oversight. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you MEC, Hon Ndalane.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure 2020/21 first quarter report

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MR MATHE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. As duly requested, and authorised by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, I hereby table the report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and Roads Agency Limpopo for consideration and adoption. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, as the acting chair, you have tabled the report on 2020/21 first quarter report for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure only.

MR MATHE

Madam Speaker, I said 2021 report, first, second and third quarter reports and 2020/21 first, second ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No, just wait, Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

I thought I would be economical with time.

THE SPEAKER

You are going to table them one by one.

MR MATHE

I just wanted to be economical with time. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

I second the move as proposed by Hon Mathe. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mdaka. We move to the consideration and adoption of the 2020/21 second quarter report for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. Acting chair, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, as duly authorised by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, hereby table the first quarter report of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the first quarter report for Roads Agency Limpopo.

THE SPEAKER

No, Hon Mathe. We are still on item 7.2.2: The 2020/21 second quarter report. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Good morning, Hon Speaker. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, hereby stand to second the move by Hon Mathe.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selamolela. Hon Mathe, we are still on the report on the department not on the agency. Please don't mention the agency. We are on item 7.2.3, the 2020/21 third quarter report of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and not the agency.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. As duly authorised and mandated by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Grace Makoma Makhurupetje, I hereby table the third quarter report of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. Bjalo ka Leloko la Palamente ya gešu ya Limpopo, ke le Leswafo Joshua Matlou ke eme go thekga seo se boletšwego ke Mohlomphegi Mathe. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi Matlou. We move to the consideration and adoption of the 2020/21 first quarter report of the Roads Agency Limpopo. Over to you, acting chairperson.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. As duly mandated and authorised by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, I hereby table the 2020/21 first quarter report for Roads Agency Limpopo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mathe. Is there any seconder? Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Caroline Mahasela, raise my hand to second the move by Hon Mathe. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mahasela. We move to the consideration and adoption on the 2020/21 second quarter report on Roads Agency Limpopo. Over to you, acting chairperson.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure hereby table the second quarter report for Roads Agency Limpopo for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I raise my hand to second the report as presented by Hon Mathe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Seono. We move to the consideration of the 2020/21 third quarter report on the Roads Agency Limpopo. Hon Mathe, acting chair, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby table the third quarter report for Roads Agency Limpopo for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Mulangadzulo, ndi khou imisa tshanda tshanga ndi tshi khou tenda zwine Muhulisei Vho Mathe vha khou amba zwone. Ndo livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mahasela. We shall refer to the Speakers' List. All the reports including that of the agency will be debated simultaneously. The first speaker is Hon Falaza Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. It's amazing. When the reports were being presented, they were presented one after the other. One had thought that we would do the same when we debate. But I am happy that we are combining them.

Honourable Members, MECs and not forgetting Hon Premier and Hon Chief Whip, the Deputy Speaker, I greet you all this morning. It is an honour for me to debate on behalf of the ANC on the first, second and third quarter reports for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, including RAL.

The recent pronouncement by the President of South Africa, His Excellency President Ramaphosa, which took us back to level 4 for the next 14 days needs everyone to go back into hiding from this invisible enemy, the coronavirus. We must encourage all our people to remain vigilant and observe all COVID-19 protocols to save lives. We commend the Department of Health in terms of its programmes in making sure that all those that are supposed to get the vaccination get it. Apparently, it was also announced here this morning that the Department of Education is also moving with speed to ensure that teachers get vaccinated as well. That is commendable.

The committee met the department on 06 November 2020 where we received progress reports. 2020 was a very difficult year because of the total lockdown of our country, especially that we were not yet set on how to manage ourselves regarding the fight against COVID-19. However, as time went by, we learned how to coexist with this new normal. Therefore, it is understandable that there was very little achievement by the department in terms of meeting targets set for all the quarters under review. Of course, this excuse can no longer hold as it does not justify for non-spending of the Budget. We are aware that the department might have made great strides since then but there are areas of great concern for the portfolio committee which need serious action.

As much as we commend the department for its improvement on audit outcomes, we need a giant leap forward for an unqualified and clean audit. This can only be possible if we deal with issues of non-compliance the supply management act by the department. We are aware that the department inherited almost R1,6 billion irregular expenditure since 2008 but the question is, from who is it inherited because everything happened in the department and by the department. So that issue of the so called inherited irregular expenditure of R1,6 billion needs to be dealt with to ensure that the matter is closed.

Another area of concern is the huge debt that seems to be unmanageable without prospects of recovering most of the moneys which might lead to write offs. Most scrutiny should be given to this area where no blanket write offs should be applied. It seems that there are no clear systems of collecting money owed to the department. This situation should be corrected including capacitating the office of the CFO to deal with all financial matters; be it in compliance with the Supply Chain Management Act or just for financial control or record keeping of all accounts of the department. We are

not sure if there are serious consequences for non-compliance by officials of the department as raised even during the previous debate of the Department of Agriculture. There must be deterrence against irregular and unauthorised expenditure. Someone must indeed account. The accounting officer is there to account. It cannot be business as usual. We need a clean audit for the department and we believe that is possible.

We hope the department has acted on all our recommendations by now which include the beefing up of the planning unit within the department, particularly that of the appointment of the Chief Director: Planning and Design. This will allow the speedy flow of projects from planning stage to the implementation stage. This position is crucial to that effect, otherwise all our efforts on service delivery will be undermined including the school building projects that is a cause for concern.

As I move towards conclusion of my contribution to the debate, I want to commend the department for its recent road patching project, of course in collaboration with Roads Agency Limpopo. We are beginning to see the potholes on our roads being closed. Wherever you go now, particularly that there is no rain indeed you can see that our department and Roads Agency Limpopo is hard at work. Our roads are now better than before. However, there is still a lot to be done in this area as we can no longer blame COVID-19 for non-completion of projects.

Road users are always on the roads so the department must also be hard at work fixing our roads. This process that we see now must continue. When one drives around the province, one can notice the good work that has been done by the department in our road work. We should make sure that in all corners of our province this issue looks the same.

Finally, another area that warrants attention are the dilapidated government properties. That is of great concern to the committee. It was alleged that the other provincial government departments are reluctant to transfer the maintenance budget to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure due to the EXCO decision 59 (2001) allowing departments to budget for maintenance. It is the view of the committee that this EXCO decision 59(2001) should be rescinded as it is not progressive. Indeed, the department was advised by the committee to apply to EXCO for its reversal.

Lastly, I want to thank you for this opportunity given to me and we are here to support that this House adopt all the reports as presented by the acting chairperson, Hon Mathe as the reports of this House. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mdaka. Our next speaker on the list is Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The committee notices with concern that there were no targets for client departments' service delivery agreements. I believe that the department must seriously focus on this issue to avoid a situation of a blame game for lack of service delivery by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

An issue of concern is the target not achieved in respect of the number of infrastructure designs ready for tender. Just like we experienced in quarter two, zero were achieved in quarter four, this is from a target of 20 and 30 respectively.

This has a ripple effect in terms of the service delivery promises that we have undertaken to the people of the province. It is also concerning that some departments do not have sufficient resources and capacity to develop [inaudible] hence the challenges of quality, credibility and reliability of submitted documents. We cannot allow these mediocre responses and quality of work and we must monitor the infrastructure hub to improve infrastructure planning for infrastructure delivery in the province.

The large backlog in terms of the road infrastructure and maintenance within the province and the committee believes that notwithstanding the COVID-19 challenges, that we have underperformed in this regard. This is further elaborated by the following: in quarter one 16 248 km of gravel roads were bladdered from a target of 75 000 km; in quarter two, about 12 788 km of gravel roads were bladdered from a target of 75 000 km; in quarter three 10 910 km of gravel roads were bladdered from a target of 75 000 km. The department must focus on mechanisms to reduce the debt amount and must be innovative in ways to sister departments to deal with the poor systems that run across for collection of arrear rentals. There also is a need for the department to strengthen capacity in the contract management unit to avoid wasteful expenditure.

Although we welcome the aspect of poverty eradication and alleviation, the EPWP funding does not create permanent jobs. We must be weary that expectations are not created for the contractors. As such we must engage with the public bodies to appropriately plan accordingly to ensure that job creation can become a reality for EPWP workers. It is tantamount for the department to engage RAL regarding clear planning for roads infrastructure to achieve intended objectives. Major issues and challenges were found in the completion and finalisation of a fixed asset register as well as the non-infrastructure asset register. We urge the department to place emphasis in rectifying this as it is a huge risk that could result in future audit findings and loss of equipment.

Given the audit findings, we also strongly urge the department and management to implement the audit action plan and to ensure that the findings are urgently addressed and avoided in future audits. Given the huge backlog and road infrastructure maintenance and the quarterly achievements and work opportunities, EPWP must be considered in addressing the roads infrastructure projects backlog. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Mathe, the acting chair it is your turn.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Let's start by indicating that we need at all times to give credit where its due and not consistently make statements that seek to undermine the progress that we are seeing in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. Of course, with specific reference and appreciation of the progress we are seeing in relation to our roads infrastructure and road network in our province.

Let me give a very quick response, because I don't think the MEC of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure would really misuse his energy by responding to a very ill-informed statement that was made by Hon Maharaj that the department failed to meet the target of 75 000 kilometres and so on.

Hon Maharaj with regards to the COVID-19 restrictions, let me indicate that to a larger extent the construction sector was affected. It can't be mediocrity when the department complies with the protocols of COVID-19. Secondly, we want to indicate that the turnaround strategy in the department will bear fruit. The issue of revenue collection is being given attention and the portfolio committee is satisfied with the progress. Taking from where Hon Mdaka left it, we remain confident and today as Members of the portfolio committee sitting and speaking in this Sitting we are speaking with pride and confidence that the issue of the Resolution (59.1)2001 that says departments should not transfer their maintenance budgets towards the Department of Public Works should be rescinded as a matter of urgency because failure to do that you are necessarily holding Public Works back and the Department of Public Works cannot be able to do what it is supposed to do. In actual fact, our view as the portfolio committee is that such is a non-negotiable. The department's part of the mandate, functions and responsibility, is to maintain public buildings. Therefore, it can't be negotiated that Public Works should be allowed to do its work.

Thirdly, the level of improvements on our roads has reached a very satisfactory level. However, whilst we continue to acknowledge that much needs to be done but the little that we have done now gives us hope. Our people will forever and ever enjoy the benefits of a well-maintained and coordinated road network and road infrastructure in our province. We want to take this opportunity to encourage the department to continue doing more as it has demonstrated in the past financial year that it can do more. It is unfortunate that as soon as the COVID-19 restrictions come in to play, the department will always be affected in terms of carrying its mandate forward. We want to indicate further that given these difficult circumstances under COVID-19 the department will continue to strive to do more. Of course, together we will do more.

On the issue of the audit in relation to public property, the portfolio committee has indicated that the department lives to undertake an audit of government property around the province. We have seen many buildings or properties that belong to government, but people now are behaving as if they are the owners of such buildings. Therefore, the department needs to tell us exactly how many properties do we have in the province? How many properties are occupied? How many properties are there where people don't want to vacate? And how many of them are paying rentals, including government buildings? We must also encourage the department to see to it that various departments are also able to meet their obligations in terms of payment of their municipal rates and taxes. Therefore, the portfolio committee wants to appreciate the work done by the department. We want to appreciate the progress that is visible wherein every everybody can see that there is tremendous progress. As a result of that, we want the government to continue doing more as all of us and together we will do more. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Mathe. We shall now call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Masemola, to respond to the debate made by the honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for affording me this opportunity to make comments and remarks to the debate and the inputs as raised by honourable Members. A very good morning to Hon Premier, your good selves Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, my colleagues in the Executive Council and Members of this august House.

Firstly, I would like take note the points and concerns which honourable Members have raised from the reports of the department and the entity. Equally important, let me acknowledge the encomiums heaped on the department on the extent to which rolling out and structuring of the turnaround strategy; we have been able to register progress thus far. Equally those points for me are very important and very helpful going forward. The discussions on the reports are based on the understanding that we couldn't perform as expected in some areas because of the COVID-19 restrictions for the financial year under review; and those quarters in particular. Notwithstanding that the reality that we did try our best and to live up to the dictates of the moment as at that time, given those harsh restrictions that were imposed on the country because of the difficulties that we were faced with.

But what gives us comfort to an extent is that by the end of the financial year we have not lost even a single cent to national or Provincial Treasury as a result of either inadequate planning or commitment of those moneys. That is the reason why to date there are a lot of activities, infrastructure wise, that are ongoing in many parts of the province as a result of working together with the committee, taking instructions from them and their council, we have been able to secure that funding. Equally important is the issue relating to property register, that is what we would be able to provide to the committee in the next meeting as we engage and go and appear before this leadership. The issue of the registering of properties in the province for both social and economic use; we will be in a better position to do so, and the extent to which we are able to deal with rentals which continue to remain a challenge. That is the reason why there is a campaign which was launched by national Department of Public Works of bringing back the properties of the state. The extent to which either public officials or private sector people utilise state properties for different purposes either economically or socially, that matter remains an area of focus by the department going forward.

I fully concur that we will have to work very hard, not to regress from the opinion that we got from the Auditor-General; and therefore try to move the system, stabilise it and build the necessary capacities required in those important units of the department that look after the public resources and management of the fiscus. We are working very hard in that area of public administration. It has been my wish that by now we should already have established a full complement to the top management of the department. Mindful of the reality that four vacancies of chief directors have not been filled thus far. These are the posts of chief directors responsible for planning and design, corporate services, roads as well as infrastructure. We couldn't do that. We wanted to appoint those officials through a selection and recruitment processes. The condition thereof

was we have got to finalise the review of the organisational structure of the department.

A process which took many years but could not be concluded but we have tried to work very hard and by now as a condition that process has been concluded. It found its way to the Office of the Premier, and I am quite certain that by now it is with the national Department of Public Service and Administration. Upon their endorsement or concurrence in terms of the decision, this department will then be able to move with the process of recruitment and selection process to advertise those four key positions.

It's a very serious matter because it makes my work and our work in the department very difficult, to work with people who are acting in those four key components of service delivery in the department. However, I am comfortable that we have concluded that process which was a bit of a hustle of finalising the review of the structure. We are just waiting for the signature of the Minister and upon that we should be able to move fast and by the end of this financial year if all goes well, we should have completed this recruitment process.

Equally important, I would not, like Hon Mathe has commented on the non-realisation of the fact that the reports discussed under review were during a very difficult time and there was no way in which we could have done miracles to ignore the conditions as imposed, and the commands given by our President and our Premier. We had to navigate through that process. Be that as it may, I think a recovery plan is well known all over the country and province and in all our localities that we have embarked on a recovery process both from the economy, social and as well as other areas of public services. This government of Premier Mathabatha is doing very well in all those aspects to recover from difficulties that confronts us as a consequence of COVID-19. Notwithstanding the current realities that might as well make us to detour a little bit but we will be able to recover as we move forward.

The last point is that I fully concur with colleagues that job opportunities for our people become very important. Therefore, EPWP remains and continues to be a programme of stimuli both at the level of us as a department rolling out the extent to which we can massify that. Equally important, as a coordinating function on our side we urge all of ourselves as government in totality in the province, inclusive of municipalities so that at our coordinating role of EPWP we are able to quantify continuously the extent to which those opportunities impact on the wellbeing of our people in the province.

Internally as a system, we have developed a programme that we are just about to launch which is called "Letšema Ditseleng" – an intention to massify the additional recruitment of people. However, we will be implementing certain targeted programmes so that we use differentiated methods of applying and implementing road maintenance and provision of infrastructure on the extent to which it must increase on the number of our people who benefit out of these processes. It is what we have termed as a new concept "Letšema Ditseleng".

Se se ra gore re tlile go thakgola masolo-kgoparara a matšema mo ditseleng gore batho ba rena mo profenseng ba tle ba kgone go holega, e be bomojalefa ba mananeokgoparara a mmušo wa bona wa temokrasi wa lekgotla le legolo la African National Congress. I just want to say thank you, Hon Speaker for the comments and

whatever that is outstanding we will continue to update the committee and the Sitting as and when time permits. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

- 7.3. Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure on the oversight visits to Capricorn District, Blouberg and Polokwane local municipalities which took place on Wednesday, 02 December 2020.

Committee chair, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, as duly authorised and mandated by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, hereby submit an oversight report on Capricorn District Municipality under Blouberg and Polokwane local municipalities in Limpopo province, for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Don't forget to switch off your camera. Is there any seconder? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I raise my hand to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathe. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Seono. We move to the oversight visit report to Mopani District, Ba-Phalaborwa, Greater Giyani and Greater Letaba local municipalities which took place on 18 November 2020. Committee chairperson, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much. As duly authorised and mandated by the portfolio committee chairperson, Hon Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, I hereby present an oversight visit report to Mopani District Municipality wherein Ba-Phalaborwa, Greater Giyani, Greater Letaba local municipalities were visited. I therefore present the report for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Over to Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker and greeting once again. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela herein stand to support the move by the man who is duly authorised by the chairperson of this portfolio committee, Hon Grace Makhurupetje, Hon Matsobane Simon Mathe. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selamolela. We move to the oversight visit report to Sekhukhune District Municipality, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality which took place on Wednesday, 25 November 2020. Hon deputy chair, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Let me emphasise, people should not use names that we don't know here, and people should listen attentively. I am Simon Mathe. There is no other name except this one. I, Simon Mathe, hereby present the oversight visit report as duly mandated by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Makhurupetje Makoma Grace, for Sekhukhune District under Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality in the Limpopo province. I, Simon Mathe, present the report for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Simon Mathe. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, Modulasetulo. Nna, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, ke ema mo go thekga se se boletšwego ke Mohlomphegi Simon Mathe ka ge ba romilwe ebile ba tshepagala gomme ba hlomphega, se ba se bolelago ke a se tlaleletša. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou. We move to the oversight visit report to Vhembe District Municipality. Honourable acting chair, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Matsobane Mathe, on behalf of the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, hereby present a report for oversight visit to Vhembe District in Limpopo for consideration and adoption. Now I have confirmed the other name. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Simon Matsobane Mathe. Is there any seconder? Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Inkomu, Manana Xipikara. Mina ni nga Mahlodi Caroline Manthata Mahasela ndzi lava ku seketela marito lawa vuriweke hi Muchaviseki Mtahye. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mahasela. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker is Donald Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

The Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; the Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou; MEC responsible for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Namane Dickson Masemola and your colleagues in the Executive Council of our beautiful province, the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Grace Makoma Makhurupetje and duly authorised chairperson of the day, Hon Matsobane Mathe, Members of this august House, colleagues, friends and compatriots.

Once again allow me to greet you in the name of the youth of our country whose month we are closing in two days to come. Surely to also greet you in the name of the people's charter, The Freedom Charter whose ideal society, the national democratic society we still all yearn to live in and we are doing everything in our effort today to realise that society envisaged for us by our forebears. Today we take privilege in discussing the report back of the great work we have done as a committee in line the constitutional mandate bequeathed on us by our people led by Hon Makhurupetje.

Led by this capable woman, we over the two weeks stretching from the end of November 2020 to the first week of December embarked on a serious oversight on road infrastructure programme in this province. Under the stewardship and capable leadership of our portfolio chairperson we were able to visit road infrastructure projects over the five districts of our province. We conducted this oversight against a growing community discontent in relation to road infrastructure delivery; but also we conducted this oversight during a time when there was a strong and serious myth that our road delivery agency Limpopo Roads Agency is failing and has failed to deliver on its mandate.

We are proud today to argue that whilst it was a myth so it remains, and we are more confident that indeed it shall remain a myth. But the agency and its shareholder under the leadership of Hon Masemola have upped their sleeves and doubled their effort. We are convinced after this oversight visit that the agency is doing its work. The agency is not failing. The agency is delivering and the department under the stewardship of Hon Masemola, is up on its tracks. Over the two weeks we alluded to, we have been able to visit the Vhembe region. In that region we have seen the project that assisted to connect the people from Lwamondo to Mapate crossing the river Dzindi We have seen in this region road infrastructure that connects our people to each other from one area to the other.

In the great region of Sekhukhune, we have seen road infrastructure that connects our people to heritage sites. We have seen a road infrastructure linking villages through a beautifully built bridge in Tubatse. The road connecting Sekgosese to Marobeng via the Sekgopo range of mountains remains a world class road. In it you do not only see

the commitment of our Roads Agency but you equally appreciate the art of road design. You appreciate the marvellous work of the civil engineers. You appreciate the great work done by our people in a quest to deliver infrastructure for the usage of our people. It was on this road that Hon Mdaka told us that he is taken back through memory lane to the days of his youth when he travelled the world. He had to say this indeed Hon Speaker, because he said the marvel of this road, the design and every other thing about it reminded him of the roads he has seen during his days as a youth when he travelled the world. When he was in Washington, he was on the other part of our beautiful globe he has seen the roads that equate that particular road that we have seen in that part of our province, the Mopani District.

We have been to Lephalale and we have seen the road infrastructure delivery connecting people's place of work and economic activities. We have seen our people linked to opportunities through this road. We have been to this beautiful region of Capricorn and in this region we have seen our people appreciating the road infrastructure network. We have seen the project linking this region to other regions that enhances economic activity. Hon MEC, as a committee we commend the partnership that your department and the road agency have entered into in the quest to "speed up" infrastructure delivery with the private sector, particularly the mines in the area of Waterberg and mines in Sekhukhune in the area of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality.

These are the types of social partnerships we need for delivering on the expectations of our people. If we are delayed to deliver and live up to the expectation of a national democratic society that all of us yearn to live in, we can only achieve that if we appreciate that the relationship between the private sector and public sector is non-negotiable but a necessary instrument for propelling us as a society forward. This are the type of social partnerships we need to deliver on this expectation.

The partnership, Hon MEC, on the construction of a steel bridge and its expansion in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse will serve as a seed for economic stimulation on the communities of both edges of that particular bridge. This, we so much commend, and we continue to call on the other private sector institutions to continue to lend a hand. But we also continue to call on you, Members of the Executive Council to strengthen the relationship between the public and the private sector; because it is only through this social compact that we will be able to deliver and live up to the expectation of our people.

With this work the thorny issue on our flesh remains the slow maintenance of potholes in this province. We strongly believe that prudently we can do more better to maintain potholes in this province. To this we have called on the department to increase effort in this regard, especially to increase the budget on infrastructure maintenance.

The resolve of the ANC-led government to use infrastructure for economic stimulation remains timeless, noble and prudent. We, therefore, call upon you to strengthen the work. We will never sleep in peace for as long as the people of Eldorado cannot, like other communities connect with the world. The road between De Vrede and Ratshatsha Hospital remains a thorny issue that may warrant immediate action. We have been to this road, we have seen the suffering of the people of this part of the province. Together as a committee, together with the team from Road Agency Limpopo and together with the people from the shareholder department, the

Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, we have seen and heard the cries and the concerns of these communities.

To this regard, honourable MEC we commend the great work you have already started doing on the maintenance especially of the portholes and overhauling the road between Skuurmansoog and De Vrede. We strongly hope that with the commitment we have shown in this regard we deserve to be commended. Such a hand of generosity will be extended to at least reach the Ratshatsha Hospital so that the people of that part of the province can also be able to be linked with other parts of the province.

Lastly, we have raised a strong issue about signage on all the roads of this particular province. We have raised this concern with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure when we were in Ba-Phalaborwa. We raised this concern when we arrived in Capricorn. We raised this concern when we got a bit lost in Fetakgomo-Tubatse. We raised this concern when we were in Lephalale. This is a matter that we strongly believe that the department can double its effort in, and it is a matter that is within its reach and it can be able to do its part. We are more convinced than any time ever before that; Roads Agency Limpopo and the Department itself are doing their utmost best to deliver. We have no doubt we want to communicate to the doomsayers and to those who believe in the myth that the facts have presented themselves before us during this particular oversight. With the commitments we have seen, with more resources allocated to Roads Agency Limpopo, road infrastructure challenges in this province will be a matter of yesterday.

The day we win, that is the day our economy will triumph and when the economy triumphs the ideal society as prophesised by our forebears envisaged in the Freedom Charter, the people's charter will be reached. In this regard we are confident that the oversight visit and this particular oversight report has exposed to us the reality of infrastructure delivery and the reality of infrastructure projects in this beautiful province of ours. We are committed to continue to give support to the department as a portfolio committee, to work side by side with our people, being the voice of the voiceless, to continue to speak on behalf of our communities. Thus far as a department we are confident and are happy that both Roads Agency Limpopo and the department itself led by Hon Masemola are doing their utmost best to deliver on this expectation.

I so move. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selamolela. The next speaker is Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) as amended, provides in section 114 that the Legislature must ensure that all provincial executive organs of state in the province account to it. The above-mentioned constitutional provisions are further encapsulated and amplified by sections 26 and 27 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) as amended.

It is within this mandate that the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure and Roads undertook oversights in the following districts: Capricorn, Mopani,

Sekhukhune and Vhembe. In Capricorn District, the committee focused on the following roads:

- D1468 from Senwabarwana – Bochum to Indermark to Vivo; Indermark to GaMakgato, GaMakgato to Tshate Hospital;
- D222 D3398 to Ceres – Gakwesona to Knobel Hospital to Senwabarwana;
- Helen Franz Hospital D337 – Limburg towards Matlala is D35737, and
- Harry Oppenheimer N11, Pudiyakgopa to Bakenberg.

The committee recommended the following based on the oversight to these Capricorn District's roads:

- DD1 468 from Bochum to Indermark to Vivo should have a maintenance plan in place for this road in order to ensure or restore the road quality and lifespan;
- The committee felt that the road from Indermark, GaMathabatha to GaMakgato requires serious and urgent rehabilitation as this road could lead to litigation in the event of an accident;
- The gravel road from GaMakgato to Tshate Hospital needs to be upgraded to tar as this road is extremely sandy, making driving difficult and as mobility is reduced, it also creates road safety concerns;
- The committee was concerned that road signs were not visible and requested that this should be urgently attended to.
- There has been a number of community protests which have hindered a number of the road projects;
- The committee believed the stakeholder management must be given priority to actively deal with these projects to avoid any further delays;
- There seem to be a disconnect between RAL and the department on the responsibility around projects of road maintenance and greater communication in relation to fostering that is required here to ensure to that there is no more murky water to who is responsible for what;

It is also concerning that given the conditions of some of the roads, that there were still speeding motorists which further compound the issues of accidents and the committee felt that the installation of speed humps must be looked into and installed to avoid speeding; and

- The Road D3377 from Limburg towards Matlala should be prioritised as a multi-year project focusing on sections of the road.

With regard to the road from Phalaborwa to Giyani via R81, GaSelwane, Mbaula, Xalewa and Giyani, the committee indicated that the plan should be in place that looks

at the lifespan of a road, and from there, a proper maintenance plan must be developed that would be utilised to maintain the road timeously. The potholes patching from BaPhalaborwa must be given immediate attention as this road needs major rehabilitation. The committee also indicated that the clearing of bushes must be done urgently as well. Once again, the issue of road signs came up as this is needed urgently to assist motorists. Funding must be sorted to fix this road as it is road and speed bumps must also be restored to reduce speeding and accidents on the roads.

The road D3810 to GaMatlou, Khala to GaKgare requires a more improved structure capacity and the pavement that lays on the road must be attended to in order to improve driveability on this road. The committee also suggested that the road should be tarred in the near future as this will increase and improve mobility. This road is critical as it connects communities and assists in improving the economy in the area. The road D3820 from Bloemhof to Rotterdam requires upgrading of tar to avoid accidents and loss of lives. The committee was concerned about the lack of maintenance, and lifespan investigation was a plan from the department. Stakeholder management is critical here to ensure that the project continues, and the community protests are avoided so that the project is completed within the time frames.

Finally, the Modjadjiskloof to Sekgosese to Greater Letaba, Senwamokgope to Morobeng road requires upgrading from gravel to tar. Major rehabilitation is required on sections of this road as it is unsafe, and there is high occurrence of accidents.

In conclusion, there must be a maintenance plan of all roads in the province and a time when this maintenance is due. This must be run strictly like a project subject to management principles and timelines. In an area where the budget for new infrastructure is shrinking, it is imperative that we maintain existing infrastructure, and we visit these on a regular basis and in accordance with the timelines as set out. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maharaj. Acting chair, Hon Simon Mathe, the floor is yours.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to indicate and confirm that indeed the portfolio committee has undertaken such oversight visits. Of course, all members of the portfolio committee were in attendance, and very much happy about what we have seen. For example, with the road D3109 at GaSeleka village, it came clear that the total length of the road that had to be upgraded to a surface was 14,1 km along with seven metres surfaced within two metre gravel shoulders. This road is in two stages of completion. For an example, 6 km length of the road is already surfaced with 14 ml single seal and 8,1 km length of road is on base layer that was previously primed. However, the prime has worn off due to continued traffic loading and weather. Over the period, the project was stopped due to COVID-19 restrictions.

It has at least made a contribution, be it small or huge, but at least a contribution has been made in relation to job creation wherein during the contract period, and we can duly confirm that at least 20 local labourers are currently engaged in the project. And

of course, also in relation to empowerment of SMMEs, we want to confirm that the use of SMMEs is available as subcontractors and suppliers. It has yielded some benefits which Hon Selamolela also alluded to on benefits of which constructions of this magnitude bring to our people. Part of the benefits to our people in relation to this project was the low vehicle operating cost, the dusty road, safer road, improved facilities, and of course it is an all-weather road. However, we know that in each and every project, you would always encounter various challenges. Of course, with this project one of the major challenges apart from the COVID-19 restrictions, it was the natural challenge of rain which cannot be avoided by anybody, be it the contractor or the sub-contractor or the opposition party, you cannot deal with the challenge. It is natural. However, the rainy season has slowed down, we expect progress for these challenges to be dealt with.

The progress to date, we all know that the site establishment is complete. We all know maintenance of bypass and the project is moving very well. In relation to the mitigating factors, we are sure that the contractor is capable to finish the work within the contract period should the weather permit. However, we have observed that the roads were constructed in partnership with Exxaro, which includes, Kitty, **Abbertspoort**, Letlora to Rietfontein. The roads connect the southern and southern links to which was found to be more or less 70 km to the mines. The link of these roads created access to road R510 which was a km and completing and awaiting official opening.

It was noted that this road benefitted the community in travelling time to work from GaSeleka to Steenbokpan Mine that was cut and severely reduced. It contributed immensely to productivity. It was found that the contractor to a large extent minimally so, had cash flow challenges to complete the road, but a new contractor was found. It was found that the road was to be fully completed in a period of six months with a cost of R77 million. It was also noted that Roads Agency Limpopo carried 65% of the costs and mines 35%. We appreciate the partnership between Roads Agency Limpopo and the mine.

The committee, however, noted deterioration which has already begun on the road due to the volume of vehicles driving on the road even though the road is not yet completed. The committee has emphasised, and there was compliance from Roads Agency Limpopo to put road markings, signage and concrete edges in strategic areas to be given attention, and engage in continuous maintenance of these roads. However, we want to confirm that with such, there has been compliance in such instances.

There is a road in Vhembe District – road D3688 from Khuvhi to Tshisevhe. This project started at 0 km from the intersection with road P277/1 at Khuvhi going to the west towards Damani village. The work of the project consists of the construction of 8km section surfaced between Khuvhi and Damani and the construction of a bridge storm water drainages.

This contract also makes provision for the employment of local labourers by the contractor during the contract period. The contractual amount that has been earmarked for labour utilisation of this contract amounts to R2 382 225 which is 10% of the contract value exclusive of VAT, CPA contingencies and special materials. The employment of SMMEs also requires from the contractor to make use of available services of SMMEs as subcontractors and suppliers in this project. The contractor

required amount for the employment of SMMEs is 30% of the contract value, exclusive of VAT, CPA, so on and forth.

We have also encountered challenges in relation to this project which of course, it has caused delays due to community disruptions, delays in sourcing capable locals as SMMEs and delays due to weather. Progress at this stage in relation to the project is 79% complete. The 3,3 km of the road has been primed, 1,4 km to 1,6 km lane kerbing has been installed, and the contractor is busy with preparing asphalt sealing prime section of the road. We are convinced that the contractor is capable to finish the work within the extended contract period. Nonetheless, our observation at the construction of the road connects communities and improves mobility.

The upgrading of the road to tar will yield positive economic benefits. It was established that the road leads to a potential tourism destination which was not accessible due to non-accessibility to tourism destination. The committee found it desirable for RAL and LEDET to develop future plans to improve the area. It was indicated that due to community protests, the project was delayed for completion, however, the expected completion period was to be February 2021. As of now, the project is almost 70/81% complete.

The committee hereby appreciates a finding that assistant resident engineer for the road is a woman. We appreciate the fact that assistant resident engineer for the road of the project is a woman. In this regard, we believe that the observations that we have made in all districts in relation to the oversight to a larger extent seems to be leading a very well-coordinated road infrastructure network which to a larger extent, will make our people to be able to access lot of things easily without any difficulties.

We also want to indicate that the committee has also noted the fact since we have visited majority of roads construction sites in the province, we would also want to visit areas where there have been protests wherein our people have been demanding roads so that exactly we see how these roads can be able to assist them so that when municipalities and the department make road prioritisation process, they can look into all those things. But we really believe that the oversight visit was worthwhile, and we have seen how RAL and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure are doing so far.

Our main major concern is that all these good things that Roads Agency Limpopo and the department are doing, seem not to be getting to the public. The public is only getting the negative stories, whereas not getting the positive stories which department and RAL are making. We want to make a strong appeal that both the department and RAL should look into ways of communicating their good stories towards the community of Limpopo. Our oversight visits have helped the committee in also not believing the perceptions that are created in relation to RAL and the department. The perceptions out there of the truth about RAL and the department, and our emphasis is that let us make sure that our work gets to the ears of our people; be it by newsletters, be it by radio adverts or be it in any aggressive strategy that needs to be applied so that we are able to manage these ill-informed perceptions. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Masemola, to come and respond to the observations.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker and our Premier, my colleagues in the Executive Council, the acting chairperson of the committee, members of the committee and Members of the Sitting. Equally important, I would like to appreciate and acknowledge the report in the contents therein as articulated by honourable Members in giving us feedback as this august House and the department in particular from a very important exercise that they have undertaken of visiting various sites of the province to check the extent to which this department tries its best to serve the people of our province. It is highly appreciated, Hon Speaker.

Equally important, I just want to comment on a few points. Firstly, starting with the reference to the inadequate road signage in the province which the committee, as they moved around or as it moved around, was able to identify. I must report to this honourable House that we have since issued a tender through the normal processes of a public notice, and that tender has already closed. I am quite certain that by now the internal systems in the department are working very hard to prepare such for an evaluation. Once such a decision is made, appropriate men and women will be procured to move around the province and improve on this particular aspect which the committee has already identified. So, it's a matter that has already received our attention, and we have moved. We are just looking forward to the Head of Department together with his team to do what is appropriate in terms of their functions to help us to go public at an appropriate time to tell the people of our province about this important matter. So, it is just about to go through an evaluation process. That is the first point I wanted to comment on, Hon Speaker.

The second matter relates to the stakeholder relations as identified that Roads Agency Limpopo would have to work very hard to redouble its effort in engaging various stakeholders in the province. We have since established a joint team, in fact the point which has been raised earlier on, that there seems to be a disjointed approach by both the department and as well as the entity in dealing with matters of roads attention in the province. I think, it is an issue of the past. We have since gone past that stage. The department and the entity work as one. Joint technical teams have been established from planning, rehabilitation, engineering and from the point of communications. Those processes are led by both the HOD and the Chief Executive Officer. They do report to the MEC on a fortnight basis on the extent to which they work together to close on possible areas of this juncture which could actually create unnecessary difficulties which characterised the system previously.

So, we are now going forward as of yesterday those matters are neither here nor there. What becomes very important that we should be able to deal with from the side of the Roads Agency Limpopo, is that there are some posts which are very critical which the entity cannot do substantially without them. And one of those posts which we have been unable to fill relates to stakeholder relations manager and other engineering sites and some financial issues. But, this one in particular, we have not been able to make a case convincingly so for those posts to be advertised and then be filled. It was precisely because of a policy process that intended on the future of the state-owned enterprises in the province. Be that as it may, we are trying our level best to engage

with the necessary systems in government to get a permission for the entity to fill some of those posts because politically, we are confronted on a daily basis by real matters of communities that require that level of capacity to engage and stabilise and communicate with our people. I am quite certain that those processes will soon make progress, and we see us being permitted to build that necessary capacity which is required administratively.

Community protests are a major problem for the province, in fact, in this the area of roads infrastructure. We have been to many communities. We continue to meet with many communities to make a sense to them that the extent to which they demonstrate publicly, should not be destructive, but, equally important, it is within their rights to display any dissatisfaction to their own government. But that is encouraged to be done very peacefully, not in a destructive manner. A solution to those protests, is not the extent to which we can always on a daily basis engage and talk to our people which we will continue to do. What is required, and it is a matter which I have already raised with my colleague, Hlabirwa – MEC for Treasury, that we need money.

The provincial fiscus has to help us to get money. Give us money, there will be no protests. There will be no violent confrontations. These matters will be very minimal. At the point in time, they are very high, precisely because our fiscus is very constrained. In fact, as I said during the presentation of the budget, that this year in particular, we are not going to be making any new road out of the budget that has been given to us. All the money that we have will be utilised for rehabilitation based on the maintenance grant.

New roads from gravel to tar to upgrade all the list that honourable Members have referred to my office from various constituencies, the meetings I have had with many communities in the province on a daily basis, it becomes very difficult to be very committal on how and when those roads are going to be tarred because there is no money. You can't even project that next year by now the projections show me that, I will have so many rands and cents, and I could be able to respond to your matters. So, we explain politically, and our people are very patient, I must say. Where you might have seen violent protests, out of the meetings we have had with them, they understood us. But they cannot understand us forever without any financial injection in this area of public services.

My appeal is that, at whatever level in which ever committees we meet and talk, including my discussions with my colleague, honourable MEC for Treasury, I believe that there is no any way out to stabilise the province politically, but also to move forward in providing roads infrastructure which is a stimuli on both economic and as well as social development of the province. The quicker we do that the better because we are going to be able to set out a network infrastructure that will take us to another level of trajectory in terms of development, redouble our efforts for recovery, particularly important, provide those due spaces because of networks for appropriate linkages and as well as economic development for this province.

Without appropriate roads infrastructure, development is going to be very delayed in the province. So, I am making an appeal that as we stabilise this area, as we continue to engage working together, money has to be injected, more so that we are going for national important process of testing the democracy to the extent to which it deepens and matures which is scheduled for later this year, for 27 October so that we are able

to net the appropriate capital we require this area as we deal with the holistic funding of our public services. Roads infrastructure, in my view, has to be injected with some money now, so that we can be able to move forward with ease and get this process well-covered so that all the matters which have been raised, that need funding, those new roads that need to be upgraded, we don't find our people continuing to display in the manner in which they do that out of their need, out of their expectation. And politically, we are there on the ground with them on a daily basis. But financially, let us do our appropriate injections to resolve those matters. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I really do appreciate all what has been raised by honourable Members. Thank you so much for that, colleagues and comrades.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC, for the response.

7.4. Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Health, 2020/21 second quarter report

Committee chair, the floor is yours.

MR MATLOU

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker, Honourable Members of the Executive Council, Hon Premier, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Speaker and Hon Deputy Speaker, our Chief Whip. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, as chair of the portfolio committee hereby present the 2020/21 second quarter report for consideration and adoption by this House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I raise my hand to second the move as presented by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health, Hon Matlou. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We then move to the 2020/21 third quarter report of the Portfolio Committee on Health. Committee chair, the floor is yours.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby present the 2020/21 third quarter report for consideration and adoption by the House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, over to you.

MR SELAMOLELA

I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand herein to support the move by the chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Health, Leswafo, 'Joshua-Joshua' Matlou.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We move to the 2020/21 fourth quarter report of the Portfolio Committee on Health, committee chair, Hon Matlou, the floor is yours.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga Mospikara wa rena. Nna, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, ke le modulasetulo wa Maphelo, ke kgopela gore Kotara ya Bone ya Raporoto ya Komiti ya Phothofolio ya gešo ya tša Maphelo, e lebelelwe e be e dumelelwe ke Ntlo. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Nna, Monama Kanyane Rodgers, ke emelela mo go thekga mogolle ka mo Mohlabaneng, Mohlomphegi Leswafo Joshua Matlou ka pego ye a e dirilego ya Bone ya Kotara ya 2020/2021 ya tša Maphelo. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Monama. We shall now refer to our Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members, traditional and religious leaders and those who are connected on other social media, the chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Health, Hon Matlou.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exerted a gruesome death toll, and the suddenly quick developing of vaccine notwithstanding the public health crisis is still far from being contained. Early evidence suggests that COVID-19 has pushed some businesses to adopt process innovations that were technologically possible, but largely, underutilised before the crisis. The pandemic has now undoubtedly changed our health environment, opening different perspectives, and immediate response to pandemic-induced revenue short falls was for businesses to strife to become more efficient to substantially rethink their product, business and operating models and to become more responsive to contextual changes. However, Hon Speaker and honourable

Members, our immediate task as elected and responsible leaders is to encourage the society to accede to the condition and follow the health protocols.

Under District Health Services, the department could not implement most of the targets set for health facilities to meet an ideal clinic status. The department had a target of 45% health facilities meeting the ideal clinic status, but, reported that only 14,7% which was 71 of 480 clinics met the target. The department reported that the shortage of medical equipment and the non-alignment of SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) with version 19 module were the reasons for not achieving the target. The committee is concerned that given the pandemic, the department is still struggling to ensure that our health facilities meet the status of ideal clinic. A concerted effort is necessary for our communities to receive better and quality services. The department must intensify training to be able to adopt process innovations that are technologically possible.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, we are all aware of the negative impact COVID-19 has on our health facilities. The department reported that there was an increase in the number of people defaulting on ART and TB treatment due to interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was further reported that there was also a high loss to follow up also due to interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was concerning as it contributed to the increased number of admissions in hospitals due to the severity of withdrawal symptoms. The department reported on plans to intensify efforts on tracking and tracing of defaulters through CCGs (Community Care Givers) and CHWs (Community Health Workers) and plans to intensify the quality of TB-screening amongst the HIV positive clients.

The committee is of the view that the department must explore better and possible avenues to mitigate this challenge. The use of healthcare givers following COVID-19 protocols could be an alternative while the department is exploring other technological advances. The committee is concerned about an increase in number of hospital COVID-19 fatality rates due to high comorbidity and the severity of symptoms among cases presenting in hospitals. The department reported on plans to strengthen case management of COVID-19 through the provision of high flow nasal oxygen and training of nurses and doctors.

The department must ensure that training becomes priority on the management of COVID-19. The department must further ensure that filling of vacant positions of nurses and doctors is done to close the gap of shortages when others are infected by the virus. The department must resolve the shortage of medicines particularly vaccines for children less than one year, whilst we are on an endeavour to find the light on the pandemic. The vaccination of children is of critical importance. The committee noted that the department failed to immunise children less than one year due to the unavailability of stock, and reportedly due to budget limitations.

The department also reported that the availability of essential medicines at the depot was at 66% instead of 73%. At hospitals, it was 68% instead of 90% and at 76% instead of 90% at primary healthcare centres. The department reported that this was because of supplier constraints due to COVID-19 pandemic and unavailability of some items in the market as reasons for deviation. However, the department would source and use therapeutic alternative products where available. This was a long-standing challenge of the department and could have long term serious consequences. It will

also lead to litigations which will cause the department to regress financially. The department reported on plans to order more stock.

The committee advised the department to submit a detailed report on the plan to deal with the shortage of vaccines for children and other medicines. This shortage must not be allowed to recur. If it persists, the accounting officer must institute consequence management on the personnel concerned. We were taught that experience is the best teacher when we grew up, Hon Speaker. The department must learn from the experiences of the past and make improvements.

The committee is concerned about the state of infrastructure in the province. The committee raised this matter several times that this requires the seriousness from the department. Most of our clinics and hospital structures have dilapidated, and the equipment used are absolute. The department must ensure that those that need refurbishing are hurriedly done and those that need demolishing and built anew are budgeted for.

The department reported that due to lock down restrictions, the construction sector closed down, and this led to the target set on the number of health facilities refurbished or built not achieved. It is not acceptable that most refurbishing was not achieved as a result of COVID-19 because if you go closer to the structures, you would see that it is long that it required that maintenance. A stitch in time saves lives.

The committee second the adoption of this report with recommendations presented. I so move. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Hon Smalle, it's your turn.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It is actually Hon Maharaj. The department has failed in its attempts in addressing the equity targets for women at SMS level which remained at 44% from the third quarter to the fourth quarter, and a 0% for people with disability at SMS level and 0,14% for people with disability in the whole department as at 31 March 2020. This is significantly low comparatively to the national target of 50% of women at SMS level and 2% for people with disability.

The department must keep an eye on the payment of suppliers that are paid within 30 day as this has been the historical challenge within the department which they have done very well in remedying the situation. And as this figure had decreased from 97% in the third quarter to 93% in the fourth quarter, the hard work that has been done to improve this must be monitored and the benchmark must be retained.

Revenue collection for the department was R43,8 million versus a target of R53,42 million. This is attributed to the lower turn-up of paid patients as a result of the national lockdown. The department must urgently step up the billing and submission of accounts to the healthcare funders to reduce any backlogs and to improve on revenue collection.

The non-payment by Road Accident Fund and some medical schemes must be prioritised and engagements with firm commitment must be achieved on payment to the department. With focus on the District Health Services, the department only achieved 21,4% of the 45% target on the ideal of clinic statuses. In essence, 103 of the 480 clinics met the target. We welcome the reduction of infant mortality rate which the department alludes to the improvement of neo-natal and maternal care. Through the implementation of the maternal health standards and virtual training on essential steps in the management of obstetric emergency of midwives and doctors during the third quarter, and well done to the department on that.

In terms of the Provincial Hospital Services Programme, the department only achieved 5% of the 11 targets, four were not achieved while two were not reported in the fourth quarter. The challenge here is that issues reported on the first to third quarters, carried over to the fourth quarter which included poor implementation of the protocols and guidelines by caregivers such as the fatality rate of children under five years as a result of diarrhoea, pneumonia and malnutrition. The department has indicated that an audit of patient files will be conducted to correct clinical gaps. This investigation will be followed up on what the findings were.

For the programme and central hospital services, the department only achieved four of the eight targets. The concern here is the patient safety incidents cases closure rates for the quarter with 34,3% instead of 100% targets. The department failed to report on programme four, Health Sciences, for the fourth quarter and such one cannot accurately conclude on department's performance in this area. It is critical that the department provides the committee on the following concerns in terms of the oversight programme that is expected of the committee:

- A progress report on the filling of vacant posts at the pharmaceutical depot;
- A progress report on whether largest and best systems are effective and sustainable at the pharmaceutical depot in resolving delays in payment of suppliers' invoices;
- Provide a report and a plan to deal with the shortage of children's vaccines;
- Provide a progress report regarding plans and development monitor as standard procedure on patients' safety incidents;
- A plan on training of nurses and other categories of the health professionals; and
- A plan on maintenance of refurbishment of old health facilities in the province.

In essence, a snag list which has been revamped and which still needs to be done with timelines and budgets. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Maritz, the floor is yours.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, leaders of the opposition parties, Members of the House and guests. One should hope that the department has by now realised that all eyes are on you. As Department of Health, and with the communities placing their trust in

health to provide them with the best possible healthcare. It is vital that the department set new standards for itself.

It should then be that there is no room for patience. It should be that there is no room for disappointment in the healthcare system. With this in mind the department should be embarrassed with only 103 of 480 clinics obtaining an ideal status in the midst of the worsening pandemic.

Lack of adequate maintenance, lack of medicine such as contraceptives for women, lack of proper guidelines and poor implementation of protocols, lack of properly trained caregivers is quite a concerning matter regarding the Department of Health. There seems to be a great lack of understanding on the department's side that all these areas where it fails to meet the needs of the communities, it is testimony of how much it really cares about the people's rights to be a healthy healthcare system. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Committee chair, Hon Matlou, it is your turn.

MR MATLOU

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. The Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, the Chief Whip of the majority party, honourable MECs present here, my MEC, Dr Ramathuba; honourable Members, colleagues and compatriots.

The committee has received a report from the department of R22,1 billion which was allocated during the year 2020/21 financial year. In terms of the expenditure incurred by the department, it was expected to have utilised 50% in the second quarter, 75% in the third quarter and 100% in the fourth quarter of its Budget. However, the overall expenditure incurred was at 40,4% in the second quarter, was 66,6% in the third quarter and 91,8% in the fourth quarter.

The underexpenditure reported of all the quarters during the year under review persisted and is not in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act. The department is expected to spend in terms of the regulations, particularly on Administration because the expenditure is already known. The committee also noted the trend of underspending on health sciences, training and health facilitation management in all the quarters. It is the responsibility of the accounting officer to ensure that the Annual Performance Plan is followed to the letter in this regard.

The committee is also concerned about the non-compliance with social and transformation targets. The department could not implement its own targets on equity. It was reported that under administration the department had six targets. Of the six targets, only one was implemented, two were not implemented, and three were not reported on during the third quarter. Amongst the targets to be reported was, third quarter was the A-G's report percentage of 30 % representation of women at SMS level, the number of youth development through internship and learnership. The department reported that the equity on female on SMS level is at 44%. For the people with disability at SMS level is at 0% and 0,43 for people with disability for the whole department was also as such by the 31 December 2020. This was an

underachievement based on the national target of 50% for women in SMS level and 2% for people with disability.

The committee was also informed that the number of youth who will continue to the experiential and learnership training declined from 802 to 702 in the third quarter. The committee is concerned about the decline in the target because part of the department's implementation in the key priority of the department which is good job creation. The department must clarify reasons for the decline which is not in line with the National Development Plan on the creation of quality jobs. The committee is also concerned about the vacancy rate by the key positions in clinics and in hospitals. It is critical that positions which are key and funded are filled within the year under review to mitigate the challenges of underspending.

The department further reported that an additional 70 social worker interns were placed in various health facilities for the COVID-19 relief. This is commendable and bravo to the MEC and her team. The committee believes that they must be trained further to be of great assistance to the department. The department must also provide a report on the plans to train nurses and other nursing professionals in order to address the unemployment.

The committee received a report that the department was hard at work to ensure that there is compliance in terms of payment for goods and services to suppliers within the 30 days period. We want to applaud the department for the 97% that they have achieved even though they should have achieved 100% of compliance in that regard. This was as a result of the shortage of the human resource capital at accountant payment at the pharmaceutical depot. There were some officials who were not working after contracting COVID-19 at the depot and an error encountered using the LOGIS system. The committee is concerned about the shortage of personnel at the pharmaceutical depot. The department committed that it will give priority to the vacant positions at the pharmaceutical depot, review COVID-19 rotation of staff agreement and timeously report LOGIS system error to relevant stakeholders in order to avoid further delay.

The department should provide a progress report in regard to the filling of the post for efficiency or in terms of the logging systems at that particular depot. The other concern of the committee is in relation to the targets as set and not achieved and those targets were approved in the Annual Performance Plan. The department reported that a target of 49,8% of revenue collection, and the department achieved a collection of R41,2 million with a deficit of about R8,68 million – which is not correct. Although the department found that the non-achievement was achieved because of the low turnout of payment patients as a result of national lockdown. Funders were not fully operational during the lockdown resulting in non-processing and accounting of payment especially by means of collection from non-funders.

The committee advised that the department should ensure that when targets for revenue collection are not achieved, proper steps should be followed in terms of reporting as per APP framework. The department reported that the meeting was held with the service provider to fast-track the follow-up on the Road Accident Fund which is also having an effect in terms of owing the department because out of R8,68 million is the one that is owe by Road Accident Fund. The committee commended the department on their approval by the MEC of ethics and the committee which focus on

enriching culture and promoting compliance and rules and regulations as required by the Constitution of Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) as well as the Public Administration Act, 2014 (Act 11 of 2014).

The committee notes that the Ethics Committee will go a long way in ensuring compliance by the personnel. It is an indication by the department that zero tolerance on corruption should be implemented. We want to applaud the department on establishment of the Ethics Committee. The department reported that under provincial hospitals services, 11 targets were set and approved and only 3 were achieved and 7 were not achieved and 1 was not reported on in the second quarter. The department also reported that the patient healthcare satisfaction rate was not achieved because facilities performed poorly on values and attitude, and long waiting periods. The department reported that as part of the intervention to address the problem a workshop on customer care and Batho Pele Principles for employees, executive management and external management will be conducted.

The department further reported that the waiting period system will be strengthened. The department must ensure that the system is fast-tracked and minimise incidents during waiting. The committee is further concerned that training of caregivers was not provided to ensure that protocols and guidance are followed. There was also poor implementation of protocols and guidelines by caregivers which led to non-achievement of some of the targets such as fatality rates on children under five years as a result of diarrhoea, pneumonia and malnutrition. The department indicated that health education of child main carers through CHW/CCGs (Community Health Workers and Community Care Givers) during household visits on danger signs and the importance of early presentation to health facilities will be conducted to deal with this. The department reported that the clinical audits and onsite monitoring of caregivers will be conducted. The department should provide a progress report in this regard in terms of its intervention

The committee notes with the serious concern that the state of psychiatric hospital in the province such as overcrowding, shortage of medication, poor hygiene, lack of mounted beds, and chronic shortage of health personnel such as psychiatric nurses and psychologists.

The committee urged the department to submit a comprehensive report on how they plan to deal with these challenges. The committee will continue to exercise its oversight role with this hospital to ensure that they receive proper care and service.

The department must also report on quarterly basis to the Portfolio Committee on Health regarding recommendations made by the Auditor-General's report and percentage of women representation at SMS level, the number of youth development through internship and learnership and the report on assets.

Furthermore, we want to commend the department and the MEC on the progress that they have made in terms of the rural health matters, and bravo to the MEC and her dedicated specialists in the kind of transfer skills that we see in our province. We believe this will go a long way in addressing issues in relation to the backlog that we have.

As the Freedom Charter stated in 1955 that a preventive health scheme shall be run by the state, we believe that we are going in the right way in terms of going forward towards NHI.

With those few words, as a committee, we want to push and agree that the House notes and adopts the second, third and fourth quarter reports of the department. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson of the committee.

- 7.5. Consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Health – Site visits to health facilities in the province which took place on 25 August to 23 September 2020

Committee chair, the floor is yours.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Chair. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, as the chair of committee hereby present the report in terms of the site visits by the Portfolio Committee on Health to our facilities in the province from 25 August to 23 September for this House to consider and adopt as a true reflection of the visits and as the report of the House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, chairperson of the committee. Is there any seconder? Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi. Re tsogile ka madimadima pele diphukubje di kgotlela madiba, re le bana ba lekgotla la Modimo le badimo la African National Congress gore bagaditšong ba rena ba se ke ba tla go re fahla ge re thuša naga ye gore e phologe gare ga mauba le diphefo tše di ka ba go di re nela.

Ka ona mantšu a, ke tšea sebaka se ke le Monama Rodgers go thekga modulasetulo wa Komiti ya Phothefolio ya tša Maphelo gore re amogele pego ye. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Hon Monama. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Monyamane. Hon Monyamane, the floor is yours.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable MECs and honourable Members, good day. The true test of democracy is the extent to which Parliament can

ensure that government remains answerable to the people. This is done by maintaining constant monitoring of government actions.

The portfolio committee has powers to summon any person or institution to give evidence or produce documents, and to report to them. The Constitution states that Parliament has the power to conduct oversight on all organs of state including those at provincial and local government level. When exercising oversight, the portfolio committee focused on the implementation of laws, application of budget, strict observance of COVID-19 health protocols and effective management of health facilities. The availability of personal protective equipment and preparation for isolation wards and quarantine sites for COVID-19 positive patients were also among the objectives looked into.

During oversight at the sites, the portfolio committee was able to interact with the stakeholders concerned at each health facility. The committee was able to make observations and inferences with regard to the manning of each institution given the material conditions prevalent at those health facilities. At the time the committee undertook the oversight visit, the country was at lockdown level 2. However, given that pandemic was not nearing an end, health protocols were observed. The committee's oversight role commenced in Capricorn District at Alldays Clinic, proceeded to Indermark and Helen Franz hospitals. At Alldays Clinic, the committee received information that the Department of Health could not provide training on protocol regarding COVID-19. Lack of testing kits was a challenge that could not enable nurses to assist patients. The committee was concerned about poor maintenance of infrastructure at that clinic. The building is so small with four consulting rooms with poor light and a leaking roof. The department must also maintain staff residences. The committee observed that the building is not suitable for human habitation as it was established that the plugs in one of the houses were not working. As a result, an extension cord was plugged from one house to the other which was a risk. The privacy of individuals was no longer an issue in staff residence. The clinic was short of simple things like toiletries and stationery. The administration of the clinic was conducted at the expense of the operation manager who volunteers with her money to ensure that some of the basic needs of the clinic are available.

The committee noticed that the clinic in most cases experiences water shortage and is dependent on the municipality to supply water which is stored in the tanks, and those tanks are not enough. The security of the staff is at stake as the fence needed to be fixed.

The committee was concerned and shocked about the state of Indermark Clinic. The clinic is dilapidated and the infrastructure inside poses a serious risk. The committee observed that if an incident may happen, the department is at risk of losing money through litigation. The clinic was in a dilapidated state when visited by the committee. The infrastructure was not suitable for use and did not meet the national core standard of an ideal clinic requirements.

The other concern is on the maintenance of nurses' residence. The state of the clinic is the same with the state of the nurses' residents. The committee observed the same problems with electrical cables that were seen at Alldays Clinic. The department must attend to these problems without delay.

The other problem which is identical is water and non-functionality of ablution facilities. The staff is using a bucket system to ensure that the sewage system receives waste.

The department must ensure that the waiting area is spacious for the safety of patients and the nurses, and to observe COVID-19 protocols. The security fence of the clinic must also be fixed to protect the property of the state and the personnel employed by the state. The safety of the security personnel cannot be guaranteed as well. The accounting officer must institute consequence management to staff responsible for maintenance. It cannot be acceptable for the building to be in that state.

The department reported during the oversight site visit that Indermark Clinic was amongst the clinics prioritised for major maintenance. The clinic was assessed and the cost of R3,3 million was quoted in July 2020. The department, however, did not have adequate budget to commence with the maintenance. The department must submit a detailed report on the plan about the maintenance of the clinic. Now that we are in the new financial year, the committee believes that the Indermark Clinic is included in the Annual Performance Plan, and work will be done. The accounting officer must ensure that assets of the state are safeguarded.

The committee found out that Helen Franz Hospital was severely understaffed. There was a chronic shortage of cleaners and grounds men. It was reported that there was one cleaner responsible for maternity, postnatal and other wards who worked 12 hours a day which is unacceptable. However, the hospital was very clean on our arrival. If the department could be taken to task on this condition of employment of the cleaner, the department will face a serious challenge.

They found that there was no social distancing in the maternity ward. The theatre in the maternity ward, the television and air-conditioner were also not functional at the ward. The committee was concerned and shocked that the hospital boiler was not functional for three years, and nursing staff used an electrical urn to boil water daily. The kitchen had manual equipment, and this caused delays in preparation of food. The hospital had no ventilator or oxygen points, no blood pressure machine, and no thermometer for the isolation ward. The accounting officer must constitute consequence management against officials concerned and submit a report to the portfolio committee on what action was taken. It is inhumane that resources are not availed to enable workers to do their work. The committee also found that the gateway clinic was burnt down in early 2020 due to poor electrification and was still not fixed. The chiller plant was not functional. The mental health and surgical patients were admitted in the same ward. The hospital requires revamping.

The committee was totally unhappy about the state of WF Knobel Hospital. This hospital is amongst those hospitals visited by the Office of the Public Protector after the visit by the portfolio committee. The committee would also like to stress that after the visit there was a protest by community members and vandalism took place. The hospital also reported shortage of chronic medicine for hypertension, psychiatric patients and cough mixture. According to the stock list, there were 756 items of which 590 were in stock and 167 were out of stock. That takes us to the challenge faced by pharmaceutical depot, and the shortage of qualified pharmacists was a challenge and were augmented by interns and community service personnel. The pharmacy had no storeroom and the cold room was not functional for more than a month.

It was reported that the hospital had no ventilator. The one which the hospital had was taken to Modimolle Hospital for COVID-19 ward. The department must explain if WF Knobel had no COVID-19 wards, and whether the hospital does not deserve the ventilator.

The committee found that there was shortage of doctors at the casualty. Available doctors were often attending meetings, and this increased patients' waiting time at casualty.

The committee observed that the personnel at casualty are not safe. The OPD (Out-patient Department) is a distance from the casualty with an open space. The committee found that the hospital is good for patients habitation. The ablution facility for staff and patients were not separated in the COVID-19 ward. Males and females use the same rest rooms. There were no showers and bathing facilities.

Hon Speaker, the vacancies at the hospitals are not filled. The mortuary had no attendance and no waiting area for families. It was reported that three of the nine cubicles in the mortuary were not functional. The committee found that the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has an establishment of 32 staff including administration officers which serviced all 15 clinics surrounding the hospital. The EMS building was not equipped with the necessary working infrastructure. There was one telephone and no cell phones are provided. The station operated with three ambulances which were very old, with over 300 000 km and did not have suitable equipment. There was no obstetric ambulance and this poses a challenge to patient.

The committee found that the toilets were blocked and leaking and were not maintained. The committee found that there is a gateway clinic which operated from six to six with four nurses. There was no ventilation since the windows were too small and the clinic was overcrowded. The toilets were not functioning and had been reported to the department several times. The administration of the clinic was done at the dispensary. The queue was too long, and patients took a long time to be attended to, which posed a challenge also for the department.

The committee found that the X-ray equipment was not user-friendly especially for trauma patients. There was no waiting area, and it was reported to be problematic during rainy days. The X-ray department was very small and did not have privacy.

The committee noticed that the basic conditions of employment at the hospital are infringed. There was shortage of staff and employees worked long hours. The hospital reported that 11 employees were suspended in May due to an illegal strike. According to the union representatives, the charges were not justified as patients were serviced that day. The union further reported the intervention of the district office which was not illegal and unnecessary. This was confirmed by the district management for primary healthcare who alleged that she was not involved in the decision to suspend the employees. The hospital management reported that a hearing took place, and the hospital was awaiting the ruling of the hearing. The 11 employees were leaders of Nehawu at the time they were suspended. The department must ensure that the matter is resolved without harming the patients.

Hon Speaker, the committee moves for the adoption of the oversight report with all recommendations made by the portfolio committee. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Monyamane. Hon Maharaj, the floor is yours.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Portfolio Committee on Health conducted site visits to 20 health facilities. These included hospitals, clinics and emergency medical services in the five district municipalities of the province. These visits had been necessitated by the need to ensure cleanliness that is hygiene and sanitation of health facilities, adhering to social distancing measures as prescribed by the Department of Health, availability of personal protective equipment and preparations for isolation wards and quarantine sites for COVID-19 positive patients. The oversight visits revealed that all hospitals and clinics across different districts all seemed to face similar challenges. Some facilities like Alldays Clinic and Mashishimale Clinic had issues with the poor quality and maintenance of roads leading to the clinics. These roads also impact on the response of EMS and make them harder to access patients.

Infrastructure challenges continue to be one of the department's biggest challenges. Alldays Clinic had poorly maintained consulting rooms with no lights, broken windows and a roof close to collapse. Helen Franz Hospital had a gateway clinic that burnt down in early 2020 but had not been renovated. Hospitals like Musina and Warmbaths also had ageing infrastructure that need to be attended to in order to ensure it does not become a risk to the patients.

The high vacancy rate in the province poses a risk in the quality of healthcare in Limpopo that Limpopo will receive. Philadelphia Hospital in Sekhukhune District and Warmbaths Hospital in Waterberg District had vacancy rates of 58% and 55,7% respectively across both health professionals and administration staff. Many facilities had shortage of porters, cleaners, general workers and mortuary staff. Siloam Hospital had vacancies in psychiatric, maternity and theatre.

Insufficient medical equipment remains a major challenge, especially as we deal with the third wave of COVID-19. Helen Franz Hospital had no ventilator, no oxygen point, no blood pressure machine and no thermometer for the isolation ward. Philadelphia and WF Knobel Hospitals had a shortage of ventilators and other medical equipment. The shortage of medication was also evident in facilities like Motetema Clinic and Siloam Hospital.

The neglect of EMS, understaffing and the continued use of ageing ambulances in the province is unacceptable and requires attention. Matlala, Musina, George Masebe and Siloam Hospitals had ageing vehicles and a shortage of ambulances to service the numerous clinics and health facilities around the EMS centres. Most ambulances had between 150 000 km and 600 000 km on the clock. Some facilities indicated the turnaround time of two to three hours because of too few ambulances. Water shortages and inappropriate sanitation at a few facilities like George Masebe Hospital, Indermark Clinic and Mamone Clinic, as well as poor quality personal protective equipment at the site visit of Makwetla Clinic, Siloam Hospital and Maphutha Malatji Hospital are of a concern as we enter the third wave of COVID-19.

We hope this time better quality PPE is sourced by the department. As a result of the site visits, it is clear that the maintenance and refurbishments of healthcare infrastructure should be done as soon as possible. The department must collaborate with other departments and municipalities to ensure provision of water, suitable and adequate sanitation and repairs to roads leading to rural healthcare facilities. The department must ensure that the vacant posts are filled to increase capacity as well as expedite the procurement of new ambulances and Planned Patient Transport and repair existing vehicles. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maharaj. Hon Matlou, the floor is yours.

MR MATLOU

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. The Premier of our province, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, MECs present here, Hon Chief Whip, the leaders of the opposition parties, honourable Members, traditional leaders and religious leaders, and colleagues, I greet you.

As the portfolio committee, in contemplating the inputs by my colleagues, the portfolio committee had, during the oversight visit of health facilities, managed to visit some of the hospitals in Capricorn, Mopani, Sekhukhune, Waterberg and Vhembe Districts. Much of the inputs have been made in other districts, and I shall present some of the observations by the portfolio committee. I must also point out that some of the challenges are the same in most of the clinics and hospitals visited. I must also outline that this report is presented today, eight months after the visits were done, and some of the improvements have already been done, but as the portfolio committee, we will stick to the report as by then when we visited.

The committee observed overcrowding in maternity wards which compromised social distance requirements. There was also a shortage of midwifery, and this affected the staffing at the maternity wards. The violation of the basic conditions of employment was rife at Maphutha Malatji Hospital. There was also an infrastructure challenge in the maternity ward due to the new building that was constructed, and the ward was also incomplete. The maternity theatre chiller plant had not been working for the past two years. At the theatre, the hospital had lent the anaesthetic machine to Letaba Hospital and that meant that the hospital could not perform any procedure that requires the usage of anaesthetic machine. The department must ensure that the new anaesthetic machine is bought for Letaba Hospital so that Maphutha Malatji can continue using its own equipment.

The committee found that the hospital had no dedicated psychiatric ward. The mental patients were admitted with other patients, and this posed a risk because the psychiatric patients admitted had substance and drug abuse challenges. The department must ensure that psychiatric patients have their own ward which will be safe for use. The department must also ensure that the kitchen equipment is also fixed. The kitchen staff did not have a uniform. The hospital had two operational theatres, and the air conditioners were not working in both. The hospital reported that the air conditioners needed a complete overhaul. The department must ensure that the OPD

that was under construction is completed to minimise infrastructure challenges at Maphutha Malatji Hospital.

The accounting officer must institute consequence management against officers responsible for maintenance. The committee is concerned about the dereliction of duties by those particular officials. The committee was also concerned about the shortage of staff at the hospital. There was also no food service manager. The committee also found that the hospital did not have corporate and finance managers, a senior clinical manager and some managers were on acting capacity. There was no specialist in the paediatric ward. The committee found that the PPEs were generally available. The quality of the PPEs as recommended, some were of small size and some were of good size and we believe that the matter should be addressed by the department. The department must also attend to the matter as it has the potential for those who are [inaudible] ultimately found themselves being COVID-19 positive.

The committee is concerned that the EMS vehicles of the hospital was beyond the kilometre limit and some vehicles were above 200 000 km. At the time of the visit, two of the nine ambulances were functional. The district received some ambulances in 2019, and Maphutha Malatji Hospital received one ambulance. The committee commended the department about the cleanliness of the mortuary at the hospital. The mortuary has 54 trays available, and they were all functional. The department must adopt the same approach to other hospitals and clinics because we believe Maphutha Malatji has an ideal plan in terms of maintaining its mortuary.

The committee found that the psychiatric ward had a poor referral system which led to the patient demise, and as a result staff members experienced stress from community, and the department must attend to this matter as a matter of urgency to avoid litigations.

The committee observed and found that Kgapane Hospital entrance was not conducive and not environmentally friendly. There were unorganised street vendors that made the hospital look dirty and unwelcoming. The gate of the hospital was old and worn out. The department must fix it for the sake of security of all personnel and patients at hospital. Community leaders outlined that the hospital board was ineffective. Posts were centralised and local people were not given equal opportunities when vacancies were advertised. This was the word by the community members. The committee observed that even though the out-patient department was renovated, there were challenges raised such as the lack of telephone lines to communicate with other units within the hospital. Doctors and nurses either use their own cell phones or had to walk to other units to access the phone. Lack of equipment is also a serious challenge. The resuscitation room in the new OPD room was not well-equipped and obsolete equipment was still used to assist patients. The short stay room in the new OPD that was used to attend patients while others under observation was too small to fit in the stretcher. The committee received a report that there were no flowing oxygen and trauma beds in the resuscitation room. At the X-ray unit, there was no apron for the radiographer. The sliding board was stolen during the renovation while the X-ray machine was also not mobile. The autoclave was not functional and the laundry is short of trolleys to deliver linen to wards, no laundry aids and no uniform for the staff.

The committee was concerned that the infrastructure at occupational therapy unit was inappropriate for the service offered. Occupational therapists improvised to offer this

service. There were also chronic shortages of wheelchairs. In the kitchen, there was also an automatic stirring pot, no rest room, no storage and not even uniform, no electric chopper to serve patients.

Generally, the working environment at Kgapane Hospital is not conducive and the department must resolve all the challenges without delay. The hospital has no requisite and sufficient staff to execute their duties. At the mortuary, you will find the porter operating as a mortuary attendant. There are shortages of beds and there were also no outside lights leading to the mortuary. The hospital was commended for the cleanliness, and better infrastructure was also available. There were 32 staff members serving 21 clinics and one health centre. The manager's office was also used as a storeroom, and there was no change room. The hospital has a shortage of porters especially at night. The department must resolve these problems.

In Sekhukhune District, the committee visited Philadelphia Hospital, Mamone Clinic, Matlala Hospital and Motetema Clinic. The committee observed that many posts are not filled in Philadelphia Hospital. Most of the employees were on acting positions, and this creates uncertainty when key positions are supposed to be taken. The staff appointed to those particular positions are not in possession of letters of appointment with benefits associated with those acting positions. The committee was concerned with the prolonged acting positions in management. The vacancy at the hospital is too high, and it is reported to be at 58% for both the health professionals and administration staff. The hospital filled around 639 out of the 1 548 positions. The department must resolve the matter urgently and develop a detailed plan on how and when it intends to address these matters and submit to the committee. The committee was also concerned that the EMS facility served a large area. The ambulances were reported to have been more than 150 000 km. They were not equipped with incubators for effects. The hospital did not have any ambulance on standby at the time of the visit.

The challenge of storage of the vehicle dated back to more than 10 years ago. The hospital EMS used ambulances for planned patient transport to transport patients due to the shortage of vehicles for transporting patients to tertiary hospitals and outside the province. The department must ensure that the hospital receives ambulances to properly service the community. The hospital did not have adequate stock of PPEs. It was reported that Public Works visited the hospital to assess the infrastructure needs and no response was received back at the time of the visit. The department must submit an assessment report from Public Works. The committee was concerned with the dismay that COVID-19 isolation ward has no cleaner and nurses. The already overworked staff was used to attend to the isolation ward as well. How does the department expect patients to be healed without proper care?

The committee found that there was no social distancing at the OPD. This was the biggest contributor in the infection rate. In addition, the staff in the isolation ward did not have uniform. The department must ensure that the staff that alternate to work in the ward and those close by are tested and monitored to mitigate the super spreading of COVID-19. The hospital had backlog of COVID results due to high specimen sent to Polokwane. The committee further urged the department to ensure that the pharmacy functions properly and must meet the requirements of the Pharmacy Council Regulations. There was no privacy and no waiting room. There was no storage of surgical supplies such as tubes and syringes. The mortuary did not have mortuary

attendants. The porters to the mortuary were not appointed in writing and did not receive any compensation. The committee received a report that many patients that were sent to the hospital come from Mpumalanga. It was added that there was also a memorandum of understanding that was due to be finalised between Mpumalanga and Limpopo. The department must resolve the matter to ensure that quality service is provided with sufficient resources.

Musina Hospital is overcrowded. The infrastructure was generally old and no space. The hospital has to improvise space in order to accommodate patients. There was no waiting room for the hospital. It must be noted that this hospital takes almost half of the budget of the entire district of Vhembe and due to the influx of our neighbours from Zimbabwe. The committee found out that there was no in-house EMS. The EMS was housed in a mobile structure which did not have proper air conditioning. The hospital identified the nursing home within the hospital which was utilised for housing the EMS personnel. The ambulances in the EMS were old and risky to transport patients and could potentially expose the hospital to litigation in case anything went wrong.

The committee further found out that the mortuary was housed in a facility that was meant to provide forensic services and was therefore underutilised. The fire extinguishers were not serviced on time, and there was no compliance with the occupational health and safety regulations. The committee found out that the pharmacy was not in compliance with the establish pharmacy standards especially due to the lack of space. Some medical stocks were also on the passages while others were packed on the ground which contravened the standards. Some COVID stocks were also stored in various buildings in the hospital because they were improvising. There were staff shortages at the pharmacy as there were only three employees instead of six.

The committee observed that George Masebe Hospital in Waterberg was surrounded by rural areas with poor social facilities for accommodation. Doctors including those who are employed as interns and community services do not stay long. The location of the hospital also made it difficult for the hospital to retain doctors. However, the hospital was overly maintained and supported. It was reported that this was in collaboration with the nearby mines. The hospital had a high care facility of COVID-19 patients. The hospital also had a COVID-19 room for babies and children. The department must adopt the same approach to other hospitals and we say bravo to the management of George Masebe Hospital. The committee commended the management at the pharmacy of George Masebe Hospital because it meets the requirements of an ideal pharmacy. It services around 14 clinics. On this one, we want to say bravo to the MEC and the entire department. The hospital also has a challenge in the mortuary which was old, and some of the cabins were not fully functional. There was no dedicated staff for the mortuary and as such porters were used as mortuary attendants. The cleanliness of the mortuary was not satisfactory due to shortage of cleaners and this affected other patients. The ambulance that was used was borrowed from Mokopane EMS. All the allocated ambulances were at the merchandise for repair. The kilometres already travelled by ambulances were between 183 000 and 615 000. We believe that when the department requires more resources from the Department of Treasury, this will be considered because most of our ambulances are mobile coffins. The EMS station manager has been acting since 2006 without any benefits. The EMS station has no equipment, stretchers and spinal cord boards. The department must ensure that the EMS is considered in essential service.

With those few words, the committee supports that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Health be adopted with these recommendations to this particular august House. I so move. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, committee chair. We shall now call upon the MEC for Health, Dr Ramathuba, to come and give comments on the observations made by Members.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the House, Leader of the Opposition in the House and fellow Members of Executive Council, let me welcome the presentation and the reports presented here today, as we were busy deliberating and debating as the committee.

As the chairperson has indicated, this report is almost a year old. I think it would be unfair for the portfolio committee if we would start to bore you by responding to the toilet at this facility and the toilet at that facility. Otherwise, we would be converting this to another committee meeting which we would not want to do. Suffice to say that there was indeed a room for improvement, and such has been done. It will be good if the portfolio committee can still again visit some of the areas like W F Knobel Hospital and see the progress that is being there.

I also want to clarify that sometimes officials on the ground, when they see members of the committee, they would want to complain about everything, because of lack of understanding. To give an example, Hon Monyamane was saying that the hospital does not have a ventilator. We took the ventilator to the MDR facility, where we were nursing patients who were critically ill and required ventilation and this facility had physicians who are qualified and ICU nurses who are qualified to operate that ventilator. W F Knobel Hospital is a level 1 hospital. I think it would have been good if you had asked those who were demanding the ventilator if they were using it? You should have asked them if they have trained ICU nurses in the facility. We will definitely follow up on some of those issues, because I went to visit and I asked them. Yes, they need oxygen points in their wards, they need [inaudible] machines. They need flow oxygen machines, even the ventilator physicians were even advising against incubating and ventilating the patients immediately when they arrive.

In terms of the guidelines and protocols, that is why we took the decision that we took and provided them with the equipment that is correct for their level of care. Otherwise, the equipment must be at the lab. You cannot expect Dr Mangena, who is a nephrologist, to be at the same level with someone in the district hospital. It is a completely different level of care. I will give you example with Maphutha Malatji when they say their anaesthetic machine has been taken to Letaba Hospital, and they are unable to operate. I think colleagues they were not honest. At Letaba Hospital, I am not sure if they have got seven or nine theatres. I just need to correct myself because it is a regional hospital. Maphutha Malatji has got three anaesthetic machines. They must be able to explain to us what were they doing with the three anaesthetic machines. We took the machine because it was accumulating dust. We have got quite so many specialists, and we are also doing our outreach with the specialists. We

needed to utilise all the theatres. That is why we are going to move equipment from one area to another for the benefit of the people of Limpopo and not for individuals. It is nice to say, I've got this equipment while you are not utilising it.

All the issues raised by Members here in relation to the quarterly reports boil down to three issues, mainly infrastructure, the shortage of staff and the clinical support, focusing primarily on EMS and pharmaceutical. One would want to summarise by stating that our infrastructure has aged and is dilapidated. I have been on this platform several times crying and pleading poverty saying that we need resources. We do have men and women in the department and should we be given those resources, we can be able to demolish all these clinics and rebuild them to meet the ideal status. We have got two options. Either you give us the money as the Legislature, and we rebuild or all those clinics that do not meet the ideal status, we close them and remain with the few that meet the ideal standard. We are afraid of litigation. Is that practical? None of these two options is an option because we are not living in the moon as the Department of Health; we are realistic. These are the material conditions that affect us as a country and as a province when we are not doing well economically, and as a province, COVID-19 did not assist any of us. When R1 billion is cut from the Department of Health, you must remember, we are cutting the very same money that must buy vaccines, the very same money that must improve infrastructure. Of course, we would say to Treasury, we will work together with our Treasury and do the most that we can with the limited resources.

Up to so far, I want to take this opportunity and appreciate the men and women within the Department of Health, because given the serious resource constraints we are faced with daily, they become innovative so that we can save the lives of the people of Limpopo. We do not want to end up saying we are not going to provide patients with ventilators. If you look at our approach towards fighting COVID-19, our public hospitals have done their level best in terms of treatment of those patients.

Patients are dying even in the private facilities. When we are told there are no beds, it is not about the public hospital, Hon Maritz. When they say there is no bed, there is no bed in the private hospital. Some people believe that they can only be admitted if they go to a private hospital. We have never run short of beds in the public hospitals. Therefore, we must appreciate that our Treasury, even though there was a budget cut, they were able to assist us and divert the resources towards fighting the pandemic. Even now, resources are being diverted towards assisting with the vaccination programme. Slow as it is, we are also not happy. We would have loved that by this time, we should have covered the 67% of the people of Limpopo. We do have the capacity to do so, but the resources remain a challenge, and therefore you need to prioritise and say how you then navigate the department without compromising the services.

In terms of the money that we are supposed to have to appoint staff, if you look at the current challenges we are facing, all honourable Members who debated indicated that we visited these clinics, and they have only one cleaner in this particular ward. That is the reality we are dealing with on the ground, and it is a fact. You might find that if you go back, that cleaner might have retired because most of them were at advanced age, and when COVID-19 started, most of them were saying that they do not want to see themselves succumbing to COVID-19. They have seen their colleagues dying, and some of them took early retirement. If you look at those people who took early

retirement, it's mainly the same people that are at the coalface and not the staff who are in the office. Those who are in the offices including you and me can work through Zoom and Teams, But a cleaner in the hospital must be there to clean and bath a COVID-19 patient. A nurse must go there and nurse a patient physically. You cannot do it virtually. A doctor must go and make sure they incubate the patient. You can't do it virtually.

We really welcome all the inputs, although the report is belated. We have already done some improvements. What is interesting is that the Premier had just launched the obstetric ambulances and we have just bought a few obstetric ambulances and allocated each per district because we have just started with this programme as part of reducing **maternal and perinatal mortality**. Obviously, for some stations, we won't be able to buy all the facilities at the same time. We will buy as per availability of resources. Instead of continuing with the obstetric ambulance with the batch that we have just launched, we had to revert and bring an ambulance that could be able to respond to COVID-19 patients. We needed to get ambulances fitted with those machines that will be able to assist anyone who requires a ventilator before they even get to the hospital because our ambulances are operated by those that are qualified to can do so. You can see that it is another regress, because we had planned that on an annual basis, we are going to build on this stock in terms of obstetric emergency medical vehicles. That could not be done this year, because if you look back and say, in preparation of the third wave, let's do this and we have done that. Of course, even our fleet just like the infrastructure is very old. The problematic area is that when you procure an ambulance in our province, the kilometres that they travel – because people like to compare us with provinces that are in the cities. If you compare Gauteng to our province, the furthest you can travel might not be more than 50 km. In our province, if you buy an ambulance today, already if you put it on the road, it would have done more than 300 km; because our ambulances have to travel from Maphutha Malatji, Musina, Thabazimbi, and Lephalale to Polokwane. That is the reality we are dealing with. We are in a province that geographically is a challenge. Not so long, we have been debating in this House the issues of road infrastructure. We are alive to the reality that the rain we received this year, though appreciated, did not come for free. It came with unintended consequences – the damage to the roads.

Yesterday I went to Mamaila village to vaccinate our veteran, Pharephare Mothupi. I wanted to vaccinate him because we made a commitment to provide vaccines to all our senior citizens who are above 90 in the comfort of their homes. Those of you who know the road to Mamaila village will tell you how bad the condition of the road is. This is the road that an ambulance must travel daily. Mind you, an ambulance can't drive like you and me. An ambulance must always be on a high speed, especially after picking up a patient. If it doesn't, the patient might die on the road. Despite the fact that we buy ambulances on annual basis, they do not last. As they reach 200 000 km and beyond, their lifespan gets reduced. There is one honourable Member who said that some of these ambulances are like our moving coffins. We would want to avoid this situation that we are faced with currently. How do we avoid that? By parking all of them and say, we are not going to respond to any emergency? It is still not acceptable. The fact of the matter is that we will continue working with our honourable Members in the portfolio committee to try and resolve these challenges. We also expect honourable Members to support and assist us, especially when it comes to vandalism.

I went to visit Knobel Hospital to respond to the allegations that were there, and we have made a lot of improvements there. After making such improvements, what happened? The community came and started destroying the very same infrastructure that we had just improved. We expect honourable Members, when you interact with stakeholders to say to them that we hear your complaints that you do not have infrastructure; but how to we move forward when you come and destroy some of the improvements that the MEC has just made. We need to work on that.

Other issues raised by honourable Members relate to community service manning pharmacies. Community service staff are qualified. The people who are not qualified, who still work under supervision are your interns. Committee service is self-explanatory. This is a programme which government would want professionals to go and serve their community. They are not studying; they have completed their studies. They can be qualified as independent practitioners. They can manage any pharmacy they are supposed to. They are qualified. The only problem is when you get interns doing that because interns are still under supervision. Even the community service doctors should be able to do their own caesarean section without anybody. They should be able to do **appendixseptomy** because they shall have gone two years of internship. So, we don't expect them to be saying, we want to work under supervision. It shouldn't be. Of course, we note and accept that learning and studying must continue.

We have indicated in the previous Sitting that we have started with medico-legal training in all our districts. There are medico-legal workshops taking place. We hope that such training will assist us in reducing a number of issues that result in medico-legal claims.

Yes, all eyes, Hon Maritz, are on the Department of Health. Let me reassure you, as a province we have got standards. We don't compromise on patient care. With all the limited resources, the department tries by all means to improvise. We always make sure that we mitigate. That is why you might have heard earlier on the DA tabling a motion and a statement which show that because we know our challenges, we are even deploying our specialists to those rural areas to assist in dealing with some of the backlog.

I want to disagree with Hon Seono when she says the equipment in our hospitals is unacceptable and whatever. I would want to disagree with her on that. For instance, when Dr Thendo Netshiongolwe, went to operate that 5 kg breast and remove it, he did not carry a truck of equipment from Pietersburg Hospital to Mopani. He went there with his skills to perform that operation using the equipment that is there. So, all of the equipment is not obsolete. I beg to differ with her. For instance, we saw Dr Dikgale at Dr C N Phatudi Hospital performing procedures and many people were calling me, including my professors saying how do you perform such a procedure in a level one hospital. This is proof that we have done fairly well in terms of improving our equipment compared to the resources we are having. There is a lot of work that still needs to be done by this department ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, please conclude.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Hon Speaker, I have noted your request. I thought I was responding to the three reports, because after the quarterly reports, I was not given an opportunity to respond. There was also a debate about the report of the site visits.

Let me therefore summarise by saying that I have already commented on the issues of infrastructure. On the issue of shortage of staff, if we are to be given funds today, we can be able to fill all the existing posts. We have tried as a department to even come up with certain policies and circulars to regulate overtime to make savings. They were received with negativity and was threatening service delivery, hence we had to pause, look back and ask ourselves as to whether is it still necessary.

One thing that we must appreciate is that Treasury has approved that we can advertise 1 388 COVID-19 posts. These are temporary staff and the advert is already out. We will be able to appoint them on a contract basis. They are not going to be permanently employed. They will assist us to fight the COVID-19. Otherwise, all the other inputs that Members have made, we are taking them in good spirit. We will continue to work with the portfolio committee for the sake of the health of the people of Limpopo. At the end of the day, ours is to preserve and prolong the lives of the people of Limpopo. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

Motion for the ratification of the appointment of special delegates who attended NCOP plenaries in Cape Town by Hon Chief Whip. Hon Mokgonyana, the floor is yours.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, chairpersons of committees, Hon Deputy Speaker, honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to greet you this afternoon.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES WHO ATTENDED NCOP PLENARIES

(Motion for Ratification)

House Rule 226(3) provides for the designation and appointment of special delegates when the House is not sitting. In line with this rule, the following honourable Members were appointed to attend the below-mentioned NCOP plenaries:

- 04 June 2021 – Debate on Budget Vote 33: Human Settlements and Vote 41: Water and Sanitation: Hon B R Makamu and Hon N A Ndalane;
- 08 June 2021 – Debate on Budget Vote 16: Basic Education: Hon P Boshielo;
- 09 June 2021 – Debate on Budget 19: Social Development: Hon C N Rakgoale;

- 10 June 2021 – Questions for the President: Hon N D Masemola, Hon A J D Ndou, Hon E M Mokgonyana and Hon C B D Selane;
- 11 June – 2021 Debate on Youth Day: Hon C N Rakgoale, Hon C B D Selane, Hon K M Lebea and Hon J Seshoka;
- 15 June 2021 – Questions for the Deputy President: Hon N D Masemola, Hon A J D Ndou, Hon E M Mokgonyana and Hon C B D Selane;
- 17 June 2021 – Questions to Cluster 1(a): Peace and Security: Hon M M Lerule-Ramakhanya, Hon M R Seono, Hon N G Sibanda-Kekana and Hon G R Monama;
- 18 June 2021 – Consideration of Appropriation Bill, provisional: Hon C S Sekoati, Hon M G Makhurupetje, Hon M M Lekganyane and Hon S D Selamolela;
- 22 June 2021 – Question to Cluster 1(b): Peace and Security: Hon M R Seono, Hon C B D Selane and Hon M A Mokaba-Phukwana; and
- 23 June 2021 – Debate of the report of the Ad hoc Committee on the North-West intervention, section 100: Hon R R Molapo, Hon A J D Ndou and Hon E M Mokgonyana.

I hereby move that this House resolves to ratify the appointments of the above-mentioned special delegates in line with the provisions of House Rule 226(3).

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder to the move? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby second the presentation as done by Hon Chief Whip of the majority party. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

9. DRAFT RESOLUTION

I call upon the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker, once again.

THE RISING OF THE HOUSE FOR RECESS
(Draft Resolution)

I hereby move that when this House rises today, it will sit again on Tuesday, 03 August 2021 at 10:00 as the House will be going on recess. Honourable Members will be informed well in advance with the format of the Sittings which will be adjusted in line with the COVID-19 regulations.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder to the move? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

I support the move as presented by the Hon Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mdaka.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? There are none.

11. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned to Tuesday, 03 August 2021 at 10:00. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
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**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 05 AUGUST 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
THURSDAY, 05 AUGUST 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

I could see from my gadget that everyone is here. Can we start with the business of the day? We shall now have the opportunity to observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; honourable Members of the Executive Council; Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou; Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Monicca Mochadi; Chair of Chairs, Hon Mashamaite; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Selane; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Buthane; honourable Members of this august House; Secretary of this Legislature, Mr Mothoa and his team and officials from various departments, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

Let's proceed with the business of the day.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

**THE UNFORTUNATE PASSING AWAY OF THALITHA MOKGADI MONICA
LEBEA-MAMPURU
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the ANC to move that this august House notes that the ANC has learnt with a deep sense of sadness about the unfortunate passing on of veteran Mama Thalitha Mokgadi Monica Lebea-Mampuru; a well-decorated veteran of our glorious movement who lived and dedicated her entire life fighting for a non-racial, non-sexist, free, and prosperous South Africa.

The death of our veteran closes a chapter of a political life that was dedicated to the liberation of the people of South Africa. Her passing has robbed our country of a phenomenal woman of substance, fortitude, great stature, and sound leadership acumen.

Through her vast knowledge, wisdom, and political experience, she made immense contributions. Death has indeed robbed the people of Limpopo and South Africa, a true revolutionary whose involvement was not an accident of history. To say she was a heroine, perhaps, is underestimating. The veteran she was, she was a legend and a stalwart.

As we are gathered in this Sitting, the mortal remains of our heroine are being laid to rest. We welcome the decision by the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, to accord the late struggle stalwart, veteran Mama Thalitha Mkgadi Monica Lebea-Mampuru, a Special Provincial Funeral Category 2.

Mama Thalitha Mkgadi Monica Lebea-Mampuru spent much of her life traversing between Zambia, Tanzania and the Soviet Union as an exile who was forced to flee her country of birth by the atrocious apartheid regime.

Mama Thalitha Mkgadi Monica Lebea-Mampuru belonged to a distinguished generation of struggle heroes and heroines who made sure that ANC continued to live even when the apartheid security forces, and the bellicose warmongers believed that they had infiltrated the liberation movement.

In October 1979, she was deployed to Tanzania to assist in converting the Mazimbu village to become a contemporary South African village in exile, providing modern schooling, hospitals, and domiciled facilities for South African comrades.

After the unbanning of political organisations in 1991, she was repatriated back to South Africa with her family where she freely participated in the politics of the ANC.

In 1999 she became a recipient of the Political Stalwarts Award, confirmed by the then Premier of Limpopo, Ngoako Ramathlodi for her outstanding contribution to a free South Africa. We pay homage to her legacy of integrity and her servant leadership.

Hon Speaker, we have also lost a colossal music giant, Cde Steven Mokwalakwala Sefofa, who was steep in his traditional kwasa kwasa music. Comrade Sefofa was an ANC activist and a volunteer who perished few days ago.

He was popularly known as Malo-A-Botsheba. He used his popularity to galvanise support for the ANC. We are hurt beyond imagination by the passing on of this selfless member of our glorious movement. The ANC mourns his death and many others who have perished in the past few months.

We want to send heartfelt messages of condolences to the bereaved families, friends, and comrades.

I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. Is there any seconder to the motion?

MR MDAKA

I second the Motion, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Who is speaking?

MR MDAKA

It's Hon Falaza Mdaka. I second the motion as proposed.

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Thank you very much. Is there any other motion without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to you, the leaders of all political parties represented here and colleagues.

THE UNTIMELY PASSING ON OF CLLR MARVIN LEWELA
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move a motion without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF in Limpopo is saddened by the untimely passing away of fighter Marvin Lewela. Fighter Marvin passed away in the early hours of 01 August 2021.
- At the time of his death, he was an EFF public representative, a councillor at Maruleng Municipality and a member of the Provincial Command Team (PCT) here in Limpopo, the highest decision-making structure in the province.
- Fighter Marvin remained committed to the EFF and its sound values until his last breath as he contributed to the formulation of those values.
- When a clarion call was made in 2013 by the commander-in-chief, he was amongst the first generation that responded and continued with the struggle for economic freedom in our lifetime without knowing that one day we will be pursuing the struggle under the banner of a movement that he contributed to designing its logo; a movement that he contributed to formulating its founding principles, founding manifesto and its constitution.
- Fighter Marvin joined the EFF when it was not fashionable to be associated with it and its leadership. He was proud to be part of this generation that has a mission to accomplish and achieve economic freedom in our lifetime.
- He was there at the party's launch at Uncle Tom's Hall together with other fighters in Orlando West during those cold days where three to four fighters

would share a blanket. Some of the male fighters even sacrificed their blankets for our female fighters and stayed awake the whole night warming themselves up with warm drinks.

- When the province convened its first People's Assembly, the general membership and branches had confidence in electing fighter Marvin Lewela to form part of the first leadership of the Economic Freedom Fighters in Limpopo.
- He also formed part of the first generation of fighters that had to take the struggle to the bourgeoisie institution, councils and led his detachment in his municipality of deployment, Maruleng. Even when the second People's Assembly was convened, branches didn't hesitate to renew his mandate to lead them and re-elect him into the current PCT.
- Indeed, we lost a real fighter, a parent, and a brother to many of those who had an experience of working closely with him.
- The EFF sends its condolences to fighter Marvin Lewela's family and friends. May all of us stay strong especially during this difficult time. He will forever be in our minds. The EFF officially visited his family to give them support. May fighter Marvin Lewela's soul rest in peace!

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker and greetings to honourable Members. I, Hon Manamane Mohlala, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Managa. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker and a very good morning to you and the honourable Members of his august House.

HEART-WRENCHING AND DISDAINFUL ACTS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE AT BLOUBERG MUNICIPALITY

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC for this House to note that we have noted with disdain a heart-wrenching act of gender-based violence and femicide that took place in the Senwabarwana area in the Blouberg Municipality in which a young woman, Thapelo Sehata, was maimed and killed because of her sexual orientation and preference.

Thapelo was killed because she had just disclosed that she was a member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual community and [TERRIBLE SOUND: 17:53 – 18:09] tolerance when government and civil society at large have made serious inroad towards accommodating members of this community as equals in our society.

The ANC wants to implore the police to make sure that they leave no stone unturned in their investigation of this calamitous deed and that the perpetrators should meet the wrath and the might of the law.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri. Honourable Members, make sure that while you are on the podium, switch on your camera and then switch it off once you are done. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I raise my hand to second the motion as presented by Hon Aphiri. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other motion without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Seshoka.

MS SEONO

My hand is up, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is that Hon Seono?

MS SEONO

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Okay, you will come after Hon Seshoka.

MS SEONO

Okay.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, it's your time now.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to you and all honourable Members in the House.

THEFT OF LIVESTOCK BY WHITE FARMERS FROM BLACK COMMUNITIES
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes that:

- There is a livestock theft particularly of cattle from black communities by some white farmers from Politsi area in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality under Mopani District Municipality.
- These thieves were caught red-handed by security officers stealing 18 cattle from an old man known to the EFF in the Sephukubje village, Ward 18, under the Greater Letaba Municipality. The matter was reported to the police and the two farmers were arrested and taken to police custody. They appeared in Tiyani Magistrates Court and were refused bail.
- These barbaric acts by white farmers debunk the myth and lies that black people are criminals and thieves while white folks are saints who are not capable of committing any act of criminality, let alone the stealing of livestock.
- It is now evident that livestock owned by white farmers have been largely stolen from black people. They filled their grazing land with livestock stolen from our people and project themselves as successful livestock farmers when in fact it's stolen livestock.
- The stealing of livestock from black people by white farmers has been going on for ages since the arrival of Jan Van Riebeeck in 1652 in the Cape. The theft has never stopped because it has been happening undetected.
- We call upon the law enforcement authorities to conduct a full audit on all livestock which are in the possession of white farmers around the Politsi area. In this case, they must produce full proof of their livestock ownership.
- The EFF will ensure that these thieves caught stealing cattle in Sephukubje are not let off the hook by the police because of the colour of their skin.

All people are equal before the law. We will follow the case until the end. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and honourable Members in the House. I, Selaelo Mphahlele, would like to second the motion as presented by Hon Seshoka. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other motion without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Seono. Hon Seono, you are muted.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning to all honourable Members and everybody who is connected to this Sitting.

APPRECIATION OF GOOD BEHAVIOUR DEMONSTRATED BY THE PEOPLE OF LIMPOPO DURING THE TWO WEEKS OF UNREST IN SOUTH AFRICA
(Motion without Notice)

I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the ANC to move a motion without notice that this august House notes that the ANC would like to commend and appreciate the maximum cooperation and discipline demonstrated by the people of Limpopo during the torrid two weeks of unrest in certain parts of the country.

We have seen unprecedented levels of anarchy with hallmarks of insurrections when people looted malls and vandalised businesses in some parts of the country, but little of that was experienced in Limpopo.

We must commend this level of discipline by our people who saw it befitting and wise not to participate to that inferno and destroy the little economic opportunities that this country is building.

We are grateful that the police were able to rein in these horrendous acts in those parts of the country without them finding resonance in our province.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Seono. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I second the motion as presented by Hon Seono. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Aphiri. Is there any other motion without notice in terms of House Rule 145? There is none and we are done.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? Hon Seono and Hon Mohlala your hands are up. I'm not sure if you want to say something.

MR MOHLALA

Yes, I do want to say something. Thank you, Hon Speaker. I have noticed that we are on item 2: Motions without Notice. I think there are two motions that were read updating the House about the passing on of our members in the communities. Previously, I had noticed that if there was a motion of death, a death case or bereavement, we normally heard the Speaker calling for a moment of silence in honour of those heroes or heroines who passed away. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mohlala, you are out of order.

MR MOHLALA

No, I'm just proposing. I know it's not on the ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No! You are out of order, Hon Mohlala, because ... [INTERJECTION]

MR MOHLALA

Unless you're still coming to that, you can just ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Yes, that is why I'm saying you are out of order!

MR MOHLALA

Unless you are still coming ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You should be waiting, Hon Mohlala, until I finish all the motions. I am on item 3. Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? There is none. Honourable Members, may we all rise and observe a moment of silence in honour of those who passed away.

[SILENCE]

May their souls rest in peace!

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statement in terms of House Rule 200? I recognise Hon Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Speaker.

UNCALLED FOR BEHAVIOUR BY MEMBERS OF THE SAPS
(Members' Statement)

I, Manamane Mohlala, rise on behalf of the EFF to present a Members' Statement. The EFF in Limpopo is shocked by the conduct of the police who instead of protecting our people, are obsessed with killing them. On 14 July 2021 around 16:00, the Premier of Limpopo, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha visited Moutse, Malaeneng-a-Ntwane under the Elias Motsoaledi Municipality in the Sekhukhune region on anti-looting campaign. During his engagement with the public there was a robust and an interchange of words between the Premier and fighter Mohlamme, the chairperson of Ward 8 and fighter Tshepo, the secretary of the same Ward 8. The Premier was refusing to respond to service delivery questions. After the meeting both fighters drove back home.

That venue is roughly 5 km from Moutse Mall. At around 24:00 midnight, the SAPS visited fighter Mohlamme's house with a motorcade of not less than seven vehicles. All of them were without number plates. On arrival they found fighter Mohlamme sitting inside the car with Mr Ngoato and the police instructed them to come out of the vehicle of which they did. After getting out of the car, the police asked them who they are to can cross-question the Premier. While preparing to respond, the police started to physically assault them, and fighter Mohlamme was shot in the leg with an R5 rifle. Fighter Tshepo received a call informing him that the police had shot fighter Mohlamme and he immediately rushed to the scene. On arrival he tried to get closer to him and unfortunately the police started assaulting him with a rifle and he sustained head injuries.

The police brutality, vigilantism and abuse of power must be exposed and those who are responsible must face the full might of the law. The police are not above the law. They can't be allowed to unleash brutality and assault citizens and get away with murder. Why did they drive cars without number plates if their intention was not mischievous? These were rogue elements with a clear mandate to eliminate political opponents and community members who demand accountability. This abuse of political power can't be tolerated. It is only in a dictatorship government where people's views are suppressed, and people are assaulted for holding government accountable.

There is no place for dictatorship in South Africa and, in particular, Limpopo. Those who hold political power must never be allowed to crush political opponents simply because they hold different views from them.

We call upon the honourable MEC for Safety and Liaison to investigate this matter to ensure that this blood thirsty police thugs are brought to book. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Is there any response from the Executive? Is there any response to the statement?

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Hon Speaker, my name is Thabo Mokone, MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. Today, I'm standing in for the Premier. I think what Hon Mohlala is talking about will be investigated. Suffice to say that as a member of the ANC and as a Member of the Executive Council representing the Premier, regarding the allegations that he is making, he can't just simply make aspersions that the police were sent by the Premier because he refused to answer their questions, therefore, he sent the police to interrogate and beat them.

Many of us as young people were interrogated and beaten up. I don't think we should believe in whatever he is saying. Suffice to say that we will be able to investigate the matter and then we will report back to the House. If people have questions, they should put them in a proper manner rather than grandstanding because it will not help us in this country. We are building this democracy and we must make sure that we respect the Constitution, and we must abide by it.

When the Premier went to Moutse, I was with him, just to say to our people, thank you for what they have done to protect the Constitution. Now, we can't say those things that are not in line with the Constitution.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Let's proceed to item 5. Is there any Executive Statement? Over to you, MEC, Hon Rakgoale.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present today, Chief Whip of the ruling party, chairpersons of portfolio committees present, esteemed Members of the House, good morning.

COMMEMORATION OF WOMEN'S MONTH (Executive Statement)

In the spirit of Women's Month, let me start off by paying tribute to the heroines of our country, Mama Charlotte Maxeke, Adelaide Tambo, Albertina Sisulu, Sophie De Bruyn, Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Helen Joseph and many other selfless heroines for their efforts and contributions to the fight against apartheid and all forms of discrimination and colonialism which our people had to endure for many years under the apartheid government.

Our beloved South Africa is currently commemorating Women's Month as a tribute to more than 20,000 defined and fearless women who demonstrated and marched peacefully to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956, protesting the extension of pass laws which were an oppression of women in particular, and South Africa in general.

This historic march gave birth to the signing of the Women's Charter on 17 April 1954 in Johannesburg which called for a non-racial and non-sexist South Africa and demanded the emancipation, development and empowerment of women. Hon Speaker, during this August month we need to salute all women and celebrate their contributions to the struggle of building a better South Africa and a better Africa. We must protect them against abuse, violence and discrimination. We are making a clarion call for women to be valued and be respected to uphold the vision of building a non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

As we celebrate this day, we submit that a lot still needs to be done to realise the total and full emancipation and liberation of women. As we agree that some challenges have been worsened by the negative impact brought about as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a country we are still grappling with the pandemic. We need to find new ways of prioritising service delivery guided by the new normal. From the Department of Social Development, we are indeed delighted that we will continue to assist people through the Special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) Grant. I was much delighted when President Cyril Ramaphosa announced about the reintroduction of Special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant.

This is to say that the ANC-led government is still committed to improve the lives of the most vulnerable South Africans. Hon Speaker, while still highlighting our continued efforts in assisting people who are distressed, yesterday I undertook a visit to the Lephalale municipal area responding to a call I received from Cllr Modiba of Ward 10 in Madibaneng village at GaSeleka who informed me of a house which had burnt down in the village. It was an RDP house, to be precise, and it happened on Saturday night.

Literally, nothing has been saved from the house although the family thankfully escaped unharmed. Food, clothes, blankets, furnisher appliances and other items were burnt to ashes. The purpose of our visit was to try and restore the dignity of the family, in particular, the dignity of the woman of the house. We have handed over food parcels, blankets, school uniform and other necessities to the Baloyi family. My appreciation is also conveyed to the local Mayor, Jack Maeko, who also joined hands and offered a huge relief to the family and committed that by Friday, which is tomorrow, the family will receive a voucher of R5 000 for clothing and 100 bags of cement will also be delivered to start constructing a new structure.

We will ensure that the family doesn't run out of food for the next three months. We are a government that believes in taking action, helping the most vulnerable people, restoring human dignity and fighting for the rights of women. We have made a commitment that within the next few weeks to come, we will go back to the Baloyi family and handover a decent structure of a house and afford them an opportunity to live life to the fullest. Malibongwe! Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much MEC, Hon Rakgoale. Thank you for the statement. Can I check if there are any comments from the political parties? Is there any input? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As the DA we welcome the return of the R350 SRD grant. We believe that it will go a long way in helping the unemployed people of South Africa. We further hope that there will be a smooth application system and payments to the recipients. We further appreciate the efforts made by the department and the MEC such as the stated ones regarding what happened in Lephalale. We hope that their department will continue to ensure that our people are not vulnerable and that they receive support from government. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. Is there any other comment from political parties? There is none. Thank you very much.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports and papers? There is none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration on the 2020/21 First Quarter Report

Over to you, committee chair, Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, honourable Members of the House, chairpersons of the portfolio committees, Members of the Executive Council present, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Leader of the Opposition, all Members present, ladies and gentlemen. I, Monama Rodgers, rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration to table the 2020/21 financial year's first quarter report on the Office of the Premier for consideration and adoption by the House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Monama. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for the 2020/21 Second Quarter Report. Over to you, committee chair.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker and honourable Members of the House, MECs present, Hon Premier, Chief Whip of the Majority Party and all Members of the House. I, Monama Rodgers, rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration to table the 2020/21 financial year's second quarter report of the Office of the Premier for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder to the move?

MS SEONO

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Letsogo le kae?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, you may proceed, honourable Member.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I raise my hand to second the motion as presented by Hon Monama. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Seono. Consideration and Adoption of the Report on the 2020/21 Third Quarter Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration. Over to you, committee chair.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, chairpersons of the portfolio committees, Chief Whip, Leader of the Opposition in the House, ladies and gentlemen. I, Monama Rodgers, rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration to table the 2020/21 financial year's third quarter report of the Office of the Premier for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder to the move? I recognise Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Monama. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mochadi. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Selane. I'm not sure but it's like Hon Selane is not connected. We will move to the second speaker. Over to you, Hon Buthane. Hon Buthane, it's your turn. Hon Buthane is also not in, and I did not receive any apology from the two honourable Members. I got an indication from the DA that Hon Maharaj has submitted his debate through electronic mode. It means that we are going to jump Hon Maharaj to the last speaker. Over to you, chairperson of the committee, Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Hon Rosemarry Reneilwe Molapo, Deputy Speaker, Hon Jeremiah Azwindini Dingaana Ndou, Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, honourable Members of the Executive Council, chairpersons of the portfolio committees, honourable Members of this august House, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Mmanoko Essob Mokgonyana, Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Monicca Mochadi and the Leader of the Opposition.

Madam Speaker, first and foremost we want to take this opportunity as the ANC to commend the leadership of Hon Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha whom under his capable leadership we are reaping the fruits of good governance. We also want to take this opportunity to commend and applaud the leadership of the Director-General and members of the management echelon whom I think that they are hard at work to ensure that we no longer receive reports from the Auditor-General (AG) about the precarious state of our financial position in our provincial administration.

Our former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela once said, "Everyone can rise above circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do." We must at all material times bear in mind that in every facet of life, intervention is a marathon and not a sprint. Our race for capable and developmental state is not yet over. The Portfolio Committee on Public Administration met with the Office of the Premier on 1 April 2020 for briefing on the 2020/21 financial year's first, second and third quarter reports which explicitly articulated achievements, challenges experienced in attaining the objectives and targets as outlined in the approved the Annual Performance Plan and the Budget.

Madam Speaker, for the period under review the portfolio committee was pleased that the Office of the Premier's spending on the quarterly budgets has improved immensely which can be attributed to improvements in attending to matters which contributed to the chronic underspending in the previous years. In terms of the second quarter reports, they managed to achieve the implementation of the recommendations of both internal and external auditors and ensured that the reviewing of Annual Performance Plans was implemented. The provincial COVID-19 comprehensive response is adequate to buffer the disastrous effects of it with the integrated contingency plan to manage the scourge of the pandemic.

You will reckon, Madam Speaker, that the second quarter was whereby all departments, all organs of state and entities were expected to review their APPs and their budgets, realising that the majority of budget that has been approved has to be redirected and reprioritised. As enshrined in section 125 and 127 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Public Service Act, OTP's (Office of the Premier) role is to coordinate the functions of the provincial administration, its departmental entities, and municipalities.

In practical terms, it means that OTP manages the performance of the provincial administration. It monitors and evaluates service delivery and governance in the province. We therefore make a clarion call to all and sundry that sustainable solutions are required to prevent accountability failures and ensuring that consequence management is effected where necessary. It is more effective to invest in preventative controls and measures than to deal with the impact of accountability failures, such as financial loss, fraud and corruption, the misuse of public resources and poor service delivery. As the portfolio committee, we therefore implore the Hon Premier to continue strengthening the preventative, detective and corrective controls at those auditees that have not achieved a clean audit and to intensify corrective action and consequence management to deal with the deficiencies and noncompliance to sustain and improve outcomes.

We also welcome concrete interventions to continue to lead the way in good governance and sound public resource management. Hon Premier, the portfolio committee noted the progress report in the reconfiguration of the provincial state-owned entities as an endeavour to repurpose and reposition the province as a strategic centre of investment and growth. We also commend OTP for having honoured its commitment to ensure that all departments process legitimate invoices within the prescribed 30 days. There is a progress in that regard. Hon Speaker, it is now incumbent upon the Provincial Legislature to sharpen and enhance its oversight tools and capacity to ensure prudent utilisation of public resources. This beautiful province of ours must at all material times lead in good governance and sound public resource management.

In conclusion, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration recommends to this House for consideration and adoption of the 2020/21 financial year's first, second and third quarter reports of the Office of the Premier.

I move accordingly. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. Thank you very much for the debate. We shall now call upon the Hon Premier to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER]

Hon Speaker, good morning, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Hon Monama and members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for the good work that they are doing. We will continue to

cooperate with them. That would have been the Premier's word in this occasion. As you heard the honourable chairperson of the portfolio committee when he thanked the Premier for the good work that he is doing. Indeed, this translates to the performance of the provincial government. You would note that the provincial government, as the Premier would always say, that when he inherited the government, it was under administration. Where we are today, we are almost seeing serious improvement. Audit outcomes of the departments have improved tremendously.

You would have also noted that audit outcomes of municipalities have also improved to such an extent that MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Basikopo Makamu, has been all over radios and TVs representing the province. This is the outcome of the work that the Office of the Premier is doing. The Office of the Premier's job is to coordinate the provincial administration and to monitor the programmes of other departments besides the programmes of the Office of the Premier. So, this is an indication that when we committed ourselves for good governance, we meant that we will be doing exactly what we were saying.

For us, is to do what we have promised the people of Limpopo in our State of the Province Address. We have made commitments that we stand by. We said that we will industrialise our province, and that's what we are doing. We will continue to deal with the reconfiguration of the state-owned enterprises so that they must provide service delivery to the people.

We also want to thank the Department of Health in leading the vaccine rollout. You would know that the Department of Health in the province is number one in rolling out of the vaccination. I think it would be amiss of us if we don't thank the people of Limpopo for not taking part in what we call madness. You would have seen that people destroyed properties. People looted food that is essential for the survival of the people of the country and the people of their province.

The people of Limpopo, all and sundry, from taxi drivers, church members or church leadership, political party leadership and all the people agreed that we are not going to be party to this madness, we are going to protect the property of Limpopo. I think this will be a lesson for us that the Mall of the North is our mall because if it gets destroyed, the following day we will queue and buy bread than when we have a mall where we could only just go there for five minutes and are able to get services. So, we want to take this opportunity and thank them and say that we must continue to work together to build our province because when we are together, things will be easier.

We will be able to continue with the programme of recovery. We have approved the socioeconomic recovery plan in the province which deals at the short-term level with assisting businesses which were affected by the pandemic. In the long-term, we want to make sure that everybody in Limpopo has a better life. Madam Speaker, with these few words, I want to thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC, Hon Mokone.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration: The Report on the Investigation by the Public Service

Commission into the Allegation of Irregular Centralisation of the Recruitment Processes by the Department of Health

Over to you, committee chair

MR MONAMA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Hon Premier, honourable MEC for Health and the executive management in the department, honourable Members of the House and chairpersons of the portfolio committee. I, Monama Rodgers, rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration to table a report on the investigation by the Public Service Commission (PSC) into the allegations of irregular centralisation of the recruitment process by the Department of Health for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, committee chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Monama. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Nakedi Kekana.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to debate on the investigation of allegations of irregular centralisation of recruitment in the Department of Health by the Public Service Commission for the House to adopt it. Speaker, Hon Rosemary Molapo, Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, Deputy Speaker, honourable MECs, Chief Whip of the ruling party, all honourable Members, officials and the house at large, good morning.

Hon Speaker, public administration is a discourse and practice that evolved thousands of years through the evolution of leadership and functional roles which human beings developed in the endeavour to organise and manage society and communities. The evolution of our Public Service Commission is traceable to development in Britain following the work of the North Code Travelling Commission in 1855.

A Civil Service Commission was established as the custodian of meritocratic administration and to secure the accountability of the civil service to the monarch thereby separating it from political interferences. Three hundred and fifty years of colonial and apartheid oppression in South Africa meant that most indigenous people were politically and administratively excluded from the evolving South African state. The establishment of the Union of South Africa cemented this exclusion most notably

through the Native Land Act of 1913. In addition, the exclusion of black South Africans from the body politics and administration of their country of birth was deepened in terms of the Public Service and Pensions Act of 1912, which established the Public Service Commission in August 1912.

The commission was established along colonial lines as an appointment body, and it evolved over the years prior to the era of democracy to become a strong centralised body with overarching powers over human resource matters. It developed norms and standards in the area of recruitment and selection as well as staffing more broadly and other key matters of public administration. These powers were exercised by the white minority state with an increasing focus on centralised control in critical matters while maintaining policy making, executive and monitoring powers. This changed with the dawning of democracy which heralded the establishment of the Public Service Commission as we know it today as an independent oversight body reporting to the National Assembly on the compliance of the public service with the constitutional values and principles as enshrined in chapter 10 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

It is true that the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration received a complaint from Nehawu through the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions which resulted in a joint meeting between the portfolio committee, Department of Health and Nehawu as the complainant. Hon Speaker, the union presented their observations in the meeting which were followed by discussions and the wayforward. The committee is reporting that an agreement was arrived at and that the matter was further referred to the Public Service Commission. This was done precisely because as the committee, we did not have the powers to deal with the investigations hence the referral.

The Public Service Commission received a complaint from the Secretary of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature after the Legislature had received a petition from Nehawu alleging that the Department of Health in Limpopo irregularly centralised the recruitment process. Hon Speaker, the Public Service Commission reported to the committee that the merits of the allegations were assessed. Information and documents were requested and availed by the Department of Health. Information and documents received were processed and analysed.

Findings and recommendations made are reflected in the report and they are that: "The allegation by Nehawu that the department irregularly centralised the recruitment process in respect of posts advertised under circular 50 and 53 of 2019 is unsubstantiated". In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the committee supports the recommendations as brought forth by the Public Service Commission and move for the adoption of the report.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Kekana. I call upon Hon Buthane.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings, Hon Speaker. Hon Buthane is not in. It's Hon Manamane Mohlala speaking. Can I present on his behalf?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, you may proceed.

MR MOHLALA

Okay, thank you so much. Once more, thank you, Hon Speaker. The alleged ...
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Please, switch on your camera.

MR MOHLALA

Okay, sorry for that. Hon Speaker, the alleged irregular centralisation of the recruitment process by the Department of Health is a serious allegation which can't be taken lightly. This is an interference with human resource competence, and it smacks of the appetite to corrupt the system by giving jobs to colleagues, friends, and relatives. It is an attempt to appoint girlfriends and boyfriends to nourish irregular and improper relationships. Furthermore, it is an attempt to appoint 'yes' men and 'yes' ladies in strategic positions of power in government to consolidate power. We have noted that the Public Service Commission investigated the matter and closed it, citing lack of evidence to substantiate the allegations.

Furthermore, we are not aware if such a report was ever presented in this honourable House because reports can always be interrogated if other parties are not satisfied with their findings. We demand that such a report be presented to this House for further scrutiny because we can't be told by the chairperson of the committee that the case should be closed. The chairperson of the committee does not speak for this House. Members themselves can interrogate the report and satisfy themselves that indeed there was no wrongdoing or there is something fishy. Reports can always be scrutinised, and a second opinion can always be sought if we doubt the credibility of the findings. We need to expose the cover-up of shenanigans in the notorious Department of Health in the best interest of good governance and accountability. Chapter 9 institutions and departments have a tendency of conniving to cover-up corruption and all sorts of shenanigans.

Hon Speaker, there has always been allegations of appointment of cronies, especially doctors in CEO positions of hospitals in the Department of Health. These appointments have been directly influenced by the political office of the Department of Health where the MEC was allegedly directly appointing members of SAMA. Young medical doctors with no experience at all are alleged to have been appointed by the MEC as CEOs of hospitals around Limpopo. These young people were just thrown in the deep end and when they get there, they don't know what to do. In hospital where these fellows are appointed, there is a complete mess in terms of administration, governance, and leadership, killing the morale to staff members.

What is this if not centralisation of recruitment process by the MEC with the aim of appointing her own people. Unfortunately, when such decisions are made to appoint inexperienced people in strategic positions, service delivery is compromised, and the poor people continue to suffer. It is a matter of prioritising consolidation of political power and a grip on the department than prioritising the needs of poor people of our province. The EFF government will put people first in whatever government is doing because government exists to serve them. I thank you

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Like I said, Hon Maharaj has submitted his presentation electronically. Let's move to the last speaker who is the committee chair. Over to you, Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Madam Speaker, Hon Premier, Hon Deputy Speaker, Chairperson of Chairpersons, Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable MECs present, Leader of Government Business, Hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members of this august House, our traditional leaders in the province, our faith-based leaders in our province, good morning.

As the ANC, I rise to commend the good work, and the capable and judicious leadership of our deployees, the MEC responsible for Health in the province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for the stewardship of the department and all the turnaround strategies that she has introduced since her appointment in that department. We are proud and overwhelmed as the ANC to have leadership of her calibre in trying to ensure that they are always on top of a situation as far as her deployment is concerned. I'm just raising this matter, Hon Speaker, because I don't want to be quoted out of context. As the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, I was presenting the report that was adopted by the portfolio committee.

The report that was referred to us as the portfolio committee by the Hon Speaker that we must attend to it. It need not be misconstrued as my report. If Hon Buthane was part of this Sitting, I think he would bear with us that this is not my report. This report that we are presenting today, is part of the package that has been presented to honourable Members for their perusal and indulgence and to ensure that they familiarise themselves with the content and the context of this report.

I rise, Madam Speaker, to say that the Public Service Commission is a chapter 10 institution. It is not a chapter 9 institution. It is one of the constitutional institutions that are established to ensure that there is corporate and good governance in our government. I think it will be wrong or what we call in English, oxymoronic, to say that there is an indignant that chapter 9 and 10 institutions are conniving with the department. This is a serious statement, Hon Speaker, and it must be investigated. If it comes to a push, the honourable Member must withdraw that serious allegation because it is an allegation that deals with the credibility and the integrity of that constitutional structures, that I think in a democratic situation cannot be allowed.

We are truly grateful and welcome the work that the Public Service Commission has done for the work of Limpopo and its people. The Public Service Commission is the

cornerstone of any government programme and work, especially in a developmental state like ours. Putting capable service-oriented candidates up in the administration is critical for the improvement of service delivery. The value of the public service cannot be gainsaid or contradicted. The committee is thankful to the PSC for fast-tracking the investigation of the allegation. This serious allegation was brought forward by one of its largest unions in the province. The committee took the petition as submitted by Nehawu seriously as it has the propensity that affect new recruits in the Department of Health.

After engagements with the union, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health and the department, the committee saw it fit to refer the matter to the Public Service Commission. This was done because the department was very cooperative. They were also able to provide any documentary evidence that we needed as the portfolio committee. It was on that basis that the committee took this decision with the consideration that we don't have the requisite capacity to investigate. We have some bodies that I think are mandated by the Constitution to deal with such matter. We must emphasise that the investigation was specifically about the allegation that the recruitment of new employees as advertised on circular 50 and 53 were centralised by the department.

This is a special matter. We did not want to generalise because the brief and buffet of the portfolio committee was to investigate the allegation of irregular centralisation of the recruitment process by the Department of Health, whether it is in sync with the applicable prescripts and the Constitution.

The Public Service Commission accepted the request by the portfolio committee and referred to the following pieces of legislation in conducting its investigations for guidance. That's your section 196(2)(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 108 of 1996 and section 10(1) of the Public Service Act of 1997. I said that this is a specific matter that had to be dealt with in accordance with what was the mandate and what was the brief and so forth without generalising any matter about any allegation that affect the Department of Health. That was a special matter, and, as and when comrades are discussing and debating, they must confine themselves within the subject matter in front of us.

The terms of reference for the investigation were established on the following basis:

- Whether the recruitment process centralised by the Department of Health as alleged by Nehawu was in contravention or in violation with the applicable legislation of the recruitment and selection policy of the department; and
- Whether such centralisation was irregular if there was any.

The Public Service Commission reported that in terms of Clause 7 of the Public Service Act, "An executive authority has all powers and duties necessary for the internal organisation of the department concerning, including, its organisational structure and establishment. The transfer of functions within the department, human resource planning, creation and abolishing of post and provision for employment of persons additional to the fixed establishment and the recruitment and appointment, performance management transfers, dismissal and other carrier incidents of employees of that department, including any other matter which relate to such

employees in their individual capacity and as such duties shall be exercised or performed by the executive authority in accordance with the Act.”

The executive authority in this instance is the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba. We also reckon that the Public Finance Management Act of 1999 gives the accounting officer some fiduciary powers to oversee the proper utilisation of the allocated budget. Given the current job environment the quality of employment has become a major consideration for us today. We believe that there is a way of engagement between the union and the department when posts are advertised. Consultations are an open conversation that includes everyone, and trade unions are very big players in this regard.

The committee noted that in terms of Clause 11(2)(4) of the departmental policy on recruitment and selection of 2019, it provides that the role of the organised labour in a shortlisting and interviewing panel is to observe and ensure that a fair process is adhered to.

Nehawu as a trade union has a big role to play in the recruitment and interview process. We are of the view that their presence during that process is to ensure that fair play for the potential members is guaranteed. It is noteworthy to say that other unions within the sector fully participated in the recruitment and selection process. We must indicate that Nehawu was invited like any other union, but they staged a walk-out. They also ventilated that the centralisation of recruitment was a product of their bargaining council which was also confirmed by the consultation with other unions that this is a product that this post must be in terms of that circular 50 and so forth and it must be centralised.

It is also reported that in other interviews, Nehawu shop stewards like your Polokwane or Pietersburg hospital actively participated in the process. Effective leadership characterised by four principles of fairness, accountability, responsibility and transparency and fighting corruption is key for good corporate governance as articulated by the ANC-led government.

We want to applaud the MEC for having been responsible and transparent and ensured that she is open to the portfolio committee and presented and answered all questions that we posed and engaged with the Public Service Commission when she was interviewed. The committee analysed the report on the investigation by the Public Service Commission into allegations of irregular centralisation of the recruitment process by the Department of Health in respect of the positions that were advertised under circular 50 and 53. The committee accepts the recommendations that states that allegations were unsubstantiated and that the department is exonerated from any allegation of irregular recruitment.

The committee supports the move for the adoption of the report as the report of the House with all recommendations.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Monama. Thank you for the debate. We shall now call upon the Hon Premier to come and respond to the debate. Hon Premier, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER]

Hon Speaker, once more, thanks for affording us this opportunity to participate in this debate. It is a matter that was reported to the Office. We also want to congratulate the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration and the committee, that in their wisdom, when they were presented with the matter, they took the matter to the relevant chapter 10 institution, which deals with the issues of employment in the public service, which is the Public Service Commission. That matter was an allegation that the Department of Health in Limpopo has centralised the recruitment process, especially with the posts advertised under circular 50 and 53.

According to the Public Service Commission's investigation report, they found that the Department of Health is not at fault. They have done everything according to the book. And we want to take this opportunity to congratulate the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, and the team for Health for continuing to do a wonderful job. I don't think it's time for us to detract them from the task that history has given them of making sure that they deal with the issue of COVID-19. You would note that they are busy; you can see that the MEC for Health is busy dealing with the issue of vaccine rollout.

We are done with the sector departments. We have dealt with the issue of health workers. We've dealt with the issue of teachers. We have dealt with the police. We are now dealing with the mines. We are also dealing with people from the age of 50 up to 59 and even those from the age of 35 up to 49. In September, there will be a group between the age of 18 up to 34. So, there is a job cut out for them. It is our wish that all of us should be supporting the MEC for Health, to say our people must vaccinate because if you look at the report that came from the hospital in Cape Town today, it says that people who are vaccinated are not having serious problems. and that also comes out from Johannesburg in *News24*. There's an indication that when our people get the vaccine, it means they get out of danger. And that's what we want.

We must continue to support them. And this report is an indication that the Limpopo government's commitment to good governance is not a pipe dream. It is something that we are all committed to, and we will also ask other stakeholders to support us in that endeavour. We are not saying that where we are found wanting, people should allow us to put everything under the carpet. We are saying that we should work as a team. We are saying that let's continue to work together. I hope that we will continue to work together with Nehawu because we are all partners. We are all together in this thing to make sure that our people have a better life. Development is all about people. We are saying that we will continue to do that, and we want to really congratulate the MEC for Health.

Hon Speaker, thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

7.3. Consideration and Adoption of the Following Reports of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth, Children and People Living with Disability, 2020/21 First Quarter Report

Committee chair, you may take the podium.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning, Hon Speaker; Chief Whip; Deputy Speaker; Premier; all MECs present here; the chairpersons of committees; and all protocol observed.

Hon Speaker, I, Mapula Mokaba, the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability, rise to move that of the 2022/21 first quarter report on quality of life and status of women, youth and people living with disability be adopted as the report of this House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Madam Speaker. I, Monama Rodgers, rise to second the chairperson of the standing committee's presentation for the first quarter report for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Consideration and Adoption of the 2020/21 Second Quarter Report. Committee Chair, you may take the podium.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Once again, thank you, Hon Speaker, and good morning to everyone. I, Mapula Mokaba, the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women and People Living with Disability, rise to move that the report of the 2020/21 second quarter on quality of life and status of women, youth and people living with disability be adopted as the report of this House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder to the move? Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Monama Rodgers, rise to second the submission and the presentation by the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life

and Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability for 2020/21 second quarter report of the Office of the Premier. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Consideration and Adoption of the 2020/21 Third Quarter Report. Committee Chair, you may take the podium.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Go lena kamoka ke re, maduma ga a fele. I, Mapula Mokaba, the chairperson of Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability, rise to move that the report of the 2020/21 third quarter on quality of life and status of women, youth and people living with disability be adopted as the report of this House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mokaba. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Mochadi. [INTERJECTION]

MR MONAMA

Honourable chair, I think as a matter of procedure, it was not seconded because I always raise my hand to second the presentation.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Monama. Is there any seconder to the move? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

I, Donald Selamolela, second the move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selamolela. Let's move on. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker is Hon Mochadi. Hon Mochadi, you are the first speaker to debate on the list. It is like Hon Mochadi is disconnected. We shall now move to the second speaker. Hon Mphahlele, it's your turn. I'm not sure as to what happened with the two speakers, Hon Mochadi and Hon Mphahlele, because they were connected earlier. They've managed to second the motions before. I'm not sure whether both are disconnected. Hon Mdaka, I see that your hand is up.

MR MDAKA

Hon Speaker, I suggest that we do as we did with the others, we move to the third speaker on the line, and when they are able to connect, they will still be given an opportunity to debate if it was indeed the issue of network. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Mdaka. Let's move to the third speaker. Hon Phala, the floor is yours.

MS PHALA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Let me apologise. I am not connected on my laptop. My iPad does not switch on the camera. So, my camera won't be on. The first, second and third reports provide feedback on activities coordinated and monitored by the Office of the Premier for special programmes in all government departments. The activities are for previously disadvantaged sectors of the community, namely, women, children, the elderly and people living with disability.

On monitoring the implementation of mainstreaming disability in all the departments, the Office of the Premier reported during the first, second and third quarter committee meetings that six departments being, Office of the Premier, Department of Agriculture, Department of LEDET, Department of Transport and Community Safety, Departmental Social Development and Department of Sport, Arts and Culture maintained their 2% employment of people with disability at SMS level. However, the Office of the Premier highlighted noncompliance to disability employment equity legislation by sector departments as worrisome. The report further indicated that only three departments have achieved an overall 2% employment equity at all levels, namely Office of the Premier, Department of Agriculture and Department of Social Development.

The report also indicated that all the departments except for the Department of Health have dedicated focal point persons within their structures. The committee raised a concern on the unavailability of dedicated focal points in these two departments since they are strategically placed to deal with issues affecting vulnerable groups in society.

On women employment equity status, the Office of the Premier reported that departments such as the Department of Transport and Community Safety during the first quarter complied with the 50% employment equality continuous non-status. The committee raised displeasure on the compliance with employment equity with these departments regarding the targets for women by the sector. However, the Office of the Premier in their response, indicated that as part of intervention they have reprioritised funded vacant posts to comply with the employment equity plan of sector departments.

On the fourth quarter under review, as a committee, we recommended that the Office of the Premier should ensure that decisions of the cabinet to retain the current equity target of 50% women in senior management services and 2% of employment of people with disability in public services is implemented, and progress be reported and be submitted to the committee within 14 working days.

We further recommended that the Office of the Premier should ensure that the Department of Education implements the Sanitary Dignitary Programme as per the framework. The Office of the Premier should also ensure that the Department of Education addresses infrastructure challenges and special schools as a matter of urgency and their comprehensive report should be submitted within 14 working days, by then.

We further recommended that the Department of Health should ensure that the assistive devices backlog is addressed as a matter of agency, and the report should be submitted to the committee within 14 working days, by then.

Lastly, we recommended that the Office of the Premier should ensure that Economic Empowerment Programme through procurement for people with disability, women, and youth benefit the vulnerable groups. The progress report should be submitted to the committee within 14 days, by then. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. I could see the hand of Hon Mochadi is up. Hon Mochadi, the floor is yours.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Deputy Speaker, Hon Dingaane Jeremia Ndou; Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Chair of Chairs, Hon Mashamaite, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Selane, honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; honourable Members of Executive Council, Leader of the Opposition and all protocol observe, good morning.

As per procedure, the committee fulfilled its constitutional mandate to scrutinise the Annual Performance Plan (APP), quarterly and Annual Reports to ensure they are in line with the government policies, in compliance with legislation to provide necessary value out of resources consumed. The report examines how the execution of activities was done in each programme and whether the planned targets for the 2020/21 financial year Annual Performance Plan were met or not.

Looking at Administration, this programme had nine key performance indicators targets in the quarter under review, and seven of the targets were achieved. This translates to 77,8% performance achieved as reported. The Office of the Premier cited referral of most debt to the State Attorney for collection as a reason for nonachievement of the target for the indicator, percentage of the debt recovered and COVID-19 lockdown regulation. as reasons for not achieving the set a target on the number of training programmes implemented in the Workplace Skill Plan.

It was reported in the second quarter that 3 travel agencies that were identified for corrupt activities have been sent to the State Attorney to recover the amount involved as alluded to by His Excellency, President Ramaphosa, that rampant corruption has seriously damaged South Africa's economy and people's trust in government. It is reported that a foreign candidate was to be seconded to the HIV/AIDS section. This is done despite the high rate of unemployment in the province and in the country.

Honourable Members, at last, it is reported that four cases which two of them are on ethical conduct cases, one on leaked information and one on fraudulent claim, that were under investigation, have been completed. This shows serious a progress during the year under review.

In Proverbs 9:10 the word of God says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding". The Office of the Premier

has put in place the Anti-Corruption Strategy because if we feared the Lord, corruption and fraud wouldn't take place in the departments. They put the strategy in place; honourable Members, let us be at the forefront in combating corruption. While it may be impossible for South Africa to adopt China's 'Low Fare Model' completely, given that they have a one-party system, learning from their experience, we can follow a road map empowering the state to counter corruption successfully through creating a powerful watchdog called the South African Financial Crime Monitoring Bureau.

To get what President Xi Jinping calls, 'Tigers and Flies', it has been reported that two cases related to the Departments of Sport, Arts and Culture and CoGHSTA have been signed to the Directorate for Priority Crime and Investigation. The report also indicates that 245 officials have allegedly conducted business with organs of state, and disciplinary actions were taken against 205 officials while 40 disciplinary hearings are still in process.

Another important question that we need to ask is, what are the different forms of corruption that are rampant in Limpopo that require laws? And, whether the existing anti-corruption laws are adequate to tackle existing corruption and corrupt practices? Institutional Development Programme in the Office of the Premier is a programme that ensures that policies, processes, and systems that enable the provincial administration to deliver service are in place.

The programme had 11 performance indicators, and 10 output targets were achieved, which is 90,9%. This is a good performance, which has been achieved. The only target that was not achieved is the average vacancy rate in the provincial administration. It is reported that there are 14,864 vacant funded posts in the province. The official unemployment rate in the province is at 27,83%, while the expanded unemployment rate is at 47,5%.

The majority of the unemployed are the youth who constitute 57% of the economically active population in the province. The report is silent on the employment of youth. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier and Members of the august House, unemployment is a ticking bomb. It is ticking and is ready to explode at any given time, and we must be scared. Unemployment is universally recognised as undesirable and is the principal of all challenges. The entire continent is experiencing this issue of unemployment. The costs of unemployment to the individual are not hard to imagine. When a person loses a job, there is often an immediate impact on that person's standard of living. On this one, we have no choice but to implement decisive steps of filling vacant posts as soon as yesterday.

Regarding people living with disability, Statistics South Africa reported that the national disability prevalence has increased slightly from 7,5% in Census 2011 to 7,7% in Communities Survey 2016. The Limpopo province is the third in the category of provinces with the lowest prevalence of people living with disability. The province reported a decrease from 6,7% in Census 2011 to 6,4 in Community Survey 2016, meaning 0,03%, and we are lagging on that. The Community Survey 2016 also observed that disability is more prevalent in older persons compared to other age groups and it is also more prevalent among females than males. These observations cut across all population groups in the country. This number is expected to increase in an ageing society, and the government's push towards community-based care as healthcare demands rise. The low prevalence of disability observed in Limpopo places

the province in the same league with the top two affluent provinces in the country, the Western Cape and Gauteng, which also display a low prevalence of disability. The Statistics South Africa 2016 GHS index infers that since older populations are more likely to have a higher prevalence of disability, the lower prevalence in Gauteng and Limpopo could be ascribed to the relatively youthful population that is often associated with net in migration in these provinces.

When we look at the Economic Recovery Plan, the impact of the lockdown on agriculture is likely to be mildly negative over the lockdown period. Lockdown regulations permit harvesting and storage activities to prevent wastage of crops already planted and to turn into livestock. Certain activities such as planting may be restricted, although it is unlikely that planting activity is high in April.

Over the very short term, Limpopo is assessed to be food secure, and precautionary health measures to guard workers in the food value chain have been introduced. Beyond the initial containment measures, demand for agricultural exports may come under greater pressure due to low external demand. The forced reduction in production as a result of national lockdown and other restrictions on non-essential business operation, the impact of the lockdown on households and the effect of disrupted global production and supply chains on South African exports may hurt us off some time. No one yet knows what the cost of the pandemic and its economic impact will be, however, it is possible to speculate about what the main influence will be and develop plausible scenarios of the evolution of the shops over time and the impact of the policy interventions. There are widely different views about likely trajectories in both policy and public discussions, and it is useful to tease out the implication of these views.

In conclusion, looking at the Office of the Premier, Hon Premier, we want to applaud your people. They have proven beyond any reasonable doubt that they are willing to partake in the fight against the triple challenges. This was realised by not entertaining vandalism and looting as a way of showing their economic distress.

Hon Premier, historically Limpopo never behaved in a selfish manner, starting from xenophobic violence that occurred between 1994 and 2018 across South Africa. Based on information recorded on Xenowatch, our people are behaving in good nature. Once more, thank you to the leadership of the ANC-led government. Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, o tsene fase ngwana mokgalabje, tšwela pele o tie maatla go lwantšha bosenyi, bohodu le tlala – gomme o lwele tlabologo ya batho ba Limpopo.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thobela.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mochadi. Hon Monaga, your hand is up; I'm not sure if you want to present on behalf of Hon Mphahlele?

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Mphahlele is having a problem with the microphone. So, I would like to request if maybe I can present on her behalf?

THE SPEAKER

You may proceed.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability and all honourable Members present in this Sitting. It's a great pleasure for me to participate in this debate for the Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability on the 2020/21 first quarter report on special programmes of the Office of the Premier.

The Office of the Premier has not done justice to activities, aspirations and programmes that ought to have delivered tangible results on changing positively the quality of life and status of women, youth and people living with disability.

For over 25 years into democracy, this ANC-led government has not realised the objectives and targets of satisfying these fundamental institutional mandates. The advisory role, if any, didn't yield any desired result that seeks to redress the imbalances of the past. The fact is that the organograms of all departments and parastatals in Limpopo, are unable to meet these obligations. The noncompliance to disability employment equity undermines the legislative framework and seeks to regard disabled persons as inferior human beings. This attitude must be punishable. It is worrisome that the Department of Health has to date failed to dedicate any person to liaise with persons living with disability, while this department is even expected to have more exposure to such important persons in society.

There is no visibility on programmes aimed at the protection of children and child-headed families. Older persons in our province have been subjected to various forms of abuse, including murder. The other abuse is for municipalities such as the Polokwane Municipality overcharging households owned by older persons, which consumes the entire social grant and any other interventions.

We need clarity on the closure of some Postbank branches, and the impact on the recipient of social grants. Oversight should be made quarterly by the committee to both private and state-owned facilities that are housing older persons, people living with disability and children.

The EFF demands consequence management on all departments which fail to meet the thresholds on female equity status. In the history of Africa, women have played a significant role, including leading nations when it was not fashionable, and it can't be the ANC that seeks to negate and nullify the important role of women in society.

The EFF submits that all departments must submit the sexual harassment report to this House within 30 days. The poverty alleviation programmes and beneficiaries must be linked to names and places for simplified traceability and accountability. The same report should be submitted on the Sanitary Dignity Programme, including distribution points.

Amid this highest unemployment, it is unacceptable that only one department managed to place 13 learners. Does the provincial government have any exit plan for both learner and internship participants? The 23% youth procurement is a shame to the Youth Development Agenda. The attempt to confuse and delay youth empowerment through database and profiling with no clear execution plan is a waste of resources.

Madam Speaker, the allegation that people with disability don't have both professional and technical skills should be proven with facts in a form of a report as it was reported in the second quarter. If there are no such skills, it can't be the responsibility of lobby groups to fix the situation. The government must take responsibility and train persons living with disability.

This department has not met any targets. About 0,36% of 7% targets were never met. Due to a lack of accountability, no one feels obliged to work towards achieving these targets. A detailed report must be submitted on progress in relation to infrastructural development at Thusanang, Rivoni and Asiphumelele Special Schools. Transparency is necessary on the distribution plan of assistive devices and a detailed report, reporting what has been distributed so far.

More efforts and resources should be placed in the victim empowerment centres, given the challenges faced by victims of various social ills in our communities. The projects such as Sanitary Dignity Project should be given to victim empowerment centres as part of engaging victims in the economic mainstream.

The Office of the Premier has failed on its transversal duties given the number of targets that have not been realised. The attendance and participation in Youth Summit etc., must include parties which are in this House and other formations in the society. Young people need education and technological tools to enable learning during COVID-19 and other pandemics, which may be detected in future. Young people, women and people living with disability need land for residential and agricultural purposes. More campaigns are required against gender-based violence (GBV), drugs, as well as substance abuse.

Aggressive measures are required to create real jobs as people are starving and can't solely depend on grants only. Resolutions of the Workers, Youth, Women and People living with Disability Summits must be implemented without delay.

The EFF calls on the people of Limpopo to hold the government accountable for all promises that they made towards the people of Limpopo. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. We shall now call upon the committee chair. Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, the floor is yours.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip, Hon Essop Mokgonyana; all Members of the Provincial Legislature and all protocol observed, I greet you.

Governments across the world have imposed restrictive measures such as lockdown, social distancing, and voluntary self-isolation, preventing the transmission. These measures have disrupted people's lives and jobs and have implications for health and wellbeing. Uncertainty remains a component of any pandemic crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic poses serious threats to people's physical health and lives, as well as the impossibility of knowing in advance the duration of containments, the real risk of being contaminated, the symptomatic manifestation of the virus and the consequences of personal, economic, and societal levels. The intolerance of uncertainty may be a risk factor for depression and anxiety.

On programme performance, quarterly monitoring on these performance indicators is an important element of planning and budgetary processes. Reports function as an early warning system of alerting departments to areas of weak performances and areas where remedial action is required. Should there be variances between planned and actual output, an explanation of the problems resulting from the variances should be provided.

Madam Speaker, and honourable Members, the recent poverty reports released in 2021 showed Limpopo as the second poorest province in the country with over 5 million people. The economy is based on the export of primary products and the import of manufactured goods. This province has a very high rate of poverty, with 78,9% of the population living below the country's poverty line. The distribution of wealth here is highly unequal. The economy is based on the export of primary products and the import of manufactured goods.

The Office of the Premier reports that 7 685 females' households were visited in the quarter under review for food relief programmes. Almost half of the South African population lives in poverty. The circumstances, particularly the poor in the rural areas, are worst in absolute and relative terms because of the legacy of unequal access, control, and distribution of resources. Other journal articles reported that the inhabitants of Muyexe village were very poor, considering the low level of education, high rate of illiteracy, small income and unsatisfactory living conditions. They even experience a shortage of basic needs such as water, electricity, and transport. Poverty in South Africa is layered, and the extent of poverty stands in inverse relationship to its visibility. Shack dwellers in urban format settlements are more visible than the rural poor, even though numerous studies have shown that they are better off than many inhabitants as the state efforts at alleviating poverty are aimed at them.

On Administration, unfilled vacant funded posts pose a serious challenge not only to our province but to the entire nation. If a household is poverty-stricken, this may affect children as well. As a result of poverty, children may lack social skills, miss learning opportunities, are less likely to go to colleges, be more prone to substance abuse, be more susceptible to illness, may have an abusive characteristic and may have unhealthy survival skills.

The reason for not filling the funded vacant posts remains unjustifiable. The Office of the Premier should ensure that vacant funded posts are filled throughout all sector departments to reduce the province's unemployment rate, and that simultaneously addresses poverty and inequality.

It is alleged that supply chain management policy monitoring has been conducted in seven departments and that, there is no uniformity in the provision of these services as per the policy. The Office of the Premier reports that COVID-19 desktop analysis has been done. Since the draft report is available, soft copies should be made available to the committee.

There are preliminary reports on stock theft cases in the Department of Agriculture and others related to Sports and Culture to be submitted to the heads of department or the Director-General. The skeleton capacitation in the anti-corruption would render departments vulnerable to related crimes if requisite skills and operating systems are not at par with the service to curb the fraud, conflict of interest and deviating activities effectively. Therefore, making understaffing in this category would be a mere job creation rather than the intended deterrence of undesired corrupt activities.

The provincial government hosted the virtual Gender-Based Violence Imbizo where the youth was the target. When the young people develop with the understanding of the damage and trauma the GBV causes to societal health, and psychology can go a long way in ensuring a lessened social distress. Overall, South Africa has made strides in uplifting women in the country. However, despite this progress, GBV remains unacceptably high. Cultural, religious, social, and economic factors play a role in driving GBV.

Payment of lobola is seen as an entitlement to punish women who are not subservient to their husbands. Traditional idioms such as 'Mosadi o hwela bogadi', a woman must endure the pain in the marriage until she dies, encourage women to stay in abusive marriages. Women who decide to leave such abusive marriages are culturally mocked, called names and also seen as failures in life. Hon Premier, let us stand up and fight harshly against this behaviour that leaves women with no option but to stay in abusive marriages.

In conclusion, Hon speaker, this report provides an analysis of the performance of the Office of the Premier in the first, second and third quarter of 2020/21 financial year. They spent a cumulative 71,4% of the adjusted budget as at the end of December 2020 and achieved 88,5% in terms of performance indicators and targets in the quarter under review. The report further showed that economic, cultural, social, and religious factors drive GBV in communities. The state's failure to implement GBV-related policies, and legislation also contributed to the problem. Legislation cannot operate in isolation. The full context must be taken into account, including how interventions aimed at addressing GBV are implemented and evaluated.

Madam Speaker, I move accordingly and thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, committee chair, Hon Mokaba. We shall now call upon the Hon Premier to come and respond to the debate. Before the Premier could come to the podium, let me remind all honourable Members that this Sitting is live through YouTube. May we all adhere to the rules, honourable Members. Hon Premier, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER]

Speaker, Hon Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou; Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana; leaders of the opposition parties; Members of the august House; Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability, Hon Mokaba; Members of the Executive Council; ladies and gentlemen, I greet you all.

Once more, I want to take this opportunity to thank the chairperson of the portfolio committee and Members thereof, for cooperating with the Office of the Premier. Hon Speaker, you would note that there are many issues that have been raised. And as you know that our government takes the issues that have been raised by the standing committee very seriously. The issues of women, youth and people living with disability are part of the RDP ... [INTERFERENCE]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, please check the background. There are people that are interfering with our business.

MS PHALA

Speaker, it's Molebatsi Masedi who is in attendance. May he be muted.

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Thank you very much, Hon Phala. I think it is noted. You may proceed.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We are saying that we take note of the issues that have been raised. The issue of champions of the focal point in the department was raised, and that most departments do not have people who are dedicated on this issue of focal points. We are taking note of that. In the next quarter, there will be improvement on this issue.

On the issue of the vacant posts, you would note that at some point, there was a moratorium on the appointment of staff because of the COVID-19. As soon as this matter is attended to, we are very clear that the vacant positions will be prioritised. Women and young people will also be prioritised. And on the issue of 2% of people living with disability, the department will continue and make sure that we reach the target of the 2% at the end of the day.

We want to continue to deal with the issue of gender-based violence. Limpopo at some point had a very serious problem where we saw rising numbers in gender-based violence. The Department of Social Development together with the Office of the Premier, and other departments have been assisting in that regard. We were all over the province dealing with this matter. We are also calling upon all our people in the province, both women and men, and all other stakeholders, our churches and everybody, to condemn this gender-based violence. We should start saying, 'not in

our name', because it affects families, it affects everybody. We want to congratulate the people that when a call was made, at the beginning of this Women's Month when we said, 'take a boy and a girl child to work', people responded to that. We want to congratulate those people who adhered to the clarion call.

The 20% allocated to assist in the procurement of goods for young people, women, and people with disability, the department will continue ensure that that is done. That is a government policy. We have agreed that for us to be able to reach this target, all departments must be able to make sure that a certain percentage of their budget is allocated to women, young people, veterans, and people living with disability. That will assist in what we call a problem of unemployment in our province. It must be something that comes from our heart, besides being a matter of legislation. We also want to call upon the private sector to assist in that regard because this cannot only be the task of government only. The private sector must come in and assist in this regard.

The issue that was raised about corruption, cannot be overemphasised. This issue of moral degeneration and corruption is something that is on the radar of our government. From time to time, there are meetings which are held with stakeholders to deal with this issue because for us it's a matter of life and death. If we do not deal with this issue, we will not be able to deliver the services that our people are anticipating and waiting for. Corruption robs our people of their rights. We want to confirm that as the Office of the Premier, we will continue to deal with these matters, and we will, from time to time in our quarterly reports, report on these matters.

We want to thank the departments in the province for the stelling work they are doing. Where they have not achieved their targets, we will make sure that we attend to them. The departments have signed the performance agreements with the Office of the Premier. As we do our monitoring, we'll make sure that departments reach their targets. It is our endeavour to make sure that what we have said in our State of the Province Address is achieved. We will not stop to make sure that our programmes are achieved to change the lives of our people for the better. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

7.4. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, Children and People with Disability on the 2020 virtual Workers' Summit

Over to you, committee chair.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability on the 2020 virtual Workers' Summit be adopted as the report of this House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokaba. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, raise my hand to second the motion as presented by Hon Mokaba-Phukwana. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Consideration and Adoption of the Report on the 2020 virtual Youth Summit. Committee chairperson, the floor is yours.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Once more, thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mokaba, rise to move that the report of Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability on the 2020 virtual Youth Summit be adopted as the report of this House and I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder. I recognise Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

I, Falaza Mdaka, raise my hand to second Hon Mokaba-Phukwana's move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon David Selane. It seems as if he is not present. We shall now move to the second speaker, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Managa, its over to you.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Please, switch on your camera.

MS MANAGA

I did switch on, but it is telling me Teams needs permission, if you want to use your camera in all call meetings go to Settings and allow Teams to use it. I have now switched to the cell phone. Earlier, I was using the MacBook.

THE SPEAKER

Okay, Hon Managa, but it should not repeat itself in the coming Sitting. Make sure that you address this challenge. Thank you very much. You may proceed.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Once more, it is a pleasure to participate in the debate on quality of life, status of women, youth and people with disability on behalf of Hon Mphahlele. Once more, I would like to greet the chairperson of the committee, all Members of the Executive Council present in this Sitting, Chief Whip of the Majority Party who is present, leaders of all the organisations that are represented in this House, the chairpersons of different portfolio committees as well as all the honourable Members who are in this Sitting today.

The youth, children, women and people living with disability in Limpopo are completely forgotten by the current administration. These groups of people are on their own as they continue to grapple with day-to-day challenges of life. This government is not for them. It is the government of the elite who are the main beneficiaries of the government tenders and perpetrators of corruption. Many young people roam around the streets because of unemployment, and they end up succumbing to peer pressures. Drug abuse amongst young people is on the rise in the province resulting in all sorts of social ills and criminality like rape and murder. Drugs like nyaope and weed are killing our children and they are fast driving them to their graves.

To address social ills in society, the government must first deal with the root cause of the problem and not the symptoms. Create jobs for young people and give them opportunities for business with proper support systems so that they don't fail. Youth drop out of school because of poverty and lack of support from government that is so much needed. That is why when learners enrol in Grade R, when they reach Grade 12, the number is far less compared to the number recorded when they first enrolled for Grade R. This is a serious call for concern and must be addressed as a matter of urgency. The government is not worried by the current state of affairs and it is ignorant of the realities that characterise our province.

Gender-based violence in Limpopo is on the rise and yet nothing radical is done to address this problem. Women are raped and killed daily and yet all we hear is lips sealed while there are no radical programmes to viciously deal with gender-based violence. There must be severe punishment for this barbaric and uncircumcised men who abuse women at ease without any recourse. They must think twice before committing any gender-based violence against women and girl-children. The problem with the current government is that we have the law that does not bite. Criminals know that they can kill women and only stay in prison for 15 years eating nutritious meals that some of us who are outside do not even enjoy. People living with disability in the province are treated as less human. They struggle and their struggle continues unabated as if their rights are not enshrined and guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

Government buildings are not fitted with ramps to allow people with disability to access them with ease. They struggle to access government services in these buildings simply because there are no ramps. Those who do not have limbs wait for ages before their prosthetic legs can be delivered to them through public hospitals. Government always comes up with all sorts of funny stories for not providing our people with

prosthetic legs to make their lives easier. The government does not have any concrete programme of providing wheelchairs to people with disability. The majority of those who need wheelchairs are confined to their homes and can't go outside to see the sunshine. The EFF government will prioritise the needs of the people with disability and make sure that they access all government services for free, including prosthetic legs, wheelchairs and other important equipment that can make their lives easy.

I so move, Hon Speaker. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Both the Workers' and Youth Summits were held successfully to an extent where the workers of this province applauded this Limpopo Legislature for organising the virtual summit as an alternative during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the Workers' Parliament some of the proposals that were made by the workers were:

- That buildings particularly in the public sector where accessibility poses a major challenge for people with disability, need to be looked into so that people with disability can access the buildings with ease;
- That job creation needs be prioritised due to higher rate of unemployment especially for the youth who constitute an unacceptable number of unemployment rate;
- That federations should form part of the monitoring committee;
- That compliance and enforcement by labour inspectors need to be strengthened as workers are abused, especially farm workers;
- That EPWP workers should be trained to ensure that they are ready for real employment; and
- That compliance of national minimum wage in the private sector needs to be strengthened.

As a committee, we urge the Premier to resolve issues raised by the workers and strengthen more relations for healthy engagements with the workers.

On the Youth Parliament, a lot of issues by the youth were raised such as:

- That the safety of students in institutions of higher learning more especially in their residence inside and outside the institutions should be prioritised;
- That the quality of life for young people with special needs, needs to be prioritised;

- That departments through the Office of the Premier should report back to the youth organisations on programmes implemented to uplift the lives of young people in this province;
- That government should utilise white elephant buildings as training centres for young people especially in industrialisation and manufacturing;
- That government should unfreeze all funded posts as part of solving the issue of unemployment;
- That government should develop an initiative of monitoring SETAs; and
- That all vulnerable groups should always be part and parcel of government initiatives in alleviating poverty.

Our recommendations as a committee, amongst others, were:

- That the Office of the Premier should present statistics of young people who are positively affected by the government initiatives and curbing unemployment;
- That youth programmes should include young people on the ground;
- That safety of students in institutions of higher learning, especially, in their residences inside and outside the institutions should be prioritised; and
- That the quality of life for young people with special needs should also be a priority.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Allow me to shift the conversation from the pandemic and its impact. We must now look towards the future and assess post-pandemic opportunities that the province can explore to rebuild and diversify our economies. Let's focus on the assets that we are having which are the youth. Youth are problem solvers. Our nation needs them to resolve most of our problems. The nation is facing a lot of problems and I believe that the youth are capable of solving them. They just need to be given a chance to prove themselves. Let's borrow some lines from President OR Tambo, when he said "The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future".

The Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability executed its constitutional mandate by monitoring and overseeing

implementation of gender mainstreaming programme in the province with a view of holding the departments accountable. The standing committee held 2020 Youth Summit virtually on 04 December 2020. Due to lockdown, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee could not have the normal sectoral parliament, but early August 2020, the President of the Republic of South Africa made an announcement regarding the number of gathering of up to 250 people.

The committee used that opportunity to organise feedback sessions in the form of summits wherein stakeholders would be given feedback on the progress regarding the implementation of the resolution of the previous sectoral parliaments. The committee in its virtual meeting held on 05 November 2020, resolved to host the Youth Summit on 04 December 2020 in the Vhembe District at Collins Chabane Municipality, however the Speakership advised that the summit be conducted virtually.

Madam Speaker, in 2018 we held a successful Youth Sectoral Parliament in Waterberg, and several resolutions were adopted which required full implementation. The following topped the agenda on the debates:

- Access to education and technology, which is data and network;
- Access to land for residential and agricultural purposes;
- Increasing level of unemployment and poverty; and
- Substance and drug abuse such as nyaope.

Education remains central to development and to the improvement of the lives of young people globally, and as such, has been identified as a priority area in internationally agreed developmental goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the World Programme of Action for Youth. Unemployment, poverty, and drug abuses ... [INTERFERENCE]

THE SPEAKER

Secretary! Honourable Members, IT switch off the Secretary. Order comrades!

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Hon Speaker, can I continue?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, proceed Hon Mokaba.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Education remains central to development and to the improvement of the lives of young people globally and as such has been identified as a priority area in internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals and the World Programme of Action for Youth. Unemployment, poverty and drug abuses are deemed to be serious threats amongst our youth. Two months ago, the country was celebrating Youth Month and remembering the memories of those who died and suffered as well as to carry on with their legacy and principle of selflessness, determination and devotion that is necessary

for success and growth of any society or nation. The sacrifices of these courageous young people who fought for equal education will forever be edged in the country's history, hence, Albert Einstein said: "Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school".

South Africa's unemployment rate rose to 32,6% in the first quarter of 2021 from 32,5% in the previous period. It was the highest jobless rate since comparable data began in 2008. The number of unemployed persons increased by 8 000 to be 7,2 million. Employment fell by 28 000 to 15 million and the labour force went down by 20 000 to 22,2 million. Hon Premier, let us act today. As we applaud the speech made by the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha earlier this year 2021, on emphasis of refurbishing few industries which is a clear indication that in terms of the plan, the Limpopo province is ahead with aggressive infrastructure investment. On employment orientated strategies, reindustrialisation and export promotion will play a significant role in the recovery plan. South Africa faces persistent challenges of inequality, unemployment, and poverty.

As per procedure, the 2020 Workers' Summit was graced by the Limpopo Legislature's Deputy Speaker, Hon A D J Ndou, who gave a keynote address on behalf of the Limpopo Legislature. In his address, the Deputy Speaker amongst other key issues highlighted on the following:

- That our democracy is incomplete without mentioning the contribution of workers in the fight against the brutal system of apartheid, a system meant to deprive us;
- That as a democratic institution we fully recognise the contribution of workers in the emancipation of political and socioeconomic rights of the people of South Africa; and
- That workers are also expected to play a leading role in the fight against corruption, gender-based violence and any socioeconomic injustice.

The recent statistics reveal that all forms of gender-based violence have increased based solely on cases that are reported to the police. According to the figures, on average 58 people are murdered in South Africa every day, and more than 146 sexual offences are committed every day.

In conclusion, as the committee, we recommend that the Office of the Premier together with the Department of Agriculture must prioritise the support and development of young farmers in key commodities such as timber, citrus, avocados, etc. From an economic perspective, a country's unemployment rate remains one of the key measures of economic performance. Hon Speaker, I move that the report be adopted as the report of this House, and I move accordingly.

Thank you very much and have a blessed day.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mokaba. We shall now call upon the Hon Premier to come and respond to the debate. MEC, Hon Mokone, it is your turn.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER]

Hon Speaker, once more, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the Premier of the province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, to thank the committee and members of the committee for the sterling work that they are doing on the quality of life, status of women, youth and people with disability. We want to take this opportunity to thank them for the oversight that they are doing. We acknowledge that the province will continue to make sure that women, youth and people living with disability remain a priority of this government. We are saying that, indeed, issues that have been raised regarding unemployment, issues of skills, and issues of empowerment must be mainstreamed into this standing committee. It is in the interest of the Office of the Premier that these matters are always followed up and monitored.

We also wish that the standing committee would work with us to make sure that at the end of the day, what we have set ourselves to do, is achieved. We will continue to have programmes that are geared in mobilising society to be part of this crusade because the government must make sure that in all spheres of government, provincial, local, and national spheres, 50% of women are appointed. The government must make sure that 20% of young people are employed at political and administrative levels. The 2% that has been set aside for people living with disability should be achieved. The issue of skills cannot be overemphasised.

Therefore, as a provincial government we will make sure that these issues are implemented. Every quarter when these matters are reported, we will be able to monitor them. With those few words, thank you very much. We wish you well. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC for the response.

7.5. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA on the 2020/21 First Quarter Report

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, stand on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA to present the first quarter report of the same department for the 2020/21 financial year as it appears on the ATC for consideration and adoption by this august House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Aphiri. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. I, Monama Rodgers, rise to second the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA on the 2020/21 first quarter report of the Department of CoGHSTA. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Monama. Let's move to the second quarter report of the 2020/21 financial year. Over to you, committee chairperson.

MS APHIRI

Thanks, Madam Speaker. I still stand on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA to present its second quarter report of the department for the 2020/21 financial year for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mokaba.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Hon Speaker, I rise to second Hon Aphiri for the move made.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's proceed to the 2020/21 third quarter report. Committee chairperson, the floor is yours.

MS APHIRI

Thanks, Madam Speaker. I present the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA's third quarter report for the 2020/21 financial year as it appears on the ATC for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chairperson. Is there any seconder to the move? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I raise my hand to second the move as made by Hon Aphiri. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We are now moving to the 2020/21 fourth quarter report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA. Committee chairperson, the floor is yours.

MS APHIRI

Thanks, Madam Speaker. I table the fourth quarter report for the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for adoption by this august House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder to the move? I recognise Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

I, Falaza Philemon Mdaka, second the motion as moved by the committee chairperson, Hon Aphiri. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Falaza Mdaka. Hon Mdaka, it is your turn.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. It has been a long day indeed. Hon Speaker, the acting Premier, Hon Thabo Mokone, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chairperson of Chairpersons, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable MECs, Leader of Government Business, Hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members, traditional leaders, religious leaders, colleagues, and all those who have connected through the social media, good afternoon.

Let me remark that this week marks the fifth consecutive week of increasing cases of COVID-19 globally. We continue to hear reports from all regions of the world about hospitals reaching capacity. The *Delta variant* is reaping around the world at the scorching pace driving a new spike in cases and death. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that in places with high risks nation coverage, the Delta is spreading quickly, especially infecting unprotected and vulnerable people and steadily putting pressure back on health systems. The *Delta variant* does not choose whom to infect, as long as the variant is circulating and precautions is not exercised, it will infect anybody that is not taking proper precautions.

We are now witnessing cases where even young people are taken to hospitals with breathing problems. We need to always stay alert and make sure that we heed the call by the President to remain at home when it is not necessary for us to move out and make sure that we always sanitise and wash our hands. Those that are still supposed to vaccinate, may they all please go to the vaccination centres and vaccinate as we have heard earlier on when the acting Premier was saying that our province is taking the lead. We want everyone who is entitled to be vaccinated to vaccinate as soon as possible.

Coming back to the focus of our debate, the *Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs* has four programmes namely: Administration; Human Settlements; *Cooperative Governance*; and Traditional Institutional Development.

I will start with the Administration Programme: The purpose of the Administration programme is to provide strategic and effective leadership, management, and administrative support to core functions of the department. Furthermore, to review policies, embark on skills development initiatives, and provide efficient and effective financial management and ensure best practice and championing of the Batho Pele principles towards effective service delivery. To start with, the programme had ten performance indicators with targets set for the third quarter. Seven of these targets were achieved which translates to 70% performance accomplished which is not bad because 70% is a good mark, if you are indeed writing examinations. It is not necessarily a distinction but at least we have moved beyond the 50% mark.

On the *Cooperative Governance* Programme, the department achieved the target on the percentage of women to the position of senior management level in the third quarter but could not achieve as planned the target on the percentage of people with disability. It should be emphasised that we are faced with the huge unemployment rate in the province. The committee is concerned that in the quarter under review, the department decided nothing about youth employment. Delivery programmes should address the backlog of communities and citizens alike. The department also has a mandate to provide shelter to the downtrodden and the disadvantaged people of this province, upgrading informal settlements and facilitating a process that provides equitable access to housing in an integrated and sustainable manner as aligned with the programme of the governing party, the ANC, that we should deliver services to the poor.

The department reported that eight performance indicators and targets were planned in the third quarter but only one target was achieved and seven were not achieved. This is quite bad. It is about 14% success rate, and it is not acceptable in the ANC-led government. Moreover, no adequate reason was provided to the committee for such failure. How can the department fail to achieve its own targets in such a manner? Of course, COVID-19 might be a scapegoat. Such plans were reportedly reviewed given the pandemic, but not much was done to improve performance. The targets were approved with the knowledge that the department had the capacity to implement them under any circumstances. There should be contingency plans in future to deal with uncertainties. The accounting officer should be held accountable for failure to implement targets as planned.

This should not be a sung song. It cannot be a sung song for us to sing accountability, accountability and nothing happens. This issue goes against the approved budget, and we are more concerned about this because it leads to budget cuts by Treasury, leaving the province with little resources to deliver the required services. Something must be done to prevent this as it has serious repercussions in future budget estimates for not only the department, but the whole province in general. If you are unable to spend, you cannot ask for more money from the national fiscus as compared to other provinces that are able to spend. Our provincial purse would be on the down slope all the time if we are unable to spend our budget year in and year out.

The department reported that under housing development implementation and planning, they planned to build 1 900 houses in the third quarter and only managed to build 1 178 houses. The department's failure to disaggregate the rural and urban housing units, enhance people's housing process and military veterans housing units in their reports enabled the committee to exercise an oversight role. The committee

regrets to inform this august House that it was an exaggeration. There is no single community residential unit or social housing unit that were built or implemented in the quarters under review. These community residential units are for Marapong in Lephalale Municipality, and Tshikota in Makhado Municipality.

It is of great concern to the committee because the SRU unit projects commenced almost five years ago in December 2016. The reason provided by the department was that main contractors delay in the payment of subcontractors, and which led to some community uprising or strikes and prevention of the project going forward. The question is: What is the role of the department in such delays of payments of contractors? Are the main contractors themselves paid on time? The department must also account whether the main contractor should be held responsible for the delay in terms of the signed contracts in the completion of those projects. What action was taken against the main contractors who are at fault or who have bridged the contract of agreement?

The committee is indeed concerned that if these projects are delayed further, the budget is going to be negatively affected by inflation and less will be achieved because of price increases, which might lead to abandoned projects in our province again which would take years to correct. These will also delay the initiation of new projects on community residential units (CRU). Can the House be updated on the latest concerning the CRU project? The department had also planned to establish 50/50 mixed housing units at Altoostyd. None of the targets were achieved as planned.

The committee is concerned that the department is failing to implement targets as per their approved annual performance plan which is a tool to spend public funds. It reported a delay on the completion of proclamation of townships citing the COVID-19 pandemic as a reason for nonachievement. Indeed, it sounds like it is a joke but of course or possibly proclamation might not happen because of COVID-19, but it needs more explanations as to why such happened. The Executive authority should ensure that these anomalies are resolved to mitigate negative audit outcomes which would not be a good indication for the performance of the department.

In conclusion as the day has been so long, the task of the department is to create jobs. The implementation of the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) should not be taken as a by-the-way employment programme for the Department of Public Works as the name suggests, but all the departments must account for the jobs created through the EPWP programme. The committee observed that the department does not have an instrument to measure the number of jobs created or required. It does not have the monitoring instrument for contractors employing the EPWP workers. The committee will continue to exercise an oversight role over the department on the implementation of the EPWP. The department should be in the position to hold contractors accountable on the employment of EPWP workers to allow it to account at the end of the day. Our province must be able to account on the number of EPWP jobs created by all the departments. As a province, we must also be able to make a positive impact on our voters who are in dire need of jobs.

Lastly, the committee however, supports the move for the adoption of the four quarterly reports with the recommendations as made by the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA to be implemented by the department and that the scribes must proofread the reports to ensure that the dates and quarters are properly referenced in the reports. I think if

you read your reports, you would realise that in some instances, the report for quarter three is referred to in the opening paragraph as the report for quarter four and that must be corrected. The report for the 2020/21 financial year is reported as the report for the 2019/20 financial year in all those reports we are talking about. We need to make sure that we proofread before they are archived.

However, let me also commend the department for assisting municipalities to make sure that they improve in their financial outcomes including the clean audit that was obtained by the Capricorn District Municipality. I think that it deserves accomplishment. I thank you, Hon Speaker. I believe that the UIFs will also be reduced to the minimum in the future with the assistance that the department is providing in their cooperative governance to municipalities in that regard and the reduction of utilising consultants which were reduced to a much lower level in the year under review. I thank you. Ndza khensa. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mdaka. We shall now call upon Hon Buthane.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings, Hon Speaker. It is Hon Mohlala. Can I put it on record that I am coming in on behalf of Hon Buthane?

THE SPEAKER

Okay, proceed,

MR MOHLALA

It has been our observation as the Economic Freedom Fighters, that you have not been running this Sitting fairly today. From item 7.2 to 7.4, to now, all the speakers that came in, their videos were not on. It was only me and Hon Managa who were told to put on their videos. Let's be fair, and honest to everybody, including yourself. You call us in and out with your video not being on. Let's treat each other as equals in this honourable House. Thank you. Can I proceed now?

THE SPEAKER

I don't know what you are referring to. Can you proceed. I don't want to argue with you. You may proceed.

MR MOHLALA

You cannot argue with me because it is a fact. You are not being fair. The EFF submits that any vacancy which was supposed to be filled as per plan, which was not authorised by Treasury should prioritise strictly women, youth and people living with disability when filling takes place. Nothing from the Office of the Premier which fails to act on transversal duties for the employment of youth, women and person living with disability should not be negotiable. A report should be tabled on cases reported in

relation to anti-corruption and fraud which the department received and actions taken thereof.

The department must introduce cessions of payment to avoid nonpayment of subcontractors which negatively affect departmental targets and communities. What actions have been taken by the department to remedy this nonpayment. The 1 900 units should be reported in a format that includes area and category of beneficiaries rather than generalising. Subcontractors deserve to be protected by the department as it is a mandatory requirement to empower locals. Non-delivery of CRU ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mohlala, can you put your video on.

MR MOHLALA

Is it on?

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you. Then, do the same to the others. The previous speaker, Hon Mdaka's video was not on, but you said nothing about it.

THE SPEAKER

No, it was on.

MR MOHLALA

No.

THE SPEAKER

No, no, no, Hon Mohlala, you are out of order. Hon Mdaka's video was on. Hon Aphiri, her video was on. You know what, after this Sitting, just go straight to the YouTube through and you will see. I'm presiding here and I'm talking to you.

MR MOHLALA

Why are you interrupting my speech? You should have responded then. It's now ten minutes into my speech that you come and say I am out of order.

THE SPEAKER

I am interrupting you because you are out of order. You are raising issues that you are not sure about. Can you proceed? You are out of order. After this Sitting just go straight

to the YouTube, you will see that Hon Aphiri's video was on and Hon Mdaka's video was on. No, I don't know what you want today.

MR MOHLALA

Did you say since 2019 there has not been any feedback on township applications? Any municipality which might uses MIG (Municipal Infrastructure Grant) funds must take serious action against those delegated communities that have suffered enough while officials are being paid for doing nothing. Why do we have 63% of our municipalities failing to keep records and compile their financial statement in-house without relying on external entities? Does this mean the deployment policy of the ANC is failing beyond comprehension? [INTERJECTION]

MR MATHE

Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mohlala, just wait. Hon Mathe, your hand is up.

MR MATHE

Yes, Hon Speaker. I want to raise a point of order against Hon Mohlala, and you will direct me if it is appropriate or not. Is it appropriate for a Member to attend a Sitting either virtual or physical, wearing an outfit that reflects the political organisation which he represents?

MR MOHLALA

Can I speak, Hon Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

No, it is not appropriate, Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Hon Mohlala is wearing an EFF jacket.

MR MOHLALA

No, let me stand up Mathe, so that you can see me clearly.

MR MATHE

Stand up! Stand up!

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

You don't have to stand up leadership. You don't have to stand up, Hon Mhhlala. This is not a fashion parade.

MR MOHLALA

Can I proceed, Hon Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, proceed.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The filling of critical posts must be done without delay and strictly qualifying youth, women and people living with disability must be prioritised in all municipalities.

This department must submit without delay the list of traditional leaders who have not been paid by the department including amounts owed and reasons for nonpayment. The department must ensure that all disputes from traditional leadership are given necessary attention to avoid dividing communities. The department can't be commended for having achieved 23% instead of the required 25% per quarter as per the PFMA. This is worsened by the 14% of the first quarter. This underperformance should be a worrying factor which needs attention.

The department has a backlog in terms of provision of sites and housing development. This is worsened by the rollovers which are becoming a norm in the department. We will appreciate a progress report on the corruption which took place at the Talana and Burgersfort tin houses project. The EFF is vindicated by the oversight visits to these two sites where our people were subjected to tin houses at the costs of RDP houses. The concerns raised by the committees are genuine and these structures remain a risk. The Talana project exposes corruption within the ranks of the ANC as the contractor is close to senior ANC leaders in the province.

The EFF will ask the CIDB (Construction Industry Development Board) to investigate the papers and history of the Aventine Group, how they got that grading and if that corresponds with their work experience and tax matters. The department can't justify paying money to a corrupt deal by insinuating that a contract has been signed regardless the red flag. The EFF will follow up on this matter. Poor workmanship is the order of the day on the Talana project and by extension, Burgersfort will receive the same poor service.

The VBS saga can't be complete until all mayors and senior officials who were involved in the looting are punished. We hope the situation of Thulamela will prevail in Polokwane and other municipalities which invested and got their monies back. The people of Vhembe are still at loss due to ANC leaders and deployees scavenging on their hard-earned money. We need feedback on previous land transactions wherein complaints have been raised about the dodgy dealings in this House.

The department must present the status of water levels in the province and communities which are still sharing water source with animals, and very important, the

status of the water we consume per municipality through complying with the Blue and Green Drop regulatory requirements and complying with the Water Services Development Plan.

The department must submit within 30 days the names of all Kings, Queens, and Indunas in all the traditional authorities and their status on the payment system. We further demand a detailed report on ghost Indunas of the Manenzhe Traditional Council. How many ghost Indunas do we have in Limpopo?

The progress is not impressive on the rural and urban housing units being built as allocated in all districts. It is reckless to say the department has no report or fails to provide feedback on the Altoostyd 50/50 mixed housing units. It seems COVID-19 will be an excuse for everything while our people are forced to stay in unbearable conditions.

We need the report on forensic intervention of the R5,452 million payments made to unscrupulous accounts allegedly by employees of the Sekhukhune District Municipality. We need a detailed report on consequence management of the VBS shenanigans. The EFF remains a legitimate alternative government to the people of Limpopo. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Smalle has submitted his debate electronically. I think we shall now move to the last speaker. We shall now call upon the committee chairperson, Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Let me start by reminding this august House of the importance of this month, August, to us as women. As we continue to celebrate and recognise this month, we need to be vigilant by not forgetting that freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression. That is why our endeavours must be about the liberation of women and nothing else. We converge here today not forgetting that this year we celebrate the life and times of Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke, a stalwart of our struggle who is remembered for her strength, compassion, and tireless commitment to the people of this country. I am talking of a human rights campaigner, a prominent leader of the ANC Women's League who represented the epitome of selfless service to the people. an outstanding contributor to the course of freedom and democracy in this country.

Madam Speaker, in 2020 and the beginning of 2021, the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA had virtual meetings with the department to deliberate on their quarterly reports and to evaluate the overall progress made with the implementation of the institution's performance plan, and to ensure that despite the reduction in financial resources, indicators and targets are met. These reports function as an early warning system, by alerting the department to areas of weak performance and areas where remedial action is required. The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on the way the department operates. It has not impacted only on the availability of resources, but also on the provision of services.

The department was allocated a Budget of R2,241 billion for the 2020/21 financial year which signified a decrease of 19% from the previous financial year's allocation. With regard to quarter one of the financial year we are debating on, the department spent R332 million which is below 14,8% of the allocated budget. This percentage is far below the straight-line projection of 25%. This financial performance was to a larger extent attributed to the underspending by the Human Settlements Programme where only 6% of the budget was spent and none of the set targets were achieved. It has achieved an overall performance of 34% of the planned targets.

Regarding quarter two, it spent 23% of the Budget and underspending was again recorded in the Human Settlements Programme where 6% was spent. During this quarter, the performance of all programmes except for Cooperative Governance was below 50%. Non-achievement of performance targets in the quarter was in the main attributed to COVID-19 Disaster Management Regulations. It was during this quarter that the temporary residential units that Hon Mdaka, has already alluded to, what the media referred to as the multimillion-rand project in Talana and Burgersfort were constructed. The portfolio committee is still following up on this project.

Regarding quarter three, the department showed an improvement of 27,07% on expenditure which was above the straight-line projection. The overall performance was not commensurate with financial expenditure by the department. The performance of all the programmes except for the Human Settlements was 70% and above. I think honourable Members can hear that the department is not doing well with Human Settlements, and it has not done well for all the quarters. It has become a norm that the department spends above the 25% straight-line projection in quarter four as an attempt to exhaust the allocated funds. It has no exception with CoGHSTA as 28% of the budget was spent. Despite the department performing well financially in all the programmes, this did not correspond with the achievement of performance target. On average, 64% of the set target was achieved.

The municipal infrastructure grant allocation for the 2020/21 financial year was R2,952 billion and 66% of this allocation was spent as at the end of March 2021. There is a greater likelihood that some municipalities will not spend 100% of their allocation. The expenditure of the grant by municipalities makes it possible for the communities to have amongst others, access to drinking water, electricity, and improved sanitation. These basic services are of crucial importance because the central role they play is poverty alleviation. It is imperative that all communities in the province have access to these services.

During the Women's Month celebration in August 1996, the former President Nelson Mandela said, "Better access to health care especially for women and young children; nutrition schemes for children; provision of clean water and electricity to communities that never had them; and land reform – these are just some of the first steps in our nation's attack on poverty which weighs so heavily on women in particular". Are we still adhering to the call by our former President? That is a question, Hon Speaker?

The portfolio committee will continue to monitor the underperformance by the department on the Human Settlements Programme, particularly on the construction of housing units and the acquisition of land by strengthening its oversight responsibility. Huge unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred by municipalities, some caused by double payments of service providers, are a cause for

concern and the committee will do everything within its power to ensure that there is consequence management to those implicated in those wrongdoings. The amount of money spent on consultants increased from R93 million in the 2015/16 financial year to R249 million in the 2018/19 financial year. We are just happy because we are now witnessing the reduction. The committee has taken a decision to also monitor the outsourcing of annual financial statements by municipalities despite having officials employed to do the job.

The ANC-led government led by Cde President Cyril Ramaphosa has marshalled all resources to restore stability and ensure that the violence that happened few weeks ago is ended. However, we need to accelerate the implementation of our economic reconstruction recovery plan to rebuild our economy to create employment and drive inclusive growth as of now.

As I conclude Hon Speaker, as we intensify our fight against this invisible enemy, COVID-19, we need to encourage members of the public including us as honourable Members to go and vaccinate. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri. We shall now call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu, to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, I just want to check to avoid fights if I am visible on the video.

THE SPEAKER

You are, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Hon Premier in absentia, colleagues in the Executive Council, Chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Aphiri together with members of the portfolio committee, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members of this august House, ladies and gentlemen. I agree with Hon Mdaka that it was a long day, but of course we need to respond to the issues raised by the honourable Members. We agree that the on the first quarter, second quarter and third quarter, as a department we did not perform in terms of the straight-line expectation on the targets set. It is not our wish to use COVID-19 as a challenge, but the sector of Human Settlements specifically would be affected by the unavailability of materials for doing constructions.

I must indicate that in terms of the programmes we are having in the department, the first being Administration, we always continue to pride ourselves that gender equity in the senior echelons of the department is achieved in the sense that out of the five, four are women and all of them are fully appointed. We know that we have the target to meet, especially for people living with disability. We are doing to attend to this matter

as per the guidance that we receive from the portfolio committee and the Office of the Premier.

I must indicate that on the issue of Cooperative Governance, the main issues which were raised, and we are familiar with are:

- The use of consultants in the municipalities;
- The issue of underspending of the municipal infrastructure grants; and
- The issue of high irregular expenditure within our municipalities.

These are programmes that are continually reported to us by municipalities, and we provide the necessary support. It is not surprising that we have not achieved the desired outcomes, but we see with the audit outcomes that we are moving towards reaching the targets. Some of our municipalities, for example, the Molemole Municipality, did not incur irregular expenditure because the municipality was following its supply chain management regulations. We want to appreciate the fact that the portfolio committee keeps on pounding the matter of municipal support.

It will also be not fair, if I don't clarify Hon Mohlala, on the nonpayments of Indunas and senior traditional leaders, Queens, or Kings in the province. We don't pay when a person has not been recognised. I would like to clarify the difference between recognition and appointment. The family has the responsibility to appoint an Induna, a senior traditional leader, the King, or the Queen in a particular queenship or kingship. As a department we only deal with the recognition of such. I can submit a report if I am requested here, that all the recognised senior traditional leadership and Indunas in the province are being paid and there is no single one who is not paid. There would be those that would proclaim themselves as Indunas or senior traditional leaders who are not yet recognised by the government and those will not be paid. I think that clarity should be received by each and every honourable Member in this Sitting.

I agree with Hon Mdaka in terms of the Human Settlements issues, more especially the CRUs, and Marapong. We are hands-on on the matter. It is a project that has been with us for quite some time, and we will focus on the challenges which are there. We are also including legal minds on the contracts that were signed which we need to follow-up. It is a matter that we are busy handling to resolve and make the ANC-led government proud because that project was to resolve proper challenges. There are allegations that are made in connection with the Talana Project. We have pronounced ourselves on what was the purpose of the CRUs in Talana and Burgersfort.

I must indicate that the allegations and dragging the name of the ANC into a relationship with the contractors cannot be proven or substantiated, and it should be dismissed. The Premier has requested the SIU to investigate. The SIU has investigated, and people have been arrested. Out of all those that have been arrested, not even a single person is a leader of the ANC. I would request that people should not be allowed to use the ANC recklessly. The senior political leader in the department is the MEC responsible and I am here, Hon Speaker. There is nobody that has been arrested, even when all those that have been arrested are said to be officials from HDA (Housing Development Agency) and the contractor. Not even a single official of the department is arrested.

I would not want to waste your time because we had a long day. We will continue to listen to the portfolio committee, and we will work with them. We will attend to all matters raised by the portfolio committee. We will continue to improve in our performance by meeting targets to deliver the departmental mandate as expected by the people of this province. I thank you, Hon Speaker for the opportunity to respond to the debate. We will continue to engage with the portfolio committee. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Indeed, it was a long day. It looks like we have covered all the main items for today's Sitting.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? It seems as if there is none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned until Tuesday, 10 August 2021 at 10:00. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

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**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 10 AUGUST 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 10 AUGUST 2021
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 very much, you may all be seated. Honourable Members, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, MECs present and Members of this august House.

**THE EFF'S CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S MONTH BY DONATING HOUSES TO
THE LESS FORTUNATE
(Motion without Notice)**

I, Selaelo Regina Mphahlele, stand here to rise on behalf of the EFF on the Motion without Notice that the House notes that:

The EFF celebrates Women's Month with an opening celebration of handing over of three luxurious, spacious, beautiful houses to three elderly people in Seshego. This greatest initiative is intended to change the living conditions of those elderlies for the better.

We are proud to associate with the poorest of the poor and the marginalised, and we will continue with revolutionary initiatives to seek to transform life of quality standards.

It was on 05 August 2021 when the Commander-in-Chief, President Julius Malema; Treasurer-General, Commissar Omphile Mankoba Maotwe; Commissar Jossey Buthane; and Commissar George Raphela, handed over these life-changing properties, fully furnished and paved, with security walls. We felt it befitting to celebrate and honour these grandmothers as a symbol of honouring women in society.

We call upon society to confront anyone who seeks to be a symbol of perpetrating gender-based violence. We must further expose any law enforcement officers who discourage abused women from opening criminal cases against perpetrators. We are

a caring and giving organisation, we remain the only real alternative to the poor conditions of our people.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Jetrick Seshoka, stand before you to second the motion as presented by Hon Mphahlele.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members and honourable MECs, good morning.

**THE ANC WELCOMES THE CHANGES MADE BY PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA TO
THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, INCLUDING NEWLY APPOINTED
DEPUTY MINISTERS
(Motion Without Notice)**

Hon Speaker, we welcome the changes made by President Cyril Ramaphosa to the Executive Council, which includes the appointment of Hon Joe Phaahla as Health Minister, Hon Pinky Kekana, Hon Dikeledi Magadzi and Hon Thembi Nkadimeng as Deputy Ministers.

As the ANC in this House, we have faith in the abilities of these comrades to serve the country better and to contribute meaningfully to socioeconomic transformation. The appointment of Hon Thembi Nkadimeng, as the Deputy Minister, is a sign of our capability, as the ANC in this province, to develop cadres that could be called for national duties.

In the past six years that she held the fort in Polokwane, she had brought about political stability both within the council and communities. Together with her collective, they had narrowed the gap between the communities and council. Community engagements are no longer aligned to IDP processes, but had become a constant feature that characterised her tenure. The ANC in this august House wishes her well in her new endeavours.

I move accordingly. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, raise my hand to second the motion as tabled by Hon Monyamane. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Mathe M S, your hand is up. Hon Mathe's mic is muted, I think I'll proceed to the next item.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS OUTRAGED OVER EMBEZZLEMENT OF FUNDS BY
VILLAGE BANK**

(Members' Statement)

The Democratic Alliance notes the outraged community members in GaMathabatha village who have since opened a case with SAPS on the alleged R4 million which was invested and just disappeared from the GaMathabatha Financial Services Cooperative. The case is currently being investigated by SAPS.

It should be noted that life savings from the poorest of the poor were stolen during a time when people are struggling to put food on the table because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Stokvel groups and cooperatives from this rural community invested their hard-earned savings with GaMathabatha Financial Services Cooperative, which in turn deposited the funds into a private financial institution.

Members from rural communities such as GaMathabatha, who do not readily have access to mainstream banking, were duped into depositing their savings and stokvel contributions with financial cooperatives.

This House should resolve that relevant government departments should implement financial awareness campaigns aiming to educate our vulnerable people who do not have access to mainstream banking and understanding basic investment, to educate them to enhance financial awareness to avoid such criminality and heartbreaking financial losses.

This House should further resolve that the Provincial Commissioner Hadebe must ensure that regular feedback on progress made in the investigation is reported to the GaMathabatha community.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any response from the Executive Council?

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, MECs present, Members of the Opposition, Chief Whip and Members of this august House, we take note of the allegation made in the embezzlement of funds in the GaMathabatha community. We will further investigate the matter and it will be reported to this august House in due course. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Is there any Executive Statement in terms of Rule 201? There is none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports and papers? There is none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism on the 2020/21 Financial Year Second Quarter Report for LEDET. We shall now invite the committee chairperson.

MR SELAMOLELA

Malibongwe!

BACKGROUND

Igama lamakhosikazi!

MR SELAMOLELA

Wathint' abafazi!

BACKGROUND

Wathint' imbokodo!

MR SELAMOLELA

Uzokufa, wena Strijdom!

Hon Speaker, thanks very much. Greetings once again to colleagues; Members of the Executive Council present here; the Deputy Speaker; greetings to Hlabirwa, the Leader of Government Business; friends; countrymen; the Chief Whip of the Majority Party and the Legislature.

I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, stand here to present for consideration and adoption by this august House, the 2020/21 Second Quarter Report for the said Department of LEDET.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selamolela. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. If you will allow me to stand at my chair, I will second the report as put forward by the chairperson of the portfolio committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Report on the 2020/21 Financial Year Second Quarter Report: LEDA.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, stand here to present for consideration and adoption by this august House, the 2020/21 financial year Second Quarter Report. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion by Hon Selamolela, the chairperson of LEDET. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Report on the 2020/21 Financial Year Second Quarter Report on LTA.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, stand here to present for consideration and adoption by this august House, the 2020/21 financial year Second Quarter Report for Limpopo Tourism Agency. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. Is there a seconder? Hon Mathye, you are recognised.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson, Hon Selamolela. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Report on the 2020/21 Financial Year Second Quarter Report: LGB.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, stand here to present for consideration and adoption by this august House, the 2020/21 financial year Second Quarter Report for Limpopo Gambling Board.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, raise my hand to second the report as tabled by Hon Selamolela. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Let's move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Report on the 2020/21 Financial Year Third Quarter Report: LEDET.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Limpopo Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism, stand here to

present for adoption and consideration by this august House, the 2020/21 Financial Year Third Quarter Report for LEDET.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Jacques Smalle, stand to second the report as put forward by the chairperson of LEDET. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Let's move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 2020/21 Financial Year Third Quarter Report: LEDA.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Limpopo Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism, stand here to present for consideration and adoption by this august House, the 2020/21 financial year Third Quarter Report for Limpopo Economic Development Agency. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second the motion as tabled by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report: 2020/21 Financial Year Third Quarter Report on LTA.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I Selelo Donald Selamolela, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, stand here before this august House to present for consideration and adoption by this House, the 2020/21 financial year Third Quarter Report for Limpopo Tourism Agency. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, raise my hand to second the motion as presented by Hon Selamolela, the committee chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report: 2020/21 Financial Year Third Quarter Report: Limpopo Gambling Board.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand here before this august House to present for consideration and adoption by this House, the 2020/21 financial year Third Quarter Report for Limpopo Gambling Board. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second the motion by the chairperson, Hon Selamolela. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Let's move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report: 2020/21 Financial Year Fourth Quarter Report: LEDET.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand here before you in this august House to present for consideration and adoption by this House, the 2020/21 financial year Fourth Quarter Report for Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mathye, you are recognised.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker, I rise to second the motion by Hon Selamolela. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Let's move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report: 2020/21 Financial Year Fourth Quarter Report: LEDA

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I stand here before you in this august House to present for consideration and adoption, the 2020/21 financial year Fourth Quarter Report for Limpopo Economic Development Agency. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion by the chairperson of Economic Development. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report: 2020/21 Financial Year Fourth Quarter Report: LTA.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand here before you in this august House to present for consideration and adoption by this House, the 2020/21 financial year Fourth Quarter Report for Limpopo Tourism Agency.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Rebecca Mmaishibe Seono, raise my hand to second the report as tabled by Hon Selamolela, the committee chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report: 2020/21 Financial Year Fourth Quarter Report: LGB.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on LEDET, humbly and finally stand here before you to present for consideration and adoption by this august House, the 2020/21 financial year Fourth Quarter Report for Limpopo Gambling Board. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Smalle, you are recognised

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the hardworking committee on Economic Development and the chairperson of LEDET in supporting the final report of the fourth quarter. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. All these reports will be debated on simultaneously. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Simon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Hon Speaker, am I audible? Hon Speaker, am I audible? Am I audible, Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

I think I'm going to skip Hon Mathe because all members were told that if you debate you must come to the Chamber. Unfortunately, Hon Mathe is connected virtually, and we are having a connection problem. You are not going to be able to participate, Hon Mathe, we can't hear you. Let's move to the next speaker. Hon Mphahlele, over to you.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. MECs present here and Members of this august House, I greet you all. Hon Speaker, we are dealing with a government that only make promises and never delivers on them. The entity committed to build a science and technology park, but where is the park? If it does not exist, is this not a drawback to service delivery to our province, especially to the young people? Can the MEC give this House a progress report in relation to the project because it was planned for the 2019/20 financial year?

Science and technology are key in the modern world, an advancement of the economy and speedy service delivery. The instance of how science and technology contribute to society is the creation of new knowledge and the utilisation of that knowledge to boost the prosperity of human lives and to solve various issues facing society. The project was also planned to commence construction in the 2019/20 financial year, but that did not happen.

During the Limpopo Investment Conference, the investors pledged investments to the value of R3 billion. Did you achieve this target? If not, why because such failure jeopardises the GDP and the growth of our economy. It also jeopardises jobs in the province that still has the highest unemployment rate. During the year under review, LEDA committed to promote R300 million worth of exports. Did you achieve this target, and from which drivers of the economy are these exports coming from? If not, why not? Furthermore, how did the money help in reducing poverty and creating jobs for the people of Limpopo?

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Gambling Board is not doing enough to encourage responsible gambling amongst our people. Many of our people have become addicted

to gambling and those who are working spend their whole salaries on gambling, taking nothing home. Government must create more awareness programmes to prevent people from becoming addicts. Some even sleep over at casinos like Meropa, which has serious consequences on their family life and may lead to divorces. Responsible gamblers know when to stop. Government should also create awareness programmes for illegal gambling as it is rife in the province, and it continues unabated.

Hon speaker, what is the rationale behind appointing research companies to deal with procurement issues, when there is a research unit in the department? This is a sign of a lack of internal capacity by the state. They are leasing the services of people to come and do the same job that should be done by people employed to do the job in the government. This is a complete waste of government money. The EFF will build state and government capacity, which will lead to the abolishment of tenders.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Smalle, over to you.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good morning to the Members of the Executive as well as Members in this august House and our Members on various other platforms. Businesses have been hard hit and many jobs have already been lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions. It is critical at this time that we do everything we can to ensure that they can continue operating so that we can save jobs and focus on rebuilding our economy.

The Limpopo tourism sector has not been immune to the COVID disaster and needs every support it can get as well as reinsurance. In South Africa, the direct contribution of the tourism sector to the GDP was R130,1 billion in 2018 and constituted nearly 3% direct contribution to the GDP. In 2018, the tourism sector contributed about 4,5% of the total employment in South Africa.

Two years later, under COVID in 2020, the volume of tourists decreased by 72,6% from 10,2 million in 2019 to 2,8 million in 2020. A snap poll conducted by the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism of 400 businesses in mainly the accommodation and restaurant sector showed that the alert level 4 restrictions prevented almost a third of the responders from legally operating. Roughly 40% of responding businesses were closed temporarily due to the alert level 4 restrictions, and approximately two thirds of responders say they will lose between 75% and 100% of the expected revenue for July and August 2021. Almost a third of responders have had to retrench staff. The impact of closures of the hospitality and liquor sectors is severe and without financial support could lead to the permanent closures of many businesses and the loss of many jobs.

Hon Speaker, the LTA received a healthy budget of R66,413 million, which includes a hefty portion of R7,994 million for the Office of the CEO and must strive for improvement in brand marketing, collaborations, and dissemination of tourist

information. We can no longer only focus on the Kruger Park, our provincial parks and the Premier Soccer League.

Limpopo's peak tourist season is less than four months away, and it is crucial that we stay focused on getting the balance right between preventing the spread of COVID-19 while keeping the economy and particularly our tourism industry open, saving both lives and livelihoods. In April 2021, the National Coronavirus Command Council has approved the principle that tourism sector frontline workers should be prioritised for vaccination. Vaccines are crucial to restarting the tourism recovery by restoring confidence in the safety of South Africa as a destination and provide Limpopo with an added edge when marketing our tourism destinations. The LTA urgently liaises with the TBCSA (Tourism Business Council of South Africa) members to do whatever is needed to facilitate the vaccination of tourism workers, from raising funds to offering up tourism venues as vaccination centres. It is crucial that the Provincial Command Council negotiates vaccinations for our tourism sector, not only to prevent a post peak season wave in Limpopo, but to instil trust in our sector by all who will visit our province.

The Limpopo Gambling Board has a budget of R78,3 million, of which R46,480 million is spent on salaries. Despite the precarious financial position due to COVID-19 restrictions and persistent unemployment, the LGB reached 99% of their revenue collection targeted at the end of quarter four. It is encouraging that the LGB resolved all their Scopa resolutions, and the LTA only has 11 unresolved Scopa resolutions. We would like to see the LTA develop strategies to maximise targets, achievements and budgetary expenditures coherently, which will benefit all the tourism industry and safeguard all the jobs it provides. We trust that the LGB will strengthen integrated planning to improve organisational efficiency and effectiveness to combat the rapid mushrooming of illegal gambling.

Finally, let us all please support small businesses, especially those that are hard hit in the tourism and hospitality sectors, by ordering takeaways or visiting our local restaurants or coffee shops, whilst we are adhering to the COVID-19 protocols so that we, together, can stay safe and move forward in saving our jobs in Limpopo province, building our economy that this province needs. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. Committee chair, Hon Selamolela, over to you.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker; our Deputy Speaker, Gobetse'a Dimo, Hon Azwindini Jeremiah Ndou; ... [LAUGHTER] I'm saying, I also salute Gobetse'a Dimo, Jeremiah Ndou, the Deputy Speaker of this august House; the Leader of Government Business, Hlabirwa, Seaparo Sekoati; the Member of the Executive Council, Ngoato, Thabo Mokone; the Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana, the leadership of our people; Members of the Executive Council of our beautiful province; colleagues in the House; friends; compatriots; and fellow countrymen, greetings this morning.

Hon Speaker, perhaps, before I could even go to my notes, I must indicate that one of the songs that I like very much is a song that I remembered yesterday as we celebrated

65 years since the march of our brave women to Pretoria against that problematic regime that we defeated. That song is sung by one of the powerful voices we once had on our shores, Brenda Fassie. That song is called “Vul’ indlela weMaMgobhozi”. I’m reminded now of this song when Hon Mphahlele comes here and speaks about issues she knows little about. Hon Mphahlele, you are not a member of the Committee on Economic Development, and I think Hon Raphela should have given you the notes in context so that as you present, coming on us on our failures, you should have had that understanding in context. Nonetheless, I would leave it there, and I would say that you need to really listen to that song, you and the forever loudmouth, Seshoka.

Hon Speaker, yesterday, 65 years ago, our great-grandmothers marched against the pass laws against women. This revolutionary activity and act ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mphahlele wants to say something.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I would like to point out to Hon Selamolela that, indeed, I’m not part of the portfolio. I am given the opportunity to come and present because my colleague is committed to other activities of the organisation. When answering, he should not make mention of Hon Mphahlele because Hon Mphahlele is just sent to come and deliver a presentation. So, I was just delivering what the portfolio is doing, I don’t know anything. I am against the fact that I should just be humiliated as if I just came here with my own ideas to lambast the portfolio.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, I think it is noted. You can continue Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

It is noted Mokgaga. Perhaps you must just proceed because, indeed, you conceded to the fact that you know nothing about the developments in this committee. It will be important to just proceed and save the day.

Hon Speaker, the revolutionary activities of 1956 must never be seen and understood in isolation to the many other revolutionary acts that defined the face of the struggle for liberation of our people from that demonic system that we defeated in 1994. We stand here today, proud of these heroines and their selfless sacrifice to the noble cause of our people. More interestingly, especially for us in the ANC, is that as we celebrate these 65 years, this happens in the year when we are celebrating the life and times of one of our martyrs of our revolution, Mme Charlotte Maxeke, who hails just from this beautiful province of the martyrs, Limpopo.

Honourable MEC, these martyrs of our revolution contributed to the political breakthrough that you witnessed in your teens in 1994, with Hlabirwa and others. Today the youth of our country look upon us to liberate them economically. This surely

is the mandate we must not fail. Hon Smalle is right and very correct to acknowledge that today, as we prosecute this struggle, we do it against the backdrop of the COVID-19 effect on our economy. I want to really appreciate that acknowledgement from your part, Hon Smalle.

It is a reality, indeed, that those who read the notes from others may not know and will never know that the tourism sector, the transport sector, the logistics sector, the gambling sector, and all other sectors of our economy have been hard hit by the reality of COVID-19. Considering all these facts, we have considered the reports from the department and the entities: Limpopo Economic Development Agency, Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Tourism Agency, and made some of the following recommendations:

- LEDA must provide a comprehensive report on the history of the rollout of the programme in the province;
- LEDA and the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone should have an infrastructure plan. This is in line with the development in Musina;
- They must have an implementation plan aligned to the allocated budget, indicating clearly what will be achieved by the end of the 2021/22 financial year, emanating from that basis of the fourth quarter of the 2020/21 financial year;
- We have also impressed that LEDA should provide a regular comprehensive report on the activities and performance of its divisions and subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates. This we do to continue to monitor, as Hon Smalle has said, that LEDA should play a very strategic role under this current condition to propel our economy forward. We are doing this so we can monitor, on behalf of our people in the province, to check if indeed we are on track as far as the LEDA activities, its subsidiaries, its subdivisions and all the partnerships it has entered into.
- Hon Speaker, as far as Limpopo Tourism Agency is concerned, the tourism agency is one of the agencies that have been very badly affected by COVID-19 because it operates within the tourism space which has been badly affected. We have said it must provide a plan on how the entity will intensify marketing and branding of the provincial cities to maximise tourism arrivals, especially at this difficult time;
- It must also own tourism attraction initiatives and revitalise dilapidated tourism amenities in the province;
- We have also impressed on the virement of funds, which we said should be done only if the money will be utilised not to cover for underperformance on the budget;
- We have also said that the entity should furnish the committee with a report on how many businesses owned by women, youth and persons with disabilities benefited from the 30% procurement spending on black youth, persons with disabilities and women, which was achieved without challenges and were percentaged in total of the expenditure;

- The agency should provide the committee with a report on how much provincial government expenditure was incurred on tourism, on hospitality-related businesses owned by women, youth and persons with disabilities during the said 2020/21 financial year;
- We have also impressed that the entity and LEDET should strengthen their communication, cooperation and integrated planning to ensure delivery on their mandates and ensure that they are not hampered or procrastinated by internal weaknesses or processes. These are the weaknesses that we also spoke about when we considered the previous reports, just in this august House;
- We have also impressed that, especially when we discussed the Treasury Report, they need to be strengthened. We also said the entity should capacitate and ensure effectiveness of its Supply Chain Management unit; and
- Finally, we have said that the entity should provide a report, especially indicating the support that is given to the Premier Soccer League teams in the province. It is a matter that Hon Moraka would also be interested in. We may need this report to check if the sponsorship that is given to these teams is showing a return on investment from these three clubs.

Hon Speaker and honourable MEC, considering all this and fully acknowledging the challenges we face, our people still look upon us for economic emancipation. We want to implore the MEC and everyone that we commit to dare not fail Mme Charlotte Maxeke, we commit and dare never to fail our forbearers who contributed towards us in gaining the fruit of liberation. In saluting their bravery, their commitment and selflessness, their dedication to the cause of our people, we must not fail the current generation in liberating them from the current economic quagmire.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. We shall now call upon the MEC for LEDET, Hon Mokone, to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; colleagues in the Executive Council; Chief Whip; chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Selamolela; members of the opposition and Members of the august House, once more ndza mi xeweta. Avuxeni.

Indeed, 2020 and 2021 was a very difficult time. We saw what COVID has done to us as people all over the world. A lot of businesses went bust; a lot of people lost their jobs. If you were to go to town, you'll see that some of the shops were closed, people could not travel, and money had to be moved to save the lives of our people. This department had to move R420 million to contribute towards the saving of lives. What we then did, was to say that we also needed to put aside some money to deal with the problem that our people have. We had to come up with a socioeconomic recovery

plan, a short-term plan to assist small businesses and tourism, especially tourism which was hard hit. A budget was allocated from national government, and the province said it will also play its role. We used the same criteria that national government was using to allocate the money. Many businesses did benefit in our province both from the national and provincial allocation.

Indeed, Hon Smalle, it is not time to do politics. Like you have said, all of us must put our heads together. Mokgaga, ga ke gane gore ke rena bomaganagobušwa eupša, gonabjale tla re kopanyeng dihlogo gore kamoka ga rena re dire gore profense ya rena e be profense ya tšwelopele. Dilo tša go swana le ge batho ba pšhatla le go utswa mabenkeleng – rena re le badudi ba Limpopo kamoka re le Bakone re re, re a di gana. Re nyaka gore profense ya rena e tšwelepele. Lebaka ke gore, ge re sa šome bjalo ka seboka, dilo di ka se tšwele pele. Ke ka mokgwa wo re kwanego ka gona.

Hon Selamolela, you have indicated what we are intending to do, what we want to do, and we want to take this opportunity to say thank you for the guidance and counsel from the leadership of the portfolio committee and its members. Every time when we meet, we have our differences, but we also get counsel from you to say this is how you want to do things. You have given the recommendation that we have agreed upon about what we are going to do, and indeed, we are going to do that.

On the issue of tourism, Hon Smalle, we have agreed that as a provincial Council, as the EXCO, we are going hold a Tourism Indaba to make sure that we begin to plan, when all our people are vaccinated, how we are going to deal with domestic tourism and accept international tourists because Limpopo is a tourist destination of choice. We were number one in terms of domestic tourism and number two in terms of international tourism, and we want to retain that spot. The strategy with Great North Transport (GNT) is to make sure that our people are transported because it is a major transporter of our people who come from the villages. If I was to answer about the issue around the science and technology park, Hon Mphahlele, we have submitted the project to the President, and it is receiving his attention. We have a project plan, we never said that it would be implemented this year. We have a milestone that we must reach. The Polokwane Municipality has done what it was supposed to do. The land has been demarcated, it has been approved, so we are forging ahead in doing that.

In terms of the Gambling Board, it has collected more than what it's supposed to collect, and we are happy about that. In terms of addicts, we have a programme which we are running with other institutions to deal with responsible gambling. We are also dealing with the issue of online gambling, which is a difficult process because as you know, with this technology that is all over, some of the things we are unable to deal with. We are going to continue with the implementation of the socioeconomic recovery plan. We have been allocated R200 million from almost R600 million for the Musina-Makhado SEZ, R200 million will be utilised this financial year. R35 million has been allocated to Fetakgomo-Tubatse, which will also be utilised this financial year.

We are going to have an investment conference with our investors this September just to make sure that we understand where we want to go as a province. You will know that one of the problems that we have is that in the mining sector, people have been disrupting operations. The Premier has directed that we must have a mining summit where, once and for all, we should be able to deal with this issue. Money has been

allocated to this sector, but we don't know why we are still having this problem where communities are having problems and want to deal with that.

So, all in all chairperson, we want to take this opportunity to thank the committee and everybody. We want to say that we can't fail our people. The road to economic recovery will not be an easy road, but together, I think we'll be able to do more if we were to bring our heads together, bring the resources together, and make sure that with the little resources that we have, our people are put back into their normal lives.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Mokone. Let us proceed to item 7.2: Consideration and Adoption of the Following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development 2020/21 First Quarter Report. I call upon the committee chair.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier in absentia, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chief Whip, honourable MECs, honourable Members, good morning. I, Sarah Monyamane, present the 2020/21 First Quarter Report for the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you, I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, raise my hand to second Hon Sarah Monyamane, the honourable chairperson, for the motion raised. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We are now on consideration and adoption of the following report: 2020/21 Second Quarter Report. I call upon the committee chair.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, present the 2020/21 Second Quarter Report for the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you, Hon Speaker. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the honourable chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We are now on consideration and adoption of the following report: 2020/21 Third Quarter Report. I call upon the committee chair of Social Development.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, present the 2020/21 Third Quarter Report for the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you, I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand to second the motion by the committee chair. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Maseko. It seems like Hon Maseko is not present. We are going to pass to the next speaker. I call upon Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to Members of the Executive Council present here and all other Members, the ones in the House and those that are connected on a virtual setting.

Before I even start, Hon Speaker, let me point out to you, Hlabirwa, Hon Sekoati, that we are not going to take responsibility for those that have got a narrow understanding of what the principle of quality leadership means. We are not going to take that responsibility, meaning that I do not have to be a member of a committee for me to come before this House and present because in the EFF we share notes, we always exchange notes so that at any given time, when one of us is not available, I will be able to take that responsibility. I hear that there are those that will come before us and cry that people are not in the committee; therefore, they are not supposed to come here and present. Nonetheless, we are not going to take that responsibility.

Hon Speaker, the failure by this department to reach 50% target of women in the senior management positions is disappointing, more especially because this department is led by a woman MEC. This should have happened in the second quarter in the year under review, but it did not happen. Are you going to blame COVID-19 that you did not reach this target because all the failures of the department these days are blamed on COVID-19 as if COVID-19 was a person? Stop blaming COVID-19 for everything, including your failures because COVID-19 cannot speak for itself.

The harassment of workers at Lebowakgomo services is regrettable and unfortunate. What has the department done to stop this madness because workers cannot continue to suffer like this? Social services professionals must be treated with the dignity they deserve, and they must be respected. They must feel safe in the place of work.

The elderly people should have access to residential facilities of government, and therefore, underachievement in this regard is unacceptable and insensitive. The same madness happened with the people living with disability because they too are struggling to access residential areas. If you cannot take care and protect the most vulnerable in society, how do you expect God and ancestors to be on your side? We are not surprised that the bad luck follows your government and these failures we see happening in your government are not raising our eyebrows. This government needs to start treating vulnerable people in society with dignity and protect their rights. They too are human beings.

The fact that children commit crime mostly in Vhembe and Capricorn is a worrying issue because it projects the kind of society we are becoming. What programme does the department have to address these social ills in society, especially among children and youth? Can we get a proper account as to why the department has failed to give our children bursaries to study social work? We are being told by the department that they could not give bursaries because many social workers are not working. The question is, why are they unemployed because our communities need social workers to solve their social challenges? Why do you take our children to university to study social work only to dump them upon completion of their studies? When you take them to university, are you not taking them with the intention to employ them? Clearly, we have a serious shortage of social workers in our province, and our social workers are idling, unemployed. What it then means is that you only take these children to university simply to increase unemployment and poverty statistics in the province. Furthermore, you run the risk of losing them to other provinces through brain drain because this government is not serious about service delivery.

The noncompliance with the 30-day payment policy is unacceptable, and it leads to litigations. The money should be used to deliver the services to the people, but it is used to deal with litigations instead of providing services to our people. This kind of carelessness, negligence and incompetence must be dealt with very harshly. Unfortunately, there is no consequence management in the Limpopo provincial government. Hence, all these shenanigans continue to happen. The EFF government will implement consequence management to government officials who do not take their work seriously. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I call upon Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Department of Social Development plays a huge role in the lives of the people of this province, both our youth and our senior citizens. By the second quarter, as a committee, we raised concerns over increasing cases of gender-based violence in the province, as 2 926 gender-based violence cases were

reported compared to the 1 313 in the third quarter. It was a worrying factor that there was an increase of 305 compared to the second quarter. As a committee, we recommended that the department should involve community-based organisations to help complement the government's efforts to fight the scourge of gender-based violence.

Furthermore, as the committee, we observed that the Victim Empowerment subprogramme had utilised 59% of its budget. However, it was difficult for us as a committee to understand how the service was provided in the subprogramme in order to justify the budget expenditure. As a result, we then advised the department to provide information that can assist the committee to determine progress and impact of services.

Throughout the quarters, the ending of the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre contract remained a thorn in the flesh to the committee. A joint meeting between the health and social development committees were briefed by the task team in the absence of both the Executive Members leading this department. During this meeting, the task team report revealed that Shiluvana Frail Care Centre was noncompliant with the Mental Health Care Act and unlicensed. Regulation 43 states that any service not directly run under the auspices of the organ of the state and which is not a designated hospital, but which provides residential or day-care facilities for five or more with mental disorders must be registered in terms of the Act. The centre has 85 patients who need medical assistance due to their mental health, 54 patients have intellectual disabilities, and 77 of the patients in the facility were found to be wholly dependent on the healthcare personnel for bathing, dressing, feeding and using the toilet.

It is clear that this group of patients in the centre needs the Department of Health services the most. The task team's benchmarking of the DA-led Western Cape and Gauteng revealed that facilities are funded by both the Department of Health and Department of Social Development. The Department of Health is the lead department and provides more of the funding, which also covers the professional staff. The benchmarking also indicated that in the two provinces, the Department of Health funds residents with profound to severe intellectual disability, while the Department of Social Development pays subsidy for the mild to moderate intellectually disabled beneficiaries.

The task team report offered four options for the management of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre:

- The Department of Social Development managing the facility but continuing with the outsourcing due to lack of capacity within the department;
- Full takeover by the Department of Health;
- Full takeover by the Department of Social Development and insourcing of all services; and
- Joint management of the facility by the Department of Health and Department of Social Development with outsourcing of services and joint funding.

The task team has recommended the fourth option, and according to the findings of the benchmark, the Department of Health is best placed to be responsible for the centre.

It was disappointing to us as a committee when both Executive Members were absent from the prearranged crucial meeting despite the imminent lapse of the centre's current contract. The recommendations were required to be submitted before the Premier and the EXCO for a decision on the future of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre before the contract lapses at the end of September 2021.

Our recommendations by the third quarter were as follows:

- The department must comply with Employment Equity Act in relation to women in SMS level;
- The department must equip social services professionals with resources in order to perform their duties with ease;
- Furthermore, the department must address the dilapidated buildings, water and security challenges and provide the COVID-19 update on business operations and challenges;
- The department must provide a quarterly report in relation to the reprioritisation of infrastructure projects and maintenance of existing facilities, including park homes in the 2021/22 financial year;
- A holistic community action plan needs to be developed to cover the challenge of children in conflict with the law;
- Furthermore, it was not the sole responsibility of the department to address the challenges of crime committed by children and therefore partnership with South African Police Service, parents, communities, traditional leaders, sister departments and private sector should be established to curb the scourge of crime committed by the children; and
- The department should provide information that can assist the committee to determine progress and impact of services regarding victim empowerment subprogramme with a budget expenditure.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. I call upon Hon Monyamane, the chairperson of the committee.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chief Whip, honourable leaders of opposition, the Leader of Government Business, honourable MECs, good morning. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

I am referring to all of you.

MR SESHOKA

You must talk to him because not all of us are disruptive.

THE SPEAKER

I am saying, can we give Hon Monyamane an opportunity?

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, you must also call Hon Selamolela to order because he is the one busy drowning out Members that are on the podium.

THE SPEAKER

It is what I am doing.

MR SESHOKA

You must call him by name. Do not generalise as if it is all of us.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, Hon Selamolela is not talking to himself only, he is only talking to you, and in turn you are responding.

MR SESHOKA

It is because you have left him for some time.

MR MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

MR SESHOKA

With all due respect, we are not going to respect you if he does that.

THE SPEAKER

Continue.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me join those who wished beautiful and brave women a happy Women's Day. Indeed, 09 August is the day that brave women weathered the storm by marching to the Union Buildings, protesting against a passbook which brought about suppression of human rights and freedom of movement. We, the women of today, are proud of the imbokodo of that time.

The committee was exercising its oversight role on the allocation of R2,360 billion, which was adjusted to R2,171 billion as a result of the pandemic. The manner in which money was spent is of a great concern to the portfolio committee and the communities. The Department reported an overexpenditure of R10 million during our engagements on the third quarter review, and overexpenditure of R10 million was attributed to the procurement of vehicles. It was further reported that the capital assets remained unfunded in the third quarter and there was an over expenditure of 234%. Furthermore, the department had to honour the payment of some of its five infrastructure projects that were initially planned, and there was a budget reduction during COVID-19. It was reported that the department was engaged in Provincial Treasury for the post adjustment funding. The committee is concerned about the capacity of the chief financial officer's office and that of the procurement unit where books are not being audited internally in the process. The department must apply consequence management and provide a progress report to the House.

There are unresolved problems that need the attention of the department, particularly the legal services of the department, the unauthorised expenditure of R10 million incurred by the department on the Seshego Treatment Centre and the GaPhasha-Selatole. The committee is concerned that there is unwillingness from the department to solve this matter. The Department of Public Works which has the jurisdiction of government properties must also come to the party. In respect of the unresolved GaPhasha-Selatole One-Stop Centre land matter, the department explained that the private surveyor draws diagrams of the farm. The surveyor report shows that it is only a portion where the palisade fence and toilets had encroached on the private land.

It was further explained that the Office of the State Attorney appointed an evaluator to evaluate the value of the encroached land. Senior counsel had been briefed to approach court for expropriation and advice on the existing court order. It was explained that due to lockdown, the consultation with stakeholders could not take place. Lockdown regulations were being relaxed so that services could be provided to communities and to revive the ailing economy. How can the matter of the Seshego Treatment Centre and the GaPhasha-Selatole drag for such a long time to be resolved? The accounting officer of the Department of Social Development must account for prolonging the matter.

The Portfolio Committee on Social Development will convene a joint meeting with the Department of Social Development; and Public Works, to ensure that matters are brought to finality. The committee commended the department on the completion of the Gawula, Mankweng, and Modimolle-Mookgophong infrastructure projects. During the engagement with the department on the First Quarter Report, it was reported that the final handover of Gawula was achieved on 29 June 2020, and the building is being utilised by the Department of Social Development officials. It was further reported that final payment for the contractor will be effected once final account was approved by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

The department must strive to ensure that the 30-day policy on payment of invoices is achieved. The department must further make follow-ups with the Department of Public Works to ensure that the contractor receives payments and the building is fully utilised. The department must also ensure that other services like standby fire water tanks are installed as per requests concerning both the Mankweng and Modimolle-

Mookgophong project. The department must avoid staying with projects that prolong beyond the stipulated time.

The committee is concerned that crimes committed by children in conflict with the law increased in Vhembe and Capricorn districts. The department must ensure that children who are impatient in their centres receive proper sufficient treatment and counselling to mitigate the chances by those children to repeat the crimes when they are released. The committee noted that during the second quarter, more victims of GBV were assisted in VEP centres due to COVID-19. There were also low inpatients and outpatients for substance abuse during the second quarter due to the tighter lockdown regulations. The department reported that the provincial GBV action plan was also developed. The department should submit the plan to the committee in order to be able to exercise an oversight role.

The department also provides food security to the downtrodden people of this province. However, this work is in most cases outsourced to NPOs and NGOs. The department targeted to provide food parcels to 150 000 people in the second quarter and 175 000 in the third quarter. In the second quarter, only 119 461 received food parcels, while in the third quarter only 131 000 received the procured food parcels through the NGOs. During the second quarter, the depot was visited, and the committee found that NGOs were contracted to procure and distribute the food parcels to the destitute families. How are these NGOs accounting to the department? How much was the budget for the two NGOs allocated?

The committee is concerned that the department is not resolving the matter from previous years. There were 27 resolutions made by Scopa on fruitless and wasteful expenditure on the 2012/13 financial year, and only 23 resolutions were resolved. The backlog of SITA payments amounting to R1,168 million carried over to 2021/22 must also be resolved. The migration of ECD to the Department of Education and delays in the signing of proclamation by the Chief State Law Advisor must be fast-tracked.

I move in support of the adoption of the first, second and third quarter reports of the department. The department must implement all the recommendations made by the committee and the Auditor-General. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. We shall now call upon the MEC for Social Development, Hon Rakgoale.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, chair of the portfolio committee and members of the portfolio committee and leaders of opposition parties in this august House, good morning.

Let me take this opportunity, firstly, and appreciate the comments and concerns raised by the committee on a number of issues that have been identified by the committee as challenges. Now even though we might be told honourable Moreki that we cannot

talk about COVID-19 as a challenge, but the reality of the matter is that where the challenges were brought by COVID-19, we must also talk about them.

We acknowledge as a department that, indeed, we have regressed in terms of women occupying senior management positions, but you will agree with me. I think the committee should know better that they have never seen any position being advertised due to the money that has been redirected to deal with COVID-19. The reality of the matter is that we do acknowledge that as and when we are going to advertise those positions, the matter of the Equity Act will be dealt with and will be looked into, so we do appreciate and acknowledge.

On the issue of the harassment of staff in Lebowakgomo, I think Hon Seshoka knows very well that we are talking about the Sassa officials who were attacked by some political organisation that just barged into the office and started to demand certain things. We are an institution, and we are governed by the law. We cannot be bullied and be told to do certain things which are against the law, but as we are talking to you now, the matter was dealt with by Sassa, and a security company has been appointed, and the offices are now being secured by the security officers.

On the issue of stopping bursaries, the reality of the matter is that when social workers were recruited to be taken to school and be given a bursary, a contract was signed that the department or government is not obliged to appoint them. Rather, they were given an opportunity to have degrees and can contest any position of a social worker in any department, be it SAPS, be it Correctional Services, be it the Department of Education. The reason why we have stopped taking them to school is to say, we take that money and redirect it to making sure that we appoint those who have completed their degrees and are sitting at home. Hence, we are saying if you are sitting in the portfolio committees, you will be having this background in order to understand what we are talking about and where we are going when we stop the bursaries because you cannot keep on producing social workers, while there is a number of social workers that are sitting at home. We are now saying the money must be redirected so that those that are sitting at home must then get appointment, but also there are those who have already been appointed by departments that I have already mentioned.

On the rising of gender-based violence, we do acknowledge that, indeed, there was a rising of gender-based violence. If I were to couple it with the children in conflict with the law, the reality of the matter is that COVID-19 and the lockdown has brought different challenges and some which we have never experienced before. What it means, Hon Seshoka, is that you will have to be in the House on a permanent basis, something that was never done before, you have to face your children on a daily basis and you have to face your wife. Some led to the rising of gender-based violence. You know very well what I am talking about. Those are the issues that we are saying we will deal with.

On the issue of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre, my colleagues in the EXCO will agree with me that the matter is now being attended to by the EXCO. We are going to provide a report to the portfolio committee. If colleagues will understand, especially chairperson Hon Monyamane, you would realise that the meeting that was convened, indeed, took place a day before I buried my grandmother, which was the last day that I had to make sure we run around with preparations. In as much as we apologise, but I think that matter would have been taken into consideration as well because we are

the ones who were pushing for that meeting, and we would not have deliberately missed a meeting for whatever reason. I think that was the reason why I could not form part of that meeting, but the HOD and the team formed part of that meeting, which I think will lead to something. Surely, I agree with the portfolio committee, we have to deal with the issue of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre because it is a ticking bomb.

We acknowledge also that the issue of the unauthorised expenditure is not about the issue of the legal services of the department. We have indicated here several times that the matter is also sitting with the legal services of the Office of the Premier, which have already included and involved the Department of Public Works to make sure that they assist us to deal with these matters so that they are brought to a conclusion.

On the issue of the migration of ECDs, in as much as it is driven at national level, but I think so far we can report that already the Premier has signed the proclamation which MEC Boshielo and I had already signed. It was awaiting the signature of the Premier, which means now we can start to act, but remember it is driven at national level. We are being guided from national level. We cannot just wake up and say from tomorrow, all of you must move to the Department of Education. There are processes and procedures that have to be followed. There are issues of infrastructure that must be followed as well in making sure that we deal with these issues.

I think over and above all these issues that were raised, there are no new issues in the main. We are looking into the matters; we are going to make sure that we work together with the portfolio committee to make sure that these matters are resolved. We also appreciate the decision by the portfolio committee to make sure that they are going to convince us together with the Department of Public Works because the issue of GaPhasha-Selatole is a very long-standing matter which, therefore, needs to be resolved. We need to make sure that the matter is closed. A report will be submitted to the portfolio committee about how far we are in terms of the action plan, based on the resolutions of the portfolio committee, Scopa and Auditor-General.

We will appreciate the comments by the portfolio committee, it was going to be nice if Hon Seshoka was to join our portfolio committee, I think it was going to assist us a lot. The Department of Social Development deals with bread-and-butter issues; it deals with the issue of poverty and deals with issues of disability and women. I am sure your contributions were going to assist us, Hon Seshoka, to make sure that we deal with issues that are affecting our people on a daily basis. With those few words, we want to appreciate the support and the guidance by the portfolio committee. We are going to make sure that we walk with you every step of the way in dealing with all these issues. Bo seka bo eja. We thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Can we please proceed? Thank you very much. We proceed with our programme.

7.3. Consideration and Adoption of the Following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture 2020/21 First Quarter Report

I call upon the committee chair.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture to present the 2021 First Quarter Performance Report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, acting chair, Hon Mathye. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thank you very much. Leineng la “makhosikhazi” ke emelela go thekga pego ye e adilwego ke Mohlomphegi Mathye.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We are now on consideration and adoption of the following report: 2020/21 Second Quarter Report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture to present the 2021 Second Quarter Performance Report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable acting chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the acting chair.

THE SPEAKER

We are now on consideration and adoption of the following report on Sport, Arts and Culture, 2020/21 Third Quarter report.

MS MATHYE

I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture to present the 2021 Third Quarter Performance Report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second the acting chairperson, Hon Mathye. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We are now on consideration and adoption of the following report: 2020/21 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. I call upon the acting chair, Hon Mathye.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture to present the 2021 Fourth Quarter Performance Report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, raise my hand to second the acting chairperson for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Mathye. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Mathye Violet.

MS MATHYE

Speaker, Hon Rosemary Molapo; Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party; Members of the Executive Council: honourable Members of the House: ladies and gentlemen, a ndzi tivi ku ri inhlikanhi kumbe i mixo, a ndzi na xikombankarhi. Avuxeni.

BACKGROUND

Ahee.

MS MATHYE

Ndzi anakanya ku ri yi angarhela hinkwaswo, yi angarhela nhlikanhi na namadyambu. Inkomu.

Hon Speaker, I am debating the reports a day after the commemoration of the National Women's Day. On this day, we remember and salute all women who braved the weather of 09 August 1956 to go and meet Strijdom face to face, but the man, Strijdom, ran away, fearing the anger of women – the man, Strijdom. Today is 10 August, it is known as the World Lions Day, where all the people of the world are being reminded to take care of all the lions and protect them against poaching.

In the hierarchy of needs, sport and recreation, artistic and cultural expression need to be nourished. I have no doubt that if we are to follow this kind of an approach and do cultural events, sport and recreation the right way, this time around, our province will not lag behind in terms of medal tally at various sporting and cultural activities. If these needs are neglected, our children will not grow to be integrated human beings. On 15 March 2020, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, in line with the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002), declared the state of national disaster for the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This declaration has affected almost every sector in the country, including sport, arts and culture, and has also prohibited hosting of events. This is a serious blow to the sector because it depends on gatherings for survival, be it festivals, concerts, sporting events, etc.

One of the priorities for the Sixth Administration, as captured by Premier Mathabatha in his 2020 State of the Province Address, is social cohesion, safe communities and, above all, the building of a better Africa and a better world. The Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture executed the constitutional mandate by meeting with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture with a view of holding the department accountable. The meeting was held on 27 August 2020 for a briefing on the 2020/21 First Quarter Performance Report for its consideration and adoption. Again, the department met with the committee on 10 September 2020 to brief the committee on the COVID-19 Relief Fund for artists and athletes.

On Cultural Affairs, the department indicated that in addition to Freedom Day and Africa Day, the historic Heritage Day must be celebrated. It was indicated that the historic day will be celebrated virtually in compliance with the COVID-19 regulations that limit the number of participants and audience in an open public gathering, and it was celebrated successfully. Thanks to your leadership, MEC Hon Moraka, the event went well. N'wi beleni mavoko.

Provincial museum facilities were maintained and upgraded with no planned target for the quarter under review. On the feasibility studies conducted, the quarterly target of one could not be achieved because funds were surrendered to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, and the project will be transferred to the new financial year if the budget is available. The report shows that the job opportunities created through arts and culture and heritage programmes were 50, but the department exceeded the target by creating 56 job opportunities. The report indicated that the increase of six was due to the savings that were incurred during the level 5 lockdown in the first quarter of 2020. As the committee, we found that 50 job opportunities were not enough and advised that an addition should be made by transferring funds from Administration. As the committee, we recommend that all the museums must be of world-class standard to have the potential of attracting tourists, and thus generate revenue that will contribute to the economic development of local communities.

On Heritage Resource Services, the report indicated that regarding the public awareness activity on, "I am the Flag" campaign, there was no planned target in the fourth quarter under review. It was indicated that on a number of provincial resistance and liberation heritage route sites developed, the annual target of three was achieved during the first and second quarter in Molemole, which is Botlokwa area. The construction of Matomo Lodge progressed very well, though the department failed to resolve the logistical issues such as security and workforce to make the lodge functional.

The dilapidated nature of major infrastructures of heritage sites across the province continues to cause setbacks for trade facilitation. It is a development that has continued to hinder the much-anticipated economic growth and revenue generation. As the committee, we appreciate a positive response on the Charlotte Maxeke statue at Matomo Trading Post and revenue collection reports on Mapungubwe since its inception, indicating the budget allocated and the revenue collected.

As part of the recommendations, the committee recommend that the department should further strengthen the security of the museum by electric-fencing the whole area to avoid poaching of animals and stealing of artefacts in both Dzata and Muti wa Vatsonga museums. The economy does not expand its productive capacity as ransackers sneak the existing capacity, and it kills the new productive capacity by choking the nonpolitically connected entrepreneurs and new ideas from getting a start-up for finance or trading because in this one, the administrators will only appoint those who are connected to our senior politicians or to them.

On safeguarding the integrity of sport, the department indicated that the athletes supported by sports academies during the third quarter target has been revised to 150 and was achieved during the second quarter. The quarter targets for the number of sport academies supported were six, and all of them were achieved. During the quarter under review on club development, only 40 people were trained out of a target of 200. The report indicated that the target could not be achieved due to the unavailability of stakeholders, and additional training will be conducted during the first quarter.

On School Sports, it is this freedom that instructs us as the ruling party to champion the slogan, "Let's grow South Africa together", and that no government or force can claim the rights to define our path unless it is based on the will of the people. These principles apply to any environment that professes democracy as its foundation. The indication on school sport is that there was no planned target for learners participating in school sport tournament at district level for the quarter under review; furthermore, there were no planned targets on the learners participating in school sport tournaments at provincial level and the learners participating at national level. When it comes to sport championships, it was also reported that with regard to the number of school sports structures supported, the quarterly target of seven was exceeded by twelve to address the gap from the previous quarters.

The President in the 2020 State of the Nation Address, in response to the huge challenge in our country of youth unemployment, announced that the National Youth Development Agency and the Department of Small Business Development will provide grant funding and business support to 1 000 young entrepreneurs within 100 days. Although the programme had to be put on hold due to the coronavirus restrictions, it

nevertheless managed to reach its target of 1 000 business by International Youth Day on 12 August 2020.

Unemployment undermines human dignity. It is a terrible frustration and humiliation for a parent to be unable to provide for his family due to unemployment. It is equally demoralising for young people to find that there is no work waiting for them when they leave school, college or university. The department plans to implement nine top risks during the 2020/21 financial year and achieve this target during the third quarter. It was indicated that during the quarter under review, 99,4% of valid invoices were paid within 30 days to suppliers, but the department had the problem on the incorrect banking details that suppliers were submitting, which then delayed payments. The department must, as the recommendation from the committee, make sure that all payments have valid banking details that are correct.

The quarterly target of implementing three skills development interventions was achieved, and in the third quarter, the report indicates that SMS competency-based assessments and ethics in the public service, as skills development intervention, were achieved. In the period of four years, there was little progress made in terms of ensuring that all the departments and public entities work towards the achievement of good governance.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, as the portfolio committee, we urge the department to attend to the report presented and the enormous challenges confronting the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. With the support and encouragement from all stakeholders, there is no doubt that the Sixth Administration will succeed in its vision to champion social transformation. Inkomu, Mufambisi.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathye. I call upon Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings once more to the House. We are gathered here on this important month wherein women are honoured in our country. In terms of the political calendar, it is Women's Month, women like Mama Winnie Mandela and Mama Charlotte Maxeke should continue to serve as an inspiration to all women. How many women were recruited to the EPWP as reported, and what was the criteria used? Furthermore, which library did not have cleaning stuff which prompted the recruitment of additional EPWP staff? The only target the department achieved is basically the disbursement of salaries. The rest of important departmental mandate is below average. Given the looting which occurred during the procurement of PPE, we need assurance from the department that PPE transactions were not tainted or used for personal gain by senior departmental staff and politicians.

Artists are amongst the worst hit by COVID-19, yet the department has no plan or intention to rescue the industry through direct financial interventions to the artists which will be consistent during the lockdown. Our artists cannot be subjected to the processes like those which are used when applying for loans. We need a detailed report on the interventions which were done by this department to the artists of Limpopo. The report must include categories of artists, locality and amount paid. This

House must launch a list of relief fund looters, noting that there are officials who applied for a relief fund, which deprives poor people of the opportunity to get fair help.

Underperformance on the building of libraries cannot be reduced to labourers demanding high wages. There is a tendency of contractors seeking to underpay local people or even refusing to allocate 30% of work to locals. The department must clearly clarify this issue than just blaming wages and cash-flow problems. Which methods is the department using to receive application forms for all grants? Why does the department accept incomplete application forms? Did the department assign officials to take applicants through step by step before submissions? The above questions can also resolve problems faced by both statutory and non-statutory bodies which the department fails to assist, citing incomplete documentations.

A detailed report on the dispute between the department and the service provider of Mapungubwe Festival must be submitted. Which 40 practitioners were supposed to benefit from the capacity building? The restrictions during this quarter were that not more than 50% may gather, yet the department only managed 29. Is there any fundamental explanation to this failure? What type and kind of promotion did the department provide to these 44 artists? Does this 44 include those artists who were disqualified during applications for a relief refund? Did the department engage municipalities on the maintenance of stadiums and sports grounds? How many bursary holders does the department have or fund as per current financial year? The reported number of only two will be an insult to the population, honourable MEC. Did the department provide any other support to Miss SA apart from homecoming celebrations? Does the department have a plan to support those who are contestants or participants in the national activities before they are declared winners? Were all fair procurement processes followed during the appointment of Vibezone, which for some mysterious reasons cannot be traced when moneys must be paid back? Did the department take any action against those who appointed Vibezone for the video performance?

What is the status of the moratorium on filling vacant posts, noting that the highest unemployment rate in the province? Noting all reports submitted, it is evident that the department is unable to execute its mandate. It continues to frustrate artists, statutory bodies and communities. The EFF remains the only hope, and it will ensure the issues of sport, arts and culture are prioritised as alluded to in our founding manifesto. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I call upon Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, during the first two quarters of the financial year, as a committee we recommended that the department must provide progress with regard to the dispute between the appointed Mapungubwe service provider and the department, which dated back to 2016. The issue remained unresolved during the period under review. The committee requested a detailed report on this matter. The department indicated that Vibezone Entertainment CC was appointed to procure the services of Davido to perform at Mapungubwe Festival 2017, further leading to the

department to write to the National Treasury to have the said service provider listed on the database of restricted service providers.

Hon Speaker, COVID-19 and its regulations hugely affected the performance of this department, as much of its activities are performed and hosted with large audiences. As a result of adhering to the COVID-19 regulations, the Freedom Day, Africa Day and Heritage Day 2020 celebrations were held and celebrated virtually in compliance with the COVID-19 regulations. The department also notified the committee that the Mapungubwe Arts Festival has been postponed to the 2021/22 financial year.

On social cohesion and nation-building programme, the department organised one event, as the quarterly target under this performance indicator was one, and the department achieved this target by celebrating the homecoming of Miss SA 2020. On community conversations/dialogues held to foster social cohesion, it was reported that the quarterly target under this indicator was three and the department held two dialogues at the end of the quarter under review. The department indicated that the unavailability of stakeholders was due to the COVID-19 restrictions. In the Third Quarter Report, the department indicated that 15 practitioners benefited from capacity-building opportunities out of a quarterly target of 60. Fewer activities were planned due to the COVID-19 regulations. The report further indicated that 9 artists out of a quarterly target of 30 were developed and promoted.

It was reported that there were projects supported in the creative industry. A quarterly target of the department for this performance indicator was four, and the department managed to achieve this target. The report indicated that 148 artists were supported through the COVID-19 Relief Fund. During the fourth quarter, four libraries which commenced construction during the 2018/19 financial year were still not completed, viz. Runnymede library, Seleteng library, Mulamula library and Mavalani Library. The report indicated that progress on site was hampered by the COVID-19 national lockdown, which resulted in a four-month delay. Construction activities could only commence after the COVID-19 requirements were met. The report also indicated that there was a shortage or unavailability of materials such as cement and steel during the lockdown period. It was further reported that the constructors have been urged to enter into cession agreements for the procurement of material. Some of the contractors have already entered into the cession agreements.

As a committee, we were not convinced that the reported 70% of completion was a true reflection because during the oversight visits undertaken in October 2020, the libraries were at 50% and Mulamula library was at the lowest at 22%. The committee indicated that the Mavalani and Mulamula libraries were worrisome because they are lagging, but we were satisfied with the progress in Seleteng and Runnymede libraries. The Annual Performance Plan for 2021/22 indicated that these projects will be completed at the end of September 2021, and as a committee, we felt that the department's timeline was not realistic.

The committee recommended that the department should furnish the committee with a detailed report regarding the 2008 Mapungubwe that was outsourced to Don Laka with a breakdown of how much was allocated and the revenue collected. The department promised to provide a written explanation by Tuesday, 01 June 2021, and the department has done so. We recommended that the department should provide the budget for artist COVID-19 grants and how much was utilised and the remaining

balance. The department should also provide the committee with a plan to compensate the artists who did not benefit on the first leg, since the entertainment industry is not yet fully operational.

Lastly, we recommended that the maintenance and upgrading of museums should be prioritised because museums preserve our history, cultures and customary practices. The museum should be of world-class standard to have the potential of attracting tourist activity and fast generate revenue that will contribute to the economic development of local communities. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. The last speaker on the list is the Hon Chief Whip. Maybe before you start, Hon Chief Whip, I would like to point out that there is a tendency which started last week, and I don't know where it comes from. You will find that there are Members who appear on the Speakers' List and when you call upon them to come and debate, they are nowhere to be found. It started last week and it is repeating itself. I don't know what is happening. I think the Hon Deputy Speaker will address that during announcements. Yes, Hon Chief Whip, you may take the floor.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We note the concern as raised by yourself, and we will surely deal with it.

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of the Legislature, revolutionary greetings to you all.

Madam Speaker, usually when people hear the word culture, their thoughts immediately go to things like language, cultural ceremonies, or perhaps culturally specific foods. Since 1994, we have introduced new international symbols, such as our national flag and the national anthem, all of which are designed to reflect our new-found common nationhood. We are also using arts, culture and heritage programmes to promote the agenda of African unity – the unity of Africans in the diaspora. What a profound statement which encapsulates the aspirations of our new nation. The department managed to spend 91% of the budget at the end of the fourth quarter of 2020/21.

The department failed to spend R37 million or 9% of the annual budget at the end of the fourth quarter. The reports indicated that a moratorium was placed on the filling of vacant posts. The prolonged processes of finalising the organisational structure were reasons for the division. However, EXCO took a resolution to appoint senior managers and leave the lower positions. Mass participation and library infrastructure projects could not be rolled out due to COVID-19. It was reported that the department quarterly target was 30 on the artists promoted through the COVID-19 funds. The department only promoted two artists and indicated that programmes could not be implemented as planned due to budgetary constraints. The committee was not impressed with the department's failure to achieve the set targets and only managed to promote only 2 out of 30. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, people still need food for physique and their well-being. So, failure to fill funded vacant posts won't be an excuse. To solve the problem of unemployment, we need to reiterate its root cause. Unemployment does

not happen because of a change to the factors of production. The factors of production are all there unchanged.

The department reported a plan to host three multilingualism promotion campaigns during the fourth quarter, but only achieved one. The report indicated that the unavailability of stakeholders due the COVID-19 pandemic. The quarterly target of translating and editing 100% of documents received was achieved during the quarter under review. To strengthen the policy for environment, heritage, protection, preservation, promotion and transformation in the forthcoming period, we need to finalise the policy framework for national museums and regeneration national policy on South African living heritage and finalise the national policy on underwater cultural heritage. The national policy on the repatriation and restitution of human remains and heritage objects is still in the process of consultations.

The fourth quarter report indicated that the construction of the four libraries, which commenced during the 2018/19 financial year are at the following progress stages: Runnymede library 92%, Molemole library 55% and Mavalani library 68%.

The report indicated that progress on site was hampered by the COVID-19 national lockdown, which resulted in a four-month delay. Construction activities could only commence after the COVID-19 requirements were met. The report also indicated that there was a shortage or unavailability of material, such as cement and steel during the lockdown period. The training of students starts right from the school level. Sports help develop values of mutual trust and cooperation. They help develop students' capacities in taking instant decisions and the enhanced thought processes. The feeling of sportsmanship or sporting spirit which develops in the sporting arena teaches students to accept failure and to accept others. The feeling also helps in developing a calm and positive outlook, and it increases stamina by strengthening bones and muscles. A target of 2 450 was not achieved, of learners participating in school tournaments at district level, and the report indicated that the national department approved reprioritisation of the budget to provide school hubs and have clubs with equipment or attire.

We offer the following lines by General Hao Guangfeng:

“Art, art, it is from the bottom of the artist's heart. The more you create, in more exchanges you will take part.

From the history of human civilisation, you will never depart. The crystallisation of a harmonious world, you will forever dart.”

We thank you, Hon Speaker. We recommend that the House accepts the report.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Chief Whip. We shall now call upon the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Moraka, to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker for the opportunity. Greetings to the Deputy Speaker, Hon A J Ndou; the Chief Whip of the ruling party and my colleagues in the Executive Council; and Members of this august House. Ndza mi xeweta. Thobela. Good afternoon.

Thank you very much, Speaker, once more. Let me join in saluting the resilience of the women of 1956 as they took upon themselves to confront the brutal apartheid regime, as it was adamant into the process of encroaching on the fundamental human rights of the people of this country. This debate is taking place immediately after the country has commemorated the resilience of these women of 1956 who were there and decided to be at the forefront of that particular campaign to defeat the apartheid regime.

It is true, Hon Speaker, that COVID-19 has had its devastating effects on the sector of sport, arts and culture because all of us know that this department is an event-based department that needed gatherings of people who are in the sector of sport, art and culture for programmes to be rendered to our communities on the ground. We had to come up with some ways of innovation so that we can be able to continue to be relevant as the department in the process of driving social cohesion and nation-building programmes in our communities. It is true, Hon Speaker, that the historic events or historic days that we have celebrated in this financial year had to take place through digital platforms. Of course, we had to respect the National Command Council regulations, as they were introduced to us by our sitting President together with his Cabinet.

Hon Speaker, it is true that we need to work together with the department and our stakeholders to revive the state of our museums in our various communities. I am speaking here when the department is starting to register progress in the process of making sure that we upgrade our museums so that they can be able to attract tourists so that we can grow the economy of our province. Today, as we speak here, Schoemansdal Museum is starting to show progress towards the process of upgrading that particular museum. With the resources available to us, we will work together closely with our implementing agents to make it a point that we move to other districts where we have museums that need to be upgraded. A report will be given to the portfolio committee in due course once we start to go to Treasury and request for more resources for us to achieve on this target.

On the issue that is raised by Hon Susani Violet Mathye, who is now the acting chairperson of this portfolio committee where she speaks passionately about the “I am the Flag” programme, I fully agree with you, honourable Member that we need to instil an element of patriotism amongst our communities. We can only do that if we rigorously implement this flagship programme that we, of course, implement through the collaboration with our national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

On the issue of the training of the athletes that could not be achieved, yes, it was due to COVID-19 because you all know the regulations were not allowing gatherings whether in the form of a training or anyhow. We are now going to look into our plans and make it a point that, indeed, during the fourth quarter, we achieve that particular target. Through the School Sports programme, Hon Speaker, yes, this programme also was disrupted by the hard lockdown regulations that were restricting noncontact sporting activities. Today, as we speak here, there is an amendment towards the

regulations where contact sport is now being allowed to take place in our public schools. We are busy putting together a programme of action together with the Department of Basic Education in our province to make it a point that we hit the ground running in as far as the process to implement this programme is concerned.

It is true that the 30-day payment period policy for the SMMEs in the province needs to be prioritised by this department because it is going to help us to empower our SMMEs so that they can be able to help us to alleviate poverty in our various communities. Hon Seshoka, it is true that when you come to this podium and speak, let us try our level best to do that from a well-informed point of view. If you had listened to what Hon Phala was saying, she was speaking from a factual point of view where reports that she was talking to were duly submitted to the portfolio committee members.

I will not really appreciate a situation wherein communities or members of the communities of this province are being misled by people like yourselves, who just come here with information that is not factual. We are speaking here about the report on the forensic investigation on Mapungubwe that was duly submitted to the portfolio committee. Members have had enough time to interrogate the department towards the implementation of consequence management on the officials that were found wanting by that very same forensic report. What we are going to be doing as the department is to keep the committee updated with regard to the consequence management implementation process in due course. There are officials who are now being suspended. There are those who are still undergoing internal processes where we are going to bring to book everyone who is found wanting on the issue of Mapungubwe.

We are speaking here when Miss South Africa was duly supported by this department, and a detailed report was also submitted to the portfolio committee. We have seen Miss South Africa, Shudufhadzo Musida, when she did her charity work. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture together with the Department of Social Development was at the forefront of working together with Shudufhadzo who has made us proud. I don't think that we had to come here and degenerate to the level of wanting to reduce Miss South Africa to the homecoming that was arranged. There was thorough support that was given to her when she was busy contesting at that level.

Hon Speaker, someone is saying the department is unable to execute its mandate, and I believe it is the same Hon Seshoka who comes here with the debates that are not well-researched. We are speaking here when Sho Madjozi recently went to SAMA (South African Music Awards) and walked away with an award as a female artist coming from this province of ours. We are also speaking here when Kgothatso Montjane went to the Wimbledon Open and reached the finals. These are the successes that we continue to register through the programmes that are being implemented by this department.

I want to believe that in future, Hon Seshoka, let's give members who are attached to the Portfolio Committee of Sports, Arts and Culture to come here and make the debate because you are just trying to cover after your colleagues who are nowhere to be found every time when they are expected to execute their mandate. Hon Phala has made justice to the debate because she came here with a thoroughly researched speech, and she really talked to the facts as they were presented to the portfolio committee. We need to salute opposition members like Hon Phala and many of the

august Members who take their own time to make it a point that they study the reports that are being given to them by the department. I want to salute you, Hon Phala. Let's keep it up as we continue to celebrate women's month in style. Let us work together.

On the issue of the libraries, yes, there is a delay on the construction of libraries due to reasons that were furnished to the portfolio committee members. Our wish, Hon Speaker, was to make it a point that we expedite the process to conclude the construction of these libraries. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown that was imposed on us, we could not complete these libraries within the targeted time period. I'm making an undertaking here, Hon Speaker, that this year towards September – yes, we have promised the portfolio committee – we are going to work towards making sure that we complete the construction of these libraries and make it a point that we hand them over to our communities so that we can contribute towards the development and growth of our communities in as far as issues of information management and sharing are concerned.

Hon Speaker, yes, the issue of the COVID-19 Relief Fund did not favour us as rural provinces. We have gone to an extent of raising this matter with the national Minister through our EXCO meetings to say this criterion that was set by the national department did not favour our people in the creative sector who are in rural provinces. Now, as I am speaking, Hon Speaker, we are busy talking to the national department to revise the criteria so that it can accommodate our artists in the rural areas who do not have access to internet. So, in the second phase, you are going to see progress in that particular regard.

I want to salute the speech by the Hon Chief Whip who came in and raised issues that are very important to us wherein senior management positions needed to be filled because they are going to help us to expedite the issue of making sure that we render quality services to our people. I am speaking here when the draft organisational structure has been approved by the Premier, and it is now being submitted to the Department of Public Service and Administration for approval. Once the structure is approved, we will come back here and give you an update of where we are in terms of making sure that we fill those critical positions that we think are necessary for us to continue to render quality sport, arts and culture-related services to our communities. I want to thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Can we proceed, honourable Members? We are now on consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture: Oversight Visits to Museums and Heritage Sites. Committee chair, the floor is yours.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the committee chair of Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Caroline Mahasela, I, Mmanoko Essob Mokgonyana, hereby present the oversight visits to museums and heritage sites report on 30 November 2020 to this House for consideration. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip, as the acting chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand here to support the motion by the Chief Whip and the acting chair of the portfolio committee, Mmanoko Essob Mokgonyana. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and call upon Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, thanks for the opportunity. It is indeed a great pleasure to partake in this debate, more especially when you see a Member of the Executive Council come and account on what is happening in her department. We really feel great. It must also be clear that we are not made by being praised because our role is to hold those that are in the Executive Council accountable.

Hon Speaker, is it factually correct for the department to accuse Vhavenda people of having threatened the invaders of land who stole land from our people when labelling invaders as habitants? Are there any other significant reasons why museums exist apart from why international tourists visit? Did the department do an investigation into the cause of fire in the museum to establish if indeed monkeys are to be blamed? If the land can be used for agricultural purposes, what are the prospects of engaging the Department of Agriculture and the surrounding communities to revive the agricultural activity? Those Voortrekker graves can be removed like it happened in Mapela and other communities where graves were removed in the name of business opportunities. Is there a plan to preserve whatever is important in particular the safety of the female employee who will be left alone? It will be uncalled for to leave the female employee alone.

Machaka Lodge is amongst those structures abandoned by this government due to lack of plan to utilise them. Does the committee have the mandate to engage the people of Machaka Lodge, or was it just a pass by issue? In the future, families will refuse government permission to rename places after their loved ones. This is due to the disregard given to such facilities which are named after those who contributed to the good cause of this country.

It is clear that there is no integrated planning in this government, hence the department can blame municipalities and vice versa. Poor planning on a daily basis is the order of the day in the department. They could not provide a tour guide to orientate committee members. Perhaps the real reason might be there is no tour guide at the facility. More importantly, more information and marketing should be done on Dzata Ruins and other historical sites in the province. This will enhance tourism and economic activities around the areas where museums and other historical sites are located. What are the current activities at the salt mine? More marketing is required at Muti wa Vatsonga

Open-Air Museum. Is the committee satisfied with the conditions at Mukhulu hot spring and Baleni Cultural Village in its current state? I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Hon Phala, it is your turn.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. After the oversight visits to museums and heritage sites, as a committee, we recommended the following:

- The department should strengthen the security of museums by electric-fencing the whole area to avoid poaching of animals and stealing of artefacts in both Dzata and Muti wa Vatsonga museums;
- We recommended that there needs to be employment of more employees such as a museum administrator and tour guide;
- Training of the current staff members to enhance their capacities in performing their duties must take place;
- We recommended that museum operating hours should be extended to weekends and public holidays because visitors mostly travel over weekends, and the overtime budget should be considered to cater to this requirement;
- We further recommended that an upgrade of museum access roads and refurbishment boundary fence along the Muti wa Vatsonga need to be prioritised;
- This also applies to the provision of access to cell phone and internet facilities in Muti wa Vatsonga; Dzata Museum has internet access;
- The museum should be provided with 4 x 4 trucks to be able to carry out all collection duties of raw materials for their museum refurbishments; and
- We further recommended that Muti wa Vatsonga Open-Air Museum should be the permanent host of the annual provincial Ku Luma Vukanyi event.

These recommendations were based on what the committee witnessed at these sites, at Muti wa Vatsonga Open-Air Museum, which is located within Hans Merensky Nature Reserve in Mopani District. The museum depicts the traditional dwelling unit which was built according to local knowledge and skills of the Tsonga-Shangaan people in Limpopo province. It exhibits the living heritage of African way of life in all its forms and variations. The public or tourists are taken through guided tours at the entire open-air museums, given time to watch various processes of production, and learn more about cultural ways. It was indicated that the museum has both permanent and temporary workers. The permanent staff members consist of one museum human scientist, one driver, one cleaner and six general workers. There are currently 16 EPWP employees that are appointed on contract for the period of nine months, starting

from 01 July 2020 to 31 March 2021. It was reported that the boundary 20-hectare fence of the museum was currently in a poor condition.

The other museum signage along R529 got damaged due to accidents and road works, but was never repaired or replaced. The other museum signage within R71 is very small and in poor condition. The museum is equipped with a well-maintained picnic area with fire facilities for day visitors. The main office consists of three thatched buildings. These are in good condition. The staff accommodation facilities of the museum consist of four blocks, each with three single units with open kitchen and two ablution blocks with showers, and in good condition. The museum ablution facilities were fixed during the 2019/20 financial year and are all functional. It was further reported that the museum has been provided with an office telephone. The museum currently has no access to internet services. The WiFi routers and server box were installed during the 2019/20 financial year and are still waiting.

On the way to Schoemansdal Museum, the committee passed by Machaka Lodge in Botlokwa, which has been abandoned. Machaka Game Lodge is situated opposite the Motumo trading conference facility, which is also dilapidated. Machaka Lodge guards work in a snake-infested area, as they climb up the mountain during the day to avoid snakes and at night as a strategy to avoid the snakes. This lodge was built and opened on top of several graves of the Motumo people who lived there in the 1800s. This is a government facility that cost R22 million. Although it was initiated to respond to an opportunity to establish tourism-related facilities in the form of a conference facility, chalets and others are still not being utilised and are damaged. By since the completion, it has not operated at all and has become dilapidated.

Hon Speaker, as a committee on Sports, Arts and Culture, we felt that the Department of Economy Development, Environment and Tourism should be made aware of the state Machaka Lodge if they were not aware of it. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Hon Chief Whip, it is your turn.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, in Malamulele, the construction of Machaka Lodge progressed very well. The department failed to resolve the logistical issues such as security and workforce to make the lodge functional. The dilapidated nature of major infrastructures in heritage sites across the province continues to cause setback for trade facilitation. It is a development that has continued to hinder the much-anticipated economic growth and revenue generation. It is shocking to find out that all furniture and electricity appliances are vandalised as a result of community squabbles. The Dzata and Muti wa Vatsonga Open-Air museums need to be supported at all costs so that others will learn much from their operation.

In 2016 when the committee visited the Dzata Museum, the general infrastructure was not well maintained. In 2020, most of the things were fixed. The thatched roof that was leaking and affected electrical wiring inside the museum was repaired. The museum was repaired using the traditional colours of Vhavenḁa. Two new outside pit toilets were built in the museum. Only two ablution facilities for both men and women posed

a huge challenge when the visiting group was large. It was further indicated that the new borehole and water tanks were erected. Muti wa Vatsonga Open-Air Museum is located within Hans Merensky Nature Reserve in the Mopani District under the jurisdiction of BaPhalaborwa Local Municipality. The museum depicts the traditional dwelling unit which was built according to local knowledge and skills of the Tsonga-Shangaan people in Limpopo province. It exhibits the living heritage of African way of life in all its forms and variations.

The public and tourists are taken through a guided tour at the entire open-air museum, given time to watch various processes of production and learn more about cultural ways. It was indicated that the museum has both permanent and temporary workers. The permanent staff members consist of one museum human scientist, one driver, one cleaner and six general workers. There are currently 16 EPWP employees appointed on contract basis for the period of nine months, starting from 01 July 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The committee is satisfied by the progress made thus far. More efforts will be put in dealing with all findings effectively and timeously. The members concluded their oversight visit at Muti wa Vatsonga Open-Air Museum.

We recommended the following:

- The supply chain needs to fast track the procurement processes for fencing and security at Mapungubwe and Machaka Lodge;
- Employment of more employees at museums, e.g. museum administrator and tour guide must be prioritised;
- Training of the current staff members to enhance their capacities in performing their duties; and
- Museum operating hours should be extended to weekends and public holidays because visitors mostly travel over weekends, and overtime budget should be considered to cater for this requirement.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture to come and respond.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Once more, greetings to your own self. Greetings to the Deputy Speaker, greetings to the Chief Whip of the ruling party and esteemed Members of this august House.

Thank you for the debates as you have deliberated on the oversight visits to our museums. I believe Hon Seshoka tried his level best to be factual, but somewhere, somehow, I got lost when he said “Mudi wa Vatsonga”. That is not how the museum

is being named. It is Muti wa Vatsonga. Next time, when you prepare your debate, also check the spelling mistakes so that you don't come here and pronounce on museums that don't exist in the province of Limpopo.

Speaker, I think in all the debates, we listened carefully on the state of affairs on the Machaka Game Lodge. We are going to take note of every input and concerns with regard to the status quo of that particular Machaka Game Lodge. We are also going to investigate the fact as it was raised in this debate that the lodge was constructed on top of the graves. I think we will have to work closely with the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism so that we can be able to address the concerns of the communities at GaMachaka. I believe Hon Seshoka could have done justice to this one because this represents the area where he comes from. It was Hon Phala who raised these pertinent and very significant issues that we needed to address.

On the security of our museums where Members are worried about the officials who are there, in particular female employees who are working in those facilities, I want to assure Members that as the department, we are providing 24-hour security services to these facilities, including our museums. If at Muti wa Vatsonga or Dzata we didn't see security personnel when we were doing our oversight function, I will have to follow up with our cultural affairs unit so that we get to understand what had happened because where we are, every month, we are being billed for security services that are being taken to these facilities, including the museums.

On the issue of internet services and access to cell phone services at the Muti wa Vatsonga, I need to indicate to honourable Members that Muti wa Vatsonga is an open-air museum. We, as the department, are coming as the element of making sure that we preserve the heritage landscape of that particular museum. Where we are, we are still looking at the process of evaluating value for money for us to continue to take our Ku Luma Vukanyi event to that particular open-air museum because it does not help us to achieve our mandate of making sure that we bring our people together through that particular event of Ku Luma Vukanyi.

We are going to propose to the portfolio committee to say, we need to be allowed to rotate this event of Ku Luma Vukanyi because the marula trees are also found at Eldorado where Hon Selamolela comes from. We also find the same tree in Lephalale in the villages where we think if we can work together with LTA, we can be able to rotate these events so that they can reach out to as many communities that we have in the province, so that everyone at the end of the day, honourable Members, can feel that they need to understand the history and the process of making sure that we produce that marula tree and also celebrate it as our indigenous drink that used to be consumed by our forebearers.

We are really going to make it a point that we bring all stakeholders on board – LTA, the Limpopo Economic Development and Tourism and ourselves. We are going to sit together and evaluate this programme because Treasury is saying to us, if you take the event of Muti wa Vatsonga to Vleifontein, that event only benefits the people of Vleifontein and the surrounding areas. We need to reach out to other communities as well. I thought Hon Moreki would clap hands for me because that has been his permanent concern.

On the issue of revenue generation at the Dzata Museum, I think this talks to the point that I have alluded to earlier to say, we are busy looking into the process of revitalising our museums so that we can on the other hand preserve our living African heritage landscape, and on the other side be able to create economic growth for our people. Where there are no tour guides, we are going to talk to LTA and make sure that we deploy the necessary personnel in those museums so that every time when these museums are being visited, our people who are visiting can be informed of the correct information that relates to those particular museums.

On the Mapungubwe World Heritage Site, I believe we need to really applaud LEDET because from time to time, we continue to see tourists coming into the province to visit the Mapungubwe World Heritage Site. I want all our museums to start to take the shape of Mapungubwe World Heritage Site so that we can be able to change the economic landscape of our province, of course, through the process of revitalising our museums and generating revenue for our communities and our municipalities so that they can be independently viable. We are going to give a report to the portfolio committee in the next coming interaction with yourselves. Please bear with us on this one, as you went through your oversight function, and you are only getting the information now. We will make it a point that our officials give you an updated report on what needs to be done and where we are in terms of other museums where we think we have managed to register progress. I want to thank you once more.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised. Is it an order or what, honourable Member?

8. THE RECOGNITION OF THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party, the floor is yours.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

RECOGNITION OF THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION AND THE AMENDMENT OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE (Motion without Notice)

The Rules Committee mandated the administration of the Limpopo Legislature to undertake a benchmark study to establish if other legislatures recognise the Chief Whip of the opposition party. The administration of the Limpopo Legislature undertook the benchmark study and tabled the report before the Rules Committee during a meeting held on 04 August 2021. It was established that Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape provincial legislatures have their standing rules and orders providing for the position of the Chief Whip for the Opposition. In all these legislatures, this position is allocated to a member from the official opposition, who is generally referred to as the "Chief Whip of the Opposition".

The Rules Committee having considered and adopted the report to recognise the Chief Whip of the opposition party on its meeting held on 04 August 2021, hereby

recommends to this honourable House that the Chief Whip of the Opposition should be recognised. It is further recommended that Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature should be accordingly amended.

On behalf of the Rules Committee, I, therefore, move for the recognition of the Chief Whip of the Opposition and that the rules should be accordingly amended.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Le ka no ya la e baka, Mohlomphegi Seshoka. Go lokile.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Seshoka Jetrick, stand here to second the long-overdue motion as presented by the Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you.

9. NCOP BUSINESS

On motion for the ratification of special delegates who attended the NCOP virtual plenary on Thursday, 22 July 2021, Hon Chief Whip, the floor is yours.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Seshoka o ka be o no leboga wa tlogela “di-long overdue” tšeo tša gago.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES WHO ATTENDED THE NCOP VIRTUAL PLENARY (Motion without Notice)

House Rule 226(3) of the standing rules and orders of the House read together with section 16(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides for the designation and appointment of special delegates when the House is not sitting.

In line with this rule, the following honourable Members were appointed to attend a virtual NCOP plenary on Thursday, 22 July 2021 at 10:00 to consider the report of the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; Water and Sanitation and Human Settlements on the intervention issued in terms of section 131(1)(b) of the Constitution in uMkhanyakude District Municipality: Hon M J Aphiri, Hon L J Matlou and Hon N S Monyamane.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolves to ratify the appointments of the above-mentioned special delegates in line with the above-mentioned provisions.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, raise my hand to second the motion as read by the Hon Chief Whip of the ruling party. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

An announcement by the Deputy Speaker shall follow.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

This presentation is important, especially to you. Madam Speaker, thank you very much. The Speaker has already raised the first issue. We are going to relate it this way: The decision has been taken that Members on the Speakers' List must come to the House and debate. Now there are two tendencies:

- The Speakers' List is drawn and the assumption is that those who are appearing on the Speakers' List have agreed that they are going to be in the House. The Speaker calls the name of the speaker, the speaker is not there. It happened in the last Sitting. It also happened today. The Speaker has used this as disrespecting her authority in that she is given a list of speakers, and the speakers are not there to debate. It brings the House also into disrepute. We have agreed that we will follow it up with the relevant people who are the Chief Whips of the parties and implement the rules accordingly.
- The second part is about this thing called electronic submission of presentations or speeches. We have discouraged it, the reason being that if there was a debate, and somebody says, I have submitted mine electronically, the MEC, when he responds, has not had the benefit of going through that speech. It disadvantages the MECs to account or to have the benefit of what is on the electronic presentation for them to be able to give proper responses from the House. Now, we have said no more electronic submissions. Speakers should be in the House. Even those who want to move motions, we are encouraging them that it will be important for them to do so. If they're unable to do so, they must notify the Chief Whip in time, a day before, so that we don't have them in the list. Just like the speakers, if you are committed, inform the Chief Whip, and parties must be able to replace those speakers who are not available in time so that we don't come into the House with the Speakers' List which necessarily means that the people are not there. Of course, there are

emergencies that we know happen. If that happens, of course, it will be communicated properly through the Chief Whip.

We have agreed that from next week, committees will be going on oversight for two weeks and the third week will be a week for preparing the reports.

- There was a concern that we seem to be lacking on oversight, in particular the Portfolio Committee on Education and on Health, as schools are reopening and as the vaccination programme is going on. We have said that from next week, we will also give other committees that opportunity for oversight for two weeks. By the third week, the reports should be ready for presentation in the House.
- The last one is that the Speaker convenes the House and instructs the Secretary to write a notice. It is only that notice which is official because we see notices that come out and another one contradicts what the official one says. To give an example, we had agreed that we are going to have a hybrid Sitting today, but there is another notice which comes out and says, no, the Sitting will be virtual, which does not come from the Secretary as instructed by the Speaker. We are encouraging Members that the only official notification of Sittings will be coming through the Secretary, and that notice will be signed by the Secretary so that there is no confusion in terms of the notices that come out.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

11. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned to Thursday, 12 August 2021 at 10:00. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 12 AUGUST 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
THURSDAY, 12 AUGUST 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

Good morning, honourable Members. We shall now have an opportunity for a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

[SONG] in appreciation of the Deputy Speaker's birthday.

Thank you very much.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any Motions without Notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

ADMIRABLE WORK DONE BY MEDICAL SPECIALISTS
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance for this House to note the admirable work done by the Limpopo medical and dental specialists who have chosen to celebrate Women's Month by rendering their services in rural hospitals.

It is encouraging to see female professionals use this month to assist community members with much-needed surgical procedures and healthcare systems, especially given the crippling staff shortages in our healthcare system. It is a very commendable initiative from our healthcare workers in this province and indeed proves that rural health matters.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maharaj. Is there any seconder? Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Monama Rodgers, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Maharaj.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise the MEC, Hon Rakgoale.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

A WOMAN STABS HER BOYFRIEND TO DEATH
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC for the House to note the deplorable act in which a 24-year-old woman allegedly stabbed to death by her 36-year-old boyfriend in Majeje village outside Phalaborwa in Mopani District. The police say the suspect allegedly stabbed her boyfriend with a broken bottle on Saturday outside a liquor outlet.

Hon Speaker, it is saddening to hear of such incidents at a time when the country is commemorating Women's Month. This happens at the time when society is up in arms against the ferocious demon of gender-based violence and such acts regress all the gains we have made.

We congratulate the ANC-led government for creating an equal society free of violence and abuse. As government we have intervened and dispatched a team of social workers to provide psychosocial support to the affected family.

Hon Speaker, we once again advise people who are having social problems, not to resort to violence, but rather seek professional help from our social workers.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby second the motion as presented by MEC, Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other motion without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

A REPORT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE MANKWENG AREA
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC to present a motion without notice for this House to note that we have received reports of a case of human trafficking in the Mankweng area outside Polokwane where a woman was lured to come to South Africa from Lesotho with a promise of a job. Instead, she was given to a certain man as her husband. She was lured into the country by her cousin, who is reportedly working at a place called GaThoka. This woman was promised a job, but on arrival she was given to a man who raped her repeatedly. Both accomplices were arrested after the victim raised alarm with the Mankweng police.

What makes this case sadder is that the victim trusted the perpetrators of this crime, and that one of them is her cousin.

We want to call upon the police to leave no stone unturned in their investigations and we implore the justice system not to fail this poor woman.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Is there any seconder for the motion? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE PASSING ON OF CLLR PIET STRYDOM
(Motion without Notice)

I hereby move on behalf of the DA that this House notes the passing on of Cllr Piet Strydom. He has served the residents of Thabazimbi Local Municipality as a PR councillor with great distinction since 2011. He also served as the Chief Whip of the council since 2016.

Cllr Piet, who was a long-serving member, played a pivotal role as part of the DA to take over the municipality in a coalition government after the 2016 Local Government Elections. He was a problem-solver as well as very involved in his local communities

and had instituted a vegetable garden for community members near Dwaalboom among other projects.

May Cllr Strydom's family take solace in the knowledge that we will remember him as a hard-working person and a public representative who dedicated his life in the service of his community in Thabazimbi.

The DA moves that this House extends its sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues during this time of sorrow.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Can we have a seconder? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Members of the Executive and honourable Members present here and happy birthday Hon Ndou once more.

CONDEMNATION OF THE KILLING OF A TAXI OWNER IN BOLOBEDU
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that this House notes that the EFF in Limpopo condemns the killing of a taxi owner and a female companion, which took place in Bolobedu, at Mohlabaneng crossroad.

We cannot allow taxi vigilantism and killings because they are barbaric and are reversing the gains of our democracy.

The police must hunt these thugs and make sure that they face the full might of the law. The taxi industry has been infiltrated by hooligans who have no respect for the rule of law.

We call upon the law enforcement to do thorough investigations on the motive of these killings. The taxi industry in the province has adapted to peace and any single incident should raise alarm to the authorities.

We convey our condolences to the families of the deceased and we encourage anyone with information to contact the police.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Can we have a seconder? Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Managa Lilian, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Seshoka.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any Notices of Motions in terms of House Rule 146? There is none.

Honourable Members, can we please rise and observe a moment of silence for those who have passed away.

[SILENCE]

May their souls rest in peace! Thank you very much. We may all be seated.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Is there any Members' Statement in terms of House Rule 200? I recognise Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to present the statement.

THE TSHIVHULANA WATER PROJECT WOES
(Members' Statement)

The completion of Tshivhulana bulk water project in Tshivhulana village in Vuwani is characterised by challenges. The residents of Vuwani, in particular Tshivhulana village, eagerly wait for this project to be completed to put an end to their water crisis.

The project was implemented last year with Ndhuna Civil Engineering as an assigned contractor for the project. It looks like the company doesn't have the capacity to implement the project. Their priority is to claim money without the work being done.

According to the project's steering committee, the contractor started claiming money in January this year without the knowledge of the PSC. There are further allegations that most of the work is carried out unprofessionally and poses danger to the

community. The community of Tshivhulana must not expect that their water woes will be resolved anytime soon.

Further allegations are that no ground testing was done before the project was started. It is shocking that only 128 of the 160 communal taps have been installed and we ask ourselves, why is that the case?

The steering committee members have also complained that the community was not warned about the blasting of rocks which poses danger to the community and further that the contractor did not install the necessary timbers.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter since Vhembe District has failed to monitor progress and to ensure its completion.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Managa. Is there any response from the Executive? Honourable MEC for Education, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We have noted all the concerns about the water project, the groundwork deficiencies and the taps. We will make sure that we take the message to the MEC for CoGHSTA to attend to the matter immediately and report back to this House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you honourable MEC for responding. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONCERN OVER NON-RESPONSES TO ORAL AND WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (Members' Statement)

The Democratic Alliance takes note that this honourable House will rise today to allow for the long outstanding committee oversights. However, oversight visits by the portfolio committees are not the only oversight mechanisms that this House is mandated to implement. House Rules 189 to 198 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House have always made provision for submission of oral and written questions.

Over the last 20 months the Democratic Alliance submitted 105 sets of questions for written response. The questions submitted were on all portfolios and only one response was received. As per the Limpopo Legislature Standing Rules, the caucus also submitted three written questions to the Speaker and the Secretary to the

Legislature between September and November 2020. The questions were supposed to be placed on the Order Paper for oral response which is yet to occur.

The Constitution states that the Legislature has the power to conduct oversight on all the organs of state to detect and prevent abuse; to prevent illegal and unconstitutional conduct on the side of the government; to protect the rights and liberties of our citizens; to hold government responsible on how the taxpayers' moneys are spent; to make government operations more transparent and to increase public trust in government.

During the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, Members of Parliament admitted that Parliament failed in its oversight responsibility which aided and embedded state capture. It has become clear that the Executive's *laissez faire* approach to oversight is being condoned by the Speaker's Office. The only conclusion that can be made is that this House's oversight mechanism has been captured.

Hon Speaker, is your office partisan towards the ruling party through the lack of enforcing the Standing Rules of the Limpopo Legislature? Is this House in compliance with the constitutional mandate of conducting oversight over the Executive by allowing the Executive not to reply to written questions and therefore sidestepping their responsibility? What is the Speaker's Office going to do to ensure that the Executive adheres to the House Rules?

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Can we get a response to the Members' Statement? Hon Deputy Speaker, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the birthday messages and the song. It is much appreciated.

Hon Speaker, I think the issues raised by Hon Smalle are petty. Yes, oversight does not only refer to going out and monitoring activities and progress the Executive is busy with. I think it is beyond that, as he's referring to the questions and to the Executive.

The Speaker's Office has done an audit of all questions that have been put to the Executive and, of course, from our side we are also concerned about the level of response we are receiving from the Executive. We have discussed this with the Leader of Government Business, and he promised that he will attend to it and make sure that the Members of the Executive respond appropriately.

I'm not sure about the capturing of this House's oversight mechanism and it will be interesting for us to get more information, maybe in the form of a substantive motion for us to deal with this conclusion that says the process has been captured so that we understand who captured it. It will also assist the Legislature – we might not to go to the Zondo Commission of Inquiry – to be able to deal with this matter of capture.

I'm not sure whether it is correct for us to also allude to the fact that the Speaker's Office is biased towards the Executive and protecting the Executive. I don't think it is entirely correct to say that.

As an office, we have tried to work in a manner that ensures that we are fair in our approach when we engage everyone. We take opinions, suggestions and recommendations of all the Members of the Legislature from different political structures. For instance, the proposal of us going for this oversight did not come from the Speaker. It was a proposal from Members representing political parties, and we took that into consideration as an important element of the work of this Legislature. That is why the Speaker agreed to the proposal for the oversight to take place.

We are not saying we are perfect and all that. What we are saying is that where we need to improve let's help each other and see how we can improve the work of the Legislature to be able to serve our people. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, for the response. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

PIT LATRINES STILL VERY MUCH A REALITY IN LIMPOPO (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, more than seven years after schoolboy Michael Komape drowned in a pit latrine at school in Limpopo, the state has failed to comply with a court order to eradicate unsafe and unhygienic toilets. The arrogance of this government and its Executive is that they defy courts and think that they are beyond reproach.

As we speak, there is no radical and aggressive plan to eradicate pit latrines in our schools, especially rural schools. The department has not learned anything from Michael Komape's death, and they want to see more of our children drowning in pit latrine toilets.

When you do not comply with a court order it means you are undermining the very same justice system you claim to protect. It is not about who took you to court on this matter, but about the danger the pit latrines pose to the lives of our young ones.

The MEC must explain to this House why is her department defying court orders and why is she not eradicating pit latrines as per the court order? Is it because our children attend at state-of-the-art schools in affluent cities and towns where we afford to pay huge amounts of money and that we do not care about the poor people?

We are being presided over by a heartless government which does not place value in our future leaders across all sectors of the economy. We call upon the MEC to brief this House on how many schools in the province still use pit latrines and what is the plan to completely eradicate them.

Twenty-seven years now into the democratic government, our children still use pit latrine toilets. If I were the MEC of Education I would not find comfort in sleeping while this matter remains unresolved.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Is there any response from the Executive? I recognise MEC, Hon Boshielo.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Seshoka, I'm shocked that you are not aware of the progress we have been making and we have also been reporting in this House. We are not a heartless government as you are trying to portray us. We care very much about our learners. If you will remember when we came in 2019, we had about 512 pit toilets, and 300 toilets are done by Department of Basic Education and we did 215.

That 215 that we are doing now, we were not even given money by the province – but we had to cut some of the projects that we were doing in the department because it was urgent that we eradicate them. As I'm speaking to you now, about 100 out of the 215 are completed and others are almost completed. If you can go to our website, you will be able to see, or we can give you the names of the schools and pictures and you can go and check for yourself. It is very urgent for us to really deal with this matter and that is why we will do everything that we can. The DBE has also come on board and out of the 300, they have already completed 150 and that shows the urgency of trying to deal with this matter, despite not having funds and you know how the Budget works.

So, we are a caring government, and we will continue to be a caring government. What is in the court is not about Michael Komape and may his soul rest in peace. Section 27 wants us to appoint them as the project manager to check the construction of the toilets. And you know in terms of the recruitment in government and DPSA we don't appoint people in court. We will advertise and people will apply and then you appoint them. They want the department to do an illegal thing and appoint them through the court and we are not going to do that. But in terms of what we do, what we promise, we do. It is unfortunate we were under lockdown last year for almost seven months, we could have completed them.

But I can assure you, we are on it every day and I have given the officials in the department a deadline, that the last one, if it must be the last one, must be finished before February 2022. We are on it even if we don't have funds. So, we care, and we care very much. That is why we had to cut all other things and make sure that we deliver this. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Boshielo.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

We may now proceed to Item 5, are there any Executive Statements? There is none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any Tabling of Committee Reports, Other Reports and Papers? There are none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

We are on the Motion for the adoption of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Limpopo Legislature. I call upon the Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

ADOPTION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

(Motion for the adoption of the Code of Conduct for MPLs)

Hon Speaker, House Rule 67(1) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature authorises the Ethics Committee to develop, implement and review the Code of Conduct for Members of Limpopo Legislature. The Ethics Committee has developed a Code of Conduct which was tabled and endorsed by the Internal Arrangements Committee. The Internal Arrangements Committee recommended that the Code of Conduct should be tabled at the Rules Committee meeting.

The Rules Committee considered and adopted the Code of Conduct without amendments in its meeting held on 04 August 2021 and agreed to table it before this honourable House. The Rules Committee, having considered and adopted the Code of Conduct for Members of the Limpopo Legislature in its meeting held on the 4 August 2021, hereby recommends to this honourable House that the Code of Conduct for Members of the Limpopo Legislature be adopted.

On behalf of the Rules Committee, I therefore move for the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Limpopo Legislature by this honourable House.

I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Is there any seconder? Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, hereby second the motion as presented by the Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. We then move to the Motion for the adoption of the Dress Code for Members of the Limpopo Legislature.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

**ADOPTION OF THE DRESS CODE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

(Motion for the adoption of the Dress Code for MPLs)

Rule 81(1) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature requires that Members' attire must be in accordance with the established norms. It must be consistent with the dignity of the House. In compliance with Rule 81(1), the Dress Code for the Members of the Limpopo Legislature was developed and tabled at the Internal Arrangements Committee meeting. The Internal Arrangements Committee considered it and recommended that the Dress Code for Members of the Limpopo Legislature should be tabled at the Rules Committee meeting.

The Rules Committee considered and adopted the Dress Code with minor amendments at its meeting held on 04 August 2021. The Rules Committee agreed to table the Dress Code before this House after the proposed amendments have been incorporated. The proposed amendments have been duly incorporated as suggested by the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee, having considered and adopted the Dress Code for Members of the Limpopo Legislature at its meeting held on 04 August 2021, hereby recommends to this honourable House that the Dress Code for the Members of the Limpopo Legislature be adopted.

On behalf of the Rules Committee, I move for the adoption of the Dress Code for Members of the Limpopo Legislature by this honourable House.

I move accordingly. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I thought my dear friend, Hon Seshoka, would second this one. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, rise to second the motion as presented by the Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selamolela. We move to item 7.3 ... Hon Seshoka can you withdraw the words that you have just uttered.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I withdraw, but you must be consistent with your ruling. Earlier, you allowed Hon Mathe to provoke us, and when we respond you then call us to order. Please call him to order too because he is busy provoking us.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, can we proceed with our Business of the Day. I have made a ruling on that and Hon Mathe withdrew what he had said. That is why I'm saying can we proceed with the Business of the Day and I'm not going to entertain that one. Let us proceed honourable Members.

7.3. Consideration and Adoption of the following reports of the Oversight Mechanism Committee for the financial year, 2020/21

I call upon the committee chairperson. Hon Seshoka, I think we are done with that one.

MR SESHOKA

You must also call him to order. He's using a gesture of the middle finger.

THE SPEAKER

I did not see that gesture.

MR SESHOKA

I'm telling you because I saw it.

THE SPEAKER

Let us proceed, honourable Members.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, if you continue to allow Hon Mathe to do what he's doing, you are going to cause chaos in this House. You are concentrating on this side, and you don't look on the other side.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, can you allow the chairperson to proceed.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker for the opportunity. Hon Deputy Speaker and honourable Members in the House, kgotso ya Modimo a e be le rena. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby present the first quarter report of the Oversight Mechanism Committee for 2020/21 financial year, for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report by the honourable chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We move to the consideration, and adoption of the second quarter report of the Oversight Mechanism Committee. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby present the second quarter report of the Oversight Mechanism Committee for 2020/21 financial year, for consideration and adoption by this House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report by the honourable chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We then move to the consideration and adoption of the third quarter report of the Oversight Mechanism Committee. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby present the third quarter report of the Oversight Mechanism Committee for the 2020/21 financial year, for consideration and adoption by this House. I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report by the honourable chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We then move to the consideration and adoption of the fourth quarter report of the Oversight Mechanism Committee. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby present the fourth quarter report of the Oversight Mechanism Committee for the 2020/21 financial year, for consideration and adoption by this House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Monama Rodgers, rise to second the tabling of the report by the honourable chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and our first speaker on the list is Hon Kekana.

MS KEKANA

I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to debate on the first, second, third and fourth quarter reports of the Oversight Mechanism Committee for the financial year 2020/21 for the House to adopt. Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo; the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; the Deputy Speaker, Hon Jeremiah Azwindini Ndou – and happy birthday to you – malibongwe! Honourable Members of the Executive Council, Hon Chief Whip of the Legislature, Leader of Government Business, all honourable Members and officials, good morning.

Hon Speaker, we just came out of the month of July, which is the month in which we celebrate our world icon and first democratically elected President, Tata Nelson Mandela. This is a year in which we are facing a pandemic, but we are full of hope for the future and are determined to build the economy and rebuild the country that Mandela bequeathed to us.

We need to keep on the path of this man who led us not only into this democracy, but who captured the world's imagination on what is possible. We have the most fertile ground on which we can build further on the immense work done by both Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela and their peers and may their souls rest in peace.

We create our path in the new dispensation in remembrance of these men for what they bequeathed to us – freedom, equality, peace, and any other positive attribution, like justice, forgiveness, and very strong human rights ethos. Hon Speaker, the month of August has been declared by the government nationally as Women's Month in

commemoration of more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 09 August 1956 in protest against the extension of pass laws to women.

We are meeting here today, two days after the government has emerged from the successful celebration of Women's Day under the theme: "Generation Equality – Realising Women's Rights for an Equal Future" in order to pay tribute to the strength and resilience of the generation of women whose struggles laid a foundation for the progress made in empowering women and achieving gender equality to date.

In admitting the pivotal role played by these heroines in our beautiful country we have seen great strides that have been made since 1994 to improve the status of women. Furthermore, government policies and programmes have improved the living conditions of women. In the advent of democracy and freedom South Africa has seen a number of women taking up leadership positions in the areas which were previously dominated by men.

One of the success stories of our democracy is that of the representation of women in political and decision-making positions. Involving women in governance processes constitutes one of South Africa's globally acclaimed success stories.

Hon Speaker, the committee commends the Limpopo Legislature on its consistent and prudent spending of its approved Budget in the quarters under review. During the first quarter in programme 1, the total expenditure was R24,619 million, in programme 2 the expenditure was R34,581 million and in programme 3 expenditure was R20,237 million. The overall quarterly expenditure was R79,437 million.

During the second quarter in programme 1 the total expenditure was R37,15 million, programme 2 expenditure was R40,94 million, in programme 3 the total expenditure was R21,1 million and the cumulative expenditure for the quarter was R178,61 million which is highly commendable, because it was during the hard lockdown restrictions. However, due to the pandemic the Limpopo Legislature has seen its Budget being adjusted from R385,1 million to R364,1 million which is a downward adjustment of 5,45%.

The committee encourages the Limpopo Legislature that in each quarter 25% of its Budget is spent maximally, still following the prudent method. One of the key elements of government is the creation of quality jobs. The Limpopo Legislature is not exonerated from this key priority. During the fourth quarter engagements with the Legislature, the committee noted that the recruitment plan was approved in August 2020 and the recruitment processes of filling the vacant positions commenced.

The Limpopo Legislature must make sure that critical and funded posts are filled to mitigate the risk of sliding backwards on their audit outcomes. The committee will monitor progress in 2021/22 financial year on the filling of vacancies. Hon Speaker, during the first quarter 4 performance indicators under this sub-programme of the Office of the Speaker was planned and those were: Number of Sittings, Programming Committee meetings, Committee meetings, Internal Arrangements Committee meetings and the In-Year Monitoring Report. Three of the four performance indicators were achieved as set targets in the Programming Committee meeting. There were eight targeted meetings and only four were achieved. The Programming Committee must ensure that targets set are achieved.

During the second quarter, there were 15 planned programming meetings but only two took place. Other targets were achieved as planned and this is commendable. The committee noted that during the third and fourth quarters targets were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the performance of the Limpopo Legislature was not adversely affected as most of the work was done virtually.

Hon Speaker, participation and decision-making processes means a possibility for citizens, civil society organisations and other interested parties to influence the development of policies and laws which affect them. The government made it easy for the responsible citizens of South Africa to influence government decisions before they are passed and gazetted.

In the first quarter the committee noted that the Legislature anticipated at least five petitions but instead seven were received. Communities make petitions to have a voice on issues that matter to them. It is incumbent upon the Legislature to ensure that communities are engaged to find better solutions on matters that they don't find satisfaction on from any organ of state. Communities want quality and developmental change in their surroundings. The committee further recommends that all petitions that were not resolved in the 2020/21 financial year, must be resolved in the 2021/22 financial year.

Public Works must fast track the processes of putting systems in place for security at Parliamentary Village which is a national key point and requires protection by the South African Police Service. Agendas must be distributed at the beginning of the year for planning purposes, strengthening, and improving of oversight visits especially by members of portfolio committees, benchmarking with other provinces for the best practices of overall performances of the Legislature. Hon Speaker, the committee commends the Limpopo Legislature for ensuring that Annual Financial Statements, Interim Financial Statements and In-Year Monitoring Reports are compiled on time and according to plan and also that the targets set under the sub-programme of financial management were as planned during the four quarters under review.

Hon Speaker in conclusion, if all departments could learn from the Limpopo Legislature, we will set an example to the incoming leadership. With the recommendations brought forward by the portfolio committee we therefore move for the first, second, third and fourth quarter reports of the Limpopo Legislature to be adopted by the House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Kekana. I now call upon Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It is common knowledge that Limpopo Legislature has a mandate of oversight to play over the government departments, the entities and make laws. The Legislature must make sure that these departments fulfil their mandates which in the main is service delivery to the people.

Departments that don't do what is expected of them must be held accountable through the oversight role by the Legislature. Equally, the Legislature must make sure that through oversight the provincial government embraces good governance, values, and principles. Consequence management must apply to officials who are found to be on the wrong side of the law.

The staff members at the Legislature are frustrated and demoralised with the arrangement of central bargaining because it has not done anything for them but to add to their already existing miseries. Firstly, workers in different Legislatures work under different working conditions, with different salary scales and employee benefits. Secondly, wage negotiations take long to conclude while the outcomes are not favourable to the workers as we have seen last year.

It is highly disappointing and disrespectful that in this financial year workers were only offered a 0% increment through the central bargaining system. What it means is that as the cost of living gets higher and higher their salaries remain the same resulting in workers unable to meet their day-to-day financial obligations, including paying the university fees for their children.

What kind of madness is this? Is this the way to go to the table with workers to negotiate salary increment and only to insult them by offering 0% increment? We hope that the subsequent planned salary negotiation meeting will put a dignified and progressive offer on the table to encourage our workers to do their work. Workers in the Legislature, work day and night as Members would now and then demand work from them at any given time. Things were better before central bargaining was introduced and we do not understand why Limpopo Legislature entered into such a hostile system towards workers.

We condemn in the strongest term the failure and refusal by the Legislature to pay workers their performance bonuses citing financial constraints. Le ja bašomi matsogo bakone and you must be ashamed of it. You are demoralising workers by thinking that this public money belongs to an individual. Pay workers their performance bonuses and stop hiding behind COVID-19. Financial constraints must not be used as an excuse because workers were not in the office all along due to COVID-19. They worked from home for a long period of time and many of them are still working from home.

Legislature programmes and activities were not implemented in full swing because of COVID-19. The Legislature management is taking advantage of the fragmented and weak union at the Legislature because the union itself is not functional. The Legislature and committees continue to sit in hybrid. Who makes sure that these logistics and preparations of Sittings takes place?

It is the workers themselves, but they are exploited by the Legislature system. Furthermore, there are so many posts that were advertised, and people have been appointed, but the processes were not transparent. It is alleged that there are managers in certain sections of the Legislature who shortlist candidates without involving human resources management when the recruitment processes are the responsibility or function of human resource management. This is a group of people who think they are silly boys at the Legislature and the Legislature is their playground.

These are people who think they are a Legislature themselves and they are superior, and they can suppress other staff Members. They do this because they want to hire their families and friends by excluding human resource in the whole process. If that is happening, we are calling for it to stop as a matter of urgency.

The Human Resources Section does not seem like it oversees the process. It has been ambushed by the powers of these people. This kind of madness, which exists in this institution called Limpopo Legislature, must come to an end. The EFF will have to zoom into the space because there are a lot of wrong things and madness happening. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I now call upon Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Phala, can you take your seat. Hon Seshoka, can you withdraw the word "madness"?

MR SESHOKA

I will not withdraw because I have not said anyone is mad, but I said the madness in this institution.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Limpopo Legislature ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

I will come with the ruling in the next Sitting. I will check with *Hansard* first ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

I can't say I did not say that. I did say, I said it. But I do not think that I have apportioned to anybody that they are mad. I am only talking about the madness ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

I am saying, let's leave it now. I will come with the ruling in the next Sitting. Hon Phala, you may continue.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Limpopo Legislature had a Budget allocation of over R385 million for the 2020/21 financial year. In the first quarter, the overall quarterly expenditure was 20,6%. In the second quarter, the expenditure was 49,1%. It is also important to know that the Budget has been adjusted from a total of over R385 million to R364 million. This represents a downward adjustment of 5,45%.

In the fourth quarter, activities were limited due to COVID-19, and some budgets could not be spent. These funds were shifted to sections where they were needed the most. Administratively, in the first quarter there were two programming meetings. Two Sittings were planned and achieved. The annual financial statements were produced, the APP for the 2022 financial year has been compiled and there was one institutional Risk Assessment Report developed by then.

In Human Resources Management there were five posts which have been filled in the first quarter, but they were affected by COVID-19 and the lockdown. In both quarters the training of the employees could not be implemented as planned due to lockdown regulations and awarding of bursaries was depended on the applications received. In the fourth quarter the committee was informed that the recruitment plan was approved in August 2020 and the long overdue filling of vacant positions had started by then.

Political Support Services needs to increase support to political parties. The committee found that although the transfer of funds to political parties was executed in the first quarter, it was not executed as planned in the second quarter. The reason for not transferring the total targeted percentage was due to non-submission of audited financial statements. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association events and international engagements could not be attended as a result of COVID-19 which resulted in the closure of borders worldwide. No political trips were undertaken due to lockdown regulations. In the first quarter about 10 proactive research reports were developed and 32 strategic documents were analysed. In the second quarter, 20 proactive research document analysis were compiled. Two of those were analysed. With regard to House Proceedings, there were only two Sittings in the first quarter. Three of those could not be implemented as they were determined by the executive departments. Eight Sittings were organised and one Bill was facilitated in the second quarter.

The Committee Services were negatively impacted by the pandemic. In the first quarter, 34 oversight meetings were held, but no site visits were conducted due to COVID-19. About 67 oversight reports were produced, and 11 Scopa public hearings were declared. In the second quarter there were 34 oversight meetings, no Standing Committee on Public Accounts hearings were conducted, and 82 oversight reports were compiled against the target of 26. There were also three Bills that were processed, and 24 site visits were conducted.

In the third quarter the committee noted that the site visits conducted were not satisfactory, due to being poorly attended by Members of this august House. There

was also a need to increase the number of site visits by committees. In this period, seven petitions were also received, instead of the anticipated five.

The Public Participation and Petitions Programme was perhaps the most effected, as the first quarter only saw them having one virtual public hearing being conducted and there were no Sectoral Parliament workshops and processing of petitions. Things improved slightly in the next quarter with two petitions coordinated and nine public hearings that were held virtually due to lockdown restrictions.

The virtual nature of this hearings, however, limited access to the Legislature for some of the vulnerable in the province, and this is worrying. The committee recommended that management should ensure that adequate assistance be offered to political parties, in order to comply with the requirements of accessing funding in due course and avoid underexpenditure. The Legislature should consider having a calendar or a schedule for conducting site visits and public hearings to avoid poor attendance. There was also a need for the Legislature to follow up with a Public Participation Unit to ensure that all received petitions were considered in the beginning of the 2021/22 financial year. It was also recommended that the process of distribution of calendars must be done through the Legislature in December. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Committee chair, Hon Lekganyane, you may take the podium.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Hon Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable chairpersons of different portfolio committees present and those who are attending virtually, honourable MECs, Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati; Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, honourable Members of the House, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Ntumeleleng ke le dumedise ka segagešo ke re kgotso ya Modimo a e be le lena. May peace be unto you. Honourable Members, we are gathered here today three days after the 9 August Women's Day commemoration. The month of August in 2021 marks 67 years after the adoption of the Women's Charter of 1954. About 27 years after the adoption of the Women's Charter for Effective Equality of 1994 and 26 years after the country signed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and ratified the Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The day that is historical in character is 9 August 1956, whereby women participated in a national march to petition the apartheid regime against pass laws. Apartheid legislation that required African persons to carry a document with them to prove that they were allowed to enter a "Whites Only" area. This signifies that August is a historic month in the history of the Democratic South Africa, and women should never, never ever be undermined.

Wathinta abafazi, wathinta imbokodo, uzakufa. Legislature is an institution which discusses and deliberates on all issues of national importance. Through deliberation, the Legislature reflects public opinion on various issues. It acts as an effective forum for articulation and expression of public opinion. The Legislature acts as a link between

the public and the government, and as such its decisions should always serve as an example.

The committee approved a Budget of R385,13 million at the beginning of the financial year and it was later adjusted to R364,13 million. The adjustment was done as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to redirect money to purchase PPEs and for the strengthening of the healthcare system. The committee received a briefing on all four quarter reports in relation to the spending by the Limpopo Legislature. During the first quarter, the Legislature was able to spend R79,437 million which is 20,6% of the allocation. That was below expenditure. During the second quarter the Legislature was able to spend R178,51 million which is 49,1% cumulative from the third quarter.

The committee was concerned about the low spending in the first quarter, however, the committee commended the Legislature on its spending in the second quarter, which is slightly lower by 0,9%. The COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the work of the portfolio committees since the announcement of the lockdown.

During the engagement with the Limpopo Legislature in the third quarter, the committee noted that a few site visits were conducted, and the attendance was not satisfactory as a result of the impact by the pandemic. The committee recommended that the number of site visits by the committees of the Legislature must be increased while observing the COVID-19 regulations. Members are encouraged to attend the site visits to get first-hand information and empower themselves to constructively see the performance by the government. The Limpopo Legislature must programme the oversight visits in a manner that they don't clash to avoid Members being scattered to various site visits of other committees. The committee commended the Legislature for maintaining the fleet in accordance with the targets set during the first quarter. It is important that the vehicles used for travelling are kept up to date for the safety of Members and staff whilst on duty.

The committee reports that there were no trips requiring travelling due to the tightened lockdown regulations as we had entered the uncharted waters of the pandemic. During the first quarter of the 2020/21 financial year, the Legislature had targeted to fill five critical vacancies. None of the vacancies were filled because of the pandemic and other problems but training and the entire selection process had bolted. The Legislature reported that no bursaries were awarded during the first quarter because no new applications were received. The committee recommended that critical vacancies be filled when COVID-19 regulations are relaxed because they are funded. The Legislature should be exemplary in filling those vacancies to mitigate negative audit outcomes, whilst taking into consideration gender equity and people with disabilities.

The Communication Services Unit performed the strategic function of ensuring that other activities and programmes of the Limpopo Legislature are effectively communicated to the public and all relevant stakeholders. The unit is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all these programmes and the activities of the Legislature and its committees are widely publicised for the benefit of the public and all relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, the unit is responsible for enhancing the image of the Legislature by building and maintaining good relationships with the media community.

The Legislature reported to the committee that one event was publicised and one media interview was carried out, and TV slots were not part of the targets in the first quarter. The committee encourages the Legislature to ensure that TV slots are targeted as these will assist in promoting the work of the Legislature to our public. The development of information technology has a wide potential in all aspects of the societal development, especially for any developing country. IT has brought an overall change and growth. Information technology is used in capital planning, accounting, payroll inventory, management and many more areas.

The Limpopo Legislature reported that one maintenance report was compiled on financial and communication management systems during the first quarter; and in the second quarter all targeted plans were achieved. We applaud you, Deputy Speaker. The committee commended the Limpopo Legislature for this achievement and further recommended that the momentum kept should not be lost. The committee noted with concern that during the fourth quarter many activities were cut, including travelling by the Office of the Speaker to attend national and international trips. The cutting back of trips was due to the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, money budgeted for the trips was underspent and redirected to the province in need of funding. The committee encourages the Limpopo Legislature to ensure that due to the alleviation of COVID-19 regulations, planned trips must be undertaken to mitigate the risk of an audit query.

In conclusion, we therefore as the Portfolio Committee of Oversight Mechanism, thank the working relationship we have with the Legislature, and we also recommend to this august House that the oversight report of the portfolio committee be considered and adopted by this House.

Finally, we accordingly request this honourable House to consider and adopt our fourth quarter report from the portfolio committee. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chair. We shall call upon the Deputy Speaker to respond to the debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker and thanks to the Members who have participated in this debate. We welcome all the comments, inputs and recommendations from the committee. Of course, they will strengthen our operations as an institution that is dedicated. As it was said earlier, the next two weeks will be for oversight. I agree with the proposal that the Programming Committee has to ensure that they stick to the targets and do all that we can to meet the targets that we haven't met.

With regards to the issue of the national key points, let me indicate that, yes, we agree. We have discussions with Public Works on the process of handing over the Parliamentary Village to the SAPS, we hope that this process will be speeded up so that we don't come back and discuss this matter over and over again.

Yes, we do agree that the petitions that are outstanding need to be resolved and we will facilitate the Programming Committee with the committee concerned that these matters must be dealt with as soon as possible. The centralisation of the bargaining council by the legislative sector is one of the many steps towards ensuring that there is uniformity in the legislative sector. One example is that the legislative sector has agreed; including the national Parliament, that we will use the same oversight mechanism, the same public participation framework and this is done to ensure that there is uniformity and the work of the legislative sector is well-coordinated. You must remember that we are a unitary state with various provinces within.

Hon Seshoka mentioned payment processes, and that the PMS is not going to be paid. There is no decision on the PMS. There is no decision that says workers are not going to be paid. It is therefore not clear where the Member gets this information that it will not be paid. Even this year when that time comes that would happen.

With regard to the recruitment process, let me highlight this: sometimes when you want to raise issues you should raise them in a manner that presents facts, because you will hear a lot of stories sometimes out there. People would come and say this and that. Recruitment processes are done in accordance with the recruitment policy and are overseen by the HR. There are no other recruitment processes outside of this. If there is information and that information points to something contrary, please you are welcome to give us that info and we will act on it.

I think the other Members were giving us recommendations on what to do and we welcome that. Yes, the distribution of calendars and diaries we will ensure that they are planned on time. There is an issue of vehicles. When coming to that let me point out that most of the vehicles that we have are not in a condition that we want them to be, but due to the financial constraints in this financial year we are unable to replace them. But, we are looking at the next financial year to see if we get to have enough money to deal with that situation.

Yes, the CPA was not held because of COVID-19, but we hope that as the situation improves the trips that were not undertaken by various committees and various individuals for purposes of pursuing the work of the Legislature will be undertaken as they impact on the performance of the Legislature.

I think, Madam Speaker, I have covered all the issues, and thanks very much to the Members. We will ensure that the recommendations that you are making are implemented. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Let us proceed to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions: Oversight visit to Makhuduthamaga Municipality in Sekhukhune. Hon Mdaka, the chairperson of Public Participation and Petitions Committee you are recognised. I can see Hon Selamolela also raising his hand. I am not sure about the arrangement. [TERRIBLE AUDIO]

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. My apologies that I could not come to the House formally, it was an oversight on my side. I think my apology is accepted, and I hope that the network will not disappoint us. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable chair, I want to address you. There is an agreement that if we are going to debate you should make sure that you come to the meeting physically. That is why we allow Hon Selamolela to present on your behalf.

MR MDAKA

I think it is okay. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Selamolela, you can proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Chairperson, allow me to start by apologising for Hon Falaza Mdaka who could not get the message of how we conduct the business recently. I should act on his behalf. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, present herein the Oversight Visit Reports of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions for consideration and adoption by this august House for a visit to a project in Makhuduthamaga Municipality in the Sekhukhune District Municipality of our beautiful province. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, hereby stand to second the report as presented by Hon Selamolela. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We move to the Oversight Visit to Petition Project Report in Capricorn and Sekhukhune District Municipalities. It was held on 16 September 2020. Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, once again I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, acting on behalf of the committee chair of the Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, Hon Falaza Philemon Mdaka; present here, for consideration by this august House, the Oversight Visit Petition Report to projects in Capricorn and Sekhukhune Districts which took place on 16 September 2020. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selamolela. Is there any seconder? Over to you, Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Rebecca Seono, stand to second the move by Hon Selamolela.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Seono. We move to the Oversight Visit Report to Kgwadu Primary School in Molemole Local Municipality of the Capricorn District Municipality which took place on 21 October 2020. Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, on behalf of the committee chairperson Portfolio Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, Hon Falaza Philemon Mdaka; herein present before this august House for consideration and adoption the Oversight Visit Report to Kgwadu Primary School in Molemole Local Municipality of the Capricorn District Municipality of our beautiful province which took place on 21 October 2020 of this financial year. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selamolela. Is there by seconder? Hon Kekana, you are recognised. [TERRIBLE AUDIO]

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Naledi Kekana, rise to second the motion by Hon Selamolela. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Kekana. We now move to the debate on the abovementioned reports and the first speaker on our list is Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

The Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; the Deputy Speaker, our birthday boy; the Chief Whip of the Majority Party in absentia, our honourable Members of the Executive Council of our beautiful province, colleagues, friends, compatriots and Members of this august House, once again greetings to you all.

Madam Speaker, the task of oversight is an important assignment for any modern law-making assembly. Oversight over the work of the Executive is part of our all-important deliverables as the Legislature. By design and by our own makeup we are the voices, we are the ears, and we are the eyes of the people. The people expect from us to

speak on their behalf, to hear where and what they cannot hear with their ears; to see where they cannot see with their naked eye but most importantly also to feel what they cannot feel on their behalf.

It is for this reason that we take to this assignment very seriously. We are not here merely to perform rituals. The architecture of our democracy relies on the philosophy that says: "The people shall govern". It is in line with this philosophy that part of the mandate of our Parliament and our Legislatures is to facilitate public participation. We are here exactly for the twin task of oversight and public participation.

I must emphasise that we are exercising oversight on the work of the Executive because the Executive is an agent of the state that we serve. It is the Executive that controls the Budget and rolls out the programmes which are aimed at changing the lives of our people on whose behalf we are Members of this august House. It is important that our Executive cannot go without the necessary checks and balances. Without checks and balances, the possibility of abuse and of negligence is higher. We are always available to remind and guide the government to do these things with outmost efficiency and in the most cost-effective way.

This is what people expect us to do as they elected us, their public representatives, their ears, their eyes and their noses to smell. They expect of us to discharge this mandate without fear or favour. As the standing committee we appreciate the working relationship we enjoy with our Executive. I am saying this because we are often tough and harsh at pointing fingers at the areas of lack and we do this often at times without making recommendations. Thus far, most of our recommendations are taken into account by our Executive and surely this is done in the spirit of cooperative governance, honourable Deputy Speaker.

In carrying out its constitutional oversight and public participation mandate, the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions conducted oversight visits to schools in the Sekhukhune District. The visit was mainly aimed at monitoring and overseeing the progress on programmes in the province with a view of holding the departments accountable. The committee received a petition from Kediketse Primary School regarding dilapidated buildings, lack of sanitation, lack of water and sanitation facility. The department has since indicated that the construction of a sanitation facility was already underway as part of the 2020/21 financial year school project. Kediketse Primary School is included in the project list.

We will continue to monitor progress in this regard. The committee equally received from the same district, a petition from Thobela Primary School which was sent in 2018 regarding challenges experienced at the school. The school has been challenged by overcrowding in classrooms and requested to be provided with mobile classrooms, a school nutrition centre and a secondary school. It should be a feeder school by the way. The department reported that the school was on the priority list of the project plan for the 2022/23 financial year. The project plan will include the construction of a Grade R facility, a nutrition centre, a laboratory, a library and a school. Of great interest and impressive in this list, honourable MEC, is the inclusion of a laboratory for a rural school like Thobela.

This is, indeed, an affirmation Hon MEC that a black child shall rise ka nkane. We welcome this impressive commitment and we will keep an eagle eye on the implementation of this commitment.

The committee received a petition from Mokgwadi Primary School in Molemole Local Municipality of the Capricorn District Municipality of the Limpopo province. The petition related to challenges relating to insufficient classrooms, insufficient furniture for learners, lack of an administration block and nutrition centre and a shortage of sanitation facilities. The petition has been recurring, received for the first time in October 2016. The school at the time had a total enrolment of 1 400 and 44 educators without proper sanitation, without an administration block, without a proper nutritional facility and of course also with overcrowded Grade R classrooms. The committee adjudicated on this petition on 25 November and resolved that the department should address the challenges of the school. It is important that in 2017 the school furniture was provided to the school, but we have advised that all the deliverables that are work in progress should be monitored in this calendar year.

In Lepelle-Nkumpi we visited the Mathabatha-Batlou Traditional Council after they submitted a petition to the committee regarding asbestos contamination in the community. A concern was raised that the closure of the Dwarskloof Mine in that area, particularly the road, was contaminated with asbestos which caused pollution in and around Mathabatha-Batlou Traditional Council. The committee adjudicated over the petition on 31 January 2020 and resolved that a fact-finding visit with the Department of Public Works, the Roads Agency Limpopo, the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Sekhukhune District Municipality should be conducted. It is against this background that the committee embarked on an oversight visit to the Mathabatha village. This includes two districts, because the other affected area falls within the Sekhukhune District whereas the other one falls within the Capricorn District. That is why the interchanging in terms of the names of the districts, that should not cause confusion.

It is against this background that the committee embarked on an oversight visit to Mathabatha area. During the visit, a meeting was held with the local community, the petitioners and representative officials from the Department of Minerals and Energy and a representative from Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality. Through the deliberations that ensued with all relevant stakeholders the committee realised that the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality are working together to address the challenges caused by the asbestos in the particular area. A committee was also informed that a contractor was appointed and was already on-site planting trees around the affected area to rehabilitate the mine that produces asbestos dust. Based on the above findings and deliberations with stakeholders the committee made the following recommendations:

- That the petition should be closed since the contractor was already on the affected area and that the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality and the Legislature, specifically referring to the very Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, should continue to monitor the rehabilitation process until its completion.

We will continue to conduct our work and our activities under limitations imposed by the COVID-19 restrictions. These days we see on our television screens, on our news

platforms the many South Africans who continue to lose their lives to this killer virus. Let us continue with the partnership with government to spread the COVID-19 message, particularly the importance and the urgency of vaccination. Let us continue, Hon Seshoka, to work together beyond political lines to make our province, the Limpopo we all want. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Hon Seshoka, it's your turn.

MR SESHOKA

[TERRIBLE SOUND]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. Hon Managa, you may take the podium.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa, Mulangadzulo Muṭhomphei Vho Rosemarry Molapo. Mulangadzulo, kha vha ntendele ndi ise ndumeliso dzo khetheaho kha Muthusa Mulangadzulo Vho Ndou Azwindini Jeremiah; kha Miraḁo ya Khorotshitumbe vha re hone ṇamusi; vhadzulazwidulo vha komiti dza phothofolio u ya nga u fhambana fhambana hadzo, Tshimebi Tshihulwane tsha Lihoro Livhusi na tsha Mahoro Maṭuku khathihi na Miraḁo yoṭhe ya Buthano ḽa Vhusimamilayo ḽino, ndi ri ndi matsheloni.

Hon Speaker, the Public Participation and Petitions Committee conducted oversight visits, as Hon Selamolela has already debated. These visits are very much fundamental to the realisation of integrating community views and intervening on matters raised by complainants on various issues. This important aspect of engagement has not been explored fully as often as matters raised during the engagements are not resolved accordingly and when this doesn't happen, it is impossible to honour sections 118(1)(a) and (b)(i) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa which empowers provincial legislatures to facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the legislature and its committees.

The visits which have been undertaken in Makhuduthamaga on 14 October noted issues which warranted the Department of Education to act swiftly. In Kediketse Primary School, with the issues that were raised, did the department deliver the 30 enviro-loo toilets as Kediketse Primary School has requested? Was the building of a septic tank completed? Are there water storage tanks in the school and how many are functional at the moment and how many are filled with water as we speak? Was there a borehole which was drilled and is it equipped to function? What is the progress on construction of sanitation units at Kediketse Primary School? Did the department demolish and renovate the unsafe dilapidated school buildings?

When coming to Thobela Primary school: What is the progress on the petition received in 2018 regarding the challenges experienced at the school? Did the department provide mobile classrooms to ease the burden of overcrowding in that school? Did the department build a nutrition centre given the importance of feeding learners with safe

and healthy food? As per priority list, did the department build five Grade R classrooms? What is the progress in relation to a laboratory, a library and a school hall that Hon Selamolela was talking about? Did the department receive and process applications for a secondary school?

When coming to the petition from Kgwadu Primary School; let me start by asking the following questions: Given the fact that an appeal was made, did the department resolve adequately the water and sanitation problems as raised during the engagements? Which steps did the department undertake to ensure that all learners are taught in a healthy and conducive environment? Did the department provide mobile classrooms to Kgwadu Primary School, and if so, how many classrooms? Is there an update on the sanitation project at the school as it was included on priority clusters? It is embarrassing that the matters that were raised in 2016 still remain unsolved.

We now come to the petitions submitted on 16 September 2020 at Capricorn and Sekhukhune District Municipalities on the Mathabatha-Batlou Traditional Council. The concerns raised by the community should be given proper attention. In case a petition was not properly presented, the community should be assisted to rectify any challenges. Did the committee check the effects of asbestos on the residents, and what kind of compensation is available to those who have suffered as a result of this pollution, apart from the rehabilitation of Dwarskloof Mine? What is the progress on the rehabilitation process and what does it entail? Did the department or the committee have further engagements with the Mathabatha-Batlou Traditional Council since the engagement date?

With regard to the RDP house of Ms Lydia Talana, let me highlight that the dignity of Lydia Talana's family was compromised by the below standard RPD house which was provided. Failure by the department to rebuild this house and provide furniture is embarrassing. Did the Department of CoGHSTA make an intervention on the matter of providing shelter to this family? Did the department check other houses in the same vicinity if they are of quality standard? If the matter was raised in 2018 and this house is not built by now, this House must agree that this house should have been built by now and well-furnished.

We are also concerned about the department that continues to undermine the committee by not appearing whenever they are called upon to come and respond to matters raised by complainants through petitions. Such conduct must never be allowed to thrive because it undermines the genuine concerns that the communities are raising. The EFF views this as sheer arrogance and it must be nipped in the bud. The above failures continue to add pain to the unbearable conditions tolerated by our people. Now it is time for the people to reject mediocre services from undedicated officials. There is no excuse or justification why the above issues are not resolved and had to reach the petition stage. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. Hon Maharaj, you may take the podium.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Public Participation and Petitions Committee embarked on a number of oversight visits in an attempt to adjudicate on some of the petitions received. On 16 September 2020 the committee focused on the Capricorn and the Sekhukhune Districts. On 14 October the committee's focus was on Makhuduthamaga Municipality also in Sekhukhune District and on 21 October 2020 the committee focused on Kgwadu Primary School in Capricorn District. This work is carried out in terms of sections 118(1)(a) and (b)(i) of the South African Constitution, which empowers a provincial legislature to facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the legislature and its committees.

A legislature is further empowered to receive and consider petitions from interested parties and members of the public in terms of section 115(d) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The Limpopo Legislature passed the Limpopo Petitions Act 2003 (Act 4 of 2003), which vests the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions with the responsibility to consider petitions that have been referred to the Legislature. The Mathabatha-Batlou Traditional Council submitted a petition to the committee regarding asbestos contamination. Further complications to the petition were with regard to the closure of the Dwarskloof Mine causing pollution and health issues to communities as a result of asbestos in the area. This petition was adjudicated on 31 January 2020. The committee resolution was that a fact finding visit *in-loco* must be carried out by the Department of Public Works, RAL, Environmental Affairs and Sekhukhune District Municipality.

The committee recommended engagements and deliberations with all stakeholders that the petition should be closed as a contractor has already been appointed to rehabilitate the affected areas by planting trees around the area; thus to rehabilitate and to reduce the asbestos dust and that both the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality and the Legislature should continue monitoring the rehabilitation process until its completion.

Hon Speaker, the petition regarding the RDP house for Lydia Talana which was received on 26 September 2018 on behalf of the three orphans from Atok village from Tubatse Municipality was adjudicated on 31 January 2020 by the committee. The resolution taken was to ensure that the family is provided with an RDP house as a matter of urgency. On the oversight visit, it was discovered that this had not materialised. The committee hence recommended that a meeting be scheduled with the MEC urgently and the municipality must urgently intervene to ensure that the family is provided with a proper house and the department must provide progress reports to the committee.

The committee staff will make necessary follow-ups between the stakeholders on this project. The petition received from Kediketse Primary School involved dilapidated buildings, lack of water and sanitation, leaky roofs and poor conditions of classrooms. The school also requested access to toilets, a borehole to provide water to the school and good furniture for both educators and learners.

Through deliberations with the Department of Education and other stakeholders, it was discovered that the Department of Education continued deferring infrastructure projects for the school for a number of years. Through deliberations and engagements, the Department of Education, however, undertook the following commitments: that 30 enviro-loo toilets, septic tanks and borehole drilling will be provided to the school.

Construction of sanitation units will be underway in the 2020/21 financial year and Kediketse Primary School is included in the project list. Dilapidated toilets will be destroyed, and the renovation of dilapidated classrooms will commence during the 2021/22 financial year.

The oversight visit to Thobela Primary School and Kgwadu Primary School also revealed challenges in terms of overcrowding and space constraints; water and sanitation challenges and the continuous deferring of infrastructure projects. Through deliberations and engagements, the Department of Education undertook to provide new mobile classrooms as a matter of urgency to avoid deferring projects from one financial year to the next where there are no funds and petitioners must be communicated with to avoid any animosity between the department and the community. The department must ensure that water and sanitation is provided to the schools. The department must also engage with the communities and petitioners regularly to foster better relationships, and that the department must engage in phases to deal with the challenges and to remedy these issues. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maharaj. Hon Selamolela, you are recognised. [TERRIBLE RECORDING]

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, greetings once again on behalf of the committee chair, Hon Falaza Philemon Mdaka. The honourable chair says I must say that, as the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, we are happy, especially because we have a legal framework. I think Hon Maharaj went home, he was concerned about the legal framework that gives us the necessary support to conduct this public participation. More importantly as the Legislature, our own Petitions Act of 2003 read side-by-side with sections 118(1)(a) and (b)(i) of our Constitution gives us the necessary capacity to conduct public hearings and to listen to this petition and to conduct these oversights without fear or favour no matter how much it shall be over the Executive.

Hon Selamolela, Hon Maharaj and Hon Managa are correct to raise the concerns. Honourable MEC, on the issue relating to the deferring of projects, let me indicate that we commit that we are going to look into it. I think Hon Maharaj also went home and I think I heard Hon Selamolela and Hon Managa touching on this particular one that it would not be correct that we commit to a community that we are going to do a project this financial year, of course we understand that there could always be financial constraints from time to time and so forth, but we can't defer a project of a particular school three or four times. That becomes unfair on the community and I think it's a matter that honourable Members of this particular committee have raised strongly that we must look into.

We are happy from where we are and I think most importantly we are impressed by the progress we have noted when we visited the Mathabatha Tribal Authority because the challenges relating to asbestos contamination, water contamination and air pollution will be so much of a health hazard that it then results in as far as the lives of people are concerned in that particular area. It is a matter of serious concern.

Impressive to us, as Hon Selamolela and Hon Maharaj have said, is the fact that by the time we arrived there we had found that there was already progress in that particular regard. I want to commend as far as the stakeholders are concerned, we are happy with the progress that has been made, especially around Kgwadu Primary School, Thobela Primary School and Kediketse Primary Schools.

We are very happy with the progress that is noted there. I don't want to implore on the MEC that we are going to continue to give an eagle eye in that regard as a committee and as honourable Members have been saying; as the committee chair will continue to steer the ship towards that particular direction to ensure that we monitor the progress we made in relation to those particular commitments.

We have committed as this particular committee as it plays a very important role because it is the actual committee that deals with the day-to-day operations of this august House. We have committed in this regard that we will continue to be the ears of our people and we will continue to be their eyes. In this regard we table this particular report which is a product of our industrious work in this particular committee for consideration and adoption by this august House. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. We shall now call on the MEC to respond.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION [ON BEHALF OF MEC FOR COGHSTA]

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I am also going to respond on behalf of Hon Makamu, he had to attend to a very urgent matter. I can actually read his response because he has prepared it. Let me just read what he had to say. Madam Speaker; the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; colleagues in the Executive Council, the chairperson and members of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, leader of the official opposition, honourable Members of this august House, ladies and gentlemen, comrades and friends, good morning.

Madam Speaker and honourable Members, I appreciate the opportunity to address this august House in response to the report of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature under the able leadership of Hon Falaza Mdaka. The Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions gives concrete expression to the Limpopo Provincial Legislature's motto: It is your voice, use it! The report tabled before this august House this morning by the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, bears witness to the clarion call by the Freedom Charter, when it said in one of its clauses that "the people shall govern." Through the reports of the Standing Committee of Public Participation and Petitions before the House, the voice of the people of Limpopo resonates in this legislative chamber. I take note of the committee's report on the two projects that took place on 16 September 2020 in the Capricorn District and Sekhukhune District on Mathabatha-Batlou Traditional Council. This was in response to a petition submitted to the committee regarding asbestos contamination in the community. I note that the recommendation closed the petition as rehabilitation has started, and the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality and the Legislature will monitor the rehabilitation process until its completion.

Number two on the RDP house of Ms Lydia Talana, Ms Lydia Talana submitted a petition on behalf of three orphans from Atok village in Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality to the committee on 26 September 2020. In its adjudication on 31 January 2020, a resolution was taken that the family must be provided with an RDP house as a matter of urgency. During the committee's oversight visit on 16 September 2020, the family was still without proper accommodation. Based on this feeling the committee makes the following recommendation: That a meeting with the MEC must be held as a matter of urgency, that the municipality should intervene and ensure that the family is provided with a proper house. The department should submit a progress report to the committee. The committee's staff should make follow-ups with the department and the municipality on the project.

Madam Speaker, the MEC commits that the department will ensure that the recommendations of the committee are implemented, and matters should be brought to finality. He said, "I thank the chairperson, Hon Falaza Mdaka, and members of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions for their good work to give a voice to the voiceless through their work and the people shall govern." Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

[inaudible]

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I said that I would first do the apology for MEC, Hon Makamu but then secondly read the response. I am two in one.

On the issues of education, let us also thank the committee for raising the issue in terms of Kediketse Primary School. The school has requested toilets, boreholes, school furniture for both educators and learners and the construction of classrooms. In terms of the progress made, the school has been provided with toilets as part of the Limpopo Department of Education's 215 toilets project. Hon Seshoka, Regarding the water project, the contractor is still on site drilling the borehole, in terms of school furniture, the school has requested 180 desks, and the department will be delivering them in this financial year. In terms of the classrooms, the school has been prioritised for major infrastructure for the financial year 2021/22. In terms of Thobela Primary School, the school has requested mobile classrooms and a phase two project at the secondary school. The school submitted their mobile needs on 21 June 2021, and it was not part of the petition items sent by the school. The department is busy placing orders for the mobile classrooms of the school. They will be provided with the mobile classrooms. On the phase two project, the school is prioritised for financial year 2022/23. In terms of the secondary school, the application has not yet been approved, because of Budget constraints. Learners are still covered by other secondary schools in the village.

On the Kgwadu Primary School, the school has requested classrooms and toilets and water. In terms of the progress report on classrooms, the school has been prioritised with major infrastructure in the financial year 2022/23. On toilets and water, the tender for this school has been advertised and will be finalised at the end of this financial

year. In terms of the provision of mobile classrooms, the department is working with the school for the provision of mobile classrooms.

I also want to bring to the attention of the committee that as of now, we have a request from our schools for 1 100 mobile classrooms. The mobile classrooms are very expensive. We are not sure whether we should go and buy 1 100 mobile classrooms, as we do not have much budget. It is not only these three schools, Hon Speaker. We have 3 773 schools in the whole of Limpopo. They have various challenges. It is just that they did not have the time to come to the committee to present them. We can also not neglect them, but with the little that we have, we will try as much as possible to deal with the infrastructure challenges. I thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Boshielo.

8. SNAP DEBATE ON WOMEN'S MONTH

The first speaker on the list is Hon Mokaba-Phukwana.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Hon Speaker, allow me to reflect and quote from the petition of about 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 09 August 1956 to confirm their resilience and determination to fight degradation and oppression. The abstract reads: "We are women from every part of South Africa. We are women of every race, we come from the cities and the towns, from the reserves and the villages. We come as women united in our purpose to save the African women from the degradation of passes. In the name of women of South Africa, we say to you, each one of us, African, European, Indian, and Coloured, we are opposed to the pass system. We, voters and voteless, call upon your government not to issue passes to African women. We shall not rest until all pass laws and all forms of permits restricting our freedom have been abolished. We shall not rest until we have won for our children their fundamental rights of freedom, justice and security". This illustrates that as a nation and women in particular, we can fight and win over every evil troubling our children and the nation. We fought against the most brutal and oppressive regime of the apartheid era. With God on our side, we will defeat human and drug trafficking in our society. We will, as women through God's mercy and love for his nation, overcome women abuse and rape, against women and children. We will protect our vulnerable ones against drugs and alcohol abuse. Our battle cry as women has always been 'wathinta abafazi, wathinta imbokodo' and our mothers taught us that mosadi o swara thipa ka bogaleng to protect a family and children in society.

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, leader of the opposition party, your people, your followers; honourable Members, good afternoon. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the 1956 women's march against the laws as well as the 27 years of freedom and democracy in South Africa. The year 2021 also marks 67 years since the founding Conference of the Federation of South African Women which adopted the 1954 Women's Charter. The Charter fought for, amongst other things, the enfranchisement of men and women of all races for equal employment opportunities, equal pay for equal work, equal rights in relation to property, marriages and children, and the

removal of all laws and customs that deny women of such equalities. Over the years South Africa has made large improvement of women representation in Parliament. Prior to 1994 the South African Parliament had a mere 2,7% representation of women. Fast forward to the Sixth Parliament women Members of Parliament now account for 44,5% in both the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, a dramatic improvement on women representation post- 1990.

Also, for the first time in South Africa's history, women now make up half of government's cabinet under Hon Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa's term as President. Global data by the World Bank in 2019 showed that South Africa falls within the top 10 countries with the highest proportion of seats held by women in national Parliament. Tied with Andorra and Costa Rica, South Africa exceeds the global average of 24,6%. Rwanda continues to take the lead with 61% of seats, and Bolivia and Cuba have 53% of seats occupied by women. Hon Speaker, I borrow words from former President Nelson Mandela when he said: "As long as outmoded ways of thinking prevent women from making a meaningful contribution to society, progress will be slow."

The greater inclusion of women in the economy could reduce unemployment, poverty and inequality as envisioned in the National Development Plan. Women are powerful economic drivers when they are meaningfully involved in the economy through entrepreneurial activities and employment in decision-making. Let it be also about ensuring that girls learn and feel safe while in school to have the opportunity to complete all levels of education, acquiring the knowledge and skills to compete in the labour market, associate emotional and life skills necessary to navigate and adapt to a changing world, make decisions about their own lives and contribute to their communities and the world.

Hon Speaker, issues of sanitary towels to schools must not only be the talk of the town. A lot of young girls drop out of school because they are made to suffer the indignity of being teased by their peers when they go through their menstrual cycle. In addition, their schoolwork suffers, because if they cannot afford sanitary products, they have to miss school when they are menstruating. Following the call by President Cyril Ramaphosa for ordinary South Africans and private companies to adopt a school in need, let us all choose to become involved with two rural schools around us because the majority of girls in rural areas do not have access to sanitary towels. Due to the fact that women and girls make up the majority of survivors and victims of GBV, much of the focus of combating GBV pertains to women and girls.

However, this does not mean that men and boys do not experience GBV. Stats on gender-based violence by Statistics South Africa report that 50% of the assaults against women are by someone close to them, 18% a relative or a fellow household member, 15% are an intimate partner or spouse. Women's perception of crime is also another important area that warrants investigation. The perception of whether crime is increasing or decreasing and the level of fear of crime associated with these perceptions are important matters that need to be understood in order to inform policy. Perception is so important that the first half of the NDP Vision 2030 on crime and safety is stated in terms of perception and feeling of safety rather than the actual experience of crime.

In 2020, people living in South Africa feel safe at home and school and enjoy a community life free of fear. Women will walk freely in the street and children play safely

outside. The increasing GBV is not unique to South Africa's lockdown. The UN reports that the increase in domestic GBV against women and girls accelerated during the course of 2020. Food and financial insecurity, social isolation measures and confined social conditions exacerbated physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and economic domestic violence. Again, school closures heightened the GBV risk for girls leading to increased sexual harassment and exploitation as well as child marriages.

While there have been numerous strides to advance women over the past 27 years, many of them particularly Black women in rural areas, continue to be economically marginalised. The full potential of women on the economic front is still to be realised as there are remnants of apartheid and societal obstacles that still continue. The complete integration of women into the economy will go a long way in the fight of the triple challenges of unemployment, inequality, and poverty. According to the Clinton Foundation, which runs women empowerment projects across the world, helping women access greater economic opportunities, increases a family's sources for food, healthcare and education. Despite the many hardships women face, they have always risen in the fight against poverty. When women are empowered families thrive, communities are safer, and economies grow. Women entrepreneurs are known to use profits from their businesses to improve their family's living conditions and lifestyle, more critically, they invest in their children's education which ensures that the cycle of poverty gets broken.

Hon Speaker, I am happy that our government led by one of the biggest liberation movements, the ANC, understands that investing in women is one of the most effective development tools of our time to uplift both women and children.

It stops generational poverty, and in the process stimulates economic growth. Rural women are particularly disadvantaged, both as being poor and being women. Women in both rural and urban areas face a higher risk of poverty and more limited economic opportunities than their male counterparts. The number of rural women living in extreme poverty rose by about 50% over the past 20 years. Women in rural communities live under the same harsh conditions as their male counterparts but experience additional cultural and policy bias which undervalues their work in both informal and if accessible, formal labour markets. The 2009 Rural Survey states that women play an active role in agriculture and rural livelihood as unpaid family labourers, independent farmers and waste labourers, often without access to land, credit, and other productive assets.

Hon Speaker, everyday girls face barriers to education caused by poverty, cultural norms and practices, poor infrastructure, violence and prejudice. According to the World Bank, girls' education is a strategic development priority. Girls' education goes beyond getting girls into schools. Let it be an honour as we commemorate the life and times of Mama Charlotte Makgomo Maxeke, who is the first black female graduate to obtain a BSc degree while it was not fashionable for a black female. As part of the solution, let us continue with the programme of bringing both girl and boy children to work with the intention of teaching them how to live with each other. Hence, most parents are glued to their fields of work most of their time.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the public service has set a shining example with steady progress in integrating women in key decision-making roles. This has, however, not been replicated in the private sector. The status quo of relatively low representation of

women in corporate posts as chairpersons and chief executives is simply not good enough. Empowerment should be a priority to all and can be made a reality if government, business, and civil society work together to move women forward. We want women to take advantage of these available programmes. The time for women to take their rightful place in all sectors of society, especially the economy, is now. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana. Hon Managa, the time is yours.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Every year in August, our country marks Women's Month where we pay tribute to more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest against the extension of pass laws to women. Sadly, there is nothing to celebrate because women in this country are still marginalised and have reduced meaningful participation and contribution in all sectors of the economy. It is men who occupy senior positions in government and in the private sector while there is no political will and determination to change the situation. There are radical and cogent policies to address these challenges that women are facing on daily basis. Women do not enjoy the same constitutional rights as men when they too, were in the forefront of the struggle towards achieving democracy in South Africa. Some of them kept the fires burning, taking care of their children, as wives while their husbands were in the trenches fighting for what now would be called democracy.

Government sets targets for women to be appointed in senior positions, but it is all on paper, well-documented with no implementation. The number of women in these positions is just a handful while there is no proof that such changes will ever happen. Did we ever have a female Premier in our province since the dawn of democracy? No. It is a position reserved only for males, serving and deepening patriarchal tendencies in society hoping that we will get one in future. It is clear that the ruling party holds a view that a woman cannot lead, let alone become the Premier of the province. It is a boys' choir affair kind of arrangement. The EFF begs to differ, because we argue that in fact women have proven themselves to be more capable across all sectors of the economy where they've had an opportunity to lead. Hon Speaker, we do have a few women who have debunked the myth that women can't lead. We have women who excel in whatever position of responsibility they are given, because they have skills and they are smart in many ways than one.

For example, the late Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. This name comes to mind as one of the brave women who led this struggle with bravery, but equally so, more women comrades like Lillian Ngoyi, Charlotte Maxeke and many others are the generation of women who paved the way for what we are today. We enjoy all this freedom, because of their contribution to the struggle for the freedom of South Africa. Ironically, the same people who brought us here, did not get, or enjoy the rights enshrined in the Constitution. Hon Speaker, women are punished or treated as sub-human and inferior compared to men in society. They still cannot be trusted with key strategic positions in society, because of a patriarchal government that doubts their capacity and skills to deliver in good positions.

Gender-based violence remains a problem globally, nationally, as well as here in our province. The Department of Social Development said in 2020 that it handled about 673 cases since lockdown. Just more than 480 of those gender-based violence cases were registered in August alone last year, when the country was celebrating Women's Month. Almost every day, there are reports of a woman been attacked, being raped, or being killed. Recent incidents include the killing of a 20-year-old TVET student, Kgaogelo Shai last year, whose partially decomposed body was discovered in a dry stream at Mokgolobotho village outside Tzaneen. The 32-year-old Grace Mudau of Hamutsha village outside Thohoyandou lost her life allegedly at the hands of her boyfriend.

Hon Speaker, in another incident the 35-year-old Elizabeth Tjiane was found with multiple stab wounds at her home on Sunday at Sterkfontein near Groblersdal. In Limpopo women want to open cases with the police about gender-based violence and all sorts of violence that they are experiencing, but they are told to go back and discuss the matter with their perpetrators.

When a woman or any other person comes to the police station to open a case it must be opened and it must not be dismissed. The blocking of women to open intimate partner violence cases as well as gender-based violence is the reason why gender-based violence is so high in our province. We trust that we have a woman Provincial Commissioner who will protect the women from gender-based violence, and they will be allowed to open cases. We also have confidence in the police and justice system of our country.

Hon Speaker, allow me to conclude by saying we need to stop this femicide by passing laws and cogent policies that will not be kind to the perpetrators. Whoever commits crime against women must know that a harsh sentence is awaiting him. There must be an extent to which they must think twice before committing such crimes. This treatment or this war against women must come to an end, Hon Speaker. Enough is enough, I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. Hon Phala, the time is now yours.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Through this snap debate we are commemorating the 1956 march of approximately 20 000 women to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to petition against the country's pass laws that required black South Africans under the Population Registration Act, 1950 to carry a pass. Its sole purpose being to maintain population segregation, control urbanisation and manage migrant labour during the apartheid era.

The 1956 march took place 65 years ago and this year marks the 26th year of commemorating National Women's Day which was first celebrated on 9 August 1995. As we commemorate Women's Day let us be reminded of the many women who paved the way for us, women such as Annie Silinga who passed away in 1984 having never carried a pass. Her refusal to do so had obviously landed her in trouble. She was

banished to Transkei but successfully appealed and moved her family back to Cape Town. She was also among those arrested in the 1960 state of emergency.

Let us also be reminded of Joyce Sikhakhane-Rankin who was a journalist who wrote about the apartheid regime and how it brutalised black people. We should further be reminded of Ruth First who was also a journalist reporting on the brutal apartheid regime. She also investigated human rights violations in Namibia.

Let us be reminded of Helen Suzman who was instrumental in ensuring better prison conditions for those imprisoned for fighting against the apartheid government. She is also known for using her parliamentary privilege to evade government censorship and pass information to the media about the worst abuses of apartheid.

National Women's Day continues to draw attention towards the past journey and contributions made by our heroines and it further continues to draw attention to issues that women face such as poverty, domestic violence, gender-based violence, unemployment and health dignity.

Hon Speaker, we need the establishment of specialised units within SAPS to combat the issue of human trafficking and gender-based violence, as our police are ill-equipped, undertrained and under-resourced to adequately address these crimes against humanity. We need victim empowerment centres that are well-resourced to assist victims of gender-based violence. As a country, we need to do away with having over 300 000 cases in the DNA backlog. Millions of DNA samples stay unprocessed. Rapists and murderers are having cases thrown out due to this and women as victims of these crimes remain with no justice served.

We need a health system that will provide dignity for women. Two or three cases of women giving birth outside clinics and ambulances arriving late is one too many, while it was the women of this country who played a vital role in getting us the freedom that we so much enjoy today. We also need courts that will ensure that women receive their maintenance money for their kids to assist and lessen the financial burden they face on a regular basis. This Women's Month, let us all take part in celebrating the achievements and progress towards gender equality, but we also play our part to ensure that women achieve socio-economic empowerment, gender equality and defeat gender-based violence and femicide. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. MEC, Hon Rakgoale, you may close the snap debate.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Speaker and Hon Deputy Speaker, the birthday man; Members of the Executive Council present, members of the portfolio committee present, esteemed Members of the august House, good day.

It is a distinct honour and privilege for me to address this august House in celebration of Women's Month. The month of August is one of the most important months of the national calendar. It is indeed during this month that we honour and salute the brave women of the generation of 1956 who led a decisive struggle aimed at overcoming the

deep-seated social, political and economic challenges that confronted the masses of our people. They did this in a peaceful, organised, soft and [terrible audio] mood, as is the way of women of many generations who fought for liberation and recognition of gender equality. South African women, however, have more than one enemy, a form of double oppression, and we celebrate this month under the theme “Generation Equity – Realising Women’s Rights for an Equal Future”. The year 2021 has been declared as the ‘Year of Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke’ by our government.

The concept of generational equity is a global campaign and links South Africa to global efforts to achieve gender equality by 2030. Women’s Month is a tribute not only for the thousands of women who marched on that day in 1956 but also a tribute to the pioneers of the women’s movement in the country dating back to 1913 when women like Charlotte Maxeke led the way in establishing the ANC Women’s League and encouraging women to engage in the struggle for freedom. Pioneers like Cissy Jaynab and Amina Gool were amongst the leaders of the National Liberation League, and the Non-European United Front of the 1930s. During Women’s Month, we celebrate that dedication, courage, and their vision for a world where women and men, boys and girls live together as equals.

Together must continue to practise that women and men in our country can live as equal beneficiaries of development and prosperity. It is only through women’s full and equal participation in areas of public and private life that we can hope to achieve the sustainable, peaceful and just society as promised in our government programme of action. Hon Speaker, allow me to quote Indira Gandhi, the late Indian Prime Minister who remarked that: “By excluding women, men are depriving themselves of a fuller emancipation or growth for themselves.”

She further remarked: “To be liberated, a woman must feel free to be herself, not in rivalry to man but in the context of her own capacity and her personality. We need women to be more interested, more alive, and more active, not because they are women but because they do comprise of half of the human race. Whether they like it or not, they cannot escape their responsibility, nor should they be denied its benefits. Women are traditionally conservative, but they also have the genius of synthesis, to adapt and to absorb. That is what gives them a resilience to face suffering and to meet upheavals with a degree of calm to change constantly and yet remain changeless.” The message was clear that there cannot be sole freedom without the full emancipation and women have the right to participate equally and meaningfully in all spheres of society.

Hon Speaker, the historic march of 1956 was a turning point in the role of women in the struggle for freedom and society at large. Since that eventful day women from all walks of life slowly but surely became equal partners in the struggle, for example for a nonracial, nonsexist South Africa. We are inspired by these women patriots who took up the fight for gender equality and freedom. We are inspired by the likes of Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa, Sophia De Bruyn just to name a few of the core leaders. We must keep alive the flame of hope and progress that these revolutionary women have ignited. We are forever indebted to these women who have fought and provided us with leadership towards equality. I have seen what women in the toughest circumstances can achieve for their families and societies when they are given the opportunity. The strength, innovation and wisdom of women remain humanity’s greatest untapped resource.

In celebrating Women's Month, the government recognises the crucial roles rural women play in reducing poverty, reducing harm on children, and contributing to social stability in their communities. Indeed, we draw strength and inspiration from the brave and courageous heroines who proved to the nation and the world that women have exceptional leadership qualities and the power to change the world. We call upon the women of today to emulate the visionary leadership of the heroines of 1956 who set out to build a safe and secure country for children to live in. On a sad note, I must indicate that women of today are faced with their own challenges as compared to the 1956 generation.

Despite some progress in our country and around the world, women continue to be marginalised, abused and discriminated against and deprived of basic needs because of their sex. The continuing cases of gender-based violence and femicide remain a great concern for us. It is sickening to hear from time to time, that children under the age of five are raped and brutalised. These savage acts of violence and crime eat their way at the moral fibre of our society. The abuse of alcohol in the province is also a serious problem and often leads to domestic violence. Impoverished women and children, especially those from rural communities, are more likely to be victimised, because they have less protection, less privacy, and fewer resources. Gender-based violence is still prevalent and a life-threatening social problem facing our society. This has a negative effect on children who are not directly abused themselves, but who witness abusive behaviour between their parents and grownups.

Just on Tuesday this week, I visited the Leseka family in Mokgolobotho village outside Tzaneen in Mopani District. This is after a 63-year-old man set alight a house with his wife and five children inside. Fortunately, they managed to flee and his wife sustained burn wounds after an argument between the couple. Still in the same district, a woman allegedly stabbed to death her boyfriend with a broken bottle in Majeje village outside Phalaborwa. This is an indication that gender-based violence is not exclusively perpetrated against women only. We must all emulate the 1956 generation in finding peaceful means of solving challenges in relationships and family units. In instances where couples fail to sail through challenges of life, they are advised to approach social workers for professional assistants.

Hon Speaker, allow me to indicate that we have drawn courage on Monday this week, when President Cyril Ramaphosa was delivering his Women's Day message, when he said that: "Government is determined to build a South Africa in which women will enjoy all the rights, all the freedoms and all the liberties that our Constitution guarantees." The President also indicated that although we have gone a long way to empower the women of our country, we still have much further to go.

We, indeed, want to live in a society where our women feel safe and are safe. In the same breath, when our Premier Mathabatha made his welcoming remarks during the Women's Day celebration he emphasised that: "We must never rest for as long as women and girl children continue to become victims of abusive cultural practices. We should not rest for as long as boardrooms in the private sector remain white and male-dominated ..." This then means that government is not resting on its laurels in its efforts to a full realisation of total immensity of human emancipation.

Hon Speaker, in 1984 during the January 8 Statement, the late O R Tambo said: “It will be our special task this year to organise and mobilise our women folk into a powerful, united and active force for revolutionary chain. This task falls on men and women alike – all of us together as comrades in the struggle. Our struggle needs and demands this potentially mighty force. Our strategy will be less than powerful and our national and social emancipation can never be complete, if we continue to treat the women of our country as dependent minors and objects of one form of exploitation or another. Certainly, no longer should it be that a woman’s place is in the kitchen. In our beleaguered country the woman’s place is a battlefield of struggle.” The certainty of his message of our national and social emancipation can never be completed if women continue to be treated as dependent minors and objects of one form of exploitation or another right now.

Honourable Members, as government our focus is to facilitate the empowerment of women to become equal participants in the economic, social and political sphere. Government acknowledges historical inequalities that have disadvantaged women, limiting development opportunities and representation in decision-making positions. However, over the past 25 years of democracy government made deliberate efforts to improve the status of women. We must at all times remember that the historic march of women brought the struggle for women’s rights to the fore at a significant and critical point in the fight for a nonracist, nonsexist South Africa as I already alluded to.

Statistics South Africa tells us that there are more women than men in South Africa. A meet-up of 1 000 people that perfectly represents the country’s population of 56,5 million would consist of 511 women and 489 men, Hon Seshoka. In other words, women comprise 51% of the total population. Despite women making up just over half of the population, they remain relatively underrepresented in positions of authority and power, while the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa sets out gender equality as a founding principle. The Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, 2013 calls for a 50% representation in decision-making positions. This then means that there is still more that needs to be done in order to realise the goal of women emancipation as thought to by those heroines who came before us.

Madam Speaker, the last decade has witnessed remarkable progress for the advancement of women in areas of political representation and women venturing into previously male-dominated fields. Despite this progress, Women’s Month serves as an important reminder of the work that is still to be done. With Mama Charlotte Maxeke being the first black woman to obtain a degree, we have realised that it is beneficial to educate women and girls because they in turn, will ensure the education, healthcare and better nutrition of our children and families. We must support the efforts of women to increase their household incomes by empowering them to start or expand business opportunities because it is much known that women are drivers of sustainable economic development.

Honourable Members, as of present COVID-19 is still existent, and people from all walks of life are affected and infected by the pandemic. Fortunately, we have seen the Department of Health in the province ensuring that our people get vaccinated in greater numbers to minimise the serious effects of the virus and to obtain herd immunity as soon as possible. This is an indication that the ANC-led government is determined to intensify the fight against the pandemic which is threatening to decimate humanity livelihoods. The reintroduction of the R350 special grant by the Department of Social Development is also an effort to ensure that we mitigate the negative impact

brought to us as a result of COVID-19. We sincerely hope that this will boost the morale of our people and encourage them to remain resilient through these trying times.

Madam Speaker, let us work together to ensure that gender inequality, violence against women and children, HIV/Aids, COVID-19, poverty and the leadership role of women in the democratic government remain high priority issues on the agendas of all spheres of government. I know we can work together and achieve justice for all women and create an equitable and gender-empowered world for the present and the future generations. Malibongwe!

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Rakgoale. Thank you very much, Hon Smalle.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let us proceed to item 9. Are there any announcements? [TERRIBLE RECORDING] Maybe it is because of COVID-19, we should have arranged that.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Let us proceed to item 10: Adjournment. This House is adjourned to 07 September 2021 to allow committees to conduct oversight visits. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Let's take this opportunity to observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. Honourable Members, good morning. Ke kgale re tlile ka mo Ntlong, but I know that things will go well.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of Rule 145? There are none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

We then proceed to notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146. There are none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

We then proceed to Members' Statements in terms of Rule 200. There are none.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

6.1. The tabling of the following Departmental/Institutional Annual Reports for the financial year ending 2020/21

I call upon the Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I nearly said Madam Speaker.

**TABLING OF THE 2020/21 DEPARTMENTAL/INSTITUTIONAL ANNUAL
REPORTS**

Allow me to indicate to this august House that annual reports are an important mechanism by which the executive accounts to the provincial legislature on their activities.

Section 65 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999) as amended provides that the executive authority responsible for a department or public entity must table in the National Assembly or a provincial legislature, the annual report and financial statements, and the audit report on those statements, within one month after the accounting officer for the department or the accounting authority for the public entity received the audit report.

Based on that, Speaker, I Seaparo Charles Sekoati, as the Leader of Government Business in this House and on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Council hereby table the Departmental or Institutional Annual Reports for the following departments for consideration by this august House:

- Office of the Premier,
- Department of Education,
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development,
- Department of Provincial Treasury,
- Limpopo Tourism Agency,
- Department of Transport and Community Safety,
- Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure,
- Department of CoGHSTA,
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

The outstanding annual reports are for the following departments and public entities:

- Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities: Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Economic Development Agency,
- Department of Health,
- Department of Social Development,
- Roads Agency Limpopo, and
- Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL).

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Sekoati. These annual reports will be referred to the relevant portfolio committees and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House.

6.2. The tabling of the 2020/21 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature

I call upon the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

TABLING OF THE 2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

I, Essob Mmanoko Mokganyana, rise to table the 2020/21 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature for consideration by this honourable House. This report is tabled in terms of section 60(1) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009, which states that: "The Executive Authority must table the annual report, including the audited financial statement for that financial year, the audit report on those statements and the annual performance report, in Parliament within one month after the Accounting Officer received the audit report."

I move accordingly. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip, Mr Mokgonyana. This annual report will also be referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House.

6.3. The tabling of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, 2022/23 Annual Submission for the Division of Revenue

I call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

TABLING OF THE FINANCIAL AND FISCAL COMMISSION, 2022/23 ANNUAL SUBMISSION FOR THE DIVISION OF REVENUE

On behalf of the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC), I hereby table the 2022/23 Annual Submission for the Division of Revenue. This is done in compliance with the provision of section 220(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, and Section 9(1) of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act of 1997.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. Consideration and Adoption of the following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Administration

Committee chairperson, over to you.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Members of this august House, our esteemed MECs who are present here, members of the opposition party, and the Chief Whip of the majority party. With all powers vested in me by this august House as the chairperson

of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, I, Monama Rodgers, rise here to table the Fourth Quarter Report of the Office of the Premier for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Administration. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as tabled by the committee chairperson.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Phala. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Each honourable Member has been allocated time, starting with Hon Kekana for 10 minutes. Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker of the day. I just rise here on a Point of Procedure because as I am looking here, I am worried about the quorum of this House. As we sit here, do we form a quorum, because I am not so sure that we do. We need to be advised if we are forming a quorum, and if we are not forming a quorum, we should be advised. I just wanted to bring that to your attention. If it's fine, then we are fine.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. We are diligently advised that we are forming a quorum in this august Sitting. Therefore, I think we have the capacity in this Sitting to proceed with the business of the day. Can you continue Hon Kekana?

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to debate on the 2020/21 Fourth Quarter Report from the Office of the Premier for consideration and adoption by the House. Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo; Hon Deputy Speaker, Jeremiah Ndou; Hon Premier, Chupu Mathabatha; all EXCO Members; honourable Members and officials in the House; ladies and gentlemen, thobela.

Hon Speaker, the month November marks an important historic milestone in our country, as the actual birth of the country's new order, although it has been somewhat overshadowed by Mandela's release from prison on 11 February 1990, which ushered the election of the first black president after South Africa's first democratic, non-racial election on 27 April 1994. It was on this month, on 18 November 1993, where South Africa's main political antagonists had concluded their grand bargaining to end one dominion, endorsing a new Constitution that tried to balance majority rule with safeguards to reassure whites and other minorities. These debates also take place at a time when the ANC-led government has just emerged from the local government

elections declared free and fair not only by South Africa, but also international observers. Hon Speaker, the outcome was based on the founding values of democracy, human dignity, the advancement of human rights and the achievement of equality, which have been a guide since the 25 years of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

In his speech on the pronouncement of the results by the IEC, the President of the country, Hon Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa said: "Over the past few weeks we have spent time with South Africans from all walks of life, meeting them in the streets, and being invited into their homes. They told us about leaking houses, electricity cuts, that they were unsafe because of crime and despondent about unemployment." At the same time, they told us about the good work that municipalities, supported by dedicated councilors, Hon Makamu, and the portfolio chairperson Hon Aphiri, are doing in their communities, the infrastructure that has been built in the poorest areas and the essential services delivered to them. As much as we acknowledge the 2020/21 financial year allocated and adjustment budget of R394,2 million to three key programmes in the period under review, the department planned to achieve a total of 28 outputs, targeting the fourth quarter of the 2020/21 financial year, and achieved 25 targets. On average the Office of the Premier achieved a performance of 89%.

On Administration, it is reported that the programme had ten performance indicators and 9 of their targets were achieved. The target for the indicator: Number of Training Programmes provided, could not be achieved due to COVID-19 regulations and restrictions. During the quarter under review, four cases were under investigation and the committee applauds the Office of the Premier for having finalised cases related to the accident of state vehicles and the case of remunerative work outside the public service.

The committee also commends the firm action taken by the Premier against corruption, assisting this Legislature as well as the wider public with opening access to many outstanding forensic investigations which the public have long been calling for. Hon Speaker, the fact that you have been vocal and acting against all odds without fear, favour, and prejudice, whenever the allegation of corruption arises, you remain a cornerstone that the builders rejected. However, the Office of the Premier should especially finalise the case of the recovery of money lost from the three travelling agencies identified for corrupt activities, fraudulent qualifications and the alleged employees doing business with organs of the state, and the one on dereliction of duties, which was still under investigation by the Hawks.

Hon Speaker, in the quarter under review, it is also reported that there were 15 821 vacant funded posts in the province, a scenario which spoke to the Fourth Quarter Report of the 2020/21 financial year by Statistics South Africa, which shows that the official unemployment rate in the province was 27,3%, while the expanded unemployment rate was 47,5%. The majority of the unemployed are the youth, who constitute 57% of the economically active population in the province. The committee also noticed the reduction of employees and the non-filling of vacancies by the departments, which has an adverse effect on employees, forcing them to work excessive working hours outside the Labour Relations Act and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

On Governance and Policy, the Office of the Premier in the fourth quarter of the 2020/21 financial year spent a cumulative 97% of the adjusted budget, which is an underexpenditure of R11,7 million. Much as we understand that we cannot do everything we want at the same time, especially during this period where the economic recovery is rocky due to COVID-19 lockdown measures, and pockets of the recent civil unrests. And worse, with the recent pronouncement by the Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, whereby he pronounced last week Thursday, about the consumer price index, which is the CPIX, which rose from 4,4% to 4,5% in 2021. Hon Premier, it is equally important to fast track the implementation of structural reforms to unlock greater private sector investments, economic growth, and job creation, allowing greater revenue collection, and thus making more comprehensive responses to the challenges we are facing.

During his 2020 State of the Province Address, the Hon Premier urged the provincial government senior officials and political heads to master the art of doing more with less, and he reckoned that this is the only viable alternative at their disposal.

In conclusion, the Office of the Premier must critically look at the following:

- the implementation of clean audit strategies in all the departments and municipalities,
- regular meetings with the Department of Water and Sanitation and water authority municipalities to unlock water challenges with the spirit of the District Development Model taking into cognisance the importance of water and its impact on the economic growth of this country,
- the underexpenditure of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant,
- reconfiguration of all the provincial state entities,
- finalising of all outstanding forensic investigations,
- procurement processes by departments should benefit young people, women, and people with disabilities, and
- The 50% gender parity for senior management positions in all the departments and entities as well as the 2% for people living with disabilities.

I thank you and I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Kekana. We shall now invite Hon Fighter Seshoka.

MR SESKOKA

I am going to the podium to present, but Hon Speaker, I am still worried about the number of ... I want to find out from you and your table, the number of people you have signed in, since I am still having a conviction that we do not form a quorum in this House. Maybe we need to get clarity in terms of what is your quorum and how many are we, because as I am checking here, we are only 22 if not 23.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Before we even proceed, allow us to clear the issue about the quorum.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Chief Whip of the Legislature.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We are 25 in this Sitting. And we have got one resignation and that reduces the Members from 49 to 48. Therefore, we are 25, we have got 50 + 1. We do quorate, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip of the Legislature. Hon Seshoka, can we proceed with the debate?

MR SESHOKA

Ja, before we proceed with the debate, I think the Hon Chief Whip must be factual. We are 23 in this House, not 25 as he is saying. Maybe we must be presented with the attendance register so that we know who is here, because if we do a headcount in here, we are only 23.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Seshoka, as the Chief Whip has already said that, in the beginning of the Sitting, we were 25, and we do not want to speak about the honourable Member who is currently entering the House, because I see that majority of you are looking at the honourable Member because she is coming in. At the time when this Sitting started, we were 25 and reaching the quorum. But now, because a Member had to attend to a certain activity, and it is a technicality that I think honourable Members need to agree that the Sitting must continue because we are focusing on delivering the mandate of our constituency. I think it is in that very same spirit, Hon Seshoka, that this Sitting should continue, and we allow you, Hon Seshoka, diligent as you are, well informed, to continue with the debate for the Sitting. Thank you, Hon Fighter Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I think Hon Makhurupetje saved the day. Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned that the Gateway Airport Authority had not moved from its audit opinion during the period under review. The Provincial Clean Audit Strategy developed by the Office of the Premier is not yielding results because the entities, departments and municipalities continue to perform poorly. The government must develop a workable strategy that will turn things around especially in the audit area.

We also note that the administrator has been appointed in terms of section 139 at Mogalakwena Municipality, but service delivery is still a challenge. The EFF is concerned that such an appointment comes with additional expenses that do not yield

results especially with service delivery. The House must be furnished with a full report on the appointment of this administrator and why he should continue to play the role at that municipality. We need a full progress report, if any.

Furthermore, we are worried that the District Development Model is not properly coordinated, because in the water sector, the Department of Water Affairs is not working cooperatively with the Provincial Government. There is clear lack of integrated planning, and yet you expect the District Development Model to succeed and improve service delivery. Youth, women, and people with disabilities are not benefitting from the procurement processes in this province. Why do you continue to marginalise these groups in society? What have they done to you to deserve such clear and straightforward exclusion? Surely, they too have the right to benefit from procurement processes of government for better livelihood. These painful exclusions are also evident when it comes to appointments in the senior and strategic positions in government. The government is struggling to meet a mere 2% of people with disability, because they think that such positions do not suit them.

It is noteworthy and shocking that about 245 employees were doing business with the state during the period under review. It boggles the mind how these people manoeuvred and dribbled past the government to unlawfully do business with the state, when they are not allowed to do so. Many of these employees do not declare their directorships to their companies, assets, and properties. This is gross non-compliance. The question is: Does consequence management apply in this government? The answer is a straightforward NO. The government is just paying lip service because most people involved in these things are ANC cadres deployed in government. All we hear is that investigations are taking place and that would be the end of the story. The people of Limpopo never get to hear what punitive measures were implemented on those who are accountable. Employees submit fraudulent qualifications, and they get away with it.

The Office of the Premier made a commitment that they will fill the position of head of department in the Department of Education by June 2021, but to date the HOD has not been appointed. This government does not take service delivery and job creation seriously. This is the government that does not keep its promises, the same way as when they campaign for votes. Get elected by unsuspecting citizens only to renege to promises made.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is also disappointed that the indigent registers are not updated in the municipalities to the exclusion of many people deserving free services. We call upon the Office of the Premier to start taking its responsibility in government serious. They must start acting like a coordinating department and provide leadership towards good governance in this province. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Hon Risham Maharaj, the floor is yours.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Our province hit the headlines last week, when Themba Dube, the self-confessed serial killer of at least seven women who were robbed, raped,

murdered, and set alight appeared in the Seshego court. We are fast becoming the rape capital, and the gender-based violence tactical committee that was launched in July 2020 by the Premier with a hefty budget of R17 million needs to step up and implement workable interventions and solutions to combat gender-based violence. The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is around the corner and the Premier owes it to the women and children of this province to report on what has been done by his Executive over the last 16 months.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Administration operates within section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic, read in conjunction with Rule 81(1)(b), (c) and (d) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature. The Office of the Premier has spent 103% of the budget allocated for the fourth quarter. This is because of the failure to spend on the projected expenditures in quarters two and four, because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is concerning that once again the Department of Education has obtained a qualified audit opinion, which has been the status quo for far too long, without any improvement to an unqualified opinion. In addition, it is concerning that GAAL has not moved from its audit opinion. A pattern of expenditure being spent in the fourth quarter for many departments because of the COVID pandemic was also realised. The committee still awaits the scientific analysis on the COVID expenditure trends as advised on by the committee.

Whilst we are aware that an administrator has been appointed in terms of section 139 in the Mogalakwena Municipality, it remains a defunct municipality, failing dismally on the service delivery provisions to the community. The Office of the Premier must table a report to the Public Administration Committee on what the action plans are to remedy this municipality in line with section 139 of the interventions.

Hon Speaker, the committee recommends that the Office of the Premier concludes and produces the report of all investigations including those conducted by the Hawks. The committee further encourages and advises that all departments must spend their allocated budget in accordance with the legislation during the first, second and third quarters of the financial years, as spending all in the fourth quarter could be seen as and argued as fiscal dumping.

Whilst we understand and welcome local institutions of learning to assist with capacity building and research such as the University of Venda and the University of Limpopo, this must always be balanced against the costs of ever-escalating consultancy fees.

The youth position has been vacant for some time and must be urgently filled by the youth directorate. Despite the issue of public office bearers not declaring their interests when doing business with the state, this remains a challenge, and the Office of the Premier must share the report to the Committee on Public Administration in relation to non-compliance of officials as well as the corrective or punitive action taken. In addition, the Office of the Premier must table a report to the Public Administration Committee on the disciplinary cases, the status, and the outcomes of these. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Monama, you may take the stand.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members of the Executive Council of Limpopo; chairpersons of the portfolio committees; honourable Members of this august House; Chief Whip of the majority party, Mr Mokgonyana; and the Deputy Chief Whip, Ms Mochadi, good morning. Madam Speaker, first and foremost we want to take this opportunity as the ANC to commend the leadership of our Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, whom under his capable leadership we are reaping the fruits of good corporate governance. Year after year we were used to grill reports from the A-G about the precarious state of the financial health of our Provincial Administration. Our former President Rolihlahla Mandela once said: "Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do." We must at all material times bear in mind that in every facet of life, intervention is a marathon, not a sprint. Our race for a capable and developmental state is not yet over. Hon Seshoka, the water department does no longer have affairs, but sanitation. We don't have water affairs any longer; we have water and sanitation.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration met with the Office of the Premier on 25 May 2021 for a briefing on the 2020/21 Fourth Quarter Report which explicitly articulated achievements and challenges experienced in attaining the objectives and targets as outlined in the approved Annual Performance Plan and the Budget. For the period under review, the portfolio committee was pleased that the Office of the Premier spending on the fourth quarter budget has drastically improved, which can be attributed to the improvement in attending to the matters of underspending in the previous three quarterly reports. The Office of the Premier spent 103% of the budget allocated for the fourth quarter. In terms of the fourth quarter report, they managed to achieve the implementation of the recommendations of both internal and external auditors and ensured that the reviewing of annual performance plans was implemented, and the Provincial COVID-19 Comprehensive Response is adequate to buffer the disastrous effects of it with the integrated contingency plans to manage the scourge of the pandemic.

Hon Speaker, as enshrined in sections 125 and 127 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the Public Service Act, the role of the OTP is to coordinate the functioning of the Provincial Administration's departments, entities, and municipalities. In practical terms it means that the OTP manages the performance of the Provincial Administration, monitors and evaluates service delivery and governance in the province. We therefore make a clarion call to all and sundry that sustainable solutions are required to prevent accountability failures and ensure consequence management. It is more effective to invest in preventative controls and measures than to deal with the impact of accountability failures such as financial loss, fraud and corruption, the misuse of public resources and poor service delivery. As the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, we therefore implore the Hon Premier to continue to strengthen preventative, detective and corrective control of the auditees that did not achieve clean audits and intensify corrective action and consequence management to deal with deficiencies and non-compliance to sustain and improve outcomes. We also welcome concrete interventions to continue to lead the way in good governance and sound public resource management.

Hon Premier, the portfolio committee takes note of the progress made in the reconfiguration of the provincial state-owned entities as an endeavour to repurpose and reposition the province as a strategic centre of investment. We also commend the OTP for having honoured its commitment to ensure that all departments process legitimate invoices within the prescribed 30 days. It is now incumbent on the Provincial Legislature to sharpen and enhance its oversight tools and capacity to ensure prudent utilisation of the public resources. This beautiful province of ours must at all material times lead in good governance and sound public resource management.

In conclusion, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration recommends to this august House for consideration and adoption of the 2020/21 Fourth Quarter Report of the Office of the Premier. I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Monama. We shall now call upon the Hon Premier to respond to the observations made by honourable Members. Honourable MEC, over to you.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER OF THE PROVINCE]

Thank you, Hon Speaker and thanks to the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Administration, Hon Rodgers Monama. Honourable Members of the august House, let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Premier of the Province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, who is not able to be with us today due to commitments with the American Chamber of Business. They are preparing for that throughout the day and will be having a meeting as the morning starts in the US, in the afternoon.

Hon Speaker, I was listening to some of the issues that were raised by members of the portfolio committee, particularly those that relate to good governance in the province, which is indeed true that the Office of the Premier has that responsibility and mandate to ensure coordination and good governance throughout the provincial departments and entities. Indeed, if you look at the A-G's report, from the previous financial year, you can see that there is some form of improvement in terms of departments where the A-G does not even have any outstanding issues that are being raised out of those reports. We have seen quite an improvement in terms of the audit outcomes. Yes, there might have been some regression here and there but overall, there is some improvement, and we believe that with the path that we have taken, where various departments, the executing authorities, the accounting officers are taking responsibility in ensuring that there is consequence management for those that are not doing as expected.

Yes, we are still lacking in various areas. If you look at the issues of procurement where we ultimately end up with unwanted expenditures, those are the areas that we need to tighten up. We are also aware that we need to make sure that we strengthen internal controls and further ensure that there are improvements in relation to the audit information that is being given to the A-G. We believe that as we strengthen the administration, we should ensure that all departments ultimately improve.

Hon Speaker, we are aware that over the few years there were some austerity measures that were undertaken in the province, particularly with fiscal consolidation,

where most of the departments could not appoint officials that were supposed to be in there. We are slowly but surely ensuring that those departments that were affected by the austerity measures, are going to be allowed to fill those vacant posts that were not filled over the previous years. We believe that we will be able to assist various departments to ensure that they do as expected, but also making sure that there is good governance in the province.

Yes, there are a number of investigations that are out there. We know that part of our challenge is that investigations do take a long period to be concluded. Those are some of the areas that the Office of the Premier is looking into and thus ensuring that we can shorten the period and ensuring that consequence management is applied. The public cannot wait to see those that are in the wrong receiving what they are expected to receive. However, we will ensure that we do get the report on the investigations and furnish it to the portfolio committee. We will ensure that the report is made available. It is not as if there is nothing happening, there are areas where officials have been found in the wrong, where moneys have been recovered, and where consequences have been meted out to some of those officials.

I hope through the interaction of the Office of the Premier and the portfolio committee, such a report should be able to be accessed so that Members of the House can see that action is being taken. To ensure that such happens, the Premier, through the agreement he has with Members of the Executive Council, is to ensure that Members of the Executive Council take action against officials that are found wanting. We believe that we would be able to improve on that score. I think most of the issues were related mostly to good governance, consequence management and on areas where there is no cooperation between the province and the national Department of Water and Sanitation. As a province we have held a meeting with the Minister, and I think it was last month in October when the Minister and the Deputy Minister were in the province. Even last week they were in the province to ensure that we are able we work together to ensure that our people have access to water to quench their thirst, which has been a problem in this province for a long time. So, there is that working relation, and we believe that most of those major projects which have not been completed, would be completed. Also, the partnership between the water authorities and the private sector should assist us make headways, in terms of areas that had water problems.

The Premier of this province does take the issues of water very serious, and we believe that with the effort he is making and the commitment that is there from all stakeholders, we should be able to make it part of history and put it behind us.

Once again, let me thank the portfolio committee for their cooperation and leadership and we are hoping that through continued interaction we will ensure improvement in those areas that have been raised as concerns.

I think the MEC for CoGHSTA would be the most relevant person to bring that report in its entirety on the section 139 intervention in the Mogalakwena Municipality. For us to be able to understand the issues of Mogalakwena, we need a comprehensive report. We must understand that it is not only the administrator alone who can turn the municipality around; we needed all other stakeholders including the councillors and the team that was working in Mogalakwena. From government's side, we also had our own shortcomings, particularly in terms of the teams that we are sending. Presently

you have got to apply to the Minister of Public Service and Administration for you to get additional staff that you can deploy to some of these municipalities where there are interventions. If you are not able to get such an approval from the Minister of Public Service and Administration, you will then find yourself wanting in terms of assembling the team you may need for deployment that will turn the situation around.

One of the lessons learnt is that you cannot send in such municipalities where interventions are needed, one or two people, and hope that you will be able to bring stability. At the moment we have got teams that come from the Provincial Treasury and COGTA, but that composition is not enough to deal with the issues of Mogalakwena. One other challenge is the instability of the administration itself, where you find there are threats against some of those administrators and so on. I think there should be a time when the MEC will be able to bring a report to this House in terms of the intervention in Mogalakwena. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC. We shall now move to item 7.2: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Administration on the 2021/22 First Quarter Report. The chairperson of the committee, Hon Monama, please take the podium.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker of the day. I am the honourable Member of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration. With all powers vested in me by this august House as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, I rise to table for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, the First Quarter Report of the 2021/22 Financial Year, Vote 01: Office of the Premier.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Monama. We shall call for a seconder. Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as tabled by the committee chairperson on Provincial Administration. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Phala. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and invite Hon Managa to open the debate.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Che Selane, for the time to participate in today's debate the 2021/22 First Quarter Report of the Office of the Premier. Greetings to the MECs

present, chairpersons of different portfolio committees, my colleagues at the opposition side, and all other Members gathered in this august House today.

Hon Speaker, the infrastructure projects in this province are not being taken seriously as expected, hence they are met by all sorts of anomalies. This applies to projects in municipalities, government departments and entities across the entire Provincial Government of Limpopo. A typical example is what is currently happening in Makhuduthamaga Municipality, where a tender to construct a tarred road from GaMashabela to GaMatshatsha was awarded to a company called Stonefound. The road in question is still under construction, but there is no value for money and quality there. The work that is being done there is substandard and mediocre. The bridges installed on the road leave much to be desired. The tarred road is low lying, when in fact, we expect it to be high lying to avoid stormwater disasters. It is clear that the road will be swept away due to heavy rainfall and would put the lives of motorists and pedestrians at risk. Some of the subcontractors working on this road do not even have tax certificates and are therefore not tax compliant. They do not even have a SARS taxation number which means they are not legitimate businesspeople. Indian companies have also fronted black people on this project, instead of prioritising local black companies for empowerment and growth.

Hon Speaker, there is no reason to celebrate clean audits wherever they are achieved, because it is not through the efforts of those departments. In the main, these audit outcomes are consultant driven. The EFF government will build a state in order to do away and abolish consultant systems. Government must have full capacity to perform its own functions as outlined in the EFF Constitution, the Seven Cardinal Pillars.

Therefore, the majority of government departments, entities and municipalities are still found wanting on fruitless and wasteful expenditures as well as unauthorised expenditure. The Department of Education is the worst performer when it comes to the audit outcomes, and it seems like the situation will remain the same forever, because there is no political will to turn the situation around. The money that is being wasted can go a long way in addressing service delivery challenges in our province.

The EFF is disturbed that there are still officials who are still conducting business with the state at the Department of Health. The issue of people doing business with the state has been raised over and over again as a matter of concern, but it continues to raise its ugly head.

Hon Speaker, this House must be furnished with a full progress report within seven working days detailing the names of these officials who are doing business with the state when the law does not allow them to do so. The report must also indicate what punitive measures or consequence management has been implemented to counteract these misconducts. But we will not be surprised if nothing happens to these people, because this government is not a fan of consequence management. We are being presided over by the government of a laissez-faire that only adores and admires a banana republic arrangement, where everyone just do as they wish.

This House must be provided with a full final report on the laptops that were stolen at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Such an embarrassment must never be allowed to happen again under your watch, because clearly you have

demonstrated that you cannot be trusted with the stewardship of the assets of our people.

The quarterly achievement of 21% instead of 25% to the straight-line projection is disappointing, because indeed, we expected the Office of the Premier to lead by example in this province. It is not surprising to see the government departments, entities as well as municipalities performing poorly. They lack a role model coordinating department, which is the Office of the Premier. The Office of the Premier does not inspire hope to the people of Limpopo, especially the youth, the women, people with disabilities, as well as the poor, the marginalised groups.

The EFF government, in conclusion, will prioritise those marginalised groups in society and open economic opportunities for them in order to restore their dignity. Thank you, Hon Speaker, I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Managa. We shall now invite Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Portfolio Committee on Administration operates within section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic, read in conjunction with Rule 81(1) (b), (c) and (d) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature. The Integrated Development Plan was adopted in the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee heard that the Integrated Development Plan will create more jobs through infrastructure projects and will ensure that people access a better life for all. However, how this will be achieved was not tabled, and what the actual plan is, and how many jobs will be created have not been clearly indicated. While the committee heard about plans on cleaning up the departments, entities and municipalities by the end of the financial year, it is incumbent upon the Office of the Premier to provide a status report on this project. The creation of a hub for Provincial Treasury to assist in building capacity for provincial departments is welcome, and hopefully we will see a reduction in fruitless and wasteful expenditure, as well as corruption and looting.

We welcome the improvement of the various departments in terms of achieving clean audits for the financial year 2020/21, however there are still too many municipalities that need to improve. The 14 municipalities that have improved to unqualified audit opinions should be an example to others, that with the right political will and policy guidance, they can also achieve. We also welcome and will hold the Premier to his assurances that all departments that received unqualified audit opinions will improve to attain clean audits in the 2020/21 financial year, and that consequence management will play a more significant role for all departments that are regressing.

The Talana residential debacle and embarrassment still remains unresolved and there appears resistance to the relevant persons performing their functions in speedily resolving the issue. The committee recommended that the Transitional Residential Unit programme by the Department of Human Settlements be applied, and that the programme be raised for discussion during the intergovernmental relations meeting.

The Public Administration Committee must be furnished with a status report on how this is going.

Despite the issue of officials doing business with the state, this has been addressed and reported on numerous occasions, it still concerns us that there are officials who conduct business with the Department of Health. A detailed report on this is yet to be furnished to the Public Administration Committee and must be complied by forthwith. The committee still awaits an update on what the situation is on the laptops that were stolen from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The incubation of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone is a surprisingly long one. We were surprised when President Ramaphosa stated that Limpopo is open for business in September this year, during the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone Investors Roadshow. Big promises of 800 000 jobs by LEDA at the Lekkerdak Public Participation in October and stark contrast with the realities of the project. The refusal by LEDA and EnviroXcellence to answer direct questions during an online public participation session on 4 October 2021 raised many eyebrows and engulfed the project into even more controversy and suspicion and reaffirmed LEDA's incompetence.

Rather than to chant jobs, jobs, jobs, we urge you to take control of this project as the unrealistic expectations created by LEDA have become an embarrassment to this House.

The people of Limpopo need real jobs now, not empty promises by the bureaucracy. It is time for your executive to take accountability for this project and to set clear and realistic timeframe that LEDA must comply with or get the boot. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. We shall now call upon Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

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

Hon Speaker, I think cognisance should be taken at this political conjecture our country is confronted with serious financial constraints for equitably share her fiscus amongst the three spheres of government to sustainably address the socioeconomic needs of our citizenry. These chronic fiscal constraints emanate from the weak economic growth exacerbated by the scourge of novel COVID-19 pandemic. Our province is not immune from these deep-seated structural reforms and downwards economic growth.

Our take as the portfolio committee is that all APPs and Budget presented in this august House depict a brighter picture that this ANC-led province is poised for development trajectory that reflects a steady progress in infrastructure investment, building cohesive sustainable and caring communities with improved access to social immunities which is a precursor for sustainable livelihood. Undoubtedly, the ANC-led

government has made substantial progress since 1994 and acknowledged that more still needs to be done. We are emphatic that the APPs are just expressions of deliverables, but as a portfolio committee we are more robust in ensuring that we move from expression to practical action which will have impactful contribution on the livelihood of our people.

The 2021/22 financial year's APP and Budget, we said that it must assist us to respond pragmatically so that we don't incur unwanted expenditure but tangible deliverables with clearcut value for money for projects and programmes. The ANC-led government has resolved to put clean and accountable governance and has to find expressions on how we translate this funded plan into practical action. It is in this context the Acting Premier that on 18 August 2021, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration was briefed by the Office of the Premier on the 2021/22 first quarter report. This was meant to bring concrete intervention measures in meeting the primary objectives for rolling back the quagmire of triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. However, the portfolio committee noted with concern that the office managed to achieve 21% of the quarterly targets which is quite worrying on the straight-line projection.

Therefore, the portfolio committee recommended that the office has to improve in that regard and put more efforts by ensuring that in the second quarter it achieves its quarterly targets and increase the percentage to compensate what has been lost in the first quarter report. The portfolio committee is also commending the chairperson of the Provincial Command Council in terms of leading by example on COVID-19 vaccine rollout programme where other provinces are even benchmarking with us on the best practices and lessons.

Hon Speaker, for this financial year we are also saying as the portfolio committee that GAAL cannot continue as it is business as usual. The board of directors must undertake business reengineering process and put together comprehensive and credible plans for ensuring that the airport, which is the pride for our province, is revived and run sustainably.

The portfolio committee is looking forward to witness exponential improvement by the provincial departments of paying legitimate invoices within the prescribed 30 days as we have reported in the fourth quarter. We want to commend that the reconfiguration process of the provincial state-owned entities has to be accelerated and fast-tracked in order to reposition our province at the highest economic trajectory. Unwanted expenditure will be drastically eliminated and improved financial health of the departments, state entities and municipalities realised.

Having considered 2020/21 first quarter report, the portfolio committee duly accepts the report. The Portfolio Committee on Public Administration accordingly requests the House to adopt the report as presented reflecting the Office of the Premier's performance during the period under review. I, therefore, move that the report be adopted as the report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

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

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER]

Thank you once again, Hon Speaker, the chairperson of the portfolio committee and members of the committee, let me once again accept the counsel from the portfolio committee and assure the august House of our commitment to take into consideration the issues that have been raised when dealing with programmes of government. However, it would be important just to clarify a few things that have been raised and having accepted the counsel by the members of the portfolio committee. I think it should be taken into cognisance that the issue of the usage of consultants by the provincial government is non-existent as it comes to audit reports. Yes, we do have consultants that are being utilised by various municipalities, but we have seen a reduction in terms of the utilisation of those consultants. There are very few municipalities that are using consultants.

From the Provincial Treasury, we are sending out personnel to various municipalities to assist in various ways in those municipalities and we continue to build capacity so that we can support municipalities in terms of the constitutional imperatives.

Yes, we do have officials that are still doing business with the state, but we continue to make assessments annually, and officials do make an undertaking in terms of them not doing business with the state. We also have the Public Service Commission assisting the government to ensure that we are able to trace such people.

Officials of the state emanate from the society and that tells us about the societal values. It should not be the responsibility of government to trace people or follow such people who do business with the state; it should be out of the values that we have as a society to remain honest to ourselves and to those that are employing us. However, we do take counsel in the sense that we are continuously ensuring that those that are found to be doing business with the government are undergoing disciplinary processes. I have already said that the portfolio committee will be given a status report on the matter.

The report on the stolen laptops in the Department of Agriculture, I also know that we have finalised the report and it is with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. They are in a process of ensuring that disciplinary measures are undertaken against such officials who might be found warranting in that regard.

The issue of Talana, we all know it is public knowledge and that it is a matter of the SIU investigations and such processes are underway also. We should be able to know exactly how far they are. I'm sure after having received the report, we would also be able to finally give progress report in terms of the internal processes that have unfolded within the relevant department.

The issues of job creation in the province are pertinent matters that need to be looked at from time to time, particularly as we are faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. We would make sure that LEDA and all other state entities are properly reconfigured and positioned to enable them to undertake the mandate of contributing towards the growth of the economy and ensuring that as we improve on the growth of the economy, we are also ensuring that the number of jobs created in the province is actually increasing

and that our people are becoming part of this growing and inclusive economy we would look like to create as a province.

Once again thank you for the leadership of the honourable chair of the portfolio committee and members of the committee. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC. [BACKGROUND NOISE] Honourable Members, can we maximise the high level of discipline. The House is still in session and likewise it is normal for a person to visit the bathroom and come back. There is nothing wrong about that. It is advisable for honourable Members to start the meeting on a good point and assist me to run this House effectively.

7.3. Consideration and Adoption of the Following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Administration

7.3.1. The Report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on Compliance with the Constitutional Values and Principles governing the Public Administration

Over to you, honourable committee chairperson.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I don't know where we open a criminal case if honourable Members steal other people's water in the House. [LAUGHTER]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Order, honourable Members!

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, with all the powers vested in me by this august House, I rise, as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, to table the report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on the compliance with the constitutional values and principles governing Public Administration for the 2017/18 financial year. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable chairperson. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, stand to second the chairperson, Hon Monama, on the presentation of the report. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Seono.

7.3.2. The Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Treasury on Compliance with the Constitutional Values and Principles for the 2017/18 financial year

Over to you, honourable committee chairperson.

MR MONAMA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, rise to table the report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Treasury on compliance with the constitutional values and principles for the 2017/18 financial year. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable committee chairperson. We shall now move to item 7.3.3: The Report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Health. Thank you, honourable Members for the reminder in good spirit. Can we call for the seconder of the report tabled above? I recognise Hon Seshoka. There is nothing wrong to second. Hon Selamolela, may you please second for us.

MR SELAMOLELA

Yes, there is nothing wrong with Hon Seshoka seconding. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand to second the honourable chairperson on the presented report. I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Selamolela, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on LEDET.

7.3.3. The Report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Health on Compliance with the Constitutional Values and Principles Governing Public Administration for the 2017/18 financial year

Honourable committee chairperson, the floor is yours.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I think you are expecting too much from Hon Seshoka. He does not know what we are talking about here. It is a high standard report that he must listen to.

I rise as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration to table a report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Health on compliance with the constitutional values and principles governing Public Administration for the 2017/18 financial year. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable committee chairperson. Can we call for the seconder? I recognise Hon Manamane Mohlala. I thought you have raised a hand to second. Can we call upon Hon Mochadi to second?

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the report presented by the portfolio committee chairperson. I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mochadi.

7.3.4. The Report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Community Safety against Constitutional Values and Principles governing Public Administration for the 2017/18 financial year

The committee chairperson, it is your turn once more.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. With all the powers vested in me by this august House, I rise to table a report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the then Department of Community Safety against constitutional values and principles governing Public Administration for the 2017/18 financial year. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Monama. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mokaba-Phukwana.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to support the report presented by the chairperson of Public Administration.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana.

7.3.5. The Report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Transport on Compliance with the Constitutional Values and Principles governing Public Administration for the 2017/18 financial year

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. With all the powers vested in me by this august House, I rise to table a report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of

Transport on compliance with the constitutional values and principles governing Public Administration for the 2017/18 financial year. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Monama. Can we call for a seconder? I notice Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand to second the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of Public Administration, Hon Monama, for the report he presented with the powers vested in him. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Selamolela.

7.3.6. The Report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of CoGHSTA against Compliance with the Constitutional Values and Principles governing Public Administration for the 2017/18 financial year

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. With all the powers vested in me by this august House, as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, I rise to table the report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs against compliance with the constitutional values and principles governing Public Administration for the 2017/18 financial year. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Monama. Can we get a seconder? Hon Katlego Phala, is that a hand? Okay, I recognise Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the report presented by the portfolio committee chairperson, Hon Rodgers Monama. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Mochadi.

7.3.7. The Report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure on Compliance with the Constitutional Values and Principles Governing Public Administration for the 2017/18 financial year

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. With all the powers vested in me by this august House, as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, I rise to table the report on the Quantitative Evaluation of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure on compliance with the constitutional values and principles governing Public Administration for the 2017/18 financial year. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable chairperson. Can we get a seconder? I recognise Hon Kekana.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to second the report as presented by Hon Rodgers Monama. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Kekana.

7.3.8. The Report on the Assessment of the State of Human Resources in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

Committee chairperson, the floor is yours.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much. I am being intimidated by Hon Seshoka that ke bolela Sekgowa go feta le makgowa.

With all the powers vested in me by this august House, as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, I rise to table the report on the Assessment of the State of Human Resources in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Monama. Can we call for a seconder? I notice Hon Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here to second the report as presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Monama. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje.

7.3.9. The Report on the Assessment of the Section 100(1)(b) impact within the Limpopo Provincial Government Departments for the 2017/18 financial year

Committee chairperson, the floor is yours.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. With all the powers vested in me by this august House, I rise as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, to table a report on the Assessment of the Section 100(1)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa as the supreme authority in this country, the impact within the Limpopo provincial government departments for the 2017/18 financial year. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable chairperson. Can we call for a seconder? I notice Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the report presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Rodgers Monama. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mochadi.

7.3.10. The Report in Terms of Section 196(4)(e) of the Constitution read with Section 196(6) from 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 financial year

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. With all the powers vested in me by this august House, I rise to table a report in terms of what is enjoined by Section 196(4)(e) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) read with Section 196(6) from 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 financial year. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Monama. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second the honourable chairperson of the portfolio committee on the presentation of the report. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Seono.

7.3.11. The Report of the Factsheet on Financial Disclosure Framework for the 2017/18 financial year. Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. With all the powers vested in me as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, I rise to table a report on the factsheet conducted by the Public Service Commission which is a Chapter 10 Institution on the financial disclosure framework for the 2017/18 financial year. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable chairperson. Can we call for a seconder? I notice Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thanks very much. I, Simon Mathe ... [INTERJECTION]

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Chairperson. I hope the Chairperson was looking at me. Kindly indicate which Mathye was invited to second?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Yes, it is difficult. Let me prioritise women. It is fine, you can second Hon Mathye.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee. Thanks, Chairperson.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you for that progressive move, Hon Mathye. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Mohlala Manamane.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings to the Hon Speaker and to the House. The role of monitoring and evaluation in public sector is to assist in scientific evaluation of performance and resource allocations and usage. It further helps in identifying the challenges during the course of executing departmental mandates and improvements thereof.

To date, assessing departments in Limpopo is impossible to identify one which can serve as a replica or a model of success. Year after year, we are observing the same issues and patterns which negatively affect performance of departments and such challenges are not resolved.

The turnaround time in terms of filling vacancies in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development remains a problem. Worse is that when it is done those responsible flex their muscles and recruit those patriarchal lines to the exclusion of women and people living with disability. Good human resource management includes a conducive environment wherein career development and empowerment accommodate all South Africans, especially those who were historically marginalised. Harsh actions must be taken against those who fail to reach targets on empowerment of women.

On CoGHSTA, we urge the delegated authority to take specific measures and consequence management in case there is continuous failure on curbing the high values of fruitless and wasteful as well as irregular expenditures. Senior Management Service (SMS) members must be warned that no delays will be tolerated in submitting on time their performance agreements and publishing of information that enables public to scrutinise the Department of CoGHSTA.

The Department of Health should be embarrassed that despite the fact that it was led by the women for many years, the PSC found that women remained woefully underrepresented in management levels. This include people living with disability. The targets are never met and it is clear there is no intention to meet the targets. In less than 12 months, the department must meet the target on employment of women and people living with disability at the SMS level. Every quarter there must be practical actions undertaken and reported.

The people of Limpopo deserve to know that the ANC-led government has got no interest whatsoever to ensure that the imbalances of the past are redressed. This fact is presented by the reality that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is struggling to meet the 50% target on women representation at SMS level. With a saddening and disappointing 35% of women representation at SMS level, the ANC-led government should be ashamed and stop pretending as if they care about women of this province. The ANC-led government is insulting women who despite doing daily multiple household chores, they still make time and space to study. Some have been in the system for many years and are being ignored. The department must meet this target within six months without further delays and lame excuses.

On Community Safety, since April 2021 the department made a commitment to the PSC and noting the audit findings that it will resolve the issue of payment of suppliers within a 30-day period. Can the department provide a report on the compliance with legislation in relation to the payment of invoices within 30 days? The delays in paying invoices have and continue to collapse lots of emerging businesses and serious consequences are a necessity to those who continue to disregard the law and sabotaging South Africans who are in business.

It is interesting that the people of Limpopo were never given an open accountability in terms of the so-called section 100(1)(b) intervention. Given the frustrations and confusions amongst the executive authority and SMS individuals during that period, it warrants a detailed and honest report which will enable us to make informed conclusions. Did the provincial government experience any unplanned additional costs and debts which the public was not informed about? [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

You are left with one minute.

MR MOHLALA

If so, did the administrators of section 100(1)(b) follow SCM principles when awarding projects? The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture specialises with nepotism and all manners of negativity with regard to the employment of relatives and unqualified persons. The department should be given an award for undermining good governance and its prescripts. There should be a timeframe for reversal on unlawful employments and all those who participated in the scheme of robbing government must be severely punished.

The report we want quarterly is how many unqualified people were removed and who was arrested internally for [inaudible]. It would be a miracle for the department to perform in accordance with the Constitution and various legislation when Treasury has a high vacancy rate and takes forever to fill critical positions. These issues cause capacity challenges which affect the financial management of public funds at all levels. How many vacancies were filled since the report was submitted and what is the gender parity and analysis of those who were employed. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Manamane 'Fighter' Mohlala. We shall then call upon, Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Portfolio Committee on Public Administration plays a critical role in ensuring that our departments and entities are placed effectively to the benefits of the people of Limpopo. This role also includes ensuring that these institutions improve themselves on an ongoing basis. The importance of this portfolio committee and important work it does is diminished when important reports for a range of departments from the 2017 to 2018 are only debated in this House four years later. It simply reduces debates that might have actually been helpful documents to now debating them merely as a tick box exercise. Disclosures remain a challenge in our provincial departments. Nevertheless, the executive authority of the Department of Health did not submit their financial disclosure in the 2017/18 financial year. Four SMS members from the Department of Education submitted their financial disclosure after the due dates; eight SMS members of the provincial departments did not disclose their properties during the 2017/18 financial year; 43 SMS members of the provincial departments did not disclose their directorships of their companies for the 2018/19 financial year; and a total number of 25 SMS members did not disclose directorship of companies by the due date of 30 April 2020 for the 2019/20 financial year.

The committee recommended that all SMS members should disclose their registrable interests by 30 April of each year to their executive authorities. The Provincial Legislature has a role to play and needs to ensure that the executive authorities sign and submit their disclosure forms to the PSC by the due date.

Hon Speaker, the committee's considerations on the quantitative evaluation of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs against the constitutional evaluation and principles governing Public Administration highlighted the need to prioritise the selection of suitable African and female candidates for current and forthcoming Senior Management Service level posts. It also highlighted measures on the high values of fruitless and wasteful expenditure and irregular expenditure that must be implemented so as to avoid further losses in the forthcoming years.

The recommendations to the Department of Safety was to improve on the compliance of legislation in relation to paying the invoices within 30 days. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture had challenges with the recruitment and selection policy that continues to employ or appoint people who do not qualify. These were the concerns regarding employment equity in the departments. The committee recommended that human resources should ensure that the personnel suitability checks are conducted before making appointments and that they need to review the existing policies and procedures.

In the Department of Transport, the committee noted the struggle to achieve the targets for the representation of women in the SMS level and the recruitment of people with disability despite over 90% of African representation in the SMS level. The recommendation was to devise effective strategies in ensuring that there are women representations at SMS level and on the recruitment of people with disability as well as a proactive approach organisation representing people with disability to stimulate interests.

The committee was concerned with capacity challenges in the Provincial Treasury department highlighted by high vacancy rates, high turnover of senior managers and long periods in filling vacancies of critical posts. The recommendation was the development of a clear decisive recruitment drive intervention guided by the Human Resource Plan for the 2018/19 financial year to address all capacity challenges. These are all very important input on the challenges across various departments in the 2017/18 financial year. Again, Hon Speaker, it is a shame that they are only debated in the House today. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. We shall now call upon Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I thought you will call Hon Mohlala to order because he was reading a wrong script. The discussion and the debates was about the Quantitative Evaluations of the Public Service Commission. Hon Speaker, honourable Members of this august House, Members of the Executive Council, chairpersons of the portfolio committees, the Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Mmanoko Essob Mokgonyana, first and foremost, we want to seize this opportunity as the ANC-led government to applaud and commend the Public Service Commission for having undertaken its constitutionally mandated function to conduct investigations on whether members of the Senior Management Services have disclosed their financial and registrable interests, that is, your company cars, trusts, consultancies and properties

as SMS members have a responsibility to maintain at all material times ethical standards.

Corporate governance is about propriety, efficiency, responsibility, transparency and accountability. Section 195 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides that the Public Service Administration must be governed by the democratic values and principles which comprise high standards of professional ethics which must be promoted and maintained. It is difficult to imagine a more gregarious transgression of the established norms of professional conduct. What is contained in the Public Service Commission report is mere casual and momentary lapse of judgement. Obviously, it was carefully calculated and zealously pursued by these high-ranking officials.

For the period under review, it is stated in those reports that 48 members of the Senior Management Service did not honestly disclose their directorship to companies for the year under review. The Public Service Commission identified actual conflicts of interest involving direct conflict of public service official's current duties and responsibilities and existing private interests. The existence of actual conflict of interest posed an impermissible conflict of interest with the relevant public interest that they have a duty to protect. For instance, an SMS member had a company registered on the database of service providers of his or her employing department. In one instance, one of the accounting officers did not honestly declare his or her directorship which might be a violation of his or her responsibility. This is the matter that Hon Sekoati has to be investigated and the consequence management imposed.

Our former President Thabo Mbeki once said, "Gloom and despondency have never defeated adversity. Trying times need courage and resilience. Our strength as a people is not tested during the best of times. As we said before, we should never become despondent because the weather is bad nor should we turn triumphalist because the sun shines." It is therefore incumbent upon the executive authorities or the MECs for the following departments to implement all the recommendations as contained in the PSC reports on the quantitative evaluations:

- The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Provincial Treasury;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Transport and Community Safety;
- Department of CoGHSTA;
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure; and
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

We also want to know how possible is it that when the SMS, as per that report, cannot account on the number of the properties that he or she is having in terms of the CIPS report, but also the number of the cars that this person is possessing at that level. That's one issue that I think has been accentuated by the PSC report. A well-known author Hunter S. Thompson asserted: "A man who procrastinates in his choosing will inevitably have his choice made for him by circumstance." The affected departments must furnish the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration on quarterly basis with updated action plans to implement the recommendations of the committee.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration recommends to this august House for consideration and adoption of the 2018/19 report of the Public Service Commission as one of the institutions to promote and

maintain a high standard of professional ethics in the democratic dispensation. I so move. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

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

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER]

Hon Speaker and the august House, we are indeed certain that the report and the recommendations from the Public Service Commission that speaks about principles and values of the Constitution are meant for all of us. We must ensure that we continuously uphold the highest standards in terms of those values in ensuring that there is professional ethics and efficient and economic use of resources allocated to the state. As we comply with those values and principles, we need to ensure that we do engender issues of human dignity. We also need to make sure that through the provision of services to our communities, we continuously build equality amongst our people. Those are some of the principles that are enshrined in the Constitution. We do accept fully that we will have to look at those that do not conform to those principles. We can confirm also that various executing authorities responsible for those relevant departments will take up those issues as recommended by the Public Service Commission and adopted by this House. By so doing, we will be upholding those principles and values and thus ultimately conforming to human dignity and ensuring that our people are continuously in a state of development and are able to enjoy quality services from this progressive government.

Once again, I would like to thank the committee for ensuring that as a provincial government and on behalf of the Premier, we are able to ultimately receive those recommendations and making sure that we don't only receive them, but we also ensure the implementation of those recommendations. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC. I think honourable Members, we should note and consider the fact that certain questions were responded to by the honourable MECs.

8. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

On item 8.1: Question 02, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 28 of the 2020/21 financial year for the written reply have been responded to by the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development and therefore are disposed of. Question 16, 26, 27 and 28 of the 2020/21 financial year for the written reply have been responded to by the MEC for Social Development and are therefore also disposed of.

9. NCOP BUSINESS

The first one deals with the motion for the ratification of the appointment of the special delegates who attended the NCOP Virtual Plenaries. We shall call upon the Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana to take the podium.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES WHO ATTENDED THE NCOP PLENARIES (Motion for Ratification)

Section 61(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa read together with House Rule 226(3) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House provides for the designation and appointment of Special Delegates as required from time to time.

In line with these provisions, the following honourable Members were appointed to attend the following virtual NCOP plenaries when the House was not sitting.

- 20 August 2021: Consideration of the Report of Select Committee on COGTA; Water and Sanitation and Human Settlements on the intervention issued in terms of Section 139(1)(c) of the Constitution, 1996 in the O R Tambo District Municipality. Members who were appointed to attend are: Hon M J Aphiri; Hon J B O Marule; and Hon N S Monyamane.
- 25 August 2021: Debate on the recent public violence, looting and destruction of property: “Peace, stability and rebuilding beyond the public violence, looting and destruction of property”. Members who were appointed to attend are: Hon M R Seono; Hon N G Kekana; and Hon G R Monama.
- 26 August 2021: Questions to the Deputy President. Members who were appointed to attend are: Hon R R Molapo; Hon A J D Ndou; and Hon E M Mokgonyana.
- 27 August 2021: 2021 Women’s Parliament: “The Year of Charlotte Manny Maxeke – Advancing Gender Equality through inclusive Economic Growth and the Precepts of a Capable Developmental State.” Members who were appointed to attend are: Hon M A Mokaba-Phukwana; Hon M G Makhurupetje; and Hon M R Seono.
- 01 September 2021: Debate on the township economy: “Building a self-reliant and vibrant township economy.” Members who were appointed to attend are: Hon S D Selamolela; Hon S M Mochadi; and Hon S M Mathe.
- 02 September 2021: Debate on Heritage Month: “United in our diversity and rich cultural heritage – The path to constructing a non-racial, non-sexist united and prosperous democratic society”. Members who were appointed to attend are: Hon M C Mahasela; Hon S V Mathye; and Hon C B D Selane.
- 09 September 2021: Debate on the evolution of South African Police Service. Members who were appointed to attend are: Hon M R Seono.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolves to ratify the appointment of the abovementioned special delegates in line with the abovementioned provisions.

I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Can we also call for a seconder? Hon Seshoka, is that a hand? Okay, honourable Member. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Maseko, you are recognised.

MR MASEKO

I, Maseko Jerry, rise to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip of the House. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Maseko.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honourable Members, I must also take this opportunity to make a few announcements. It is quite unfortunate that the honourable Member whom were supposed to obviously announce has just left, I think, due to some commitments, the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Masemola. Can we request the House to congratulate Hon Masemola for his attainment of a PhD degree in Public Administration? That is the most important milestone which I think is befitting for us to clap hands for him. [APPLAUSE]

Thank you, honourable Members. He has restored confidence in this provincial administration and the Legislature. It is something that we must follow, Hon Manamane Mohlala. That was a serious inspiration which I think all of us must undertake that path.

Secondly, there is a 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, which will take place on 25 November 2021 at 11:00 at the Polokwane Municipality. There is also a Zoom platform which has been organised that Members can access. Those that are available are advised to attend.

Is there any other announcement that honourable Members think is important to share with the House? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, through you, I want to make this announcement and duly request that both Hon Seshoka and Hon Mohlala should listen very well. There will be a virtual SARS and Pension Fund Workshop tomorrow that honourable Members are urge to attend especially Hon Manamane Mohlala. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Is there any other announcement honourable Members? Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, you are recognised.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I just want to extend the invitation from the Office of the Premier and the Standing Committee of Quality of Life and Status of Women to join us on 18 December 2021 as we shall be visiting Pick 'n Pay at the Mall of the North to appreciate them for deploying a person who is living with disabilities from the disability sector. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, honourable Member. Is there any other announcement, honourable Members?

11. ADJOURNMENT

In the absence of further announcements, the House is adjourned to Thursday, 25 November 2021. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

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**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

We shall now take this opportunity to observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Please be seated. Thank you, honourable Members. Good morning and welcome to this Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of Rule 145? I recognise Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE ANC FOR PUTTING UP A FIERCE
FIGHT IN THE 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise to congratulate ANC for putting up a fierce fight in the local government elections that were held at the beginning of this month. With 68,27% support from the voters, there is an overwhelming conviction that the people of Limpopo still have confidence in the ANC rule, but that does not mean that we should sleep on our laurels, Hon Speaker.

We have traversed the length and breadth of this country as part of electioneering and have interfaced with the harsh reality that faces our communities on a daily basis.

We celebrate this electoral victory with a pinch of salt alive to the realities that our people are still faced with the same set of challenges and circumstances like they were some six to seven years ago. Water provisions remain our biggest challenge throughout the rural parts of this province and such challenge also permeates same areas that have adequate reticulation facilities.

It is for this reason that we must work harder in this term of municipal council to restore confidence of our people in this glorious movement as their only beacon of hope in fighting inequality, poverty and unemployment.

As we install councils in all 22 local municipalities where we convincingly triumphed, we must put at the apex of our agenda the acceleration of our services such as water provision to our communities.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. I recognise Hon Phala K. Hon Phala, I recognised you because your hand was up before.

MS PHALA

Yes, my hand was up before for a motion and not for seconding.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

No, thanks very much. Is there any other motion without notice in terms of Rule 145?

MS PHALA

Hon Speaker, my hand was not up for seconding, but it was up for a motion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Okay. That is what I wanted to check if you are seconding.

MS PHALA

No, no, I'm not seconding.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Okay. Can we call for a seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE HAWKS ON THE DISCOVERY OF
3 000 ROUNDS OF LIVE AMMUNITIONS AT BIESJIESFONTEIN BLYSTEEL
FARM IN POLOKWANE**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to move a motion without notice to commend the work of the Hawks' Serious Organised Crime Investigation Unit which made a discovery of arms cache that consists of 3 000 rounds of live ammunitions buried on a farm outside Polokwane.

According to a report, the discovery was made at Biesjiesfontein Blysteel Farm just outside Polokwane on Tuesday, 23 November 2021. The police started digging up at the specified location on the farm and found 2 190 R5 rifles rounds of live ammunitions and 1 075 9mm rounds of live ammunitions buried.

Although there were no arrests made, the rounds of live ammunitions found were seized for further investigations and hopefully someone has to be accountable for that.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Can we call for a seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Seono. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO TWO DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE MEMBERS
FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN A 500 KM HOME RUN TO RAISE FUNDS FOR
LEARNERS**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the DA to move a motion without notice that the House notes the 500 km home run to help keep learners in school by raising funds for uniform, stationery and sanitary towels.

With this goal in mind, Gana Makashule and Solly Malatsi, two sons of our province undertook a sixteen-day 500 km run and these are the words by the former statesman Nelson Mandela on sports: "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power

to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair.”

Hon Speaker, with those wise words in mind it was fitting to have the Nelson Mandela house on Vilakazi Street in Soweto as their starting point and to the finish line here at home in Lefara village.

It must be noted that the two gentlemen managed to raise over R350 000 in cash and in material value in the form of shoes that will make learners’ walk more bearable, sanitary towels that will keep the girl-child in school during their cycle and school uniform that will make learners fit in amongst peers regardless of their economic background and difficulties.

Their run must be noted as heroic, inspiring and as great way of giving back to the people of this province.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Risham Maharaj, hereby second the motion as read by Hon Phala. Thanks.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SADDENING NEWS ABOUT THE BRUTAL KILLING OF SEVEN WOMEN IN A PREMEDITATED MANNER AROUND CAPRICORN DISTRICT (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move a motion without notice that this august House notes that the EFF is saddened by the news of over seven women who have been killed in a premeditated manner around Capricorn District area.

We commend the police for their arrest which identified the serial killer. Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, we urge your department to be merciless in dealing with this evil criminal who made blood of our beloved sisters to be his daily bread. He must be interrogated until he confesses his accomplices and if there are any additional bodies which are hidden. Our communities must remain vigilant and isolate any person who commits crime.

Noting the worsening poverty levels, the EFF calls upon the society to do thorough investigations when offered opportunity of such kind. Never allow a stranger or anyone else to bring false hope which may bring undesired results.

We condemn in the strongest terms anyone who uses the poverty of our people to self-fulfil or harm others especially women and children who have been subjected to various forms of abuse.

The EFF sends its condolences to the families and friends of the deceased and our prayers are with them during this difficult period.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Manamane.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I'm Hon Mphahlele.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

No, I thought Hon Manamane Mohlala has raised a hand.

MS MPHAHLELE

I, Selaelo Regina Mphahlele, stand to second the motion presented by Hon Managa. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise Hon Susani Mathye.

MS MATHYE

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO DR NAMANE DICKSON MASEMOLA FOR OBTAINING HIS DOCTORAL DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC to move a motion without notice that this House notes and congratulates Hon Dickson Masemola for obtaining his doctoral degree from the University of Limpopo.

Hon Masemola, our MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure was conferred with a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Public Administration at a graduation ceremony held by the University of Limpopo on 05 November 2021. It is therefore befitting that

this august House joins the people of Limpopo in congratulating Dr Namane Dickson Masemola on achieving this academic milestone.

Dr Namane Dickson Masemola has been an integral part of the democratic dispensation and the acquisition of this doctorate degree will inject fresh knowledge into the political dispensation.

Hon Masemola was able to achieve this degree despite the enormous responsibilities of being the ANC PWC member and MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, a husband to Mrs Masemola and a father to his children.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Good morning, Hon Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathye and we ululate and say 'Amandla'.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mochadi. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE NOMINATION OF THE AFRICAN QUEEN MAKHADZI AT THE ALL AFRICA MUSIC AWARDS IN LAGOS NIGERIA RAISED THE SOUTH AFRICAN FLAG HIGH

(Motion without Notice)

I rise to table a motion without notice that this House notes that our very own African Queen from Limpopo, Makhadzi's performance was noted at the All Africa Music Awards in Lagos, Nigeria, this past weekend.

It must be noted that Makhadzi was nominated for the Artist of the Year and the Best Female Artist awards in the Southern Africa running against other African artists in these categories.

Of the two nominations she was nominated for, Makhadzi won her first international award as the Artist of the Year on Sunday night in Lagos, Nigeria.

Her achievement is further proof for the need to keep supporting and nurturing our home-grown talent and ensure that we expose it to the world.

Makhadzi continues to raise the South African flag high and making Limpopo proud.

I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Risham Maharaj, hereby second the motion as read out by Hon Phala.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Members. Is there any other motion without notice? Thank you very much.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements in terms of House Rule 200? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE ARMED SUSPECTS STORMED THE MALAMULELE POLICE STATION AND HELD SAPS MEMBERS AT GUN POINT (Members' Statement)

At about eleven o'clock on Sunday evening a group of armed suspects stormed the Malamulele Police Station and held SAPS members at gun point in the Community Service Centre. Some SAPS members were forced into the back of the police van while one member was ordered to unlock a safe where the suspects took R5 rifles, 9mm pistols, shotguns and an undisclosed amount of ammunitions.

The group proceeded to a local food outlet and filling station in the vicinity where they robbed businesses with an undisclosed amount of cash. The Limpopo Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Thembi Radebe and her management team have since visited the crime scene and implemented 72-hour activation plan on 22 November 2021.

It is for this reason that this House must move that honourable MEC for Transport and Community Safety updates this august House on progress made as the 72-hour deadline has lapsed.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you. Can we call for a seconder? Are there any other Members' Statements in terms of House Rule 200? I recognise Hon Manamane Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE HIGH RATE OF CORRUPTION IN LIMPOPO MUNICIPALITIES AND
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**
(Members' Statement)

The EFF is astonished by the daylight corruption by ANC which has become a norm in municipalities and government departments. Corruption in Limpopo municipalities continues to soar unabated because there is no political will by ANC government to permanently uproot it. The Makhuduthamaga Municipality in Sekhukhune awarded a tender to Stonefound Engineering Solutions to construct a tarred road from GaMashabela to GaMatshatsha village.

The quality of this road even before it is completed leaves much to be desired. It is substandard and there is absolutely no value for money. The quality of bridges and drainage systems is shocking as it does not guarantee safety of the people in that area. Some companies subcontracting on the road do not have SARS tax number and they are operated by doggy characters.

Other companies subcontracting on the projects are fronting black people while in real terms they are owned by Indian businesspeople from other areas not within the radius of the areas where the project is being executed. The road has not been lifted up to an extent that cars can be easily swept away by stormwater because the tar road is low lying.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and finally hold those who are involved in this anomaly accountable.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Is there any other Members' Statement? I recognise Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

**THE DELAY IN BUILDING RDP HOUSES ON TIME IS AS A RESULT OF
CORRUPT ANC GOVERNMENT**
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the delay in building RDP houses in the Polokwane Municipality is caused by the corruption of the ANC government in municipalities. In all the wards in Seshogo, there are more than 700 people who have applied for RDP houses and they are still waiting for those houses since 2017. It is shocking to learn that these people are still on the waiting list of the Polokwane Municipality since they registered for RDP houses more than 20 years ago.

In the same instance, those people who applied for those houses in 2017 already received them at the expense of those who have applied long time ago.

Furthermore, siblings from the same households received houses to the exclusion of those who applied earlier. Local people are also not prioritised in the allocation of RDP houses, because some of these houses are occupied by people who do not reside in Polokwane Municipality boundaries. Maybe there is another criterion which we do not know which the public should be updated about.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and bring the lasting solution to this problem in the best interest of the poor.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Can we now call for the MEC to respond? I recognise Hon Moraka.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR COGHSTA]

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the honourable Members of this august House and colleagues in the Executive Council. I'm rising on behalf of MEC Hon Makamu to respond to the issues raised by Hon Mphahlele regarding the RDP houses and maladministration within Polokwane Municipality. We have noted your concern honourable Members and we are confirming that we will make it a point that we investigate the allegations, and the report will then be brought before this august House upon conclusion of those investigations. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC. I recognise Hon Mavhungu Lerule.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the House, my colleagues and all honourable Members. Let me acknowledge the issues that have been raised by the honourable Member. In fact, the Member was actually going through the statement we have released as the department in terms of the proceedings and processes of what happened at the Malamulele Police Station.

The information I can share with the House is that the first thing we needed to do was to make sure that we give support to our SAPS members. We have dispatched a team

that gives psychosocial support to our police because the situation that happened was traumatic; so we had to intervene.

Equally, as Hon Phala has alluded to, we gave out the 72-hour notice for the team to work. Each team will work for certain hours and when it stops, a new team comes in. I can confirm that to date we have not made any arrests, but we have sufficient information that we have processed which we obtained through our interactions with the people that we think know what happened.

We don't have any arrest that we can confirm, but there is progress in our investigations on the case. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 201? I recognise the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks once more, Hon Speaker, the Chief Whip of the majority party, Members of the Executive Council present here, honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, ndi matsheloni.

CONTESTATION OF COUNCIL SEATS BY DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE (Executive Statement)

On 01 November 2021, about 29 political parties and 231 independent candidates contested for 1 226 seats across the province in the 22 local municipalities and five district municipalities within the jurisdiction of our province.

Pulling off these elections under COVID-19 conditions is a success in which we must credit the Independent Electoral Commission which is led by Provincial Electoral Officer Ms Nkaro Mateta and her team for a job well done. Unfortunately, they could not make us win the elections good as they are. The successful delivery of free and fair elections was made possible by the cooperation of political parties, the support of the security cluster, mass media and most importantly, the people of this province who cast their votes on 01 November 2021 in the process of strengthening our hard-earned democracy.

According to the IEC, in the evening of 01 November 2021 at 21:00; 24 hours after the voting stations have been closed, almost eight of the 22 municipalities had completed capturing their ballot papers and declared their results constituting 36% of the total municipalities we have in the province. This is an indication of the efficiency of the electoral commission in the Limpopo province. For that, Hon Speaker, I urge the honourable Members of this House to give a round of applause to Team IEC for this success. [APPLAUSE]

Low voter turnout is the low point of these elections and it needs to concern all of us as we are seated here today. More than 55% of the 2 585 000 voters of the population of Limpopo as appearing on the voters' roll did not vote where it was reducing the voter turnout to 44,42%. Another worrying phenomenon is on the issue of elections in the record of 41 442 or 1,81% spoilt ballots that were recorded in the local proportional representation and ward nominations combined.

Of the 1 127 333 votes cast for the district ballots, 25 612 ballots were spoiled, and Mopani accounted for 6 774. In local municipalities, Ephraim Mogale and Lepelle-Nkumpi accounted for 2,1% and 2,54% respectively. With the official results declared, the process of transition from municipal administration to others took off in earnest this week when we witnessed several council members being inaugurated across the province. The deadline for the constitution of municipal councils was 23 November 2021.

Twenty-one of the 22 councils bar municipalities are still hung municipalities where Modimolle-Mookgopong Local Municipality was properly constituted and constituted on time. District municipalities will constitute their councils within 14 days subsequent to the finalisation of the constitution of their local municipalities. Modimolle-Mookgopong will be assisted to meet the requirements of the constitution of its own council. The provincial government is hands on in terms of the transition process to ensure that it unfolds in a seamless and non-disruptive manner. We have a handover report of all the municipalities in the province and we will share it with new municipal administration to assist them as they launch their term of office in earnest.

Common challenges confronting the new municipal administration are water, sanitation, roads, electricity, unemployment and other challenges that our communities have raised with us. The District Development Model will mobilise resources from the province and national administration in respect to intervention to make it a point that all other plans that are happening within government are streamlined to realise the District Development Model.

On Monday, 29 November 2021, the first in a series of core councillors induction programme is going to take place in all municipalities across the province. This is to ensure that our Councillors hit the ground running and make an impact within their first 100 days in office. On this score, we expect better performing municipalities and improved service delivery to our communities.

We want to urge our people of the province to work together with the ANC in building better communities together. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC. Can we now call for the parties to comment? I recognise the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We want to join the MEC as the ANC in saluting the Independent Electoral Commission in Limpopo province for the sterling work that they

have done in ensuring that they deliver fair elections in this province. We also want to join the MEC in applauding the people of Limpopo province for going out and vote under very strict COVID-19 conditions.

Again, we want to congratulate the IEC for efficient processing of election results on time. We would also want to urge the Independent Electoral Commission to investigate the reason behind the spoilt votes especially with reference to Mopani District because they might lead to suspicions of vote rigging in that area. We believe that it is very vital that they investigate what could have caused so many spoilt papers concentrated in one particularly region or district.

As we close, we want to urge the provincial government to accelerate the process of the constitution of all municipalities in our province. With those few words we want to thank the MEC for CoGHSTA in ensuring that IEC conducts free and fair elections. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. I recognise Hon Manamane Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

Thanks once more, Hon Speaker, and greetings to the House and everyone. We welcome the statement made the honourable MEC and we agree that it was difficult to go through these elections, hence we called for the postponement of elections as the Economic Freedom Fighters. We have accepted and acknowledged the results as presented by the IEC despite the criminal cases we have opened against the IEC officials for rigging elections and we once more want to thank the MEC for the statistics given about the participation on the elections. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We welcome the Executive Statement made by the Hon MEC. We join her by congratulating the IEC for the thorough work done. We congratulate all public reps that have been voted for and elected by these people of the province. It must be our responsibility in this august House as political parties to ensure that we assist the IEC in voter education so that in the next elections we do have a better voter turnout. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. Are there any tabling of committee reports? Hon Maritz, do you want to comment? I think for honourable Members to be recognised; they must raise their hands. If Members don't raise their hands, we might not recognise them though we know that parties might need to comment on Executive Statements. If Members don't raise their hands, the conclusion might be that Members are

comfortable with what the honourable MECs have said in terms of the Executive Statements. Thank you very much.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

In the absence of committee reports, we shall move to the next item.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

7.1.1. The 2020/21 first quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety

This will, of course, be done by the committee chairperson. Over to you, Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2020/21 first quarter report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety to this august House for consideration and adoption. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the honourable chairperson.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Phala.

7.1.2. The 2020/21 second quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2020/21 second quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption by the House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, honourable Member. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Mahasela.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, rise to second the move by the committee chairperson.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mahasela.

7.1.3. The 2020/21 third quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2020/21 third quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption by the House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable committee chairperson. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Chairperson. I, Hon Maritz, ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can you respect the House and stand up.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Chairperson. I, Hon Maritz, rise to support and second the honourable chairperson of the committee.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Maritz. That's progressive.

7.1.4. The 2020/21 fourth quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety

Over to you, the committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2020/21 fourth quarter report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption by the House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, the committee chairperson. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Kekana.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to second Hon Seono for the report she presented.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Kekana. Item 7.1.5: The 2020/21 first quarter report for GAAL. I recognise the committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2020/21 first quarter report for GAAL for the House to consider and adopt it. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Seono. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I stand here to second the report as presented by the chairperson of the committee, Hon Seono. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much. Item 7.1.6: The 2020/21 second quarter report for GAAL. I recognise the committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2020/21 second quarter report of GAAL for the House to consider and adopt it. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Mahasela.

MS MAHASELA

Ndza khensa Tatana Xipikara. Na mina ndzi lava ku seketela leswi nga vulavuriwa hi Muchaviseki Seono. Ndza khensa.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Ndza khensa muchaviseki. Item 7.1.7: The 2020/21 third quarter report for GAAL. Over to you committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2020/21 third quarter report of GAAL for the House to consider and adopt it. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the honourable chairperson.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Phala. Item 7.1.8 is the 2020/21 fourth quarter report for GAAL. Over to you, committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2020/21 fourth quarter report for GAAL for consideration and adoption by the august House. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Simon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Matsobane Mathe, stand to second the report as presented by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mathe. We shall now refer all these reports to the Speakers' List. In terms of the Speakers' List, Hon Maria Lekganyane is the first one on the list. The time allocated is not the same as the previous sitting. It is no longer ten minutes, but seven minutes maximum. I hope that party representatives are aware of the time allocation for the presentation. Hon Maria Lekganyane, you can proceed.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, rise to debate the 2020/21 first, second, third and fourth quarter reports of the Department of Transport and Community Safety and the 2020/21 first, second, third and fourth quarter reports of GAAL for consideration and adoption by this honourable House.

Hon Speaker, our Hon Premier in absentia, Hon Chair of Chairs, Leader of Government Business, MEC Hon Sekoati, Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, chairpersons of portfolio committees, our honourable Members of the Limpopo Legislature, our traditional leaders, religious leaders, all our people in the Limpopo province, ntumeleleng ke le dumedise mesong ya letšatši ke re kgotso ya Modimo a e be le rena. Kgotso a e be le batho ka moka.

BACKGROUND

Amen.

MS LEKGANYANE

Hon Speaker, the department as all other departments was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that troubled the whole world. Some targets couldn't be achieved given some of the restrictions that were imposed at that time.

Under Administration programme, the department could not develop the human resource plan as outlined in their performance. This may have the effect of compromising service delivery if the department is forced to operate without the necessary staff that should have been appointed.

We are also concerned that there are employees of the department who did not comply with disclosure of their financial interests. This means that there are employees in the department who are operating against the principles of the Public Finance Management Act by conducting business with the state while being employees of the state themselves. We hope that this matter is being addressed by the department.

The department collected more than 47% of the provincial revenue through registration of vehicles and licenses. We are impressed that despite restricted movements as was the case during the COVID-19 pandemic, the department was still able to collect revenue as planned.

On the issue of Transport Operations, we are concerned that some contracted bus company continue to fail to meet travelling contracts as indicated by the bus monitoring system. The department must report its plans to the House on what it intends to do with regard to contractors who fail to meet their contractual obligations. This is a challenge that seems to raise its head year after year and yet the department doesn't seem to have any plans to resolve this challenge.

In the year under review, the department supplied COVID-19 PPEs to the value of R1,7 million. We would like assurance from the department that proper supply management procedures were followed in issuing PPEs within the department.

The department also reported that it has spent R7,1 million on bus subsidy network designed in all districts. This is a lot of money, and we would like to be assured that the public is getting value for money. We would want the MEC to clarify the House on exactly how the public will benefit for this particular programme. We would want the department to also ensure that all districts are serviced equally and that there has been sufficient consultation and consensus with taxi operators to avoid conflicts. We understand that this is a multi-year project, but we would like the project to be well-planned and eventually bear fruits. What we have witnessed over the years with the Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility leaves much to be desired. Despite many interventions and efforts on this very expensive multi-year project, our people are yet to reap the benefits.

On the issue of vacancy rate within South African Police Service, this is a programme that monitors police conduct, oversees performance of police, assesses effectiveness of visible policing and improves rotations between police and our community. We are concerned about the high vacancy rate of police officers in the province. Most senior posts for ranks such as captains and warrant officers remain unfilled. We understand that this need has been created by early retirement taken by SAPS employees. We are also concerned about the loss of these highly skilled officers with many years of experience, and we are of the belief that those who were serving under them have been trained accordingly so that we don't feel the skills loss severely.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

In conclusion.

MS LEKGANYANE

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the programme is responsible for business development, marketing and stakeholders' relations. Given the difficult economic times with the COVID-19 pandemic, how does the entity aim to continuously market itself? It has also come to the attention of the committee that the entity (GAAL) has not yet fully addressed the issue of FlySA. There are allegations that FlySA owns the entity the tune of R14 million. This amount is disputed by FlySA who claims that the entity has agreed with them to write-off the debt.

It has been submitted that the service of the Aviation Company South Africa (ACSA) should be brought on board to expedite the public-private partnership. We therefore urge that now that the airport is functional, this process should be initiated once more. It would be to the benefit to the House and the citizens of the province if the honourable MEC could brief the House on how far this process is. The entity needs ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Your time is up!

MS LEKGANYANE

The entity needs to have competent and accountable board as well as upper management that is hands on. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Over to you, Hon Regina Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It would be fair for the Department of Transport and Community Safety to specify which targets were missed whether there was COVID-19 or not and thus indicate what are the plans to remedy that situation. The EFF submits that the department should introduce measures which are aligned with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Revenue management and collection cannot be limit to [inaudible]. Did the department follow all SCM practices in purchasing the PPEs and, if not, what measures were taken as consequence management?

Despite employees being confined to their home, there should be a report on operations which were conducted during the lockdown levels. When will the report be presented? Is there any monitoring system by SAPS to engage or interact with community structures aimed at fighting crime apart from the CPFs? Such interaction will ensure that all measures undertaken by such structures are aligned to the law of the country.

The disclosure for employees must be prioritised and as such in the next 60 days there should be a report on this matter without excuse especially on actions taken as per issued warning. Can the department provide a detailed report on the disproportionate lesser kilometres and trips travelled and indicate what are the causes? The report must highlight all operators involved as it affects commuters in the province. On the bus subsidies, the network designed for all five districts which was supposed to have been completed in the last financial year is reported completely. Did the department engage stakeholders especially taxi operators and independent bus owners? Unless if our traffic officers were home-bound, there were a number of incidents reported on drunk-driving with impact on the lockdown and the rate of infections. It will be unfortunate for the department not to have reported on this matter. The delay in the implementation of targets of recommendation based on the monitoring tools as well as the number of DVA initiatives should include IPID recommendations to SAPS and should not be repeated.

Has the department completed the human resource plan and skills development programme as more new buses are manufactured and distributed to areas such as Seshego and Makhado? Is there any interphase between GNT and Leeto la Polokwane and others? The department should avoid over population of buses whilst other areas are suffering with transport. The department must list and terminate all non-performing contractors who compromise the departmental mandate on provision of transport. The legal unit must tighten the contracts to avoid being stuck with non-performing bus companies or service providers.

The failure to renew licences and development of maintenance plan at GAAL embarrasses the province and worsens the economic outlook of the agency. Did the agency update the calibration of [inaudible] or are they waiting for another embarrassment where flights will be cancelled? The instability at entities is occasioned

by non-existence of management and board of directors and as a result there should never be a vacuum like it occurred at GAAL.

A procurement report must be presented to see if the 100% is not a repetition of service providers or employees feeding on the supply chain of the agency. There should be an update on how the South African Airlink aims to settle the historical debt noting that revenue is at its lowest for a variety of reasons. What is the update on court order which prohibited the airport to supply aviation fuel?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

In conclusion, Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

A report on the fuel licence and what led to the licence being ceased to a private company must be presented to this House.

It is injustice for the agency to commit that SCM's rules may not be followed due to SACAA pressure. The fact is, someone did not do his/her job to ensure that maintenance is done as expected and licences are rendered and so forth. Another factor which must be looked into to maximizing the use of the airport is the lower flight fare or competitors. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Over to you, Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Chair. As the committee, we expressed our concern on endless investigations and disciplinary processes which continued to persist at audit findings resulting in irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. The reasons for these are mainly centred on unnecessary appeals and apparent incompetency on the part of state lawyers.

During the quarters under review, the committee had noted considerable underperformance on performance targets relating to the number of kilometres subsidised and the number of trips subsidised. While the reason for this might be the lockdown regulations, failure by the bus contractors to comply with their contractual obligations largely contributed to this.

However, the committee commends the department for finally completing phase 1 and phase 2 of the bus subsidy network design during the quarters under review.

The department only conducted 162 road safety education programmes in schools out of its target of 338.

On the Provincial Secretariat for Police Programming, as the committee, we noted that during the quarters under review, the department was able to achieve 4 out of 10 targets, which translates into 40% achievement. In practical terms, the department

achieved one annual indicator out of 11 planned ones for the entire financial year of all four quarters being debated today.

Among these minimal achievements noted by the committee are the number of DVA initiatives conducted and the number of SAPS components monitored. The committee commended the department for meeting all the targets related to the number of community police forums and community safety forums assessed on their functionality.

By the fourth quarter, our recommendations as the committee were that:

- The department should ensure that it compiles and adheres to all procurement processes involving the acquisition and supply of personnel protective equipment;
- The department should expedite processes towards setting and finalisation of disciplinary processes and litigations that are now attracting adverse audit findings;
- The buses are failing to honour their contractual obligations should be made to sub-contract their services to ensure that the commuters are not denied access to public transport.

Hon Speaker, on the issues relating to GAAL, the committee welcomes the shareholder's appointment of a new board of directors on 01 April 2021, which will be in office for the period of three years. By then, the board had seen started working, having a special focus in mind, to develop a turnaround strategy to reposition the entity and its airport and further ensuring that the flights return to normal operations at the airport, which we have seen they have claimed back since last month.

Hon Speaker, during the quarters under review, the regulator South African Civil Aviation Authority conducted an aviation instruction and arrived at various findings, which were found severe and resulting in the de-categorisation and downgrading of the airport license to a lower category. As the committee, we hope that this will not happen again. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Phala K S. Hon Maritz, you may take the podium.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier in his absentia, esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of the opposition party, the Members of the House and guests, I greet you.

Public transport in our province has always been a very big problem and challenge, and now we see why. There isn't sufficient public transport to service the people of Limpopo. The Great North transport is continuing to fail our province. How are our province and its people supposed to grow? Entrepreneurship is encouraged there or the developmental programme aimed at inspiring and guiding people to establish and

own small businesses, but with public transport still operating in this regard, because they oftentimes arrive late not at all. Jobs are lost due to lack of transport and opportunities forfeited due to lack of transport.

Hon Speaker, GAAL is not interested in recovering from the debt of the setback and contribute to the economic growth in Limpopo. The firefighters are all to be subjected to medical and physical fitness on a regular basis. GAAL must dignify employees by ensuring the firefighters have the necessary skills and feel confident about the jobs that they are employed to do. How can it be expected of firefighters to deliver the integral service to the public if they are not medically and physically capable of doing so?

Hon Speaker, there is need for action to be taken urgently and peoples' lives, those who use the service as well as those who offer the service, must be taken seriously. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you. Hon Maritz. Hon Seono, it is your turn to debate.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Due to time constraints, allow me to generally greet everybody who is here and those who are connected online.

Hon Speaker, as the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, we are saying the department continues to do well regarding the collection of revenue, despite the challenges faced during the lockdown. The department remains a very important source of revenue collection for the province through licensing of motor vehicles and fines collected. Thus, we want to thank the hardworking officers who are the backbone of this particular programme and the MEC.

We want to highlight, in particular, the Mampakuil Weighbridge along the N1 to Louis Trichardt. This is one of the most important weighbridges, but some challenges have been identified in the weighbridge we have observed during the oversight visit. During the oversight visit, the weighbridge was operating for 16 hours and not the required 24 hours.

The officers were operating from a temporary structure whereby there was no proper accommodation for the officers. In summer, the officers complained about snakes and wild animals mainly due to a lack of proper fencing.

There is also a need to upgrade the weighbridge scale from a manual to an automated one, given the important role that the bridge plays in revenue collection. Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, we hope that this matter will be addressed soon.

Under Transport Regulations, we are saying this programme ensures the provision of safe public transport through secure public infrastructure, law enforcement and implementation of road safety education and awareness programme as well as registration of vehicles. In the quarters under review, the department was unable to meet the set targets. What has been concerning is the high number of fatalities on the

provincial road. The N1 in the province is proving to be a deadly stretch of road. We are concerned that it has been reported that there has been a 61% increase in road fatalities in the quarter under review, despite the inspections and roadblocks being conducted during the period of lockdown when the restrictions were, in fact, more severe.

We want to remind the MEC that the festive season is once again upon us and we believe that the department has plans in place to reduce fatalities on our roads. We further anticipate the usual congestion along with the Beitbridge Border post. We believe that the department has plans in place to manage this particular challenge.

Under the Secretariat for Police Service, we commend the good work that SAPS Limpopo has done in ensuring that Limpopo remains a peaceful province. We believe this is due to the positive relationship between communities and police. The programmes implemented by the SAPS in terms of police community relations continue to bear fruits, and we want to encourage the MEC and the leadership of SAPS through the National and Provincial Commissioners to keep up this excellent work.

Hon Speaker, other speakers have already highlighted the issue of the high vacancy rate in SAPS. We believe that with the intake of new recruits from the police college, this matter will be duly addressed. We are concerned that the police stations of Thohoyandou, Lebowakgomo, Ritavi, Tshilwavhusiku, Vuwani and Jane Furse continue to have a rate of contact crime. We would want the SAPS to improve on their crime fighting strategies and rope in the community to work with them in addressing the scourge of violence.

We want to highlight our concern with the very public case of the Moti brothers who were kidnapped on their way to school in this province. We would want the police to be on high alert for this trend of kidnapping, which raised its ugly head in Gauteng as well.

We also want to register our serious concern about what happened in Malamulele SAPS in the past few days. We want to urge the SAPS to hunt down and apprehend those responsible.

Under Business Development and Operations, we are saying that our province and the country as a whole has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The economy, which was already fragile, has been hard-pressed by the difficulties that came as a result of the pandemic. It would, therefore, be very important to develop a business model that will withstand the challenges that have been brought by the pandemic. This is the phase of high unemployment in the province and the country as well as a negative economic outlook.

We remain concerned that the entity continues to fail to meet its revenue collection. We understand that the slowing down of the economy due to COVID-19 may have played a role, but we do know that this has always been a challenge even in years before COVID-19.

We are concerned that there are times where the airport, which should be an asset to the province, turns to be a liability at times. We are concerned that it has been reported in the quarters under review that the failure to implement a maintenance plan at GAAL

has been due to a lack of funding and has been bailed out by the Provincial Treasury on numerous occasions. This is a situation that is sadly not sustainable in the long run. We would like the department to revisit its projects and see if they cannot revive them so that it may soon be able to generate revenue. Some of the projects were [inaudible] advertising space, the supply of aviation fuel, leasing of administration building blocks to businesses and car rental services. We would like to see an effective maintenance plan for the airport to ensure its continued functionality. We believe that since an able and competent board has been appointed, this will no longer be an issue moving forward.

We also welcome the appointment of a new board by the department, and we would like to believe that these are able and qualified members who will be able to move the entity forward. We would, therefore, like the department to provide the House with information on the board composition, qualifications and competencies of board members. We are certain that there is a stringent performance management agreement in a place whose targets must be adhered to.

We were rightfully concerned about the decategorising and downgrading of the airport as that led to the dysfunctionality of the airport. We are concerned about the revenue loss that can never be recouped. We would like to believe that moving forward, the entity has systems in place to avoid repeating this occurrence.

During our visit to the airport, we were pleased to note that the issues raised as points of concern leading to the airport being downgraded have since been corrected. We noted that concerns related to friction [inaudible], supply of medical equipment, having a compliant fire station, development of an infrastructure and maintenance programme, and the appointment of quality control officer, among others, were addressed.

In conclusion, we appreciate the effort by the MEC and her team in ensuring that the airport has returned to its level of functionality. We would, however, encourage the MEC to keep her eye on the ball and continue with constant oversight of the entity to avoid any risk of regressing. We want to see the action from the turnaround strategy that has been adopted by the board. This in essence means that we would like to see the entity being revitalised and taking its place among South Africa's best airports. Further, we would like to see the airport taking advantage of its strategic location as the gateway to Southern Africa and SADC region as a whole.

The new board must ensure that it makes serious efforts in marketing this airport as an important strategic port for our neighbouring countries. In the past, we had a serious problem with the adjudicating of the ports, some of which were irregularly adjudicated. We believe that this would be the thing of the past moving forward.

It is important that all procurement processes are conducted within the prescripts of applicable legislation and policy frameworks. We appreciate the work done so far, especially with returning the airport to its previous level of functionality. This was achieved through hard work and perseverance, which we appreciated from the MEC and her team. We would encourage you to strengthen your partnership with the Department of Economic Development to market this airport to travellers who would like to explore our beautiful province.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Seono. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Transport and Community Safety to respond to the debate made by the honourable Members. The honourable MEC, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Once again, let me take this opportunity and greet fellow Members of the House and our Premier, the colleagues in the Executive Council, the chairperson of the committee and all the members of the committee.

Hon Speaker, today as we sit here, is the day where we are launching and commemorating out 16 Days of Activism under our theme: The year of Charlotte Maxeke, 16 Days of Activism Moving from Awareness to Accountability.

I want to make a plea with all Members of the House and members of the public in general that the work that we do and as we move forward as the department, it is time to start taking accountability for our actions more than just wanting the police or other law enforcement to be behind us.

Hon Speaker, in response to the issues that my members of the committee have raised, I would then summaries. We want to acknowledge as the department and shareholder for GAAL the support that the committee has given us. You will remember that when we started deliberating on the GAAL issue, it was serious labour pains; but today everybody is happy because of the work done, and this was through the support that the committee gave us and the guidance and strategic input they made to the department.

We can confirm that the GAAL licence is back, and this morning my daughter was flying out of the province. I started there and the planes are coming in and out. I would like to encourage all Members of the House to start using the airport.

Hon Speaker, we can confirm that history will never repeat itself, and we also got our licence until October next year. We can also confirm for GAAL that at an Exco level we have been given a budget to deal with the maintenance issue. We have got contractors dealing with the electrical issues on-site. We can confirm that the board is in place and we shall, as the committee recommended, then submit their qualifications. We have also advertised the critical posts for GAAL and are closing this month-end.

Hon Speaker, we have been able as the department to persuade the executive of this province chaired by the Premier that Limpopo government can run its affairs. We are talking about employment; we cannot sell the soul of Limpopo people by privatising the airport. We have been given the support by Exco to continue, hence we have been given the budget to employ the top management of the airport. From 01 December will be starting with the shortlisting process, and we hope that by the end of January we would have finalised for the airport to have its own team again. Thank you very much for the committee and all the inputs.

Hon Speaker, I also want to indicate that SAPS Limpopo is ready for the festive season. I must start by indicating that in 2019 there was a process that was halted because of the COVID-19, which saw reservists being taken into the whole space of police, but we could not take them to the training. We are busy finalising that process so that we could have a cohort of police going into training.

We have also identified problematic police stations, but I had thought that honourable Members would speak about the progress they have seen at Seshego Police Station after we have brought a new team there. You will agree with me that where we have made changes, we have started observing huge differences and progress.

For the festive seasons, we are ready. We have launched the Festive Season's Programme with the police and there are going to be serious random operations. The serial killer was arrested because of the operations we are conducting. Please stay at home; do not go outside and drink. In case we are conducting operations in the shebeens where you are, you may unfortunately be amongst those that get arrested.

Hon Speaker, we got a programme of monitoring with the CPF, but we are also going to do our wide-cop mall programme for the festive seasons. We have, indeed, met last week with the Department of Economic Development and its subsidiary LTA, and have indeed requested that if there are any packages that the Airlink can do for the festive seasons, let it be done.

In relation to the bus subsidy, just to allay the fears a bit, the GNT has presented the turnaround at the Exco level and as the department that is running the bus subsidy, we are satisfied thus far with their turnaround strategy and we will be able to continue with the subsidy. All the bus companies that are running the subsidies in our province are all active. We take note of the committee's advice that we need to constantly check if they are honouring their obligations. I think I have tried, Hon Speaker, to summarise the work that we are doing.

Lastly, I wish to say that when we were under heavy lockdown, when we started giving out sanitisers to the buses, we were supported by the national department. It was not us who were directly purchasing; we got funds from the national department and the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC). The R1,7 million sanitisation budget that you are referring to came from the national department and the RTMC and not from us. You will remember that there were investigations about the sanitisers that departments procured and none of the departments was found wanting.

I have spoken about the vacancy rates for both police and GAAL. Without wasting time, let me confirm that we have received the issues that Members have raised. If there are other issues that we have not answered, we will be able to engage at the committee level. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC. Hon Phala K S are you fine?

MS PHALA

Yes, I am fine. My eyes are open. [LAUGHTER]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

The honourable chairperson, the floor is yours.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker of the day. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to present the Fourth Quarter Report for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can we call for any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

I, Fazala Mdaka, rise to second the move that the chairperson of the committee made. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

7.2.2. The Fourth Quarter Report of Roads Agency of Limpopo. The committee chairperson on the floor is yours.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to present the 2020/21 Fourth Quarter Report for Roads Agency Limpopo for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, committee chair. Can we call for the seconder? Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, rise to second the move presented by Hon Makhurupetje. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker is Hon Donald Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker in absentia; Members of the Executive Council of our very beautiful province; the chair of the portfolio committee, Hon Makhurupetje; friends, colleagues and compatriots, allow me today to greet you on this important date on the global calendar, the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children.

Over the years and over time, Hon Speaker, we have seen both as a people and a nation, women and children abuse are becoming [inaudible] especially our society. We have seen children being raped and killed in our cities, and we have seen and heard stories of our mothers in villages being beaten to death in the hands of dreadful vampires who are supposed to be their caring husbands.

Hon Speaker, it is against this background that before I venture into my very brief debate today, I implore all of us to join the people of South Africa, Africa and the world in taking a stand against these evil deeds of children and women abuse as the MEC spoke about it earlier. Hon Speaker, I implore all of us to speak in one voice and say that in our lifetime we shall rid our communities of the demon of children and women abuse. We shall make our country, we shall indeed make our continent and the world a peaceful place for all, and we shall strive for peace and friendship.

Hon Speaker, during the quarter under review the committee scrutinised the performance of the agency and that of the department. However, my focus is more on the agency. Of course, we scrutinised the agency, Hon Speaker, guided by its establishing statute, the Limpopo Provincial Roads Act, 1998 (Act 7 of 1998) as amended.

Hon Speaker, in the current financial year, the entity was allocated the budget by the shareholder department, which was adjusted from R1,478 billion to R1,366 billion. This was due to the COVID-19 special adjustment. Hon Speaker, this accounted for almost 9% reduction of the budget allocation to this entity. You would remember, Hon Speaker, that COVID-19 has dictated the adjustments across all the departments in terms of the budget and therefore having far-reaching implications in terms of the service delivery for all the departments alike.

Hon Speaker, albeit all the challenges that the entity faced, that we all faced both as a people and a nation in the province relating to COVID-19, and these budget adjustments that I am speaking about, as we scrutinised the fourth quarter performance of this particular entity, we were highly inspired and encouraged by the strategic partnership that the entity and the shareholder department have entered into to deliver the key noble course of ensuring that they roll out road infrastructure delivery in the province.

As mentioned in the committee, the entity entered into various agreements with the private sector partners to plan, design and construct roads. This partnership, Hon Speaker, included the partnership with the Marula Platinum Mine in the Sekhukhune District aimed at designing, improving certain roads in that particular district. It also included the Anglo-American partnership, the Exxaro Resources in the Waterberg District especially in Lephalale and ZZ2 group of companies. We are inspired by the fact that this partnership contribution, Hon Speaker, amounted to over R370 million in

this current financial year. Most inspiring is the fact that as we speak most of these projects, Hon Speaker, are on various stages of implementation. The importance of public-private partnership, especially during this difficult time of an ailing economy and the challenges imposed on all of us by COVID-19, which resulted in the shrinking revenue base for our government, cannot be overemphasised. It is against this background that as the committee led by Hon Makhurupetje, we commended the department for this strategic partnership during this quarter.

Hon Speaker, although the committee was comfortable with the progress of the entity, we are worried in respect certain indicators, especially as they relate to the indicator of risk assessment which was supposed to be achieved at quarter one. It was not achieved, and the reason advanced at the time was the imposition of COVID-19 on the day-to-day operations of the entity. We implored them that at least by the fourth quarter, this target should have been achieved. It is an uncomfortable reason that even by the fourth quarter, Hon Speaker, this indicator was not achieved as expected. We have implored the entity as the committee to ensure that this matter is attended, because this is not just an indicator, but one of the most important indicators in the Annual Performance Plan.

We have committed as the committee that we will continue to monitor progress in this particular regard, and we will not leave our fingers on the pulse insofar as this matter is concerned so that we see that as we go forward, this indicator is reached so that we do not have problem that may arise as a result of the non-achievement of this indicator.

Hon Speaker, overall, as the committee, we are satisfied with the noticeable progress of this entity, especially under the difficulties conditions imposed on us by the COVID-19. We have implored the entity and continue to say to the MEC and her team that the entity must continue to do more and improve infrastructure work in the province because it is the understanding of ANC-led government and all of us that infrastructure roll-out is very critical for the economic development in the province. That is the reason why as the committee, we have said to the MEC and the department that we will not remove our finger on the pulse in terms of continuing work side-by-side in supporting the department and this entity, but equally continuing to play our strategic oversight role insofar as the performance of this entity is concerned. Because as we say, we continue to understand the critical role of this particular entity in as far as ensuring that we open the levers of economic development in the province.

Hon Speaker, mindful of your time, allow me to salute all men and women who continue to forge and wage a consistent struggle against women and children abuse as we enter this 16 Days of Activism. I also salute you, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. We shall now call Hon Managa. Hon Managa, the floor is yours.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for affording me the opportunity to participate in today's debate which lays its basis on the fourth quarter reports presented by the chairperson of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and RAL.

Hon Speaker, the EFF would like to congratulate the MEC for completing his PhD degree in Public Administration amidst his tight schedule. We are happy for him as EFF because we know he has contributed to the body of knowledge. We have a few honours, masters and PhD candidates in this House and are hoping that Hon Makoma, Hon Mohlala, Hon Selamolela, Acting Speaker and Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Che Selane, we are going to get more of those degrees in the coming year which is 2022. I am hopeful that others are also coping the notes.

Dr Dickson Masemola, we hope that this will translate into real work in your department, especially in relation to improving governance, not what is currently happening. Having said that, honourable MEC, the EFF will continue to hold you and your department accountable in the interest of the people of Limpopo.

Firstly, the EFF is concerned that in your department several residential properties were not recorded in the housing register during the period under review. This simply tells us that assets management is a serious problem in this department, while the people of Limpopo have trusted the department to look after the public assets. It is for this reason that the people of Limpopo have lost trust in this department and the provincial government as a whole. How does this department explain the fact that they do not have a housing register? This means that they do not know which properties are at their disposal, where they are and who is occupying them.

The EFF is not surprised, Hon Speaker, that the department is experiencing serious challenges on rental payments. The ineffective rental management by the department has adverse effects on the core mandate of the department. There is no clear turnaround strategy to address this matter as it continues to persist unabated to our dismay.

There are serious leadership issues that must be zoomed at in this department both administratively and politically. There are sitting on huge rental arrears and are very weak on revenue collection. Furthermore, Hon Speaker, the EFF has over the years emphasised to this government that it is cost-effective to build its own buildings rather than concluding long-term lease agreements, which is a loss to the provincial fiscus.

The problem with this government is that when they are being advised by opposition parties in this House, their ego does not want them to listen or take the advice. They feel that they cannot be advised by opposition parties on leadership, administration, and governance issues. Maybe we need to tell you that arrogance and ego have destroyed many people and governments.

Hon Speaker, many government buildings around the province are dilapidated, and there is no radical plan to maintain them as they continue to rust under the watchful eye of the government. They are reneging on the very same maintenance strategy they developed, because they are equally not good at implementing policies and strategies. It seems like the leadership of this department does know exactly what they are doing and what is expected of them. It is clear that they do not understand the

mandate of the very same department they are presiding over hence the laissez faire style of leadership.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned about the delays in the appointment of the bid committees, carry over of projects to the subsequent quarters, delays in procurement materials and lack of planning according to the availability of resources throughout the financial year. This is the incompetency of the highest order and must not be allowed to flourish and become a norm in government, because it compromises service delivery to our people.

Furthermore, projects are not completed within budgets and agreed period. What is this if it is not gross incompetency? If people cannot do the work, honourable MEC, what are they being paid for? And if they are not doing it, why don't you fire them? Are these your fellow comrades, and you feel that your political ambitions could be destroyed by touching them? It is neither about nor them; it is about the interest of the people of this province.

The delays in filling the Chief Director's post for Planning and Designing during the period under review is unfortunate and regrettable. Hon Speaker, it is clear to everyone that this government does not take service delivery seriously. Why should such key and strategic positions take so long without being filled?

As the EFF, we are concerned by non-compliance by the client departments in respect of the fiscal planning cycle, especially the submission of UMs and IPMs leading to withdrawal and late submission of projects.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the entity is under-resourced and presided over by an incompetent board. There is just no hope at all. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Hon Maharaj, the floor is yours.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure Portfolio Committee operates within the Constitution of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) section 114, which is further amplified by sections 26 and 27 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) and House Rule 45 of the Standing Rules and Orders of this House. These Acts are in essence legislated to ensure that all the executive organs of the state in the province are held accountable, and that committees should play an oversight role over the executive authority.

With this in mind, we are very concerned that the Auditor-General notes that in 2018/19 Annual Report that the department's financial health had regressed in the debtors collection period compared to the prior year. This is indicative that the mechanisms put in place for the debt collection were ineffective and required a strong management intervention. The mediocre management of the debt collection processes has resulted in material impairment such as the key departmental revenue will remain a challenge in ensuring the maximisation of the estimated amount of revenue supposed to be collected.

Hon Speaker, the committee recommended that the department provides quarterly update on the implementation of the approved organisational structure considering that the Office of the Chief Financial Officer has been inadequately capacitated, which led to a lack of appropriate expenditure and service delivery objectives being fulfilled.

It further emphasised the need for a sound financial management system to improve the performance reports against the supporting information, which validated that the reported achievements were indeed accurate and complete.

The department must ensure that there is a proper record-keeping system which provides a complete, relevant and accurate information. This information must be readily available at any stage on request. Hon Speaker, it is imperative that the department develops a sound mechanism which not only verifies but also ensures the consistent update of the central database to the timeous confirmation of reports on work carried out, timeous re-issuing of the rejected payments by banks for effectiveness and efficiency in payment of the suppliers within 30 days.

The portfolio committee calls on the department to ensure the synergy of timely submission of the infrastructure planning documents as well as the service delivery agreements. This must be executed for the proper infrastructure planning processes and implementation to achieve a more effective and efficient output.

The committee recommended that the department ensures the realisation of a comprehensive, reliable, credible immovable assets register in line with prescribed legislation.

Hon Speaker, the management and administration must ensure that the rates and taxes to municipalities and other departments are paid timeously, both from a good housekeeping perspective, but also to ensure that there is cash flow available for the municipalities to function effectively.

The department must urgently fill the critical vacant posts in the Road Maintenance Unit as the constant outsourcing and reliance on hired plant due to the shortage of construction apprentice especially for blading of roads is more costly and eats into already limited resources. We must stretch the minimal resources and, where possible, if it is cost-efficient to do things in-house rather than contracts. We must look at the cost versus benefits option. This exercise in the assessment must be carried out in terms of understanding the capacity of cost centres in delivering services. These assessments should include machinery, equipment, personnel capacity skills.

Hon Speaker, the department needs to look at forwarding planning and succession planning. A part of this planning must also be looking at the ageing staff. This could be a risk in the years to come if there is no sufficient skills transfer. This exercise must also be conducted at the cost centres.

There must be quarterly reports and updates in respect of designing adequate systems and processes which will be reliably generating reports against the various indicators in enabling the source information evidence and methods of calculations for achieving the planned objectives.

In conclusion, it is imperative that the department works with other public bodies to institutionalise the EPWP programme through work opportunities and full-time employment equivalent jobs that yield the desired results for poverty elevation, however, not as a means to cadre deployment but rather as one that is based on adequate and relevant skills for the right job with the right candidate. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Maharaj. Chairperson of the committee, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje, the floor is yours.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you very much, honourable Members and Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. Hon Speaker, the Premier in his absentia, MECs, the Chief Whip, honourable Members of this august House, thobela. Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to appreciate the debate by my colleagues from the portfolio committee for the 2020/21 fourth quarter reports for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and Roads Agency Limpopo.

Hon Selamolela, thank you for giving an honest observation of the work of the department and RAL, and you have made my work easier. So, I will take where you left off.

As the committee we start by joining this august House as well as some of the Members who have congratulated the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure Development, Dr Namane Dickson Masemola, for his academic achievement for receiving a PhD degree in Administration. Indeed, he has motivated us and we shall learn from him. Indeed, Hon Masemola, in your absentia, the Leader of Business Government will tell him, we say to you that congratulations are in order.

We also join the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Mavhungu Ramakhanya, and Hon Selamolela for reminding us that today, 25 November 2021, is the start of 16 Days of Activism as it is declared by the United Nations to be commemorated annually and it shall end on 10 December 2021. Indeed, all today's debate, Chair, should be dedicated to honouring those who died in the hands of their loved ones in the name of love and all those victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure held a meeting with the department and Roads Agency Limpopo on 20 August to be briefed about the 2020/21 fourth quarter report. The purpose of the meeting was to scrutinise the department and Roads Agency Limpopo's performance for the intended delivery for the road services in Limpopo. Hon Selamolela has already indicated that the committee has made observations in terms of RAL that as at 31 March 2021, the entity spent 62% and to date R119 million, which is 14% relating to Administration; R733 million, which is 86% related to Infrastructure. Overall, the entity was able to spend their money, but we are worried in terms of the delays observed.

In terms of the percentage of the budget of that quarter under review, 16% of the budget was spent on Infrastructure, and it was agreed that all those unachieved

targets were are going to be achieved with the following targets of the new financial year. It was further reported that the reason for deviation was the low infrastructure activities due to lockdown restrictions.

Chairperson, the committee noted as well that in respect of the completion of projects within the project period and the budget, project management tools and techniques of managing projects are applied in all the projects, regular monitoring and controlling is done to ensure that projects are completed with the project period. The challenges thereto were external factors like community protests, which impact on the completion in order to deal with challenges of community issues and stakeholders management, and the department was working hand-in-hand with the engineering unit to manage those community issues proactively.

We want to thank the MEC because, indeed, he is doing a good work in terms of ensuring that where there are challenges; he personally attends to some of those issues. Even the issues that are referred to us as the portfolio committee, when we send them to him, he does respond adequately. For that, we want to thank him very much.

In terms of the planned maintenance projects, from the quarterly 10 targets of the annual targets of 45; it was however indicated that the target was not achieved due to the lockdown regulations and the committee noted that the annual target has been reduced to 25 and the target will be carried over in the next financial year.

Although the committee noted about the targeted planned projects completed within the agreed period of the budget, there was underachievement on these aspects of the annual targets of 47.

The committee was concerned about the delays in the appointment of Bid Committees carryover of projects to subsequent quarters, delays in the procurement of materials and lack of planning according to availability of resources in that financial year.

The committee as well as noted that in terms of the quarter under review, the accumulative 29 330 km was achieved by the end of the year in terms of roads to be rehabilitated in that financial year.

Chairperson, during the quarter under review, 36,63% kilometres was achieved irrespective of gravel roads to be upgraded to tar for the quarterly target of 25% of the annual target of 85 kilometres of gravel roads which will be upgraded to tar, cumulatively 73 km was achieved by the end in respect of upgrading gravel roads to tarred roads. The target was overachieved, and it was indicated that the contractors had to catch up on the output as there were delays in the previous quarters. For that, we have congratulated the department for the overachievement because, indeed, rehabilitating the gravel roads to tar is one major achievement that we think has helped the people of the province.

In terms of EPWP during the quarter under review, 9 190 work opportunities were reported in terms of the approved EPWP phase 4 planned targets as well as 19 292 as the annual target of 57 000 work opportunities were expected to be reported. The community will continue monitoring the commitment by the department in leading coordinating public sector-wide EPWP towards job creation. The key approach for

phase 5 of EPWP was to drive Public Employment Programmes through community participation to ensure that communities become actively involved in government programmes.

Hon Speaker, on strategic partnership to implement investment infrastructure, it was reported to the committee that RAL entered into various agreements with private sector partners to plan for the construction of roads. Those partners include Marula Platinum, Anglo-American, Exxaro Resources, ZZ2, PPC and North-West Provincial Government. The total strategic partners contributed R371 million, and RAL contributed R737 million. It was further indicated that jointly funded projects amounting to R1,1 billion. were at various stages of implementation. We have congratulated the department for those strategic partnerships because we need more. We hope MEC, that the Treasury will help in terms of ensuring that as government we are able to engage the private sector to contribute on roads construction and maintenance because some of those farms and businesses are the ones that are utilising our roads more than our own community members.

Chair, the committee further recommends that RAL and the department must be able to take some of the issues forward. Some of those recommendations including the payment of rates and taxes to municipalities is one matter that we shall continue to monitor.

The continuous filling of critical vacant positions in roads maintenance unit as well as in other administrative units including the CFO unit. This will assist in ensuring that units such as the maintenance unit do not over-rely on hired plant due to the shortage of construction operators for blading of roads. The continuous assessment of the capacity of the cost centres to deliver services through its machinery, equipment and personnel; the continuous cost analysis in respect of hiring machinery and equipment; the capacity of the department in using its staff complement in cost centres for road maintenance; plans to deal with aging staff are but some of the matters that need urgent attention.

Having scrutinised the fourth quarter performance reports for the 2020/21 for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as well as Roads Agency Limpopo, the committee recommends that this House adopts the fourth quarter report of the committee for the 2020/21 financial year.

On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, I move that this report be adopted as the report of this honourable House. I move accordingly. Thank you very much. Ke a leboga. Ke tswa tswao.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE]

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to this august House, in particular the esteemed members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and

Infrastructure as led by 'Imbokodo', Makoma Grace Makhurupetje. I shall respond on behalf of our MEC, Dr Masemola, because he could not be with us here today due to other pressing matters within the department that warranted him not to join us here today.

I want to first acknowledge the rigorous oversight work done by the portfolio committee on the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure including its entity, RAL. If you listened attentively to all the debates, they are advocating for the swift expedition of roads and infrastructure-related services to our communities in the province of Limpopo.

Indeed, Hon Selamolela, this debate is taking place within the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. We want to applaud Members of this august House, like yourself, who are saying it publicly that women and children's wellbeing lies on the shoulders of all of us regardless of who we are in society. It is heart-warming if this condemnation comes from a person of the opposite gender. If you look at these cases as they are reported, most of these perpetrators comes from the male gender. We really need progressive men like yourselves to lead from the front and say, 'not in our name'.

The issues as raised by honourable Members, where they are acknowledging the effect of the budget cuts as a result of COVID-19 on the lack of service delivery related to roads and infrastructure in the province are well received. We want to assure Members of this august House that even at the Executive Council we have agreed to prioritise matters of roads infrastructure in the province because it is true that they are key for the economic development.

Hon Managa, the issue of staff members who are not conducting themselves in a manner befitting the public service regulations in the department is receiving attention. The MEC will keep you abreast in your committee meetings in the near future so that such members who are found wanting in terms of their conduct are brought to book. Public service is a highly regulated sector of our government; we want to conscientise honourable Members that you don't just wake up and fire workers within the department without having done rigorous investigations regarding their conduct. We will then plead with yourselves to give us time to look at the conduct of those members of our administration and evoke consequence management where necessary. We can't just wake up and evoke consequence management without having undergone that exercise.

Asset management is a matter that is always raised by the Auditor-General of South Africa. We are committing it before this august House that the matter is receiving attention. The MEC will keep members of the portfolio committee updated in the near future with regard to adequate mechanisms on how to manage assets within the Department of Public Works.

The efficiency and effectiveness of our cost centres is key as raised here by Hon Maharaj, because these cost centres are closer to our communities, and we expect them to render services to our communities without fail. We will have to look into areas where our cost centres are not effective and put measures in place where we need to improve and ensure that there are improvements in those areas.

On the issue of regular monitoring of prioritised projects as raised by the chairperson of the committee, we really have noted that concern. Without regular monitoring of projects, we will always find it difficult to account before the members of the portfolio committee. This is one tool that we are going to employ so that we come before the portfolio committee and report accordingly on targets that are not met and even on those that are overreached. We don't want to overreach them and are found wanting when we are expected to account to A-G because of the unwanted and fruitless expenditures that could be incurred.

The issue of ensuring that we overachieve on our targets for upgrading of gravel roads to tarred roads in the province is commended by all members of the portfolio committee, who have taken part in this debate here today. Indeed Members, when our roads are tarred it makes it easy for the economy to grow and our people to continue networking with other communities in their jurisdiction where they stay. The issue of road infrastructure network is an issue that is linked to the economic growth of the province, as a result we cannot overlook the importance of tarring those roads.

We welcome the accolades given to Dr Masemola on his attainment of a PhD degree that was conferred to him by the University of Limpopo. We are going to pass over the message to him, because it is him who must receive the accolades. We fully agree with you, Hon Managa, that all of us need to follow in the footsteps of Dr Masemola in ensuring that we make education fashionable. We need to see more doctorate degrees conferred to Members of this august House.

We also want to put it here on record that we are going to address all the administrative and political instabilities as raised by honourable Members during their debates. Where there is no synergy between the political wing of the department and the administration wing, you will never achieve anything insofar as service delivery is concerned. We shall have to deal with those issues. As I speak here, Dr Masemola is interacting with labour movement within the department, and we are going to make it a point that all the concerns raised here relating to instability receive attention.

Thank you very much, honourable Members. Let's work together with the Portfolio Committee on Roads and Infrastructure in the province and make it a point that we deliver those quality services with the intention of growing the economy of this province to greater heights.

I want to thank you for, Hon Speaker, the opportunity you have given me to stand in on behalf of Dr Masemola. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.3. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Social Development, Health, and Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good afternoon honourable Members and MECs present here. As the chairperson of the Standing Committee on the Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability, I move that the report of the Joint Portfolio Committee of Social Development, Health, and Standing Committee on the Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability be adopted as the report of this House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Maria Lekganyane, you are recognised.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Mokaba-Phukwana. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and call upon Hon Mokaba-Phukwana.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Once more, thank you, Hon Speaker. The Chief Whip and MECs present here, good afternoon. The Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability plays an oversight role on the quality of life of all citizens. There are people with special needs and it is the duty of our government to ensure that programmes that cater people with special needs are implemented. The committee encourages special support to people interested and involved in helping and supporting communities who cannot do things on their own and in need of medical help.

The situation on Shiluvana Frail Care Centre is a concern to the committee. In this era of democracy, we should be developing advanced methods and programmes on how to improve the quality of life on those who require our assistance. The department reported that the frail care facility is contracted to the Department of Social Development.

It is true that we were invited to attend a joint meeting with the portfolio committees of Social Development and Health. The committee has learned with concern that the management of needy people and infrastructure of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre is not in good condition. As the standing committee, the first recommendation from that engagement was that the department should fast track the protection and improvement of the existing infrastructure of the centre and maintain a high quality of life for the people living in that centre. The department should ensure that proper food and medication is provided to patients admitted in that centre. This also calls for the Department of Social Development and the Department of Health to ensure that knowledgeable social workers and health practitioners are residents in that centre.

The World Health Organization reported that COVID-19 has disproportionate impact in psychiatric institutions and social care institutions such as orphanages, day care centres, rehabilitation centres and institutions for older persons resulting in high rate of infections and deaths. In some preliminary studies, the number of deaths in care centres represents between 42% to 57% of all COVID-19 deaths. Institutionalised persons with disability face heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions, difficulty in enforcing social distancing amongst residents and staff, and abandonment by staff. Persons with disabilities living in institutions also face greater risk of human rights violation such as neglect, restraints, isolation and violence.

It is crucial that as the two departments are working in ensuring proper management and ownership of the centre, there should be a consistent monitoring by the department personnel of that centre. It was reported that Shiluvana Frail Care Centre is a residential facility which focuses on fostering an independent living environment for persons who are unable to live without assistance. The department that is going to take ownership of the centre should mitigate the risks similar to what transpired with Life Esidimeni centres in Gauteng.

Taking into consideration the condition of COVID-19 which we do not know when it will end, water should always be available for cleanliness of the centre and the residents in that centre. In the interim, the department should prioritise testing and promote preventative measures within the centre to reduce infection risk by addressing overcrowding, implementing social distancing measures for residents, modifying visiting hours, mandatory use of protective equipment and improving hygiene conditions.

It was further reported that the centre rendered services for 160 adults, 18 years and above residents in need of 24-hour care and assistance, hence there should be consistent monitoring by the department's personnel. As reported by the department, the category of admission was as follows: 18 years and above, frail adults who are intellectually disabled, physically disabled people who have congenital defects, post stroke, those involved in motor vehicle accidents and any person who is dependent, semi-dependent or who because of unfavourable social circumstances is not able to function in the community with the aid of family support system. The department also reported that users are referred by the area social worker from clinics, hospitals and welfare offices in the province, and that direct admission is not permissible. The area social worker applies on behalf of the person who wishes to be admitted in the facility. It is critical that the department that is going to take ownership and management of the centre ensures that the resident social worker is placed at the centre to coordinate and facilitate with the referral social worker to expedite the admission. The process of referral and admission was presented as follows: all applications must be emailed, hand delivered or faxed to the facility and must include the fully completed Shiluvana Frail Care Centre application form. Incomplete forms will be returned for completion and patients will not be admitted until all the relevant information has been received for review. The forms also require the following reports to be attached: a social worker's report; an occupational therapist or physiotherapist's functional report; a clinical report provided by a medical officer and a professional nurse and user's ID copy is compulsory. The Shiluvana MTD will review the application within 48 hours, and if the person is potentially suitable, a date will be set for the person and their family to visit the facility for final assessment and induction.

If the person wishes to be admitted a date will be arranged for admission. A speedy conclusion about the ownership and management of this centre is critical. The two departments, as per the recommendation by the three committees, should submit monthly progress report to the Legislature following which a meeting will be held to brief the joint portfolio committee.

The Standing Committee on the Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability considered the report as presented by the Department of Social Development and supports the adoption of the multi-committee report with recommendations as the report of this House. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, chairperson of the committee. Hon Charles Mohlala, the stage is yours.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings again, Hon Speaker, and colleagues in the House. The EFF is concerned about the association of the Departments of Social Development and Health with Life Esidimeni. How do you entrust the lives of our people in the hands of a rogue organisation like this which claimed more than 150 lives in the province of Gauteng? Was there no credible organisation in Limpopo which has the capacity to manage Shiluvana Frail Care Centre? What made you to even go to Gauteng and forge this kind of arrangement if it was not for ulterior motives? Two departments in the province failed to combine their thoughts and look within the province for a credible organisation that can manage Shiluvana or is this a matter of doubting your own institutions in the province because you have not built enough capacity? It is the same as when MECs take their children to private schools suggesting that schools under the same government they are serving does not have capacity.

Only people who don't value life will enter into such an agreement with the notorious Life Esidimeni. We need the leadership that can make sober and sound decisions especially in the democratic government that values human life. The decision to enter into an agreement with Life Esidimeni was an ill-informed and not well researched arrangement. You will not have entered into such an agreement if you love our people. This arrangement was like pushing the people into the den of a lion where they could be devoured at any given time. The question is: Who stood to benefit from such a decision? Surely it is not the patients of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. We suspect that there is more than just meets the eye, but the truth shall come out.

The EFF demands that an investigation into the conduct between Life Esidimeni and Shiluvana Frail Care Centre be made, because we smell a rat. Such a report must also disclose how much did both the Departments of Social Development and Health in Limpopo pay to Gauteng provincial government. The report must also speak to the recommendations by the former Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke on Life Esidimeni. The people of Limpopo want to understand the complex and weird relationship you have with Life Esidimeni. There is also a serious doubt as to whether the centre was registered or not. This information is coming to light now after being hidden for some time. The truth has its own way of sprouting out to light for people to see. You cannot suppress the truth forever. You better tell us the truth before the investigation reveals it. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Manamane Mohlala. Hon Katlego Phala, you may take the podium.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We are debating this report after the Democratic Alliance, through a letter, requested for a joint oversight visit and a committee meeting between the two Departments of Health and Social Development. Unfortunately, the latter only happened. The task team's report reveals that Shiluvana Frail Care Centre was non-compliant with the Mental Healthcare Act and unlicensed. Regulation 43 says any service not directly ran under the auspice of an organ to the state and which is not a designated hospital, but which provides residential or day care facility for five people or more with mental disorders, must be registered in terms of the Act. The centre has 85 patients who need medical assistance due to their mental health. About 54 patients have intellectual disability and 77 of the patients in the facility were found to be wholly dependent on the healthcare personnel for bathing, dressing, feeding and using the toilet. It is here that this group of patients in the centre needs the Department of Health's services the most.

The task team benchmarking of the DA-led Western Cape and Gauteng revealed that facilities are funded by both the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development. The Department of Health is the lead department and provides more of the funding which also covers the professional staff. The benchmarking also indicated that in the two provinces, the Department of Health funds residents with profound to severe intellectual disability whilst the Department of Social Development pays subsidy for the mild to moderate intellectually disabled beneficiaries. The task team report offers four options for the management of the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre as follows:

1. The Department of Social Development manages the facility but continues with outsourcing due to the lack of capacity within the department;
2. Full takeover by the Department of Health;
3. Full takeover by the Department of Social Development and insourcing of all services; and
4. The joint management of the facility by the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development with outsourcing of services and joint funding.

The task team had recommended the fourth option, and according to the funding of the benchmark the Department of Health is best placed to be responsible for the centre.

Despite the failure of the committee to conduct the oversight visit, the Democratic Alliance did visit the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. Our visit revealed many other pressing issues that the facility in addition to the eminent lapse of the current contract by then with Life Esidimeni at the end of September. There was also constant lack of water due to poor municipal services and boreholes that had dried up. The centre had

informed the Limpopo Department of Social Development of the borehole situation but to no avail. They are forced to buy water on a daily basis and warm it up for patients using electric water urns. The facility which used to be an acute care hospital and its surrounding infrastructure is not disability-friendly at all. This poses a challenge to patients with physical impairments especially those that use wheelchairs.

As the Democratic Alliance, we hope that this report will not only be debated but that both departments going forward will really take care of this facility. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Hon Maseko, you may take the podium.

MR MASEKO

Hon Speaker, the Premier, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development in absentia; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health and the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability, I greet you. Allow me, on behalf of the joint committee meetings that we held, to present to you the following report within the understanding that we have received a report that clearly indicates some challenges to that frail care centre. After we have received the report from Social Development, we then initiated a site visit which was scheduled around June, unfortunately due to the lockdown restrictions, at that time the country was on level 4, we could not visit that area. The site visit was cancelled because of that. However, the Social Development committee thought it was best to proceed with a virtual meeting to bring all Members on board, that includes portfolio committees on Health, Social Development and the standing committee.

We dealt with the issue on several occasions and the sequence that the department reported in its APP. The Department of Social Development also highlighted some of the challenges it faced with regard to the management of the centre. The Department of Health was invited to a meeting due to the health and management challenges faced by the Department Social Development concerning the transfer of management of the facility to the Department of Health.

The Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability was also invited to the meeting due to its oversight role in dealing with the elderly and people living with disability. Members of the committees received a presentation by the accounting officer of the Department of Social Development on the status of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. Detailed documents were also furnished to Members for perusal and for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive oversight.

We must also report to the House that the centre in question is managed by Life Esidimeni. As joint committees we were also very much concerned about that having noted what had happened in Gauteng. We raised a number of questions, unfortunately at that time we never had answers. We are also alive to this mismanagement of other centres. Like I am saying, the ill-treatment that people got in Gauteng, particularly around those centres that were under the management of Life Esidimeni were inhumane. Hence, the three committees had to be sensitive, cautious and interrogate

the matter to ensure that the lives of the people in that centre are in good and in safe hands.

After thorough scrutiny of the documents as presented, Members engaged on it and indeed agreed that the report should be send back to EXCO for further clarity and clear recommendations. Once finalised and approved by EXCO, the report should be submitted to the Legislature for discussions. Our take as the joint trio is that it should go back to EXCO for further engagement, clarify a number of issues that we have raised and bring it back here to the Legislature for engagement. It is a process, Hon Speaker. EXCO should benchmark the report with or take into cognisance the recommendations from the former Deputy Chief Justice Moseneke's Commission Report on Life Esidimeni and the issues raised in the letter written by the former Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi in 2018. Those are the references that we think must be the basis for EXCO to engage on this matter, so that they recommend intervention mechanisms that will be able to assist us in ensuring that the lives of those people are safe. We are also saying that the licensing of the centre should also be a priority. The report should also be clear on the challenges with mitigating factors on issues such as the licencing of the centre, the mental health directorate and lack of proper wheelchair-friendly toilets at that place.

EXCO should also urgently interact with the national Department of Health to deal with the lack of policy or legislation regarding the matter, because there is a policy gap with regard to how that centre must be managed. Members concluded that given the urgency of the matter, the two departments should submit monthly reports to the Legislature. On this one we refer to the Department of Social Development and the Department of Health. They have to give us updates continuously, following which a meeting will be held to brief the joint committee again.

Considering that the Portfolio Committees on Social Development and Health and the standing committee received and engaged the department about the centre; and that the two departments were committed to ensuring that the situation of the centre is improved for the better; we therefore as the joint portfolio committee support that the report be adopted as such. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Maseko. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC to respond to the debate jointly.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE [ON BEHALF OF THE MECS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH]

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. This is what you get when you are regarded as the youngest amongst your colleagues. I want to take this opportunity and greet you, Hon Speaker, the esteemed Members of this august House and in particular our warmest greetings go to the Members of our joint portfolio committee that had undertaken this oversight exercise to our Shiluvana Frail Care Centre.

As a Member of the Executive Council mandated to act on behalf of my colleagues, I want to put it here on record that the input of all the Members who have partaken on this debate are well noted. We are going to make it a point that a dedicated team is

put in place in an endeavour to address all the concerns and the challenges raised by Members in their debates.

On behalf of these two departments, namely, the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development, we are making a commitment here that the wellbeing of the beneficiaries who are housed at the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre will always occupy the centre stage within our planning processes in these departments so that there is a clear clarification of roles with regard to who is responsible for what and how best we can work together with the Members of the joint committee to manage the centre so that we don't experience a similar situation that was experienced in Gauteng. Where we are as a province, we believe that the appointment of Life Esidimeni to manage the centre has been happening and where we are in Limpopo we haven't received any incidents of fatalities within the province. We can't really jump into conclusion now and say because Life Esidimeni did not do justice to the management of the centre in Gauteng therefore, even in Limpopo the case is going to be the same. We will have to work together with Life Esidimeni in the meantime and try to find amicable solutions on how we can properly manage the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre going forward as a provincial government.

I am pleased to report here on behalf of EXCO that the Executive Council led by the Hon Premier, Chupu Mathabatha, has taken a decision to appoint a transitional committee constituted of the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury to look at funds that are needed to be reprioritised for the centre and both the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development sit in that committee so that we look at all other matters. For instance, if it is a legislative matter that needs to be resolved, we will have to bring it to the Legislature for amendment of such legislation. We are working towards concluding the process and getting a report of the EXCO decision and then come back to this august House and report accordingly. MEC, Hon Seaparo Sekoati was mandated by EXCO to reprioritise the budget that must then go towards the management of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. I am confident that as he is busy dealing with budget adjustments now, he will make it a point that all these concerns of Members are taken into consideration.

Hon Speaker, we are pleased that the report has finally been adopted by this august House where Members were jointly exercising their oversight function at the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. We want to make an undertaking here on behalf of the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development that whatever findings brought forward by the task team are going to be attended to without anyone shifting the blame saying this is a mandate of Social Development and others saying this is the mandate of the Department of Health. As we speak, there is no clear role clarification on who is responsible for what for the proper management of the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre.

We welcome the inputs by Members where they are calling for mitigating factors on the matter, because the wellbeing of our beneficiaries at the centre must occupy the centre stage of what we do as a provincial government.

When coming to matters that concern the policy gap in terms of how the centre should be managed, I believe the team as appointed by EXCO will then deal with those policy gaps and come up with recommendations on how to deal with those policy gaps. Once a decision is made that the centre must then be managed by Social Development, all these concerns around policy gaps should have been addressed. We would have to

work together and give ample time to the committee to work on the technicalities that will assist us to properly manage the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre in the province of Limpopo so that we don't end up with similar incidents of fatalities that happened in the province of Gauteng.

I am also pleased, Hon Speaker, to report that in terms of Resolution 32 of 2021/22 that necessitated the extension of the current contract between the Department of Social Development and Life Esidimeni, which has been copied and submitted to Members of the joint portfolio committee, will also need to be looked into. We do not want to have a situation wherein our beneficiaries at the centre are left unattended whilst dealing with the matter of handing over of the facility to the relevant department. We want to put it on record that, that matter will also be brought forward once the technical team as appointed by the Premier concludes its work and Members of the joint committee will be kept abreast with those developments.

We want to appreciate your valuable inputs and our colleagues will then keep you updated in the future as you continue to hold them accountable through your oversight mechanism through that joint oversight exercise. MEC Rakgoale could not join us. She has requested me to stand in on her behalf because she is launching the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign on behalf of the Executive Council; hence I am here representing her and MEC Dr Ramathuba. Thank you very much, Members, for your inputs. We want to assure you that the beneficiaries are in safe hands. They are being managed under Life Esidimeni, and so far we don't have any incidents of fatalities. Let us have confidence in that particular process. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

8.1 Motion for the Ratification of the Conferral of Final Mandate to the NCOP Permanent Delegates

I call upon the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

RATIFICATION OF THE CONFERRAL OF FINAL MANDATE TO THE NCOP PERMANENT DELEGATES

(Motion for Ratification of Conferral of Final Mandates)

The House Rules and Section 7 of the Mandating Procedures of Provinces Act, 2007 provide for the conferral of final mandates to the NCOP Permanent Delegates.

In line with these provisions, the Hon Speaker has, in the absence of the House Sitting, conferred Final Mandates to the NCOP Permanent Delegates to vote in favour of the following two bills:

- Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill [B2B–2019]; and
- The National Forests Amendment Bill [B11D–2016].

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this House resolves to ratify the aforesaid Conferral of Final Mandates in line with the abovementioned provisions.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I am Selelo Donald Selamolela, I stand to second the Hon Chief Whip on the recommendation reports of the final mandates to the National Council of Provinces as read. I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Selamolela.

8.2 Motion for the appointment of Special Delegates to attend the NCOP Plenary on 25 and 30 November 2021

I call upon the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you once again, Hon Speaker.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE NCOP PLENARY ON 25 AND 30 NOVEMBER 2021 (Motion for Appointment)

Section 61(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa read together with House Rule 226(3) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House provides for the designation and appointment of Special Delegates as required from time to time.

In line with these provisions the House resolves to appoint the following honourable Members to attend the NCOP plenaries as follows:

- On 25 November 2021: Questions to Cluster 2A: (Basic Education and Higher Education, Science and Innovation): Hon S V Mathye, Hon M C Mahasela, and Hon F P Mdaka.
- On 30 November 2021: Questions to Cluster 2B: (Health and Social Development): Hon L J Matlou, Hon N S Monyamane and Hon G R Monama.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolves to ratify the appointment of the abovementioned Special Delegates in line with the abovementioned provisions.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party and of the Legislature in general. Can we now call for a seconder? Hon Maseko, you are recognised.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Funani Jerry Maseko, rise to second the presentation by the Chief Whip of the House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Maseko.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? Hon Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party and of the Legislature in general, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Matthew 4:4 says that Jesus answered and said: "Man shall not live on bread alone." I realised that on Tuesday we lived not on bread alone. I stand here today to announce that we have got lunch. You are advised that when we finish our business here, on our way out, you turn right at the door, move towards the foyer, and pick your lunch pack. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party and the Chief Whip of all Members who are gathered here.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, it has been a long day. This House is adjourned until next week Tuesday, 30 November 2021 at 10:00. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may all be seated. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive, Members of this august House; staff members, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Seono, you may take the floor.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE MOKOPANE FAMILY VIOLENCE AND
SEXUAL OFFENCES UNIT FOR SECURING A LIFE SENTENCE HANDED DOWN
TO A CHILD RAPIST
(Motion without Notice)**

I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to applaud the work of the Mokopane Family Violence and Sexual Offences Unit for securing a life imprisonment sentence handed down to a convicted child rapist in the Mokerong Regional Court on Monday.

The hefty sentence emanates from an incident that took place on Friday, 02 July 2021 where the accused raped his 11-year-old niece after she visited him at his house in Mosetjane. According to reports, the man accompanied the victim to her home in the same village where she stayed with her grandmother after committing the heinous crime.

He then confessed to the crime and pleaded for forgiveness. A case was opened at the Mokopane Family Violence and Sexual Offences Unit, and after a thorough investigation, the accused was found guilty of rape and ultimately sentenced to life imprisonment.

We welcome this development, and we hope it will serve as a warning to other potential rapists throughout the country.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you may take the floor.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice in terms of Rule 145? Hon Gannye Monama, you may take the floor.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker; honourable Members of this august House; Members of the Executive Council; ladies and gentlemen.

**INTERVENTION BY MEC DICKSON MASEMOLA IN POOR WORKMANSHIP ON
THE D959 ROAD**

(Motion without Notice)

On behalf of the ANC, we want to take this opportunity to welcome the move and the intervention taken by the MEC responsible for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Dr Namane Dickson Masemola, to refer the shoddy and poor workmanship on the road D959 to the law enforcement agency.

Immediately after the department had commissioned the work to repair the bad condition of the road, it started to wear out and tear as if no work was done.

We fully support the MEC, Masemola, who upon realising the sloppy work done on the road that stretches between Makhado and Kutama-Sinthumule referred the matter to the Special Investigation Unit known as the SIU. Hon Speaker, this is the curse of the African Nation Congress-led government that it must at all material times take drastic steps in many other half-done projects.

We are certain the acts of corruption and malfeasance will reduce dramatically because of the precedent that has been laid down by Hon Masemola.

We are hopeful that the investigation will expose any wrongdoing on this project, and the transgressors and the alleged thieves who continue to plunder the public purse should be brought to book.

We also want to go further to say that this is a matter of the value chain; it must not just affect the service provider, but also the engineers who were certifying that work, the project managers and so forth.

This must also set an example to other organs of state to consider going the legal route where they discover that the public has been shortchanged by these unscrupulous service providers.

If government was to operate and function with this type of attitude as displayed by Hon Masemola, our people would have confidence in this ANC-led government and its services.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. Is there any seconder? Hon Aphiri, you may take the floor.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the motion as tabled by the honourable Member. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further motions without notice? There is none. Let us move to the next item.

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? Hon Smalle, you may take the floor.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**INABILITY OF THE LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PAY
STIPENDS TO EDUCATION ASSISTANTS AND GENERAL SCHOOL
ASSISTANTS EMPLOYED UNDER THE BASIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE
(Members' Statement)**

The Democratic Alliance notes with great concern the looming inability of the Limpopo Department of Education to pay stipends to education assistants and general school assistants employed under the Basic Education sector initiative that forms part of the Presidential Employment Stimulus. This initiative is targeted at creating 38 429 employment opportunities for unemployed youth in Limpopo.

These EAs and these GSAs are expected to provide administrative support to the schools and assist teachers by supporting learners with their educational and social developmental needs as well as promoting a safe and secure learning and teaching environment. It seems as if the late tabling of the adjustment budget nationally and in the Limpopo Legislature is the reason being put forward for not being able to pay stipends in a timeous manner.

Schools have been directed to use their own norms and standards money to pay the stipends for EAs and GSAs and will be reimbursed at a later stage. The arrangement is problematic on a number of levels. Firstly, the norms and standards money serves a specific purpose and operational function in schools which are already overly dependent on those funds in the running of these schools. Secondly, many schools do not have sufficient funds left in their norms and standards allocation to pay these stipends.

The decision for schools to use these norms and standards funds will see them run the risk of encountering cash-flow problems. The MEC for Education must outline why there was no contingency planning by the department for alternative sourcing of these funds rather than the norms and standards funding and why these moneys that are already arriving late will be paid out to the schools in two tranches.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further Members' Statements? Hon Mphahlele, you may take the floor.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

DELAY IN THE COMPLETION OF THE LEETO LA POLOKWANE BUS STATION IN THE CBD

(Members' Statement)

There is no progress at the Leeto la Polokwane bus station in the CBD. The Leeto la Polokwane bus station in the CBD was supposed to have been completed in six months, but it is still far from completion. The ANC-led government knows nothing about project management. They never stick to project timelines of completion. This is the level of incompetence we continue to witness on a daily basis which unfortunately affects service delivery in Limpopo. The construction of the bus station is meant for the city's Bus Rapid Transit system, and yet if you go there now, you will find people still digging the foundation. Apparently, the project is marred by poor workmanship, lack of dedication by the implementing company, lack of professionalism and poor quality of work at the Leeto la Polokwane depot.

We need to know who the contractor on site is and why the contractor continues to delay the project while the service of the contractor can be terminated. There should be a full investigation on this project, especially on the money paid to the contractor to date. Clearly, there is no value for money. The people of Limpopo are being taken for a ride. We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this project and a full report be presented to this House without delay.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Are there any further Members' Statements? We are done with the Members' Statements. I will now call upon the MEC to come and respond to the Members' Statements. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Good morning. We only started on 01 November 2021 after we had received the money. Treasury has transferred the money to us; we will be able to do that. If you say we have not paid them or we have asked the SGB to pay them, I do not know for what period. If you started on 01 November 2021, definitely you will get your money at the end of the month. If there is proof that we have asked the SGB to do that, we will investigate.

Norms and standards are transferred to improve the quality of education, but we know that because of the circumstances of COVID-19, we have transported a little bit more so that we can take of these operational matters. Remember, the initiative also is made to help us to manage COVID-19 at our schools, so we will make sure that everything is fine, and come the end of the month, I think it is today, everybody will be paid. If they are not paid, we will be able to take that into consideration. There is no need for contingency planning; the money is there. Our good "Moreki" has given us the money, and I think our youth are also happy that they are at work and that they are doing something.

I am also answering for the MEC for Transport and Community Safety because I think you quoted the MEC for CoGHSTA instead of the MEC for Transport and Community Safety with regard to the delay in the completion of the bus station called Leeto la Polokwane. This is to ensure that we improve public transport in terms of carrying our people from origin to the destination. Destination can be something which has to do with socioeconomic facilities. That is why we always say public transport in itself is not an end, but a means to an end. The problem that is experienced with Leeto is that it affects the whole country.

Some of us were fortunate to have been involved with MyCiTi, A Re Yeng of Tshwane and also Rea Vaya, and we understand what is going on. The main challenge is that we do not have the relevant skills in our country, and most of the skills which have to do with the integrated public transport network are from Brazil, as you know that Curi-Thiba also had this, and we were taking it from them. They helped us to some extent, but I know that the national Department of Transport is making sure that we get the skills that we need.

Our people cannot wait anymore. They want decent public transport, and we will make sure that we tackle all the challenges that are involved with Leeto and make sure that it becomes operational and be able to assist our people and carry our people in a dignified way. We will still ask the Department of Transport and Community Safety to give you the details of the contractor. If there is action to be taken, I think the department will be able to take action. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC, Hon Boshielo.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements? There is none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports and papers? There is none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 The First Reading of the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B04-2021]

I call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, to take the floor.
[APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

TABLING OF THE 2021/22 PROVINCIAL ADJUSTMENTS BUDGET

(Address by Mr S C Sekoati, MEC for Provincial Treasury)

Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker; Premier of the province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of this august Legislature; Director-General of the province, HOD Gavin Pratt and all heads of departments present; ladies and gentlemen, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to force us to act in a context of great uncertainty and under heavy economic, fiscal and social pressures. With the offset of new waves of infections and the emergence of new variants, we are confronted by limited new demands to sequence policy actions.

As the government, we cannot be dependent on straight or linear courses of socioeconomic policy actions to manage, exit and recover from the crisis. Instead, we must act on all fronts, simultaneously and in synchrony. The need for flexibility and adaptability forces us to reconsider our systems and reassess our development priorities.

Undeniably, the pandemic has regressed the gains we had made in restructuring our economy, curbing unemployment, and poverty, on average, the living standards of South Africans has regressed as many had to continue to contend with high electricity and fuel prices, reduced wages and job losses. This is most noticeable in and felt by households who experienced an average decline in household income, thus implying high cost of living and many.

Projections show that the world economy is expected to show a rebound in 2021 from the 2020 decline. The economic rebound is expected to be led by many emerging markets and developing nations' economies. The global economy is projected to grow by 5,9% in 2021 and 4,9% in 2022, 0,1% point lower for 2021 than in the July forecast. Beyond 2022, global growth is projected to moderate to about 3,3% over the medium term. Advanced economy output is forecasted to exceed prepandemic medium-term projections. By contrast, persistent output losses are anticipated for the emerging market and developing economies.

Price pressures are expected to subside in 2022. In some emerging market and developing economies, price pressures are expected to persist because of elevated food prices, lagged effects on higher oil prices, and exchange rate depreciation lifting the prices of imported goods. However, great uncertainty surrounds inflation prospects, primarily stemming from the path of the pandemic, the duration of supply disruptions, and how inflation expectations may evolve in this environment.

Our national GDP increased by 1,2% in the second quarter of 2021, following an increase of 1,0% in the first quarter of 2021. The industries that contributed positively towards the GDP growth were agriculture, mining, electricity, gas and water, trade, transport and personal services.

On the contrary, our provincial GDP has been on the decline since 2018, where it decreased from 2,1% in 2017 to 0,6% in 2018. It further declined to -0,2% in 2019 and to -7,2% in 2020. It is expected that as mining and other industries recover, the provincial economy should also be recovering.

Hon Speaker, as a nation, we contribute with our asymmetrical recovery from the pandemic, with infection rates continuing to be significantly manageable. The rapid spread of the fourth wave and the threat of new variants increases our uncertainty about how quickly the pandemic can be overcome. Policy choices continue to be more difficult, with limited room for maneuverer.

As a province and a country, we will need to gear up the vaccination programmes so that herd immunity can be achieved to allow the country and the province to return to full, normal operations. As Limpopo, we are currently at 43% against the national target of 70% herd immunity by end of December 2021. This definitely needs a concerted determination from both community members and the government to rapidly increase our efforts because it is the undeniable truth that no one is safe until everybody is safe.

Hon Premier, ladies and gentlemen, a comprehensive set of policies will be required to promote a strong recovery that mitigates inequality and enhances our socioeconomic sustainability. The province will need to gear up in terms of planning and implementation of infrastructure projects, amongst others, so that the intended benefits to the communities are achieved. A fundamental approach is needed to help the province fast-track its efforts of creating industries and employment through manufacturing and processing.

The province will also need to reposition itself as an investment designation of choice, to both foreign and local investors, to create employment, particularly for women and the youth, to allow the government enough space to focus more on service delivery issues and advance the development path as guided by the national Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, the Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan and the 2020–2025 Limpopo Development Plan.

Indeed, it is worth noting that in the midst of all these impediments, the people of the province in particular have continued to be resilient. They continue to live in the spirit and conviction that hope begins in the dark, they tenaciously hope that if we just show up and try to do the right things, the dawn will come. We must wait and watch and

work. We should never give up. The power we discover inside ourselves as we survive a life-threatening experience in COVID-19 can be utilised equally well outside of the crisis too, for we are, in every moment, capable of mustering the strength to survive.

The COVID-19 pandemic found the world and us as a country in a battle against yet another socioeconomically destructive pandemic, HIV/Aids. We must always remember that for nearly 40 years, we are still trapped in this global pandemic. Therefore, we need to continue strengthening our efforts in the war against this deadly pandemic as well, and we dare not lose sight of it.

Today, on the eve of the World Aids Day, as we gear up as a province to host the second National Aids Day event commemorated in the advent of COVID-19, our intent and actions must clearly echo our message from those grounds of Saselami village in Collins Chabane Municipality to the world, that in this year of Mme Charlotte Mannya Maxeke, we will be moving from awareness to accountability as a nation.

This commemoration, as it observed during the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, should form the centre point of government's resolve to a comprehensive 365 days of activism against all forms of social ills and repression of the vulnerable groups within our society.

The alarming increase of cases of missing and murdering of women, and the recent reports on abduction of children reported in our province is a cause for great concern. Hence, as we take accountability as a nation, our intent and actions must clearly be seen:

- To be rejecting and reporting all forms of abuses;
- To be pledging to be frontline activists in our homes, communities and workplaces;
- To be challenging cultures and practices that perpetuate gender inequalities in all its systems; and
- To be pledging to be champions of activism against gender-based violence in all its forms and character.

Hon Premier, ladies and gentlemen, it will be naïve of us not to recognise the lower voter turnout in the recent local elections. With their abstention, the voters send a clear message of their dissatisfaction with the work in local government, thus things have to change. They must change very fast and for the better.

Our urgent attention must be paid to the financial sustainability capacity of municipalities to generate sufficient and reliable revenues as well as improved management systems, which should include, amongst others:

- Sound political and administrative leadership and responsible decision-making;
- Good governance and optimal resource allocation and usage;
- Revenue enhancement, including new sources of revenue, cost recovery, and sustainable tariff structures; and
- Improved expenditure management and accountability.

In line with the adopted District Development Model, as provincial government, we must support cooperation across municipalities to help minimise disjointed responses

and competition for resources through the facilitation of intermunicipal cooperation in order to support recovery strategies by ensuring coherent mitigation guidelines, pooling resources, and strengthening investment opportunities, particularly during this period of crisis.

Hon Speaker, in relation to the 2022/23 MTEF budget, the Limpopo equitable share has been increased by R82,5 million in 2022/23, R585,5 million in 2023/24 and R661,7 million in 2024/25 financial years due to new updates. The Limpopo province has also been allocated R1,5 billion to fund the 2021 wage agreement.

The total provincial equitable share allocation for Limpopo in 2022/23 financial year amounts to R61,2 million, R59,8 million in 2023/24 and R62,6 billion in the 2024/25 financial year, and these allocations represent a positive growth of 2,1% in the 2022/23 financial year, negative growth of 2,3% in 2023/24 and a positive growth of 4,6% in the 2024/25 financial year. Provincial own revenue increases from R1,3 billion budgeted for 2021/22 financial year to R1,5 billion in 2022/23, growing to R1,6 billion in 2024/25 financial year. The conditional grants funding will be finalised by the sectors in December 2021.

Total provincial sources of funding will be increased by 1,4% in 2022/23, decreased by 1,6% in 2023/24 and increased by 3,8% in the 2024/25 financial year. The total provincial allocations to departments for the 2022/23 financial year amounts to R71,7 billion, which reflects a positive growth of 4,4% when compared to R68,7 billion main appropriations of 2021/22.

All Votes show positive budget growths for 2022/23, except for the Office of the Premier and the provincial Legislature, with Transport and Community Safety at 12,7%; Sport, Arts and Culture at 11,1%; LEDET at 8,6%; and Social Development at 10%.

In 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years, allocations amount to R72,5 billion or growth of 1,1% and R73,7 billion or 1,6% growth year on year respectively. The budget growth rate over the MTEF period is well below the National Treasury projected CPI of between 4,2% and 4,5%, and therefore, our departments and entities will need to be prudent with their spending over this period and spend wisely to stimulate our economic recovery trajectory.

Ladies and gentlemen, on 09 March 2021, we tabled before the provincial Legislature the 2021/22 appropriation, and today, we are tabling the adjustments of this appropriation as follows:

- To fund identified budget pressures, especially on compensation of employees due to the 2021 wage agreement and other budget pressures that resulted from the COVID-19 budget cuts;
- To include additional funds received for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative responding to the need to employ additional staff to deal with the COVID-19 protocol-related capacity challenges, especially in Health, Education and Social Development;
- To include 2020/21 budget rollover allocations; and
- To adjust the provincial own revenue budget and the equitable share allocations for each Vote.

As at 30 September 2021 our overall expenditure was R33,9 billion, which is 49,3% of the total Budget of R68,8 billion. The provincial equitable share expenditure was R29,7 billion or 51,1% of the budget while the expenditure on conditional grants amounted to R4,2 billion or 39,5% of the conditional grant budget of R10,5 billion.

In terms of the economic classifications, the province spent R24,2 billion or 51,6% of the R46,9 billion allocated budget of compensation of employees and R5,1 billion or 44,3% of the goods and services budget. The spending on provincial transfers was at R3,8 billion or 50,5% of the allocated budget of R7,6 billion. Lastly, the spending on capital assets was extremely low at R835,2 million or 29% of the capital payments budget.

There are series of engagements at different levels which Provincial Treasury is assisting departments and public entities in order to improve spending, especially on capital projects. Departments committed to working with Provincial Treasury in order to improve service delivery to our people and implementation plans provided by departments and public entities are being monitored on a monthly basis.

As at 30 September 2021, provincial own revenue collection was R646,9 million or 44,4% of the main appropriation, which is more than the projected collections for the period amounting to R582,6 million or 40%. The overcollection is mainly on motor vehicle licence, patient fees and recovery of previous year's expenditure-related debts. The overcollection was mainly influenced by the improved economic activities due to the relaxations of strict lockdown regulations of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hon Premier, the objective of the mid-term reviews is to examine the departmental priorities within the context of applicable baseline allocations, hence in our context, all set targets on the Limpopo Development Plan are assessed and resources made available on the basis of each departmental mandate and the existing capacity to deliver services in the year under review.

Based on these reviews, the province has decided to reduce the provincial own revenue budget by R62,1 million, or 4,3% from R1,4 billion to R1,3 billion. The decrease is mainly influenced by slow performance on patient fees, interest and casino taxes from the departments of Health; Provincial Treasury; and Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. The reductions are mainly influenced by recovery of economic activities still in progress as well as reduction of interest rates as announced by the South African Reserve Bank.

The 2021/22 provincial equitable share is revised upwards by R2,5 billion, which comprises R1,6 billion for funding of the 2021 wage agreement and R853 million for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, of which R802 million is allocated to the Department of Education, R40 million to Health and R11 million to Social Development.

Conditional grants allocations are revised upwards by R685 million, which comprises the following:

- Rollovers from 2020/21 to 2021/22 year amounting to R620 million;

- Additional allocation of R39 million for the Department of Health, which is organised in this fashion: R3,3 million for the Mental Health Services, R20 million for Oncology Services Component and R15,7 million for Human Resources and Training Grant;
- Additional R24 million for Early Childhood Development in the Department of Social Development; and
- R2,3 million for Provincial Emergency Housing Grant in the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.

The provincial own revenue is adjusted downwards from R1,4 billion by R62 million or 4,3% to R1,3 billion.

With these 2021/22 adjustments, the provincial available resources will be adjusted upwards by R6,6 billion or 9,6% from R68,7 billion to R75,3 billion.

The following, therefore, ladies and gentlemen, will constitute our adjustment to the 2021/22 budget allocations per department:

Vote 1: The Office of the Premier is allocated R12 million to fund pressures in compensation of employees, including 2021 wage agreement and R21 million to fund pressures in goods and services. The institution will, however, surrender R38 million for e-Leave, Email and e-Recruitment projects.

Vote 2: The provincial Legislature is allocated a total of R34,3 million. The institution is allocated R24 million to fund pressures in compensation of employees, including the 2021 wage agreement and R9,8 million for revenue retention as per section 22 of the PFMA.

Vote 3: Education receives R3,1 billion. The department will receive R2 billion to fund pressures in compensation of employees, including 2021 wage agreement, R802 million for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, equitable share rollover of R216 million, which is allocated in this fashion: R884 million for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative and R32,7 million for Sanitary Dignity Programme and conditional grant rollovers of R120 million.

Vote 4: Agriculture and Rural Development is allocated a total of R97,3 million. The department will receive R60 million to fund pressures in compensation of employees, including 2021 wage agreement, R30 million to fund pressures in goods and services and conditional grant rollovers of R19,8 million. The department will, however, surrender R12,5 million for Makgoba Fruit and Zebediela Citrus projects.

Vote 5: Provincial Treasury has got no changes at all. The department's allocation will remain at R364 million and the department will reprioritise within the allocation since there were no pressures submitted by the department. You will have to live within your means.

Vote 6: LEDET is allocated R253 million. The department is allocated R35 million to fund pressures in compensation of employees, including 2021 wage agreement, R6,5 million to fund pressures in goods and services, R182 million for the turnaround plan in Great North Transport, R11 million for the Limpopo Gambling Board for 2021 salary wage agreement pressures and R20 million for operational costs for Limpopo

Connexion. The department will, however, surrender R6 million from the refurbishment of state resorts Project.

Vote 7: Health is allocated R1,5 billion. The department receives a rollover amount of R177,6 million for the following conditional grants:

- HIV, TB, malaria and Community Outreach Grant : R64,1 million;
- Health Facility Revitalisation Grant : R96,4 million;
- National Tertiary Services Grant : R16,5 million, and
- Statutory Human Resource Management : R0,415 million.

The department receives an additional conditional grant allocation of R39,1 million as follows:

- Mental Health Services Component : R3,3 million;
- Oncology Services Component : R20 million; and
- Human Resource and Training Grant : R15,7 million.

The department is allocated R400 million to fund pressures in compensation of employees, including 2021 wage agreement, R800 million to fund pressures in goods and services, R50,5 million for medicolegal claims against the state, R40 million for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative and R40 million for scanning and archiving projects. The department will, however, surrender R40 million from the Emergency Medical Services Communication Centres Project.

Vote 8: Transport is allocated R239 million. The department is receiving R16 million to fund pressures in compensation of employees, including 2021 wage agreement, R143 million to fund pressures in goods and services, R68,5 million for bus subsidies and R28 million for GAAL operational costs and CAA findings. The department will, however, surrender R17 million from earmarked funding projects: Mampakuil – R10 million and K53 projects – R7 million.

Vote 9: Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is allocated R931,9 million. The department receives R47 million to fund pressures in compensation of employees, including 2021 wage agreement, R126 million to fund pressures in goods and services, R144 million for municipal rates for Makhuduthamaga Municipality, R121,5 million for municipal rates for other municipalities in the province, R250 million for pressures in Roads Agency Limpopo capital projects and R242 million for Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant rollover.

Vote 10: Sport, Arts and Culture is allocated R41,8 million. The department is receiving R5 million to fund pressures in compensation of employees, including 2021 wage agreement, R28 million to fund pressures in goods and services and R10 million for Schoemansdal Museum. The department also receives a conditional grant rollover of R6,8 million for the Community Library Services Grant. The department will surrender R8 million from the earmarked funding for the provincial theatre.

Vote 11: CoGHSTA is allocated R71,4 million. The department is receiving R58,7 million to fund pressures in compensation of employees, including 2021 wage agreement, R21 million for the reinstatement of traditional leaders, which is by a court order, Hon Premier. Conditional grant rollover of R6,1 million for the Title Deeds

Restoration Grant and an additional amount of R2,3 million for the Provincial Emergency Housing Grant. The department will, however, surrender R17 million from construction of traditional council offices.

Vote 12: Social Development is allocated R291 million. The department receives an allocation of R118 million to fund pressures in compensation of employees, including the 2021 wage agreement, R71,5 million accelerated grade progression which is funding the backlog, R20 million for the pressures in goods and services, R11,4 million for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, an additional R24 million for the Early Childhood Development Grant Subsidy Component and a rollover of R46 million for the Early Childhood Development Grant.

Hon Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, I understand that it is hard for everyone, but we cannot give in to sensations. We will have to draw lessons from the current crisis and continue to work hard on overcoming it.

The road to recovery will not always be easy, we will have to take it one day at a time, focusing on the moments we have always dreamt about for so long, for a person in whom a crisis takes place, passes the night preceding the paroxysm uncomfortably, but the succeeding night generally more comfortably.

As a province, we will have to maintain and accelerate public investment at projects level by improving self-financing capacity, implementing budget rules, supporting service providers through easing of access to long-term bank credit for projects, and supporting infrastructure projects preparation and implementation. These should also include other financing mechanisms which may be activated such as public private partnership schemes or equity financing.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to thank the Premier for his guidance as well as this august House. As I table this 2021/22 Adjustment Appropriation Bill to this august House for consideration and approval, allow me to table herewith:

- The provincial Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement; and
- Adjusted Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure

Ke a leboga. Ndza khensa. Ro livhuwa. Baie dankie. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC for the tabling of the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill. The Bill together with its supporting documents are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to the House. Thank you very much.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism

Committee chairperson, you may the floor. [APPLAUSE]

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Hon Premier and the Leader of Government Business Hon Hlabirwa “Moreki” and greetings to colleagues, friends and fellow compatriots. Hon Speaker, I stand before this august House to present for consideration and adoption the 2021/22 financial year First Quarter Report for the Limpopo Development, Environment and Tourism.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Makhurupetje, you may take the floor.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Madam Speaker, I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here to support the presentation of the first quarter of LEDET by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Selamolela. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Makhurupetje. Committee chair, you can proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Once again, thanks, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I once again stand before this august House to present for consideration and adoption the 2021/22 financial year First Quarter Report for Limpopo Development Agency.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Mathe, you may take the floor.

MR MATHE

I, Simon Mathe, hereby second the report as presented by the chairperson, Hon Selamolela.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I take your honour once again to present for consideration and adoption by this august House the 2021/2022 financial year First Quarter Report for Limpopo Gambling Board.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Aphiri, you may take the floor.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. O fele o lebelela le Mohlomphegi Smalle. He has been raising his hand. I rise to second the report as presented by Hon Selamolela. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thou shall not be jealous, Hon Raphela. Hon Speaker, once again I stand before this august House to humbly present for consideration and adoption by this august House the 2021/22 financial year First Quarter Report for Limpopo Tourism Agency.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Smalle, you may take the floor.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the report tabled by the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall not refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Simon Mathe. You are allocated seven minutes, honourable Member.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker and Members of this august House, I greet you all. Thank you very much for this opportunity to debate on the First Quarter Performance Report of the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities, inclusive of Limpopo Economic Development Agency, Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Tourism for the 2021/22 financial year.

Hon Speaker and Members, the provincial government, LEDET and its entities play a critical role in the economic development, particularly through the support of the SMMEs and cooperatives. One of the recommended and successful strategies is through procurement of products and services from enterprises owned by previously disadvantaged youth, women, and people with disability. This committee urges all the entities to oblige to the stipulated allocation for local procurement in order to benefit businesses in Limpopo and create more jobs.

We also want to applaud LEDET for continuing to pay all the invoices within 30 days prescribed period. This will go a long way in easing the cash-flow challenges in our local enterprises. COVID-19 and its associated lockdown has continued to affect our provincial economic growth. The reduction in the budget allocation has meant that fewer beneficiaries are reached with the limited resources. In addition, some of the businesses have not been operating as expected, which meant that revenue was low.

The thorough implementation of the Limpopo Economic Recovery Plan is imperative. The contribution by the provincial and national government through provision of COVID-19 Relief Fund in various sectors is highly commended as it made a difference. However, we urge LEDA to provide information of other different businesses that have been supported, including the spaza shops, as this will enhance the oversight process. We welcome the steady recovery process that has been witnessed on the tourism as well as the gambling sectors.

The role of the state-owned entities in the provincial economic development remains a critical one. However, it is important that these entities perform as expected in order to advance the economy of the province. These entities are expected to reposition and deliver effectively on the developmental and profit generation mandates. During the period under review, the committee has noted with concern that most LEDA subsidiaries such as Corridor Mining Resources, New Era, Limpopo Connexion and GNT have not been generating profit which is critical for self-sustainability.

We urge LEDET and LEDA to implement measure that will result in the targeted profit. The achievement of service delivery targets by these entities has also been less than satisfactory. While we await the outcome of the provincial SOE rationalisation and repositioning process, it will be important to ensure that LEDA management continues to channel the available resources towards the improvement of these entities.

The province has identified the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone as a megaproject that could contribute significantly to the attraction of investment, job creation and economic growth in the province. The delays in the completion of the environment impact assessment, delays in conformation of land ownership for the MMSEZ, delays in infrastructure implementation including bulk services are some of the challenges that are encountered. The committee has noted with concern that this project had raised expectations for the people of Limpopo about jobs, skills development and business opportunities. The committee urges the department to ensure that it communicates the delays to the citizens of Limpopo and all role players, but most importantly ensures that the project implementation commences.

While the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ has not been designated by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, it will be imperative for the department and the stakeholders to finalise the preparatory activities that will pave the way for SEZ designation. The allocated budget for infrastructure should also be efficiently used towards the development of the SEZ. There should be sufficient capacity.

Some of the LEDA subsidiaries are critical in playing the developmental role for the provincial economy to grow. Great North Transport is amongst those entities that play an enabling role through the transportation of workers to various workplaces. However, the committee has noted with concern that fewer and fewer passengers are being transported due to unavailability of busses since others have broken down while there were delays in the implementation of the project for leasing of busses. We urge the entity to fast-track this process as it will also be helpful in generating the much-needed revenue. However, we remain confident that such challenges would be attended to as a matter of urgency.

The province has prioritised the Lebowaikgomo abattoir as one of the priority projects in advancing the economy of the province. During the announcements in the Budget

Speeches, it was highlighted that the project when operationalised will create a number of jobs for Limpopo citizens. However, the delays in the operationalisation are concerning to the portfolio committee. However, we have noted that there has been a partnership agreement with one entity that would commence its work around January 2022. We remain hopeful that this dream will be realised.

The department continues to perform a facilitatory and regulatory role, particularly in the sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources. The increased appetite of investments in the province implies that the department continues to receive many environmental impact assessment applications. It is important that the department finalise the applications in time. This will ensure timeous implementation of projects which should assist in the creation of the much-needed jobs and ensure the economic growth in the province, whilst sustainably managing the natural resources.

The project on the commercialisation of nature reserves is one of the critical ones for tourism attraction, but also boosts the revenue generation and job creation by the province. The committee has noted with concern that there are delays in the implementation of this project. The department will continue to monitor implementing agents to deliver in time. However, we still remain hopeful and confident that this dream will be realised.

Tourism has been identified as one of the key sectors of growing the economy of the Limpopo province. With regard to tourism, the department strives to ensure development, promotion and regulation of tourism in the province. The role of the Limpopo Tourism Agency continues to be marketing of the province as a tourist destination as well as for ensuring transformation and capacity building in the tourism sector. However, the committee has noted that there are capacity challenges within the LTA wherein there are vacant posts, including that of the CFO, which have been filled on an acting basis, and this affects commitment and ultimately service delivery. The delays in the supply chain have been well documented in the LTA. We urge the entity to have the necessary capacity in order to facilitate the implementation of the Economic Recovery Plan in the tourism sector.

Of critical importance will be for government to speedily address the challenges around GAAL and the Polokwane Airport. However, Hon Speaker, we have seen that the government has moved swiftly in terms of addressing challenges confronted by GAAL by also advertising management posts such as the CFO and others, which means we are responding to those challenges. We remain confident that the government will at all times attend to those challenges.

The Limpopo Gambling Board has been tasked with the mandate of regulating the gambling industry in the province while generating revenue for the province. It continues to do well despite the limitations. The committee has noted that the resources are not sufficient to ensure regulation functions are carried out and has, therefore, recommended that appropriate financial and human resources should be deployed. The scourge of illegal online gambling continues to be a problem in the province, and this ultimately affects the sustainability of legal gambling entities, hence the need to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in addition to working with other law enforcement agencies.

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the portfolio committee which considered and scrutinised the 2021/22 first quarter reports of the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities, inclusive of Limpopo Economic Development Agency, Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Tourism Agency, I move that the report be adopted as the report of the honourable House. I move accordingly. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Hon Raphela, you may take the floor. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker; Members of this august House, leader of the delegation of the EFF; deputy chairperson, Jetrick Seshoka.

The primary objective of this report is to assess and monitor. The entities, as we are engaging under LEDET, are in total crisis, to share the least, and completely run down as mentioned by the speaker before me. I concur. They are completely mismanaged and badly governed to their total collapse as the people of this province continue to suffer. We will address it as we go. Firstly, we requested the department to submit progress on the Economic Recovery Plan to this House in the next Sitting for the benefit of Members and the people of Limpopo even though we know that the recovery plan will not assist because it is guided by the NDP which is creating a crisis. That is why people are losing confidence in the ruling party. Hon Selamolela, it is not only in Limpopo, but throughout the country the people are losing confidence in the ruling party.

Furthermore, we need a vibrant economy that will make the lives of the people improve for the better and sustainable going forward. This House would like to be given progress report on priority projects in this department to have an idea of whether they are coming or going. This should be done as a principle of accountability, because we cannot divorce accountability and service deliver from each other. The two variables go together in any situation where good governance has been adopted as a principle to govern.

What is the department doing about the mushrooming of illegal liquor outlets and as a way of trying to assist our people on the ground to survive? How do you assist in that process? Because it is our people, I know that you are going to run away, but you do not run away from other nations. Chinese continue to survive, but when we start to do some of these things, we do not have our people. Why do we continue to see liquor outlets established near schools, clinics, hospitals and other critical public institutions without you assisting in that regard?

It is clear that someone at the political helm of the department is not doing his job. The question is, if this person is not doing his job, why do we continue to keep this person in that position, Hon Premier? Why do we have the same administration in the department that continues to fail the people of Limpopo year in and year out still in office? Are these people's positions more important than the people of Limpopo? Are they indispensable?

The Gambling Board must tell us why licences for bingo sites and bookmaker sites continue to be non-operational when they could be improving revenue and growing the economy of the province. Why do you license them if you are not going to make them operational? It does not make sense. Can we get a comprehensive report on the issue of water and electricity and the EIA with regard to the Makhado SEZ since it is difficult for you to pass through these hurdles? The project has long passed its implementation period because the government has no idea on how to implement massive projects such as this one.

As a result, job creation and poverty alleviation is delayed and our people continue to suffer because of this incompetency at this level. The project is supposed to create more than 20 jobs, but it now looks as if it is a far-fetched reality. Our people need jobs now, but all their hopes are fading away. Can we also get a comprehensive update on the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ as mentioned before? It is forever on our list, but no implementation is taking place. This is what is called lip service.

By the way, these issues that we are raising have been there since the previous administration. We continue to raise them, but there is nothing that has been changing. We are even going to go for the next leadership that is going to come in 2024, but at least by that time we will be there to provide solutions. We will be part of government at that time. Reality is starting to come through. Actions speak louder than words. Do not hope to win the hearts and minds of our people and renege on them.

Hon Speaker, the tourism industry in Limpopo needs to be fully transformed because it is still dominated by white males, but because le a kwana, there is no problem, but we will come and assist in that challenge. That is why they also support your motion. There is no difference, the only difference is the colour. The other difficulty is that you are challenged as government ...

THE SPEAKER

Order, Members!

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Am I protected, Hon Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

The other difficulty is that you are challenged as government in terms of policy formulation and policy implementation – a permanent challenge that has always been there.

The EFF government will fully deliver on some of the promises when it comes to power, Hon Premier, in 2024. We will not have time to play by that time, because reality has shown that we are going there and the results as a Marxist will tell you that the conditions are the ones that shape our way forward. Lazy officials and politicians

who compromise service delivery will be flushed out of the public service, giving room to competent staff that will be committed to the vision of the revolutionary government at that time which will be delivering services to the people without failure. Indeed, in 2024 we will be in leadership as well. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Raphela. Hon Smalle, you may take the floor. Honourable Members, order please! Hon Smalle, it is your turn.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I just wanted to say from the onset that the economic forecast for Members will improve if they start getting to committee meetings and start participating in committee meetings. I will leave it there. The Members know who they are.

The economic forecast for South Africa shows a possible growth point of around 2,2% due to a slow rollout of vaccines as the main factor weighing on recovery. Limpopo's GDP growth to the national GDP is around 7,4%. It should also be noted that Limpopo's own GDP which was as high as 2,1% in 2017 has dropped to 0,2% in 2019 and -7,2% in 2020 and is struggling to show any real positive gains currently. Our unemployment figure sits around 30,4% and an unexpanded unemployment rate is at an all-time high of around 50%. These figures simply state that we are not doing enough to improve the lives of our people and to stop the net outmigration from our province

The department must assist young disadvantaged youth in finding work by facilitating jobseekers' allowance for all unemployed young people aged between the ages of 18-34; rollout jobs centres projects where unemployed people can access job opportunities throughout the province; and introduce a civilian service year to provide work experience for matriculants to enter into work-based training in the fields of community healthcare, basic education and policing.

Limpopo's entrepreneurs must be retained in the province by empowering them with access to capital, infrastructure and skilled labour and to exempt small businesses from certain labour and BEE laws to help them compete and create jobs. This is the best way to promote economic inclusion. LEDA's performance remains lacklustre and underwhelming, and the need for such an entity becomes questionable daily. When measuring LEDA against its key performance areas against mineral beneficiation, agroprocessing, innovative digital solutions, their 0% target achievement over this quarter speaks volumes of their inability to turn around our economic trajectory.

The rand value investment in the SEZ at Tubatse will remain another white elephant as the R15 million investments remain a pipedream. The R2,680 million of disputed loans against the target of R20 million were awarded to beneficiaries due to the failure of LEDA to successfully manage their loan book. Enterprise development finance loan interest currently managed sits at -191%. Student fees percentage sits at a net loss of -7447%; CMR net loss at -1390%; GNT at net loss of -25%; Limpopo Agribusinesses at a net loss of -354%; and Limpopo Connexion at a net loss of -15%.

One should note with caution that the department is able to meet its KPIs when it comes to financing, but when evaluating the actual spend, it dismally fails on that part. The report also further indicates that only 12 of the 31 key performance targets were met. The committee has also learnt of the shifting of the goalposts by the board of Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone such as the 1000 MW solar generating plants being accepted with no reference to the Nersa application and the possible withdrawal of coal mining in the area.

The Lebowakgomo abattoir being leased to Goseame Wholesalers with scant detail around a fair supply chain process; a one year or so capital holiday and MOU that has been agreed upon in the backrooms of possibly the HOD, will definitely in the near future be of interest to the Auditor-General and the NPA.

As the committee member and a Member of this House, the lack of transparency shown by the department, and especially LEDA, must beg the question, is this department capable of managing its affairs within the guidelines and the prescripts of the relevant legislation?

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. I now call upon the committee chairperson, Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Allow me to once again take this platform to salute the Hon Premier; to also salute the Leader of Government Business; to salute the Deputy Speaker present here; the Chief Whip of the Majority Party; my friends; compatriots and colleagues present here.

Perhaps as the point of departure, I must join the Hon Leader of Government Business in saluting the people of South Africa, particularly the multidisciplinary health team. As we stand today, a day before the most important day in the global agenda, which is the World Aids Day, you would remember colleagues that over the past three decades, more than any other thing, HIV/Aids has been at the forefront of collapsing global economies. Our economy today, Hon Raphela as we speak about it, has also been overtime a subject of this global pandemic.

It is against this background, Hon Premier, that I joined the MEC for Provincial Treasury in his words that we must join the people of the world, Africa as a continent and the people of our country to remember those who passed away, but also in the main to salute the multidisciplinary health team for the greatest work they continue to do for us against the HIV/Aids pandemic across the world.

Hon Speaker, as a committee my parting shot would really be to say to Hon Raphela that there is nothing wrong if it is your passion to tell lies, but there is everything wrong to use the wrong platform to advocate your lies. It is very, very important to separate these things because we have been together with you in committees, and we have noted progress together and you know some of the things that you are speaking about here have no shred of truth. Hon Speaker, without wasting time, allow us to quickly go

into issues because Hon Small and Hon Mathe to a greater extent touched on key points that we dealt with as a committee which are very important for us as we move forward.

One of them is that we received the report from the department about and around the postpandemic Economic Recovery Plan of the province. We are very happy as a committee about the progress that has been noted so far as that is concerned. We continue to commend the department to double its work in that regard. We have committed ourselves as a committee Hon Premier that we will continue to monitor ...
[INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

On a point of order, Hon Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

You are recognised, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I'm rising on a point of order to check with you if it is parliamentary to say a Member is lying in this House. If such is not acceptable in this House, I would like to make an appeal that the speaker on the podium withdraws that Hon Raphela is lying. It is totally unparliamentary. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Selamolela did you say Hon Raphela is lying?

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, as you may be aware, I have never said any honourable Member is lying. I have just cautioned about the importance of not telling lies, which I don't think I have done wrong. But, of course, there is a concept called 'hallucination', where sometimes you hear things that have not been said and you create your own reality out of what is being said.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, the speaker on the podium is just playing with words. All of us heard him saying Hon Raphela is lying. We heard him saying that. If that is going to be the attitude and you are unable to rule on this matter, you must know that you are creating chaos in this House because everybody is going to be loose and use words as they wish.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, I said I did not hear that. I will go and check and I will come with a response. Can you proceed, Hon Selamolela?

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I will try to be very careful on how I use words moving forward and for the sake of progress. I also subject myself to the *Hansard* process, and I will truly with respect withdraw if I had said Hon Raphela is lying. But I'm confident Hon Speaker and you can subject me to that particular process. For the sake of progress, Hon Speaker, allow us to speak about key issues that are important for the progress of the province. I was speaking about the importance of the recovery plan before I was distracted. I have said that we are confident, and we continue to applaud, and Hon Mathe has touched on this point.

We are also impressed about the importance of the transformation of the tourism industry, and we have said that it should continue to be prioritised and the necessary capacity building be done to support the tourism SMMEs. In general, all SMMEs should be supported in the province.

We have said this, Hon Speaker, because as Hon Mathe has earlier said, the importance of the tourism sector in the province cannot be overemphasised, especially amongst all of us. We know that tourism plays a very important role in the economy of the province.

Hon Speaker, Hon Smalle is right, we also are impressed as the committee about the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone. Our parting point with Hon Smalle might just be that we are continuing to see progress and we have implored the department to speed up the implementation process precisely because it is our understanding that the successful implementation of this project has a long ... [INTERJECTION]

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, I would like to ask a question.

THE SPEAKER

I was saying no Member is allowed to interject any other Member who is on the platform. Allow him to finish his debate. Let us allow Hon Selamolela to finish his debate.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, you are not going to set some of the rules aside ...

THE SPEAKER

You are out of order because I'm responding to Hon Raphela. He wanted to respond to Hon Selamolela and I'm saying no. Is it clear, Hon Raphela?

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

It is very clear if I want to respond, but I want to ask a question.

THE SPEAKER

You said you wanted to respond and I'm saying you are not allowed.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

I want to ask a question.

THE SPEAKER

You are not allowed to ask questions to a Member who is on the platform. Are we clear, Hon Raphela? What is it now, Hon Seshoka?

MR SESHOKA

I think you are getting it wrong, Hon Speaker, because you are now becoming emotional over this issue.

THE SPEAKER

I was not responding to you. You are out of order!

MR SESHOKA

But I raised my hand and you recognised me.

THE SPEAKER

So, do you want to respond on behalf of Hon Raphela?

MR SESHOKA

Yes, I can do that.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka you are not allowed, and we are done with the issue of Hon Raphela. What do you want, Hon Seshoka?

MR SESHOKA

I will tell you exactly what I want from you. I want you not to set aside some of the rules. I think it is allowed to ask a question in this House. It will depend on the Member on the podium if she/he wants to respond to the question. It cannot be you who tells another Member that they cannot ask a question. It will be up to a Member who is on the podium whether he/she answers the question.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, as the Presiding Officer, I'm saying no one is allowed to ask any question during the debate. That is my ruling.

MR SESHOKA

Your ruling is not consistent with the House Rules.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC do you want to say something?

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I think what is happening here is uncalled for. You are the Presiding Officer, and if any of the Members has an issue, there is a forum where they can go and raise those issues. As for now, you needed to be given some space for this House to run its course. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Please proceed, Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Dikgopana di se ke tša bolaya batho.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

The MEC is out of order. She's out of order in that she is engaging the Speaker over and above the rules and orders of this House. You can't rule based on what you see, but you must be guided by the House Rules.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Selamolela, can you proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, in as far as LEDA is concerned, we have requested that LEDA should provide a regular comprehensive report on the activities and performance of divisions, subsidiaries, joint ventures and all the associates. In this regard, Hon Speaker, as a committee, we noted, as Hon Smalle has said, the challenges that may relate to certain subsidiaries of LEDA, but we have said that we will continue to monitor progress in this regard.

Hon Speaker, the implementation of the turnaround strategy for GNT is a matter that we noted at the beginning of this financial year, particularly on the quarter under review. We are happy about the progress that has been noted. We have also requested the department and the entity – LEDA – to give us a progress report on Lebowa kgomo abattoir. It is one of the key projects, and we are happy that at this point, a point that deserves a round of applause is that the entity has been able to find an operator at this particular point.

It's a point, honourable Members, that deserves a round of applause, especially from progressive Members of this House precisely because over almost a decade we have not been able to be successful to get an operator. Operationalising Lebowa kgomo abattoir means that we will be able to create job opportunities, particularly with the ripple effects to the growers in the agricultural space, to the producers of feeds, and so on and so forth.

Hon Speaker, the other issue which was very important relates to the tourism sector. We commend the work that is being done by the tourism agency of continuously marketing and positioning the province. Honourable Members will remember that, at a particular point, our greatest concern as committee was the closure of the airport. We had said we implored the MEC Hon Mokone to interface immediately with the MEC responsible for transport in the province to ensure that we re-operationalise the airport. The failure of the airport to operate had a far-reaching implication for the tourism and marketing of the province.

In this regard, honourable Members, we are pleased to stand before you and happy that the two Members of the Executive Council have been able to roll up their sleeves and get into the battle to ensure that the airport is operationalised. As we speak, the airport is operating, and honourable Members and Hon Premier, we salute the Members of the Executive Council who were charged with this responsibility.

Hon Speaker, in as far as the gambling board is concerned, we continue to call on the department to ensure that the investment into the gambling opportunities in the province are diversified to suit the interests of and to benefit the previously marginalised individuals of this province. The department has committed to that effect, and we are very confident, and we will continue as a province to monitor that. Lastly, in as far as the Limpopo Gambling Board is concerned, as the committee we are concerned about the growing number of illegal gambling.

The growing of Fafi, Mo-china and so on and so forth continue to be of great concern to us, without accusing anyone who is participating in these games. It is a very serious concern for us, and we have implored the department to ensure that we strengthen the battle against illegal gambling. Illegal gambling continues to make us lose revenue, but over and above, it continues to impoverish our people in the province.

Hon Speaker, over and above, we are happy as a committee about the progress that has been noted, especially since we interfaced with this quarter under review until now. We continue to monitor progress in this regard. We really salute everyone who has put hands on deck to ensure that we turn things around, especially against the backdrop of the setbacks we have suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are very happy that the recovery plan is starting now to show us the benefits of its implementation in the province.

With these few words, I want to move that the report of this committee be considered and adopted by this august House. I so move. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chairperson, Hon Selamolela. We shall now call upon the MEC for LEDET to respond to the debate made by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of the House, ladies and gentlemen; it is my pleasure once more to stand before you to account on the 2021/22 first quarter reports for LEDET, LEDA, LGB and LTA.

Before I do that, I would not like to disappoint my neighbour there, MEC, Hon Boshielo, who has asked me to tell our friend Cde George that they are hallucinating about governing Limpopo. They only won three wards in the province and the rest have gone to the ANC. [APPLAUSE]

Of course, in Limpopo the ANC is in charge under Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, and we will continue doing that. Hon “George”, we need to indicate that before you come and speak, you must have attended committee meetings. You have been on holiday, and we want to welcome you from your holiday. Hon Raphela ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, may you please take your seat. Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

The point of order that I wanted to rise on, the honourable MEC has rectified it. I heard him referring to Hon Raphela as “George”. You can refer to him as “George” somewhere else, but not in this House.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Phošo e dirwa ke motho. I wanted to indicate that we are indeed going ahead with the implementation of the Socioeconomic Recovery Plan of the province. We have dealt with the short-term recovery plan where we assisted businesses which were affected by COVID-19 and we are continuing with the implementation of a long-term strategy of changing the lives of our people by making sure that by 2024 when we account about what we have done, we should be able to say, with the money that you have given us, this is what we have been able to do.

We also want to say to the committee, thank you for your guidance. You have raised issues and we have taken note of that. There were glaring issues, like the issue of Lebowakgomo abattoir. We are in the process of making sure that abattoir is operational. We are currently having engagements with the people that are going to rent the abattoir and make sure that our people do benefit from that. We will continue to use the procurement budget to change the lives of the people of Limpopo, especially young people and women.

You would have heard that in the province we are sticking to 30 days payment of invoices because that is the way of making sure that money circulates in our people, and we make sure that our people continue to survive, and that also assist the small and medium businesses because that is where the problem is. The road to make our subsidiaries to be self-sufficient will always remain on our radar, and we will make

sure, as we said in our strategic sessions and our strategic focus, that by the 2024/25 financial year, all LEDA's subsidiaries are self-sufficient.

We have a blueprint for that, and we can show you. Risima is already self-sufficient, and we have a turnaround strategy of GNT, and we know at what point GNT will make a profit, and at what point CMR is going to make a profit. We are also seeing our insurance company which is also on the road to make profit. It is only affected by the COVID-19 members, you will see that most of the members are claiming. If that was not the case, by now, we should be showing profit.

Regarding the issue of the SEZ, we are sure that with the money that has been allocated, people have already been appointed, and we will be able to say by the end of the financial year that the money allocated has been spent. This was put to the test to see whether we are going to spend the money. You would have seen that we have been busy, we had an investment conference where the province received pledges of almost R208 billion and companies are already hard at work, the mines that have pledged are already starting to operationalise the mines and we know how many jobs are going to be created.

So that is why the people of Limpopo have voted for the ANC, because we are hard at work. We also had a Tourism Indaba which dealt with the infrastructure. We can tell you that now the two airports are operational, and we are receiving people from Gateway Airport, and we are also receiving people from Hoedspruit Airport, and that increases the number of tourists who are coming to our province.

We have committed that we will not let go of that number one spot because it is our spot, and we work tirelessly. We have been in Sekhukhune making sure that people of Sekhukhune also realise the tourism benefits. Regarding mining, we hosted the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister Gwede Mantashe, who has indicated to us that they want to make Limpopo a mining hub of South Africa. We will work with them to make sure that indeed that is realised. We are doing so under the leadership of the Premier who realised that mines are being disrupted by people in those mining areas.

We came up with a programme to make sure that we stabilise those areas and make sure that our people understand that when you destabilise mines, you are also denying money that the fiscus needs. Together with the DMRE, we have formed a task team which will make sure that we go to those communities to understand their problem and make sure that mines also implement their commitments.

You will realise that we have De Hoop Dam which does not benefit the people. We want to make sure that indeed that dam also benefits the people of Sekhukhune. Indeed, Hon Speaker, the road to economic recovery is a road that we will have to stamp our authority on. We have agreed with the MEC for Provincial Treasury that in the next round of allocation of money, we have to make sure that as a province we allocate money to economic activities because in that way our people will be able to have something. We will not relent until we see our people's lives being changed. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. We will now proceed to Item 7.3: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; and Agriculture and Rural Development. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very, Hon Speaker. Once again greetings to the Hon Premier; the Leader of Government Business; the Chief Whip; Members of the Executive Council; friends; colleagues and compatriots.

Hon Speaker on the week of 15 and 19 August 2021, the joint portfolios of this august House, the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development accompanied the National Council of Provinces' Select Committee on Land Reform, Environment, Mineral Resources and Energy on an oversight visit to agricultural projects in the Limpopo province around the Vhembe District.

These oversight visits were aimed at, amongst others, evaluating and tracking the impact of conditional grants; supporting programmes offered to the farmers; visit to agriparks and agrihubs and so on and so forth. The following areas were visited: Tshivhase Tea Estate, Goddard Farm, Ms Maria Tshivhenga's small-scale farm, Ratombo CPA, Ravele CPA and Nwanedi Agrihub.

Hon Speaker, it is my pleasure to table before this House the report of this oversight visit for consideration and adoption by this House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the oversight report presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Selamolela. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and the first speaker is Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Mokgonyana; Chair of Chairs in absentia and Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members of the august House and Members of the Executive Council, all protocol observed, good morning.

Madam Speaker, King David says in Psalm 24: 1, the earth is of the Lord and its fullness thereof, meaning even coronavirus because it belongs to the earth, is part of

that. Madam Speaker 2020/21 remains a sad year indeed. COVID-19 has indiscriminately drastically affected the whole world, the regions, all industries, and businesses. We are all living through something the severity of which we have never experienced before. We are currently in the 613 days of lockdown, and that is what we have seen taking place in the whole world.

There have, of course, been pandemics before. As archived, the plaque of Black Death of the mid-1300s resulted in between 75 and 200 million human deaths, while 100 million people perished due to the Spanish flu in 1918 to 1919. Even during this difficult time of COVID-19, let us have faith that the positive side of human nature will take over the joy of having survived. The crisis will stimulate all to work to give service delivery to the remaining people and invest to spend.

Madam Speaker, the Limpopo Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism together with the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development accompanied the NCOP Select Committee on Land Reform, Environment, Mineral Resources and Energy on their oversight visit which took place on 16–19 August 2021 to agricultural projects in the Limpopo province around the Vhembe District.

The oversight visits were aimed at evaluating and tracking the impact of the conditional grants given to these projects. These are the following areas that the NCOP Select Committee has visited: Tshivhase Tea Estate, Goddard Farm, Ms Maria Tshivhenga's small-scale farm, Ratombo CPA, Ravele CPA and Nwanedi Agrihub. Madam Speaker, let me say this, Ravele CPA has been a CPA which is very much organised. Ravele CPA is a CPA which impressed the committee because they implemented the conditional grant properly and they have developed systems which are sustaining the project, but they request that the roads be regavelled because of their perishable produce.

Madam Speaker, the committee is carrying out its constitutional oversight and public participation mandate in consideration of the magnitude of the responsibility Agriculture and LEDET carry in respect of the developmental sustainable goals. The National Development Plan and Limpopo Development Plan are basically addressing the triple challenges. The intervention should navigate into government administration and leadership and management system used in reporting, implementation of projects and human resources.

Honourable Members, this is imperative for the realisation of the national goal alluded to and for the development and economic welfare of the province, taking into consideration that agriculture has been declared a critical industry and, as such, exempted from the harsh lockdown regulations. However, job losses in the agricultural sector will be an unintended consequence of lockdown in South Africa. This will be a major spoke in the wheel of government.

It is our ambition to increase employment in agriculture and agroprocessing by million jobs by 2030. Madam Speaker, let us know that it is pivotal that they look into intensifying the support of this agricultural service area and see to it that it impacts positively on unemployment in our province.

Madam Speaker, let me talk about the findings at Easy Farm. That farm was started in 1989 and the very same farm produces tomatoes. In the year 2000, the very same farm changed the complexion of their produce by planting oranges. The farm is privately owned with a title deed. Easy Farm produces citrus for export to markets in Russia, Canada and UK.

The farm employed 5 permanent and 114 seasonal workers. The farmer has gone through agricultural training and worked in other farms to familiarise himself with the running of the farming enterprise. The farmer worked with an agent to market his products who then identified areas of potential market. This agent always gives them advice on when they should harvest and how to preserve those that are not harvested.

It was an experience for the portfolio committee to see innovation in the farmer. Madam Speaker, the farmer always manages the trees well until September and he does as he has been taught. Honourable Members, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development plays a big role of supporting farmers, particularly in ensuring export of products. The looting which took place in KZN has affected the projects of our farmers drastically that they lost so much: their produce remained at the harbour without being delivered to their different destinations.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is always supporting the farmers. The ANC-led government is concerned about the fact that the tea estate business is just thriving a little bit, but their business is not as good as it was before. The Tshivhase Tea Estate has collapsed, and the portfolio committee has recommended that LEDA must assist the Tshivhase Tea Estate to make sure that they generate their own revenue. The Midi tea has high competition in the market with Fresh Pack, Joko, Fives Roses, and the brand is not able to claim a market because of being unmarketed in an extensive way.

Madam Speaker, marketing was done in the past, but was not sustainable and the entity withdrew the tea from Pick n Pay stores as the brand was not known. There are higher operational costs since they need to comply with sector minimum wage regulations. The committee felt that the Midi tea needs to be supported by the province. Because our departments have some business projects, especially Correctional Services, Health, and Education, they must support the Midi tea so that this project doesn't fall because it has been the glory of the province. The entity must lease with other companies. The entity must be assisted by LEDA to market their brand in South Africa because it's proudly South African.

Madam speaker, in conclusion, let me borrow the words spoken by His Excellency the President of the country, Hon Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, when he communicated our determination as a country in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. He said: "We are determined not merely to return our economy to where it was before the coronavirus, but to forge a new economy in a new global reality." Thank you, Madam Speaker. God bless you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mochadi. I shall now call upon Hon Raphela. Hon Raphela, it is now your turn.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

I have exchanged with Hon Seshoka, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Okay, you may take the floor, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker and greetings to the Premier; the Members of the Executive Council present here; the Members of this august House; the officials from departments and support staff of the Legislature.

Hon Speaker, before I even start, let me also highlight that it also takes a liar to identify a lie. The important question that all of us must answer is, what is the key driver of the Limpopo economy? Is it mining? Is it tourism? Is it agriculture? Surely, agriculture is one of the key economic drivers in this province. It is not given the necessary attention it deserves because those who are given the responsibility to plan for the economy of this province are nonthinkers.

Agricultural projects create jobs for our people and guarantee them sustainable livelihoods going forward into the future. It is for this reason that the government must develop a well-thought-out agrarian reform programme to support farmers, in particular black farmers for economic growth and job creation. The support by government must put farmers at the centre by considering both backward and forward linkages of production in the economy.

Hon Speaker, the story of Mukumbani and Tshivhase Tea estates is heartbreaking because this is a missed opportunity to develop an example or model of a successful black-led industrialisation which is key to economic growth. The two estates combined were sitting at 1 081 ha production when the project was run by the Venda Development Corporation pre-1994. The introduction of agricultural and rural development corporation restored the ownership of the tea under this agency.

Most of the rural agricultural projects like Tshivhase Tea Estate collapsed with the discontinuation of the RCD by the ANC-led government that was obsessed with destroying everything which was initiated by the apartheid government without giving it a thought. Hon Speaker, what used to be a source of living for many people in the former homeland of Venda was destroyed in a minute by the ruthless government of the ANC.

It was only in early 2005 that the provincial Department of Agriculture started to revitalise the collapsed tea projects to a point where the brand Midi tea was born and found itself on the shelves of many retailers, including Pick n Pay between 2008 and 2010. Hon Speaker, by that time the projects were able to absorb more than 2 000 workers, including permanent and temporary workers.

This worked because the then Department of Agriculture had a workable model for industrialisation. The problem started when the decision was taken to house all agencies in LEDA, which I think Hon Sekoati was in the forefront of that misguided

decision. Ever since the project collapsed and many lousy reasons were attributed to that failure. Hon Speaker, one of the lousy reasons attributed to the failure of the tea estate, is that the tea production is not viable because it is labour intensive, and it complicates the compliance of labour legislation.

This reason exposes the cadre deployment policy of the ANC, poverty of the ideology by the ruling party and the visionless head of this province. How on earth can a project that is labour intensive become a problem to a country, whereas the country is continuously recording high level of unemployment? Hon Speaker, the EFF is exonerated for its call that the ANC-led government hates black people. This is one such example. Generally, the ANC-led government fears multinational cooperatives that have fronted most of the ANC leaders to exploit both natural and human resources in this province.

Hon Speaker, the biggest problem of the tea estates is the failure of the ruling party to develop an agrarian reform that will focus on transformation of the wholesale value chain. The useless ANC-led government has located our poor farmers at a primary production and left the backward and forward linkages of the value chain into mainly the white males in this country. The important question is, who own the company that supplies the machineries? Who own the tea seed companies? Who owns the fertiliser companies? Who also owns the herbicides as a backward linkage? And who owns and controls forward linkages, which are the logistics, pack houses, agencies, and the market?

All of us know the answer. In South Africa, there are 14 companies that own the market of tea, and only two of those, which are Unilever and National Brand Limited, control 86% of the tea market and the other remaining companies share 14%. Because of their financial muscle, they bully all the emerging producers to compete in this market, and that is why we are not going to see any space unless the government takes control of this.

The reports that we have been seeing are showing that the Tshivhase Tea Estate needed only 5% of the market share to sustain its production and contribute positively to the economy of this province – only 5%, Hon Sekoati. It is only the caring EFF government that will introduce a wholesale agrarian reform that will include transformation of the value chain processes. Hon Speaker, one of the failures of this project is nonparticipation of the department in these projects. Only self-serving MEC or HOD will not see anything wrong in excluding the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in these key projects.

Why didn't the government tap into the ZCC market that consumes significant amount of tea? Why are we still complaining about the market when we have government departments that could buy tea from government-invested projects like Tshivhase Tea Estate? Only the EFF government will ensure that the government departments like Health, Education, and Justice and Correctional Services buy their products from government-initiated projects to ensure sustainability of the investment.

Hon Speaker, Easy Farm is one such example or a model of an emerging farmer graduating from emerging to commercial farmer. The department did not do justice to this project by failing to profile it to ensure that it does not collapse along the way. The farm needs to be profiled and supported to push production beyond current capacity

of 100 ha of citrus to 700 ha as planned by the farmer. With proper support to the farmer, the farm can compete with other established citrus producers like Schoeman Boerdery farms in Groblersdal.

The farm must be formally linked with an institution of higher learning for a mutual benefit in terms of further research on the cost reduction mechanism in the production of citrus, particularly in fuel, electricity, and chemicals, while on the other side students will be exposed to practical experience in the farm.

Regarding Ratombo and Ravele CPAs, these two projects are part of the Limpopo farms which were claimed by the community and successfully restituted to the rightful owners. As much as we applaud the ANC-led government for land restitution, they did so without a proper plan. Luvuvhu farms used to be a fruit basket of the province and the entire country until the ANC-led government came and destroyed it and dented the good concept of land restitution.

Land was restituted without a plan, and that is a reality, it's a fact. Only government without a plan will take land possibly from white male farmers and bring them again as strategic partners. Huge sums of money in a form grant were dispatched during the time of strategic partnership which didn't benefit the intended beneficiaries, but the connected politicians of the ANC and those they partnered with.

Contracts of strategic partnership facilitated by government departments were signed without exit strategies, hence looting was done without control measures. The ANC-led government set our people to fail because land was restituted without training on production, identification of a needs assessment amongst beneficiaries, proper support, markets, and proper institutional arrangements.

The ANC-led government left our emerging farmers to compete with the established farmers in everything, which is unfair competition. Internal conflicts among beneficiaries were fuelled by lack of proper guidance with regard to institutional arrangements and their time frames. Our people were made to celebrate a paper in a form of a title deed which is currently not helpful as things stand now. Hon Speaker, our people are now left on their own because the grants from the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development are finished. That is why today all these farms are experiencing problems of production input, mechanisation, high cost of electricity, markets, and internal conflicts. It is only the EFF government that can transfer the ownership of land to state for equal distribution and ensure that land use and sustainability is the order of the day. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I now call upon Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, once again greetings to you; to the Deputy Speaker; to the Chief Whip of the Majority Party and this august House; to the Members of the Executive Council; to the Leader of Government Business; to colleagues; to my right-wing friends and to everyone.

Hon Speaker, under normal circumstances, after what Hon Mochadi has done in unpacking what we have seen as a result of the oversight visit, I should be coming here just to move for the adoption of this report. It is important to set certain points straight precisely because this oversight visit for us was not just an oversight visit. It exposed the interrelationship, the interlink, the interwovenness and interlockedness of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism in this province. It has been able to assist us to understand and appreciate the importance and the vitality of the working together of these two portfolios, something that I don't think that Hon Seshoka has been able to appreciate.

Hon Speaker, this oversight visit has assisted us to meet and interface with young people who are in the forefront of advancing economic emancipation in this country, but also of uplifting the economy of our country by participating at the primary level of production. This oversight visit has also assisted us to interface with men and women, particularly the previously disadvantaged individuals of our country. We are a living testimony of the ANC's assertion that women can lead, and women can be in the forefront.

The farms we have visited are led by women thriving and doing very well. Hon Speaker, it is important to do this and clarify this point because in his inconsistent, incoherent, uninspiring and sad speech, Hon Seshoka comes here with his "untidy" red jacket to expose himself as the principal agent of the old order. He says to us here, it was wrong for the ANC ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

On a point of order, Hon Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

Two Members can't raise a point of order at the same time. Hon Seshoka you can go ahead.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, you are likely going to have a problem if you are not going to be consistent with the rules of this House. I'm simply rising on a point of order and the little that you could do is to give us an opportunity to raise that point of order, it is only then that you can say whether that order is sustained or not. If you are going to continue like this, we are going to have a problem and this House is going to degenerate.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, you are out of order, you are given a platform to raise whatever that you want to raise.

MR SESHOKA

That is exactly what I'm doing. I'm not going to tell you what you want to hear. I'm going to tell you what is in my heart and that is what I'm doing now. The point of order that I am raising is that the honourable speaker on the podium now is becoming personal when he's describing me as being "untidy", which I feel that it is unparliamentary. That is the point of order that I want to raise. I will appreciate it if you can call him to order and he must withdraw that statement.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, was your name mentioned by Hon Selamolela?

MR SESHOKA

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

I did not hear that, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

You heard it and everybody heard it.

THE SPEAKER

Proceed, Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, can I assume that he's tidy so that we proceed?

MR SESHOKA

On a point of order, Hon Speaker! Hon Speaker, I don't know if that is how you are going to treat us because I raised a point of order, and I didn't even hear a ruling. I made a request through you that the honourable Member must withdraw. Without even making a ruling, you just allow him to continue as if nothing has been said. So, it's a problem, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

No, Hon Selamolela was going to respond, and you interjected him. So can we hear his response?

MR SESHOKA

We want a ruling from you, not him to respond.

THE SPEAKER

No, I have checked with him if he really said that.

MR SESHOKA

But you said he can continue. Okay, let's hear from him.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much, and I will look into my vocabulary going forward because if my eyes say this is untidy, I have not thought it would be wrong to say that. But if it warrants that, I will use a proper word going forward, I will say "just not so tidy" so that we have peace and proceed.

THE SPEAKER

Proceed, Hon Selamolela. Hon Seshoka, do you still want to say something?

THE CHIEF OF THE MINORITY PARTY

Hon Speaker, this House is degenerating into something. Surely, you also going to chase us out because we are not going to allow you to be so sympathetic to the speakers of the ANC. We are asking you to make a ruling, and instead of making a ruling, you just take our request lightly and you say we must just proceed. In the process, you also want to suppress us from making these points of order. We want to hear a ruling from you, Hon Speaker. That is what we are requesting from you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Selamolela said, if really what he said was wrong, in future he will make sure that he doesn't repeat that. That is what he is saying.

MR SESHOKA

That is not what he is supposed to say, it is what you see because you are supposed to be an arbiter, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

I said I did not hear that, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

We are going to have a problem in this House, I am telling you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Raphela, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks, Hon Speaker. We want to raise a point that it is not the first time Hon Selamolela is doing this. You allow him to continue using unparliamentary language

in this House. [INTERJECTION] Let me finish my point. You have allowed Hon Selamolela to use unparliamentary vocabulary, and when we are going to do the same thing, it is going to be something else. Don't allow this House to degenerate. This shows inconsistency and incapacity. It seems as if we are no longer debating issues of the House, but we are debating personal characters.

THE SPEAKER

Maybe you did not hear me well, Hon Raphela. Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm very concerned about people who raise points of order without referring to any House Rules. When you raise an order, you must be able to say, I'm rising in terms of a certain House Rule, and that is why I'm saying this person is out of order. If they stand up and speak without quoting any House Rule, then they are out of order.

THE SPEAKER

Let me make a ruling, Hon Raphela. What honourable Members are raising is that Hon Selamolela ...

MR RAPHELA

We are being insulted here and when we are going to reverse that, it is not going to be nice.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Raphela, can I make a ruling on this matter? What you said is that Hon Selamolela has uttered words that are not parliamentary, and I have said I will go and check if Hon Selamolela has really uttered those words. So, can you proceed Hon Selamolela?

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much and ...

THE SPEAKER

I said I will go and check the *Hansard* and come with a response.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, although there are challenges regarding Tshivhase Tea Estate, there are specific recommendations that we have touched on, and I think Hon Mochadi has gone home in terms of articulating some of those recommendations. A key recommendation for us is that the Limpopo Economic Development Agency's agribusiness must consider working side by side with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the province so that the Department of Agriculture and

Rural Development can focus on the production side, while the agribusiness division of the Limpopo Economic Development Agency can focus on the agroprocessing side of issues.

This is a very key one because we strongly believe that if we are to work on the agroprocessing side of issues, we should be able to create jobs for our people. So far as Goddard Farm is concerned, the key recommendation for us is that the government must find ways to secure markets and link the farmers with the other purchasers of services led by government, especially ensuring that we link them to services such as the national school feeding programme where they could be able to supply those who are in that scheme. That is one of the most important recommendations that will enable us to continue to support and create market for these farms.

Hon Speaker, Ms Maria Tshivhenga's small-scale farm is one example that I earlier spoke about. It sends a message of how previously disadvantaged women can go a long way in playing a role in sectors which were primarily reserved for their male counterparts. We were very inspired in this farm, and we continue to recommend that the departments must prioritise their system with the fencing and supporting with debushing and provisioning of water in that farm.

In conclusion, we also visited the Ravele and Nwanedi Agrihub. One of the challenges in this regard has been the issue of expensive electricity to our farmers. It is a serious concern, and we have recommended that we must continue to look into possible use of alternative energy in this farm, supporting them to explore the alternative source of energy. Because the higher the electricity, the more it impacts on the cost of production, and thus stifle the capacity to expand and create jobs.

Over and above what Hon Mochadi has said, as the portfolio committee, we have been very, very inspired by this oversight. We were able to see things that we could not see unless we conducted this oversight. As the two portfolio committees we move that this report be adopted as the report of this august and honourable House. Hon Speaker, thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for LEDET to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the House; ladies and gentlemen, once more receive our greetings. Madam Speaker, it is surprising to see the future of our country living in the past and that people are talking about the things that they don't know: that some of the projects that were implemented in the past are a shining example of the future. I wish you knew that people who were working in Bassa were being exploited. There were no labour relations guidelines which were guiding them, people were just being abused.

You come here and say to this House that what we are doing is a futile exercise. That is something that raises concern, but because you always want to live in the past, we will always leave you. The honourable Members who went on an oversight understood

our plans. You will understand that South African tea has not been competitive in South Africa. We had to share with other African countries, and that is why some of the estates were not competitive. What we are doing is that we are coming up with alternative markets in those areas. You will see in Magoebaskloof, we are partnering with the private sector to make sure that we plant avocados, and with the Midi tea together with the Department of Small Business Development, we put the tea in some of the shops, if you go to Spar and some other shops that tea is there.

We were trying to make sure that we market it in other places, and we are about to sign agreements and we are still negotiating. At the same time, we also take note of the recommendations of the committee that the Department of Correctional Services, the Department of Education and the Department of Health must also enter into an offtake agreement so that the tea estates can make profit.

We want to indicate that in terms of agroprocessing, we have institutions that are doing agroprocessing. We are not going to reinvent the wheel; we are going to continue with those people to assist Africans and black farmers to make sure that they tap into those issues. We have had engagements with farmers in the SEZ to participate in the SEZ, and they have already committed some money and we are agreeing that the issue of agroprocessing is the issue that we need to deal with.

For me, Hon Speaker, we welcome the site visit, and where there is a need for improvements, we will deal with it. We will take recommendations and make sure that we make them to be part of our day-to-day activities. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Mokone. We shall now call upon the MEC for Agriculture, Hon Ndalane.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members and Hon Premier, I greet you all. Hon Speaker, as we have just recently launched the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, as the Legislature we must take a firm stand against such violence.

Firstly, let me thank honourable Members who were part of the oversight visits to various farmers, namely, Easy Farm, Goddard Farm, Maria Tshivhenga's small-scale farm, Ratombo, Ravele and Nwanedi Agrihub. Let me start with Easy Farm. As the department, we agree with the Members that this is really a success story, and we should try to assist the farmers for the expansion of the soft citrus. Regarding Goddard Farm, we do assist farmers with irrigation pipes and drips, but due to budget cuts because of COVID-19, we are unable to help them. However, together with the Vhembe District Municipality, we shall make sure that farmers know about the farmer support services programme.

Regarding Maria Tshivhenga's small-scale farm, as the department we are proud of this female farmer and many others. If funds permit, we shall definitely assist with fencing. Regarding the Ratombo Farming Enterprise, I'm aware that some of the officials have not been assisting them in a professional way, and that will be looked

into as a matter of urgency. On the issue of Ravele farms which have not been returned to the owners, we shall also liaise with the national department for further processing. The infighting among the beneficiaries will be referred to the law enforcement agency.

The last one is Nwanedi Agrihub. We are aware as the department that there is no park shared for the vegetables and, as such, it is our future plan. Together with the law enforcement agency, we shall present a security plan for the farmers.

I need once more to thank Members of the NCOP for their visit. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.4. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Health

Committee chair, the floor is yours. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATLOU

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; honourable Members of the Executive Council present here; Leader of the Opposition present here; Chief Whip of the ruling party and the House. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby present the report for consideration and adoption by this august House for the 2021/22 First Quarter Report for the Department of Health. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Hon Speaker, I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health on the motion he presented. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Committee chair, the floor is yours.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and the august House. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby present the report on the oversight visit to the psychiatric hospitals, Limpopo nursing college campuses and the pharmaceutical depot that was done from 22 to 25 June 2021 and 24 to 27 August 2021. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS LEKGANYANE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Monama. [APPLAUSE]

MR MONAMA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker in absentia; Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; Honourable Members of the Executive Council; Hon Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; chairpersons of the portfolio committees, fellow honourable Members of this august House; Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Mokgonyana; and your deputy, Hon Mochadi.

First and foremost, as the ANC, we want to commend the tremendous effort and unparalleled diligence with which the Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, is leading the provincial Coronavirus Command Council on its outstanding work in its crusade to flatten of this global scourge and reducing the infection and the virus spread.

We also want to take this opportunity as the ANC to applaud the hardworking, dynamic, versatile and conscientious MEC and the executive management of the Department of Health, Dr Ramathuba, on her sterling work in ensuring that our people have access to quality healthcare. We know for a fact that not everyone will appreciate her hard work and diligence. However, she must take comfort in the words of Albert Einstein who asserted: "Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters."

As widely reported, Limpopo recorded the largest percentage of adults who have vaccinated. Thus far, the provincial Department of Health has already taken its drive to high density sites, including mines, farms and shopping malls to administer jabs.

Limpopo has been hailed for taking the vaccine rollout for the people with a groundbreaking model that used community leaders to ramp up its vaccine rollout programme in far-flung rural areas and convince people to get the jab.

It must be noted that the very existence of coronavirus had a negative impact on how the department implements projects and programmes and how it spends its allocated funds. The department received a budget allocation of R21,9 billion on the delivery of services in the 2021/22 financial year. The budget allocation is spread within the eight programmes, and the department was supposed to have spent 25% in the quarter under review; however, it has underspent by 5%. The budget was mostly underspent on programme 7, which is Healthcare Support Services, and also on programme 8, which is Health Facilities Management.

We are imploring the department to put in place some contingency measures to ensure that the shortfall is compensated in the upcoming three quarters. We also want

to take this opportunity to applaud the honourable MEC for introducing what is called the financial misconduct board which primarily focuses on unethical conducts relating to unauthorised, wasteful, irregular and fruitless expenditure as well as fraud and corruption. This will ensure optimisation of supply chain management processes and practices. This is an actualisation of the Public Administration Management Act 11 of 2014 that the department must at all material times subscribe to ethical standards and promotion of compliance with rules and regulations. The Act addresses general code of conduct of employees, including aspects such remunerative work outside public service which is normally called RWOPS and financial disclosure.

Hon Speaker, in our legislative oversight, which is the constitutionally mandatory function, for the period under review, the department managed to oversee and exceed their target of R48 million and managed to collect R51 million in terms of the revenue, which I think is applauded. We must also state here categorically clear that the department is not doing well in terms of immunisation under one year coverage because the BCG syringe stock ran out because of the procurement which is centralised at the national department.

When the contract lapses, it frustrates all the provinces that are being supplied by the national department. One concern is the unavailability of essential medicine in our pharmaceutical depot because of the centralised global supplier constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which forces the province to use therapeutic alternative product.

Hon Speaker, I, therefore, support the adoption of this report as presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Joshua Leswafo Matlou, with all the recommendations as the report of this august House. I so move. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. The next speaker is Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings to all honourable Members present today in this House. All is not well in the Department of Health. There is something seriously wrong, unless something drastic is done, nothing will ever change. Can we get proper explanation as to why the expenditure on Health Sciences and Training; Healthcare Support Services; and Health Facilities Management was so low in the first quarter. Why should we have this underspending? This is unpleasant and it really undermines service delivery to the people of Limpopo. All that the department does is to defer targets to the next quarter, and worse, not even implement the targeted programme in the quarter wherein they deferred those targets to.

The level of incompetence in the department is shocking. Failure to immunise children under one year is a serious concern because it is the contributory factor of high mortality rate of the children under five years of age. Furthermore, is there any moral reason why this department is not operating all clinics 24 hours? Why is it difficult because indeed many lives could be saved?

Psychiatric hospitals in Limpopo are in shambles, faced with all sorts of challenges, including overcrowding, shortage of beds, linen, blankets, shortage of medication, shortage of healthcare professionals and many other challenges that the patients are facing. Is there any justification why these hospitals have a high vacancy rate and a large number of personnel acting on positions without acting allowances? In the worst case scenario, the CEO of Hayani Hospital has been acting for more than seven years. What does this have to do with the morale of the staff members who are working at the hospital, and why does it have to reach this level, Hon Speaker? This can only happen in Limpopo. It is unheard in other provinces. There is a high shortage of health professionals in the psychiatric hospitals, and yet there is a high vacancy rate. It does not make administration and governance sense. Why are our brothers and sisters confined in these facilities not treated with respect? Are they not human beings like all of us? Maybe the MEC has got moral answers to these questions.

Seclusion room, Hon Speaker, is a nightmare. Let us just conclude that at our mental hospitals, they are not there, not at all, which leaves the lives of those that are to be secluded, the fellow patients as well as the staff members' lives at risk. It is wrong to put our people in places that look like a pigsty with less human dignity and respect. The portfolio committee members that visited those institutions will agree with me.

In Evuxakeni Hospital, when the staff member retires or exits, their positions remain unfilled. This has been happening for ages. Patients do not even have toiletries. This is the Limpopo Department of Health for you. Thabamooopo Hospital, as we speak, is sitting with a vacancy rate of 63% mostly of healthcare professionals and still expects those staff members to have high morale. Don't you think this might be the cause of high staff turnover in our hospitals? How do you expect hospitals to run without staff? What is your staff patient ratio in psychiatric units? It is clear that the psychiatric hospitals in Limpopo are completely neglected for the reasons known only by the department and its political heads.

The Limpopo nursing colleges are also facing serious challenges. The combined vacancy rate for all the college campuses is at 74% for both core and support staff. Ya! Ke mahlomola pelo.

In conclusion, sound political and administrative leadership that was said earlier in this august House by one of the speakers is lacking in the Department of Health, hoping that R3,350 million for mental health services presented by the MEC for Treasury, once it is approved, will be utilised appropriately in addressing some of the challenges that our mental health centres in this province are facing. I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. Hon Maharaj will be replaced by Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The department was allocated an amount of R21,9 billion during the 2021/22 financial year. The department achieved the 20% of its targeted 25% budget allocation during this period. The portfolio committee met with the department and have made recommendations which the department needed to

achieve by the targeted date of 30 October 2021. Concerns raised by the committee were the underspending on programmes 6, 7 and 8. The portfolio committee awaits a response on why this underspending occurred as well as what plans are in place to achieve the targets.

The vacancy rate within the department is so very high, especially with critical positions that are not filled. It is imperative that the department undertake a skills and organogram audit and make the necessary motivation to fill the critical positions that directly positively impact the communities and to determine whether the other positions are critical and necessary. This is not an easy task; however, priority must now be placed on positions which add value as opposed to positions which are not essential. The department's leadership must then put these recommendations and proposals to Treasury for additional funding of critical posts.

The issue of unpaid invoices within the prescribed 30 days period is still a concern. Although it has improved from previous years, it is not at the level that is legislated. The committee had recommended that the department undertakes a detailed exercise in terms of calculating what the monetary value would be on interest rate should invoices be paid within the prescribed 30 days. This exercise is critical, especially given the constricted budget allocation due to the economic environment. The department must clarify whether the unavailability of the BCG syringes meant that vaccines were available. However, the department was awaiting the delivery of syringes as reported in their First Quarter Performance Report.

The department must also clarify the duration it took for the delivery of these and what the action plan is to avoid a similar situation in the future.

The department indicated that a partnership was formed with the University of Limpopo to undertake the task of training more EMS personnel. It is concerning that the course offered for intermediate life support was discontinued by the university at the end of 2019. As such, this training was not done. The department must furnish the committee with the details around this, and what the action plan is to have more EMS training.

A grant was received by the department to enhance the services of mental healthcare at the beginning of the financial year. The department must, however, furnish the committee with a report on how this service is being undertaken and what the status quo is with regard to this service. The Department of Health in Limpopo's biggest risk remains the issue of medical negligence. The amount associated with this keeps escalating, and concerns around this not only put the department at risk, but also the province. Once again, with regard to the increase in these quarters because of insufficient capacity, the department must provide a workable plan on how they intend addressing these issues as well as addressing the medical negligence. Investigations on patterns must be carried out, and there must be consequence management for repeat offenders that put the department in jeopardy.

Given the high rate of nursing vacancies as well as nurses that will retire in a few years to come, it is worrying that there has been no uptake of more students in the nursing colleges. This is concerning as it will create a vacuum, and it is a sad state to view these nursing colleges that many abandoned in the province. In addition to this, an update must be provided on how the department intends to approach the curriculum

as there seems to be confusion on the changes and implementation. The committee must be furnished with reasons why the department faces challenges in availing medicine in health facilities and further explain why there was a low expenditure in programme 7 in the first quarter. If this is because of performance, what action has been taken?

In conclusion, the department failed to report on the total number of health facilities with completed refurbishment and further committed to report on this during the fourth quarter. A detailed report must be tabled on the refurbishment plans for health facilities with a snack list on which it has been completed and which is still to be completed, in addition, a project plan on when this will be included. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Hon Maritz, the floor is yours.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of the opposition parties; Members of the House and guests.

The budget allocated for the first quarter was 25%, but the department only used 10,6%. This is failing the patients of the province, the sick and the elderly that need their medication. Some of the patients take chronic medication and depend on this department to care for them because they cannot afford the medication by themselves. That is why the government gives an allocated budget that must ensure that the people of the province get healthcare that they deserve.

Patients leave their houses early in the morning to battle with transport, and they are still willing to wait to get the treatment that they so urgently need. They still realise after waiting for hours, sometimes in the heat of the sun that they have to go home empty-handed. We are well aware that there is also a matter of shortage of medical staff. It breaks one's heart that we are in positions to make a change and serve the poorest of the poor, but we are failing them.

We also have a challenge in the infrastructure as the department fails to uphold the dignity of the patients as the hospitals are in such a bad state. Renovations are not made, and toilet facilities and wards that are unhygienic due to broken tiles and water damage in the walls cause dangerous mould buildup. Many hospital bathrooms are unhygienic due to the enamel surfaces that are broken on the seats and the baths. Some toilets can't even flush. It is an unhealthy environment for patients who need medical care in such unhygienic conditions. The Freedom Front Plus, therefore, humbly pray that they do what we are saying by giving service and putting dignity back into people's lives, those that voted us into positions to make sure that they have a better life.

We, therefore, support the recommendations from the committee set out in the report. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Maybe before the committee chair can come to the stage, I want to go out for two minutes. I am raising this because all presiding officers are absent. I would like the House to elect one Member to come and proceed with the Sitting for two or three minutes. Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR HEALTH]

Hon Mochadi is here as the Deputy Chief Whip; I think she will do it.

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, come and assist.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Order, honourable Members! As we are continuing, at this moment, Hon Joshua Matlou, will you please ascend the podium? [APPLAUSE]

MR MATLOU

Thanks very much, Hon Chair; Premier in absentia; Leader of Government Business present here; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the ruling party and the Deputy Chief Whip; the leaders of the opposition present here. Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the committee to brief this House that the committee was performing its duty on oversight over the department on 30 June 2021. In this case, the oversight was on the review of the performance of the department in the first quarter.

During the engagement between the department and the committee, the department reported that it has set four targets, and as honourable Members have said, only those two set targets were achieved. The committee learnt that the department was sitting at 45% in terms of employment – at 33% female out of 74 of the total of the SMMEs; 0% for the people with disability at SMS level; and 0,43% for the entire department for people with disability as at 30 June 2021. The committee is concerned that the department is not implementing its policy on equity.

The ANC-led government is encouraging business to employ young people as workers, managers and also as interns. We believe that the youth are our future, and we will do everything possible to provide youth with skills and work opportunities. The committee commend the department for reporting that about 335 youth and about 67 social worker interns were continuing through the experimental learnership programme, and that an additional of 254 learners were appointed in the first quarter. The ANC-led government also realised that we have a youthful population with 1,2 million young people turning 18 each year during the labour market. That is why despite our success in job creation, the overall level of unemployment remains high even though the number employed by the department on a small scale has contributed to job creation. The department should also assist the government in absorbing them into the quality job market.

The committee further received a report that the department faces a challenge in the filling of critical posts, as other honourable Members have said. As some of them were disapproved by the Provincial Treasury, Hon “Moreki”. The department further reported that the motivation was resubmitted to the Provincial Treasury to request funding for the filling of those particular posts. The committee observed during the oversight visit that indeed the filling of critical posts by the department is urgent. The committee is of the view that the Treasury should look into this matter seriously and review its stance in favour of the department to fill in these particular critical posts. That is why as a committee we have also proposed that we have a meeting with the Portfolio Committee on Treasury on 07 December 2021 so that we are able to raise these particular burning issues that speak about the shortage of the nursing population in our province.

The committee commended the department for reporting that the payment of suppliers within 30 days was at 96%; however, the department reported that the poor network connectivity affected BAS and LOGIS system, resulting in the non-achievement of the 100% target. The committee commended the sense of urgency by the department in escalating the matter to the SETA for intervention. However, the committee reports to the House that in the fourth quarter of 2020/21 financial year, one of the reasons for non-payment of invoices was the lack of human resources at the pharmaceutical depot to process payment. This has been a long outstanding issue for the department.

The committee further recommends that consistent talk with Treasury on the review of funding for critical posts should be done without hesitation. The committee further recommended that the department must ensure that it does not incur accruals to enhance governance. It is the ANC vision of 2023 to improve testing and treatment access to people living with HIV/Aids, TB, diabetes, high blood pressure and other chronic diseases to achieve at least 90% coverage. It is also the vision 2020 to roll out the National Health Insurance Scheme to make sure that we use both private and also public health sectors in the Republic of South Africa so that it becomes quite affordable. The quality of health should be the same.

The committee recommended the work done by the department, the training of plus or minus 40 000 employees to the treatment of diseases like HIV, TB, STI, chronic diseases, skills development and COVID-19. We are also pleased that as a province, we are at about 45% in terms of the total population of our province on vaccination. The committee is also of the view that the lesson should be learnt by the department on the treatment of COVID-19 that the rich and the poor are treated equally by the public hospital and private hospital. The department should take a cue and expand the implementation of the National Health Insurance going forward, which should include other diseases.

Under Health Facilities Management programme, the department must do more to upgrade existing structures and build new ones where it is necessary, like the team that we have seen in Mopani. We want to say bravo to the team of Mopani for repair and maintenance because it shows the way. As stated, the purpose of this programme is to provide cleaning, equipping new facilities, assets and upgrading, rehabilitating and maintaining hospitals, clinics and other facilities. The department did not report on the total number of health facilities which have been completed, refurbished and committed to report during the fourth quarter.

The committee urged the department to submit the report on the refurbishment of the maintenance plan of the health facilities of the province, including facilities that have been completed, the ones that are still in progress and the ones that were not completed during the first quarter. Of these facilities, the committee would like the department to focus on the state of the pharmaceutical depot.

Hon Speaker, and Leader of Government Business, the department should look into getting a land and build a provincial pharmaceutical depot because at any time we might lose a lot of millions in terms of the depot that we have. It is also the ANC's 2020 vision to establish a state-owned pharmaceutical company to an improved distribution and control.

The committee supports the adoption of the report with recommendations and believes that this is a work in progress because of the medicolegal costs that the department is facing, which are quite historic, which are now standing at around R2 billion. I so move. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Matlou. We shall now call upon the MEC for Health to respond to the debate made by the honourable Members. Honourable MEC, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR HEALTH]

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. These ones on my left have not won any municipality in Limpopo. I don't know how they are marching to get government if they are only winning wards. We donated to your friend at the back there and he wants to blame us.

In terms of what Hon Monama was saying, it is true, Hon Monama, Gannye wešo, we should really commend the Department of Health in terms of vaccination. I can tell you now that in the Department of Education, where they prioritise the teachers, food handlers, staff and everybody, we have run the examination, and up to now, we were never affected at all by COVID-19. We are actually finishing exams with nothing on, and we are very grateful to the Department of Health for having done that. Our children are very safe. Our teachers are very safe. Our food handlers are very safe. Indeed, it is commendable.

In terms of what is also happening in the country, we all know that Limpopo in terms of vaccination is number 1. That is a fact, and most of the provinces even come to our province to check on how we are doing that. I think we need to support the MEC in her quest to ensure that we are all vaccinated. Honourable Members, the issue of vaccination is for all of us, not only for the Department of Health or the EXCO of Limpopo. It is for all of us. If we are able to make headway and have about 70% of our people being vaccinated, we can go back to our original life of enjoying soccer, of enjoying the gatherings and all other things. I don't know why people are saying it is a choice to vaccinate. It is not a choice to vaccinate. We are talking about a pandemic – something that is not planned for. In terms of a pandemic, you don't need even any permission. We should actually be using Marshall Law, and I agree with the President that there are some institutions which will not allow people who are not vaccinated to come in, including our schools because you are bringing strains now that we don't

know where they come from. We are not even sure that the good work that we have done will be affected.

So, all of us as Members of this Legislature must speak out, go out and assist the Department of Health to make sure that our people are vaccinated, and we are able to continue with our lives.

Yes, Hon Monama, in terms of the financial misconduct board, this government of Premier Chupu Mathabatha is against corruption and maladministration. I know he addressed us many times as EXCO that we have to be exemplary and make sure that the budget that is allocated to us is used for the purpose that it is intended for, and all of us must make sure that corruption in our departments is rooted out. That is why earlier, there was a report that MEC, Dr Masemola, took one company to court for shoddy work. It is not only talking, it is about making sure that it is done. I am not saying it is a magic. I am saying it is a process and it is in the right direction. And we will be able to do that.

In terms of the unavailability of medicine, colleagues, you know that in terms of this pandemic, even in the building sector, we don't have enough materials and other things. So, COVID-19 will stay with us. It will affect us. It is a new normal. Ours is not to complain, but to make sure that wherever we can, we will be able to do that. I know that the national Department of Health, ours and Treasury are making sure that we have medications in our clinics and hospitals. It is not intentional. Our mandate as this government is to save lives. We will do that without even apologising to anybody.

In terms of the expenses or the expenditure that have been set, we will correct them. It was just the first quarter – remember the first quarter is from April to the end of June. We are already in November, it means if we get there, we are almost at the third quarter. We will be able to see that indeed we have made progress. The good thing is that as the Department of Health, the counsels that we get from the portfolio committee, we take them seriously and make sure that we implement them.

In terms of the immunisations and others, honourable Members, we are doing that. I know it is not as we would want. But give us an opportunity, we will be able to improve. All of us, our money was cut by "Moreki" because of COVID-19. And now, I am so scared, that is why I am saying we should go out and vaccinate because if this fourth wave comes, it is going to put a burden on our health system. We might go back to January where in the Department of Education in a week, we lost five principals and four circuit managers. It just scares me to say what we can do. We hope that we will be able to follow what the President said to us when he addressed us, and make sure that it does not spread. Our medical expects in our country are very vigilant, and they are able to pick these things up before they can even go out.

In terms of Hon Phala, your concerns of filling the positions, I am also speaking on behalf of all of us, there was a moratorium by EXCO that all the posts from level 12 downwards must not be filled. Only SMS posts were filled, and it was for a good reason. It was before some of us even came in because the COE was exploding, and we would have gone to section 100. Because we have a good and diligent "Moreki", the MEC for Provincial Treasury, who is able to see that there is a problem coming, he came with measures to make sure that we are still able to function, but we might also not want to go to section 100 again. When things improved, like when he was

presenting his adjustment budget, you had that because the third wave did not come, he brought the money back to us. We appreciate that.

In terms of also filling the posts, he advised as the Provincial Treasury that we might want for now to fill those that are very urgent. Others that we can live without, we need them, but they have to wait a little bit more. Otherwise, I know, in terms of the Legislature, you allocated money because they were in the minus; we might not get our salaries. So, I understand. As soon as we have the money to appoint, we will definitely appoint specialists.

As the department, this week, I think they are doing some specialised operations in Mogalakwena. The MEC is going around asking specialists even in private hospitals to come and do operations for our people where they cannot afford to do them. I think it has been very successful, and we need to commend her on that. She just did not throw her hands in the air, but at least came out with something. We have seen people who have not been well after having their operations. I know one school child who could not go to school, but after the operation, it was very heart-warming to see the learner coming back.

In terms of the partnership with the University of Limpopo, I think the issue is the funding. As soon as we get the funding, we will be able to train our nurses, and even refresher course – we have a new illness like COVID-19, and nobody knew about it. As soon as we get the funding, we will do that.

Hon Maritz, our mission as this government of Limpopo is to ensure that everybody has access to basic health services. We might not be there now, but I can tell you that we are marching there. It might be slow because of COVID-19. It might be slow because of budget. It might be slow because of other things, but rest assured, slowly and surely, we are getting there. We have not forgotten our mandate. We will make sure that we improve our public hospitals as you said, we have noted it. But know that in terms of what is happening, we have the dashboard where that information is, and as soon as we get something, we will make sure that there is a significant improvement. The humbling thing about the department is that the MEC is not even afraid to go around asking the mines and everybody to assist. So, if we can all be together and help to fight this thing, I think it will be able to assist.

Honourable chairperson of the committee, we have noted your concerns: the cost containment issues and paying within 30 days. At other times, you can see the department is excelling. But other times, it is not the department, it is the supplier who does not supply the invoice in time. So, we are not able to pay, you know it will be a fruitless expenditure or unauthorised one if we pay without having the invoice. So, we will also talk to our service providers to give us the invoice in time so that they are able to pay in time.

The last one is about the supply constraints on pharmaceutical products. For sure, just like me, you are following what the President is saying. Our President is fighting very hard for Africa, not only for South Africa, to have the vaccines and the patterns. He is very passionate. I have never seen any President, even going to the G-7, confronting them at their door to say, we need to save Africa. We need more vaccine. We need patterns so that we can be able to produce. I think everybody agreed with him, and very soon, we will be doing our own. So, we are not taking this for granted. Life is

precious, we need to save it. As the Department of Health, we are trying our best to do with what we have. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.5. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Education

Committee chairperson, you may take the floor. My apologies, chairperson for the portfolio committee, we have skipped item 7.4.2: Oversight Visit to Psychiatric Hospitals, Limpopo Nursing College Campuses and Pharmaceutical Depot. Chairperson of the committee, you may take the floor.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Unfortunately, it was not combined. We thought that it was combined by the sitting Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby present the report on the oversight visit to psychiatric hospitals, Limpopo nursing college campuses and the pharmaceutical depot that was done from 22 to 25 June 2021 and from 24 to 27 August 2021. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

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

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Monama Rodgers, rise to second the chairperson of the portfolio committee on the oversight report of the psychiatric hospitals, nursing campuses and pharmaceutical depot. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you. We shall now go to the Speakers' List. Hon Rebecca Seono, you may take the floor.

Order, order, comrades! Order, order, honourable Members! Can you give Hon Seono a chance to debate? Thank you.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much for affording me space to debate on the report of the Portfolio Committee on Health of the site visits to psychiatric hospitals, Limpopo nursing college campuses and the pharmaceutical depot from 22 to 25 June 2021 and 24 to 27 August 2021.

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; Hon Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; honourable MECs; honourable Members of the Legislature; and honourable chairpersons of the portfolio

committees, I greet you. As mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the portfolio committee undertook an unannounced site visit to psychiatric hospitals and pharmaceutical depot and an unannounced oversight visit to all nursing college campuses in the province. The committee discussed the report on its oversight visit which listed the health facilities which had been visited, and the successes and challenges encountered at each. The observations and findings covered matters involving human resources, state of infrastructure, assessing availability of medical equipment, proper installation of equipment like beds, laundry services and management issues at those health facilities.

The committee observed that there are serious challenges in all facilities visited. At Hayani Hospital, which is a psychiatric hospital, the committee found out that there is a serious shortage of personnel. The high number of personnel shortage is on the healthcare workers. The committee observed that the risk is too high in that hospital since the hospital also caters for convicts who require psychiatric observation and are awaiting trial. The professionals who also work at Hayani are outsourced and not permanent. The committee is concerned that some employees are on an acting capacity, like the CEO who has been acting for seven years and the Human Resources manager who has been acting for two years, all without acting allowances. The department must address the shortage of staff with the urgency it deserves, and those who are acting must be given their acting allowances in terms of the salary scale.

The committee noted that there is no adequate medical equipment to service psychiatric patients. Due to the centralisation of Budget and decision-making, there were delays in the effective functioning of services as the hospital fails to do maintenance. It is with dismay that the hospital relies on the nearby Tshilidzini Hospital to borrow some of the equipment, including trolleys, wheelchairs and COVID-19 equipment. Hayani Hospital also relies on assistance from the Tshilidzini Hospital for emergency purposes and medicines. The committee observed with dismay that the hospital infrastructure is poor. A ward has been converted into an office. The building is reportedly more than 50 years old. Maintenance of the hospital buildings, both outside and inside, requires urgent attention. The hospital does not have enough wards to cater for the patients. The department must budget for the new buildings and offices to be used by personnel at that hospital, and existing buildings be revamped for the safety of both personnel and patients.

On observation by the committee, the conclusion that can be arrived at is that Hayani Hospital, there is negligence and urgent attention is required. Given the challenges found at Hayani, the committee also found that other psychiatric hospitals have more or less the same challenges. The committee emphasised the need for service arrangement with approved companies when maintenance is going to be implemented so that when machines are broken down, they must be contracted to fix them, and not some other company that could cause more damage.

The process of filling in vacancies has to be shortened to reduce delays. The hospital's filing system needed to be reviewed so that when they are needed after 5:00, they can still be found. The department must balance the employment of workers, including general workers and cleaners to avoid a situation where nursing staff volunteer themselves as cleaners.

Hon Speaker, I support the adoption of the report with recommendations as presented by the honourable chairperson. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. The next speaker is Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Chair. I have already presented in the presentation that I made earlier. It was two in one.

THE SPEAKER

All right.

MS MANAGA

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Phala, it is your turn.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Portfolio Committee on Health undertook several oversights to the Limpopo psychiatric hospitals in lieu of the oversight functionality carried out by Members of this House in line with the legislation and the rules of the House. During the oversight to the psychiatric hospitals, it was evident that there is a vacuum in terms of a recruitment strategy to show up critical posts in these hospitals. There is a need for more psychiatrists, psychologists, medical doctors, professional nurses and technical staff. There have been too many staff that have been acting in senior strategic positions for long periods, which poses serious legal labour issues as well as hinders them from taking decisions which an acting person is not mandated to have the powers to do so. The condition of some of the kitchens are a challenge, and there must be urgent maintenance and repairs of both the medical as well as kitchen equipment as a priority.

During the oversight, it was also discovered that there must be procurement of mounted beds, patient clothing and bed linen. In some instances, the washing machines were also non-functional, and the cost of outsourcing laundry is also a challenge. The seclusion rooms in the wards to consult with patients must also be fully equipped to effectively service psychiatric patients. There is a serious need for maintenance of the hospital buildings as most of the infrastructures require refurbishing, and development of dilapidated buildings must be prioritised. It is critical that the department implements a system on reporting and responding to minor maintenance in an efficient and effective manner, and that facilities adhere strictly to the maintenance plans.

We call on the Department of Public Works to conduct an assessment on the integrity of the buildings in psychiatric hospitals. This report must subsequently be tabled to the committee and the department, with a report indicating the maintenance plan of these hospitals and the incomplete construction of buildings, and an example is the Allied Building at the Thabamopo Hospital.

During the oversight visit to the Limpopo nursing colleges, it was really concerning that there was serious neglect of the operations of the colleges by the department. The future of these campuses lies in limbo, with the last uptake of nurses a few years ago. This also places the employees in a very stressed and uncertain psyche. The vacancy rate of the colleges lies at 74% with the high number of acting positions. We call on the department to communicate their plans and approach to these colleges on the way forward. The nursing colleges also face many challenges with many staff that are heading towards retirement, and hence a risk in terms of skills transfer and institutional knowledge gap to ensure business continuity.

The department must swiftly intensify its plans in ensuring that there is an urgent intake of new students within the campuses before the expiry of the conditional contract for the new R171 curriculum on 31 December 2021. A report must be tabled on the construction of the Sekhukhune nursing college. This appears to be an arrangement between the University of Limpopo and the department for use of the library facilities situated at the Sovenga Campus. This agreement must be signed via an MOU between the parties to professionalise their agreement. In addition to that, the MOU signed between MTN and department to provide ICT connectivity at the Giyani and Sovenga campuses must be presented to the portfolio committee.

As we move towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution, plans must be intensified to introduce electronic management systems and e-filing system at the college campuses for better record keeping. It was also concerning that as we move towards a more technological era, the campuses lacked internet access, telephone lines, computers, general subscription of updated books and journals in libraries.

During the oversight at the pharmaceutical depot, it was again advised that because of the vacancies, that critical posts were not filled, it impacted on the payment of suppliers within 30 days. During interactions with the few staff, it would also appear as if there were no morale issues and staff unhappiness within the depot, which has the potential to lose skilled individuals. The depot infrastructure is concerning and requires urgent attention.

The committee was also advised that during rainy seasons, the depot is flooded. This has an impact on possible loss of stock and medication, resulting in loss to the department. There was a view that the department should look at a new building of structure.

As I conclude, during the oversight visit, the question on outsourcing the transportation of the medicine via courier companies versus doing this in-house was brought up, and the department indicated that they would furnish the committee with the report on this. In addition, a comparative report on the various courier companies conducting this work must be done so that the cost versus benefit option must be attained. We should bear in mind that with the limited resources, the best cost-efficient model must be selected.

The committee was shocked to note that access to the depot was freely accessible to the public, and there were no checks or security and found this to be a measure risk, considering that this is where the province's medication is stored. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Hon Maritz, you may take the floor.

MS MARITZ

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; esteemed honourable Members of the Executive Council; leaders of opposition parties; Members of the House and guests.

The Department of Health is responsible for the fact that Hayani Psychiatric Hospital does not have porters, general workers or cleaners, and the hospital, therefore, relies on volunteer nursing students for cleaning and serving patients' food. How is this acceptable by any standards? Borrowing trolleys, wheelchairs and essential medication is the order of the day. We can see that the department is beyond failing if they need volunteers to serve the people of this province who deserve better. No time or money is invested in infrastructure and maintenance. These patients need extra and special care because they are psychiatric and need a better environment to assist them.

These patients require a healthier environment, and highly specialised, caring and appropriately qualified staff are needed to treat them as they have special requirements. The volunteers that remain at the hospital are doing work which they are not even trained or qualified to do. Patients rely on this department to make medical decisions according to their needs. Therefore, the Freedom Front Plus believes that not enough is done for psychiatric patients in Limpopo.

Due to this maladministration, we are also losing the few good caretakers seeking jobs in the private sector because of demoralisation. The department neglect those who are prepared to take care of patients by not giving them the support they need such as better working conditions, overall improved management of the hospital and its staff or even a clean workplace. We, therefore, support the recommendations from the committee set out in our report. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Hon Matlou, the floor is yours.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Hon Chief Whip; honourable Members of the Executive Council present here; colleagues and members of the committee who are present here; leaders of the opposition; and Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs.

The committee discussed its oversight visits to Limpopo psychiatric hospitals, pharmaceutical depot and the nursing colleges, their success and also challenges

faced by these institutions. From the presentations, a long list of recommendations had resulted from this particular visit. This deals with the following: Human resources; Financial management; Revamping of the infrastructure; Medical equipment; Pharmaceutical services; Medicine availability; Essential support services; Information systems; Governance; and Leadership.

The committee has conducted this oversight to ensure that the policy announced by the government and authorised by the Legislature were actually implemented. I thought one should speak from a point of experience on the issues that we have met.

Firstly, at Thabamopo Hospital, despite all the issues that are challenges that we have raised in the recommendations, you will find one doctor there, Dr Mphahlele, one dedicated civil servant of our province. If I was the MEC, I was going to say he is one of the best serving CEOs of these hospitals. With all the challenges that are there in Thabamopo, he could rise with the occasion and make sure that he goes an extra mile together with Ms Monyela. Those are some of the success stories that we speak about even if there are those particular serious challenges.

Secondly, it is correct that we are sitting at around 74% in terms of the vacancy rate, particularly in terms of our nursing colleges. We have implored the department to ensure that the recruitment strategy should come into place so that we are able to deal with the issue of vacancies because around 65% of the workforce of the department in terms of the nursing colleges are 55 years of age and above, and they are going towards pension.

It is correct that in terms of the phasing in of the new programme, as the committee, we applaud the department for the good work that they have done in terms of the security cameras that have been installed in Hayani. It is correct that there are some challenges in Hayani, but there are also some success stories in Hayani – those that make sure that we are able to look into the 38-bed wards where our patients are staying. In terms of the issues that relate to the R171 programme of the department, it is the recommendation of the committee that this financial year, we should deal with the issue of vacancies. That is why we have requested a meeting with the Portfolio Committee on Treasury. When we look into the ageing of our nursing profession in the province, in 2030, around 34% of the personnel that we have will be going on pension. If we don't do any intake, it will cause us a problem in terms of the coming years like what the Department of Education found itself in in terms of the shortage of teachers.

We must curb this particular issue before it continues, because we believe that if we make an intake of half of what we have now, it would be better. As we speak, only 250 learners are at second level and fourth level in terms of the programme that they are still on except the R171. We are saying it is important for us to make sure that we make an intake. It might be as minimal as it is, but it will continue to cover the gap in the future in terms of what we want to do.

The committee has also looked into the issue that relates to revamping institutions like Giyani College, Thohoyandou Nursing College, including what "Moreki" did when he was still the MEC for Health. We had a satellite station in Sekhukhune which, as we speak, is still there, but it is on a temporary basis. It will be important for us to maintain those structures and make sure that we are able to put young people, including young people who are from rural areas. They must have access to go those particular nursing

colleges because they were spread all over the province, in Waterberg, in Sekhukhune, in Mopani and also in Vhembe at the Thohoyandou Nursing College.

The committee strongly believes that if these measures are taken, they will help in making sure that we are able to deal with the shortage of nurses that might become a serious catastrophe to us a province if we don't curb it now once and for all. We believe as a committee that most of the recommendations that honourable members of this committee have made here, are part and parcel of the recommendations that we say, as a committee, should find expression in this particular House. We should make sure that we are able to deal with issues that relate to the nursing colleges and the psychiatric hospitals. We are saying bravo to that Dr Mphahlele. I have never seen a man and a woman, Ms Monyela, who will walk you through the whole hospital, and they know every inch of that particular hospital. They will also improvise, go out and fundraise from businesses to make sure that the hospital is running. They do not wait for the department. They also go out and improvise. We say the department must go handy and make sure that we have this kind of employees whom we find in our own system of government. With those few words, I want to submit and make sure that this report is adopted by this honourable House. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Health to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR HEALTH]

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and colleagues once more. Hon Seono, we have noted your concern about the Hayani infrastructure and that there is also a shortage of staff. We have noted it. There are no equipment and there is poor infrastructure which we know. I think colleagues must help us as EXCO because it is not only in Health, but it is almost in all the departments where we inherited the infrastructure, and after inheriting the infrastructure, we are not given money to maintain it or also to build new ones. We depend on grants. Those grants have terms and conditions. It is a question that we are raising even at the national level.

My chairperson of the portfolio Committee on Education knows about a meeting where we met with Treasury and almost all the other departments. They raised this issue that we can't be treated as if we are Western Cape or Gauteng. We are a rural province, and the infrastructure is not good at all. We need a purpose vehicle finance to be able to catch up with the backlog. They will always try to compare us with hospitals and clinics in Gauteng when they don't have the problem that we are having. I think we have noted them. It is even painful for us.

We are helpless. I even said earlier, there was a moratorium, I think from 2018 there is no appointment from level 12 downwards because they were trying to contain COEs. At the end, people die, people resign and they are not replaced at all. We were trying to say to Treasury, it just does not make sense because we are not necessarily adding, we are replacing. I think they have heard us. The discussions are a little bit better now, but it is very frustrating.

The other frustrating thing that you raised, Hon Seono, is the issue of specialists. In order for you to attract a specialist, such as a psychiatrist, they need more money than what is provided for in terms of our own grading. It is like the engineers, there is no engineer who can come and be a director at the Department of Public Works because they can earn that salary in a week. I have seen that the President has signed an Act or a proclamation where he said, the municipalities are allowed to hire skills that they need. Maybe we might also want to have that so that we are able to attract, not only to attract, but also to retain specialists so that we can be able to do anything. We need a bigger dialogue, maybe in our church and say, how do we address this issue of backlogs? It includes what Hon Phala has raised. You can have the maintenance plan, but if there is no money, how do you even start that? The contradicting thing is, it is you who approve this budget to our department, the Department of Health, and you know how it is allocated, almost 80% in Education, 80,2% is for COE (Compensation of Employees). We come here and present the little that we have and what we will do, and then colleagues, you then go and do oversight, or your constituency complain about Hayani or other institutions. And then you come here, and then when we start to debate, you then want to say to us, no, no, you must do the infrastructure. You must do this. There is no money.

You know how the process of budget works; it is you who approved the budget. And at the end, we get pressures from communities as if we don't want to. There is no MEC and there is no MPL, including yourselves in the portfolio committee, who does not want us to be able to provide best services for our people. But the budget is just not enough. We do the planning, whatever and everything, but kancane kancane, we are getting there. We are not complaining. We know why. It is your responsibility, of course, to do oversight, lawmaking, and public participation. But please bear with us. We will receive the reports, when we receive the reports, you know that we have these backlogs. We will try to do as much as we can in order to do that. When you pass the budget here, unfortunately "Moreki" is out, we do not get anything for infrastructure. We wait on grants. Maybe as the committee, you might want to look at this and help us.

In terms of the issue of 30 days, I think I have answered it. Sometimes the problem is from the service providers, but also I must agree that sometimes it is from our own officials who say before we pay you, you must give me something, and if you do not give them something, they keep the invoice and not submit it to be paid. As I said earlier, and as you commended the MEC in terms of the financial misconduct board, we are trying to uproot some of these things. You cannot just see them, but that is how they work. You know how they work, you know civil servants and how they work. They will only do this, if you give us this and if you do not give us this, you won't get this. But I think the Department is trying with the board in one way or the other; we might get it right.

In terms of the general workers, Hon Maritz, it is the same, it is level 12 downwards. We are pleading and we have pleaded, and now at least they are trying to get something for us from this adjustment. You have seen today they have also appropriated for the general assistants and others who are going to help in one way or the other. As this Legislature, we need to really find a way of how to improve the lives of our people, maybe at the basic level and as we go on, we will be able to do other things.

In terms of the budget, I think we need to engage the Financial and Fiscal Commission. We used to have a meeting with them yearly, where we are able to tell them what our problem is because they are the ones that recommend what provinces should get and for what. We want to raise it with the Financial and Fiscal Commission to say most people move from Limpopo and go to Gauteng or Western Cape or wherever and go and work while they are still strong and grow the economy. The minute they retire or have some form of illness, they come back to the province, as they come back to the province, they do not come with the budget that was allocated to them in Gauteng. They then become a burden to the state in terms of the hospitals, in terms of our clinics, in terms of our medication. And nobody is just talking for us. Let us engage the Financial and Fiscal Commission to say when they do the budgeting, they must also take this into consideration and bring back the budget so that we can be able to continue to provide our people with better services and other things.

I think others we tried to answer them that we need a redress in terms of Eastern Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal, we need your help. I know the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education is trying his best wherever he is, but with Health also and other portfolios like Roads, we might also want to do that. Thank you very much, chairperson, for acknowledging that, difficult as it is, there are some of our civil servants that are doing their best within this environment. A se gantši motho a bona a good thing, it is human nature, we only see bad things. But thanks for acknowledging, and I hope that you have also said it to the officials. I will also give the message to the MEC to pass the message of the portfolio so that, like you said chairperson, they will have the energy and strength to go on. Colleagues, sometimes you just want to give up, but when you think of the reason why you are here, that is to better our people's life, that is why we wake up and come here.

The succession strategy, we will look at it. We will make sure that we follow it. And the revamping of the college, we will also discuss with Treasury because of course we need to be able to train our staff, and thanks very much again to the portfolio committee. We are taking your counsel; you are helping us to improve every day and we see it as such. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Boshielo, for responding on behalf of the MEC for Health, thank you very much. We are moving to item 7.5. Maybe before we can proceed, I would like to make a proposal, honourable Members, that we combine the two reports from the Department of Education and debate them simultaneously. We are now on consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Education, I call upon the committee chair.

MS MATHYE

Inkomu! Inhlukanhi! Manana Xipikara ndzi pfumeleri ndzi xeweta Huvo yo endla Milawu, hi ku xeweta Muphirimiya wa hina hambileswi va nga ri ki kona, na ku xixima Vahubyanaku hinkwavo lava nga kona Endlwini na Swirho swo endla milawu ya Limpopo leswi nga kona namutlha. Inhlukanhi nakambe. Hon Speaker, I, Mathye Susan Violet, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, rise on behalf of the committee to move for the consideration and adoption of the 2021/22 First Quarter Report of the Department of Education. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. I, Donald Selamolela, stand to second the chairperson of the Portfolio Education on the presented report for consideration and adoption by the august House. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Selamolela. Honourable chair, you can proceed.

MS MATHYE

Thanks again, Hon Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, rise on behalf of the committee to move for the consideration of the adoption of the oversight visit on compliance with COVID-19 regulations in primary schools from 23 to 27 August 2021. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Ndzi khensile, Manana Xipikara. Mina Joshua Leswafo Matlou, ndzi yima ku seketela leswi va swivulaka Manana ku ri hi ku hi vona mutshamaxitulu wa Komiti ya Dyondzo ku ri hinkwaswo leswi va swi vulaka ha swi seketela. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I call upon Hon Aphiri. [APPLAUSE]

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker, for affording me this opportunity to debate on the first quarter and the oversight report for the Department of Education. Education is a precondition for development. This is not just a statement, but a fact founded in research that has shown over time that a better educational and health outcome is the backbone of any country. There is no country that can ever reach its developmental goals if it has not sufficiently educated its populace. It is for this reason that Education and Health continue to receive the biggest allocation of the budget in this province. In this debate, I will concentrate on four programmes, which are Administration, Independent Schools, Public Ordinary Schools, and Early Childhood Development.

Under Administration, we are saying as the portfolio committee we are concerned that the department has underspent in the quarter under review, and it has only spent 23% as opposed to 25%. The underspending was as a result of delays in the funding of

vacant posts. We hope that moving forward into the next quarter this matter is addressed. We are raising this concern mindful that there is a moratorium and the skyrocketing of compensation of employees. But we are saying the positions are critical and something must be done.

We commend the department for the teacher assistant and general assistant posts that were created by the department as that programme has gone a long way in alleviating challenges in most schools in rural areas. We appreciate the general worker and teacher assistant positions that were created by the department. This went a long way in easing the unemployment faced by our youth in particular. We are, however, concerned that this employment is only very temporary as most of these people are in a five-month contract, which is not renewable. While we understand that these were temporary measures in the face of easing the dire challenges that our people experienced during this pandemic; we wish more could have been done. Many people that were in the programme reported that the salary that they were receiving in the department was of great assistance to them and their families. Some of these youth in the first cohort that was temporarily employed by the department have reported that they are yet to receive UIF which they were paying as a monthly contribution.

With regard to the programme on Independent Schools, we are saying the programme has almost spent 24,7% whereby the schools that are compliant were supported in accordance with the South African Schools Act. Schools visited by the department were found to be COVID-19 compliant. We want to commend the department in particular for ensuring that schools in the province are compliant with COVID-19 regulations. This was also what we observed during our visit to schools. We hope that the department will keep up this good work even in the face of the new reported variant. With regard to Independent Schools, we would like to note the unfortunate occurrence where one of the independent schools in the province was associated with issuing an invalid doctorate to one of the local comedians. It is important MEC that we raise this point because honorary degrees must not have their value degenerated and should only be issued by authorised institutions. We, therefore, advise the MEC to strongly raise this issue with the independent school concerned and avoid such occurrence in future.

With regard to Public Special Schools, the department has spent 26% of its budget in the quarter under review. Public special schools should always receive extra attention given the needs of the learners. We have debated many times the slow progress in terms of provision of therapists and assistive devices in special schools. We are, therefore, as the portfolio committee, pleased that the department reports that the necessary therapists such as occupational therapists, speech and hearing therapists and psychologists have been placed in various schools across the province. It is reported that 16 special schools have benefited from these services. We continue to remind the department to fast-track its infrastructure programme, especially those that were mentioned in the State of the Province Address. The special schools have been in the budget of both the Premier and the MEC in various Budget Speeches. It is our duty as the committee to continuously demand progress report, especially in Asiphumelele and Rivoni special schools as these are ongoing multiyear programmes. We require that this House be continuously updated on these programmes.

With regard to Early Childhood Development, this programme is supposed to migrate from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education. From the

report given to the department, the Limpopo ECD function shift joint submission and proclamation was signed by the Premier in July 2021 and accordingly gazetted. The process is not yet finalised. We would like the department to finalise this process as it is now more than four years in the making. The migration of ECD to the Department of Education is important to ensure that education at foundation phase is streamlined and standardised. We believe that the progress will be fast-tracked moving forward.

With regard to the importance of spending as per allocation, it is important that the department should spend its money as allocated on a quarterly basis. Overspending and underspending, if not well managed, can cause problems for the department moving forward. It remains a very serious problem that this department has yet to receive an unqualified audit report. This is despite it being put under section 100(1b) in the past, as well as deploying competent officials from the Provincial Treasury in an attempt to arrest the poor fiscal discipline within the department. Even from the first quarter, recommendations from the Office of the Auditor-General are to be taken to heart as well as recommendations of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Consequence management must be implemented to ensure the smooth running of the department. The reasons provided for qualification are similar year after year, highlighting the following: irregular expenditure which the department must monitor and rectify on a quarterly basis, commitments overstated with completed projects. This simply means that projects in the department start off at a reasonable budget, but seem to be inflated as the project goes on. This seems to suggest a level of collusion between officials in the department and service providers. This again is a serious mismanagement of state funds. We are particularly concerned about the special schools project and the school sanitation project.

Expenditure management is an important aspect of good fiscal discipline. From the report of the first quarter, we are already experiencing challenges of overspending and underspending in some core programmes in the department. In the administration of the allocated funds, only 23% against set targets of 25% was spent. There was also an underspending in Early Childhood Development where only 21% against the set target of 25% was spent. There was overspending in Public Ordinary Schools where 27% was spent against the set target of 25%, and 26% spent in Public Special Schools against a set target of 25%.

As I conclude, if the department wishes to achieve a good audit outcome, it must monitor its spending patterns from the beginning of the financial year. The department is yet to receive an unqualified audit opinion. This is something that the department must work on from the beginning of the year. We also cannot overemphasise the project, especially those pronounced in the State of the Province Address, and the budget of the MEC for Education should be prioritised and eventually finalised. I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. I call upon Hon Manganye. Honourable Members, can we try to confine ourselves to the time allocated.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Madam Speaker and greetings to all honourable Members in the House, including our guests. The primary objective of this report is to assess and monitor if indeed the department has achieved in terms of plans committed. What is the justification of overspending with 1,2% apart from the excuse that warm bodies were not considered when doing budget cuts? Did the department employ personnel outside the approved structure, and does the department have plans to ensure that from here there is no further overspending? Can the department clarify the relations between the 1,2% overspending on compensation of employees and the reported underspending of 1,2% of compensation of employees?

On transport lease, does the reward refer to a court decision or is there an explanation of the statement on transport claims against the state? If the above is a court order, then what caused the situation which had to be resolved by the court? Given the experience triggered by COVID-19, how far is the department on matters on introducing eLearning to all schools as to avoid schooling interruptions when there are pandemics and other situations which may disturb the normal schooling? Does the department have a unit which checks the status of independent schools, including checking on their curriculum and compliance with registration authorities?

Hon Speaker, what caused overspending on Public Special Schools, whilst most programmes have underspent? When will the department fill the vacant positions at public special schools? With regard to the six special schools which were helped with assistive devices for learners with visual impairment, does the number reported represent all learners who needed these assistive devices? It seems memos are either rejected or not yet approved, and surely this will have a negative effect on the departmental performance. In the next reporting, reasons must be provided why memos to procure are not processed or delayed like it is reported on Public Special Schools?

Under the EFF government, all ECD practitioners will be employed on a full-time basis with full pay and pension contributions. Any shift and transfers must include all employees who have been assisting the ECD centres, most of whom were underpaid. Furthermore, the department must provide continuous skills programmes for ECD practitioners. The EFF government will make universal provision for Early Childhood Development programmes, and we will make it compulsory for children from ages three years and upwards to be enrolled in an ECD for free. How many schools out of the 515 which relied on pit toilets have been provided with safe toilets? If pit toilets are not completely eradicated, we are going to have a case similar to that of Michael Komape incident happening, is this what the department wants? Are the 515 identified pit toilets schools an absolute number which was verified? If this number is provided with safe toilets, the province will not have a single pit toilet at schools.

In conclusion, filling of vacant positions should be non-negotiable and must ensure gender balance at all levels. Where vacancies exist, people must be employed to facilitate service delivery to the people unless if you say service delivery is not an issue. The EFF government will eradicate all pit toilets and provide safe and quality flushing toilets to all schools. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Manganye. I call upon Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The department as well as educators have been faced with a very difficult year with numerous challenges and are still expected to perform as they transition to going to school every day and teachers struggling to make sure that learners are able to grasp the necessary content during the academic year. COVID-19 has affected learning as well as the quantity of material both the learner and the educator have to deal with in a limited amount of time with a monumental backlog relating to infrastructure, sanitation, water and teacher shortages as well as the reduced budget. It is all about keeping the lights on and getting learners through the respective grades.

As expected, the department underperformed under its infrastructure and examination-related key performance indicators, spending around 16% of its allocated budget during the first quarter. The department has still yet to finalise and to report on the 24 schools to be merged and the effects of both learner and educator. It should also provide a report on the 372 small and nonviable schools that are still to be merged. It should be noted that 106 schools have already benefited from the R228 million eLearning programme. But for the more than 3 000 schools, it still remains a dream under COVID-19, it has to become a necessity. The department also needs to improve on monitoring, and more importantly on reporting on independent schools. There needs to be reporting on the schools reopening in these independent institutions and progress to date towards reducing the spread of COVID-19. The inability of most of our schools to perform in key gateway subjects such as Maths, Science and Technology in our province, with a majority of them not achieving a 40% pass rate demonstrates the need for a renewed approach to our Dinaledi Schools Programme.

This week, South Africans gave a sigh of relief when the President announced that the country will remain on alert level 1 and that no new restrictions would be coming forward. While numerous countries have taken actions against South Africa, which will lead to dire economic consequences; we also heard that we are not doing enough as the majority of citizens still need to be vaccinated. The total COVID-19 cases recorded in Limpopo to date is 123 422 and daily cases is 51. It is against this backdrop that the committee undertook to monitor and investigate the school readiness to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The portfolio committee visited six primary schools to determine their readiness and compliance with the COVID-19 regulations and the department's support towards the infrastructure challenges mainly around water and sanitation. All schools adhered to the normal COVID-19 regulations of sanitising as well as PPE. In order to comply with social distancing, Shopiane Primary School did not have the adequate classrooms and needed at least 10 classrooms to accommodate their 1 555 learners and 42 teachers. Mizuzwani and Dzumeri Primary Schools still have inappropriate sanitation in the form of pit latrines and did not comply with social distancing with classrooms due to the lack of infrastructure. Albert Luthuli Primary School and Dibeng Primary School had non-compliance with the COVID-19 regulations in classrooms and learners at Dibeng Primary School still have to make use of pit toilets.

The committee did recommend that detailed reports on the monitoring of schools during COVID-19 and its challenges as well as interventions must be tabled on a

regular basis. With a reality of the fourth wave of COVID-19, looking inevitable, we urge all learners above the age of 12 to get themselves vaccinated and protect themselves from the pandemic while also wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and sanitising and washing hands regularly. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. I call upon Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I got nothing on COVID-19, I am just going to present the normal thing because I do not take the injection. Thank you very much. As we do not have a complete update on all programmes like the appointments promised from the fourth quarter, the remaining 56 schools that were not reported on and the rollover from the fourth quarter, as mentioned in the Budget Speech, it is difficult to determine if it was completed, and we are waiting to see if any progress was made during the second and third quarters.

The biggest challenge on our oversight visits to schools in August 2021 is as follows: lack of resources and learning equipment. Children are the future of our country, and so it is imperative that they have access to all necessary resources, requirements and school equipment. These issues must be addressed to ensure that a stable, healthy learning environment is created. On proper toilet facilities, it is unsafe and undignified for our children to still be subjected to using the pit toilets; proper toilet facilities must be built and timeously completed as a matter of urgency for safe use for the children of our country. The mobile toilets are a short-term solution, and these have serious hygiene issues. Those toilets are not durable enough and unsafe. On poor infrastructure, the infrastructure needs to be addressed. At various schools that we visited, there is a lack of properly built classrooms as well as desperate need for more classrooms. Administration blocks are also needed as there are schools that use classrooms as administration blocks.

On safety and security, security is also a concern as some schools have no security guards, and therefore any perpetrator can enter the school grounds at any time and inflict harm on our children and teachers. Some of the schools do not have proper fencing and there are schools that have vegetable gardens, and the goats can enter and eat all the products, and they can even get stolen by the community. We live in a dangerous country, and our children cannot walk to school and back; it puts them at risk of being attacked and raped, or even kidnapped. We cannot allow this as our children need a safe environment to go to school, otherwise it will demoralise them to go to school; they will be too scared. Proper transportation should be made available where there is a need. We also believe there should be more social workers at schools and home visits for those children that need emotional support.

The issue regarding parents who are uninterested in attending school meetings out of fear of their illegal status should be urgently addressed by the Department of Home Affairs. This was recommended by the committee during our visit, and it is a very serious matter. We, therefore, support recommendations of the committee and I thank you so much. Please clap hands for me for the first time. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. I call upon Hon Mathye.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Greetings to all the honourable Members that are inside the House. The first quarter is an important quarter because it sets the pace for what is to follow for the rest of the year. From the indications so far, we cannot say that we are pleased with the start so far, especially in key programmes of the department. The department continues to underspend and to overspend in some of its key programmes. I am not going to talk about the Early Childhood Development programme and Administration because Hon Aphiri has already touched on them.

Hon Speaker, allow me to say, in Infrastructure Development programme where only 16% out of 25% was spent, and on Examination and Education Related Services, 16% out of 25% was spent. This will present a problem moving forward which may even result in fiscal dumping in the forthcoming quarters. On Infrastructure Development programme, the department's failure to spend within its set parameters and targets is a very serious problem. This is more so in the infrastructure development programmes, which are priority projects, which have been pronounced in both the State of the Province Address and the Budget Speech by our MEC. The continuous rolling over of funds from one quarter to the other are likely to create challenges moving forward. Programmes such as Infrastructure Development, Examination and Education Related Services have been flagged in the past by the Office of the Auditor-General; these programmes received disclaimers in the last financial year.

With regard to the School Infrastructure programme, we are worried about the ability of the department to eradicate pit latrines in the province within its set targets. Various reasons have been forwarded with regard to delay in this project and chief amongst them being the effects of the lockdown whereby materials were reported to be very scarce. We are worried that continuous delays in implementing the project will only inflate the budgeted cost of the project. Given the challenging economic position that our country finds itself in, delayed projects mean escalating costs as costs of materials continue to rise on a regular basis.

We will also want the department to pay attention to this project as there is a lot of money invested in this project. This programme has been flagged in the past by the Office of the Auditor-General for irregular and inflated expenditure in the past. The department has redirected its bulk infrastructural programme to water and sanitation in order to eradicate pit latrines. This redirection of funds must be communicated, especially to districts that were prioritised for new schools. In the year under review, there will be no new school built and this is a message that should be communicated to communities that were promised new schools. It was reported that the lockdown had the negative impact on the rollout of water and sanitation progress. This department must, however, find safe ways to work within the pandemic. The fact remains that we are going to be with this virus for many years, and we have to find a way to work around that. We are currently in the midst of a new variant of the virus called Omicron variant and that at the same time, life must go on. What we have to do is to encourage our people to vaccinate and continue to practise COVID-19 compliance.

On Examination and Education Related Services, we commend the department for rolling out the matric catchup programme. The programme also supports matrices through online teaching. We appreciate that in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution learners were able to learn using tablets and practising virtual learning. Indeed, in these times of a pandemic, we have to find a way around safe and accessible education. It has been reported that learners were able to access subjects such as Mathematics, Science, Life Sciences and English classes online. Some teachers have also been orientated to online teaching, and it has gone a long way in making education accessible. We appreciate the effort that the department is taking in making education accessible. There is a plan to provide schools with USBs which will have lessons, question papers, video materials and radio materials loaded for the instruction of learners. We would like to get feedback from the department as to how far they are with this particular progress. As the committee, we therefore recommend as follows:

- We recommend that the department should spend funds within its allocated quarterly targets; overspending and underspending are likely to cause problems moving forward.
- We also want the department to fill all vacant posts.
- We would also like the department to report to this House on the vacancies, if any, of the temporary teacher assistant posts in the department.
- Has the programme been efficient in assisting teachers manage their workload?
- We also want the department to also consider encouraging some of these teacher assistants to pursue postgraduate studies in the field of education.

We also had an oversight visit to schools as from 23 to 27 August 2021. The committee conducted visits in all the five districts to check whether the primary schools are COVID-19 regulation compliant. As the committee, we tried our best to visit all the districts and sampled a few primary schools in the province. Of course, we would have wanted to visit more, but we believe that the few that we were able to visit allowed us to get a fair picture of what is happening in the schools. Let me be fair on this one. In all the schools that we reported, we never had a problem of a school that was without a toilet. The only thing is that some of them are pit latrines. For now, there is nothing that we can do, because we cannot go all out and promise people flushing toilets when we do not even have water. That one is a fact. If you do not even have drinking water, you cannot have water to flush toilets.

During our visit, the following challenges were noted in some of the schools:

- The first school that we visited was in Sekhukhune; the name of that school is Shopiane. It is a big school; children are attending school on a rotational basis. The challenge that has been raised during our visit was that teachers were not sure if they were going to finish the syllabus given the reduced contact hours with learners. They also mentioned that they could benefit from more visits by the circuit manager, meaning that circuit managers are not visiting schools

regularly. The school was experiencing problems with its toilets as they are currently insufficient, not that they are pit toilets; they are insufficient because this one is a big school. There is a block of classrooms that is still having this asbestos roof; that one is causing an unhealthy and risky condition to our children's lives.

- Mizuzwani Primary School is one of the primary schools in Mopani District. The school is COVID-19 compliant, and PPE were provided to the school and they were reported to be sufficient. The school, however, indicated a need for additional classrooms and an admin block. This school is currently building a kitchen because they indicated that they are struggling during the rainy season with food preparation. And again, in the same school, there is a reported case of a 14-year-old who was pregnant and has not returned to school since giving birth. We know that the scourge of teenage pregnancy is a challenge in our schools, and we therefore want the department to follow up on this case. The department must also keep in mind that the said learner is a minor and a proper follow up must be conducted in this particular case.
- Dzumeri Primary School is the same school and a neighbour to Mizuzwani Primary School. This school was found to be COVID-19 compliant and reported that PPE were received for all learners from the Department of Education. Generally, Dzumeri, unlike all the schools, is functional and well run. The general environment and infrastructure of the school is well looked after; even their toilets are well looked after. The only thing they do not have is an admin block.
- Rixile Primary School is in Musina. It was reported that the school attendance is on a rotational basis. It is very efficient for the overall management of learners in compliance with COVID-19 regulations. There is a COVID-19 management committee in this school, which is reported to be functioning well. We were also very pleased to learn that since 2014, this primary school has never reported a teen pregnancy. This goes to the overall management of the school as well as parents in matters regarding the lives of their children. The biggest challenge in the school was the number of undocumented learners at the school. This is due to the proximity of the Beitbridge border posts, whereby a significant number of undocumented children from Zimbabwe are attending school. Currently, there are 52 undocumented children in that particular school. This is a particular problem that we have also noticed in the past with undocumented learners from Mozambique, in some areas around Phalaborwa and Giyani in Mopani. This becomes a problem, especially when children reach Grade 12 as they are no longer able to go any further with their studies.
- Albert Luthuli Primary School is in Waterberg. They have one biggest challenge: the lack of participation of parents in school matters, as reported by Hon Maritz. The department should advise the school on what can be done to increase parental participation. However, the school appreciated the regular visit by the circuit manager. It also reported that the curriculum advisers are very responsive, and this was well appreciated by the school management. Hon Speaker, allow me to differ with the latter two speakers. In this school particular, they reported problems of burglary and currently there are no

security officers. The school also reported a need for a school hall and a school library. This school did not report any challenges with regard to toilets.

- Dibeng Primary School, which is in Capricorn, is a problematic school. The previous speaker has spoken about the challenges encountered in detail. I will, however, also raise my concern with regard to what we observed in this school as there was wanton distraction of government properties by the community of that area. While we may appreciate the fact that the school was dilapidated, we cannot accept in good faith that what we observed there. Criminal acts such as those should not just be left like that as if it is business as usual. We were also alerted that in July of this year, members of the community broke into this school where they stole photocopiers, computers and printers as well as the school nutrition programme food. We advise that the department work closely with the community, especially with regard to them occupying the new empty school of Phuti Seopa, as the school has been closed due to low numbers, but the community is saying they want a new school. They do not want to go to Phuti Seopa Secondary School which was closed because of a shortage of learners. We know that this will not be an easy programme to take on. But we all know that the department simply cannot afford to build new infrastructure when we have buildings that are standing empty.

In conclusion, we appreciate the efforts taken by the department in enforcing COVID-19 compliance throughout the province without compromising quality of education. We commend the department for its good work in ensuring the PPE are provided for all learners in the province. We remain concerned by the reduced hours of contact between learners and teachers due to a rotational system. This is especially a concern in the Foundation Phase, as well as the higher grades where pupils are under pressure to finish the curriculum. As it has been mentioned earlier, we are concerned also by the emergence of the new variant of the virus; reports have indicated that this virus has now been identified in all provinces in South Africa. However, we are concerned that it has been reported that this virus is much more easily transmissible than the previous variant. We would like the Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of Health to look at the feasibility of vaccination of school children. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. We will proceed to item 7.6, and then we will allow the MEC to respond after the debate, consideration and adoption of the following report of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions. I call upon the committee chair.

MR MDAKA

Ndzi beleni mavoko. [LAUGHTER] Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Inhlukanhi. I, Falaza Philemon Mdaka, rise to move for the consideration and adoption of the report of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions: oversight visits to petition projects in Vhembe, Sekhukhune, and Capricorn districts. I so move, Madam Speaker, that if adopted, it be considered as a report of this House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Madam Speaker, I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, ke emelela mo go thekga pego yeo beilwego ke modulasetulo wa komiti ya go kopana le ditšhaba tša gaborena. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Ke a leboga, Hon Makhurupetje. The first speaker to debate is Hon Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good afternoon. Hon Premier, honourable Members of the provincial Legislature, receive our revolutionary greetings as we are about to conclude the 2021 calendar year in a period which had humbled all of humanity. Hon Speaker and Members, in the past 20 months we had find ourselves in an unprecedented period in this epoch, which has altered how we interact and relate with each other. Nevertheless, as a government that is devoted to its citizens, we remain committed to the service of our people, the best way we know how. The fact that the novel coronavirus has altered the world order, shifted economies and disrupted livelihoods, and placed additional burden to some of the world's struggling economies, is well documented. The rasp of this pandemic has collapsed great economies around the globe and caused as a strain amongst the third world economies. However, as Mahatma Gandhi put it, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." We are keeping to this axiom as we have tried to rebuild our economy, which has always been vulnerable even before the outbreak of this pandemic. We continue to engage with our social partners to try to resuscitate the economy on whose shoulders lies the hopes of the rest of the African continent.

The committee in carrying out its constitutional oversight and public participation mandate, conducted oversight visits to the projects that have been petitioned in the Vhembe, Sekhukhune, and Capricorn district municipalities from 07 to 09 August 2021. The committee received a petition in 2017 from Makushu community in Vhembe District in which the petitioner raised concerns regarding the conditions of roads D2018, D3678, D3673, D3679, D3656 and D3685. The road starts from Schuitdrift D2018 to Dolidoli D3678 via Kombani D3679 and moves through Matachichi D3656 and Matavhela settlements D3586, a stretch of about 89 km in the Mutale area. The petitioner further raised a concern that during the 2015/16 imbizo, they had raised the alarm about this road with the Office of the Premier who pronounced that this road will also be tarred during the 2016/17 financial year. However, today the road has not been tarred and its condition has worsened over the years.

It goes without saying that good quality infrastructure is integral to economic growth and a prerequisite to ensure inclusive growth. By inclusive growth we mean that the benefits of growth are shared by the majority of the people of our province. During the visits to both Makushu village and Dzwerani/Madala Road project in Vhembe, the committee raised serious concerns about the state of the roads as most were found

to be in a sorry state. These are gravel roads that are rocky and pass through mountainous areas with little maintenance. Besides, transport development in those two areas will be helpful to open up more roads and resources for production. Some parts of our farming areas may have abundant agricultural resources, but they remain unexploited for production because they are remote and inaccessible through means of transport. At least after some engagement, the committee had managed to reach an agreement that while waiting for funds to upgrade the road, Road Agency Limpopo and the Department of Public Works should ensure that the road is regravelled and maintained on a regular basis. There is of course a need to link and connect those communities by building proper roads so that their untapped agricultural products will be utilised for production.

The committee received a petition from Mr Mphela Ratsoma in 2020, requesting intervention for the construction of road D4199 from Nkoana Moshate to Apel Moshate. The road is located within the Fetakgomo/Tubatse Local Municipality in the Sekhukhune District. After deliberating on the matter, Road Agency Limpopo informed the committee that road D4199 is amongst the roads to be designed as pronounced by the MEC for Public Works during the 2021/22 Budget Speech. The costs for upgrading the 6 km is estimated at 70 million; however, the project could not proceed in 2018/19 due to budget constraints. RAL further indicated that funds have been secured for the designs of the road, and the design process will start as soon as the evolution process has been completed during the 2021/22 financial year. The budget for the construction phase is still to be secured once the design phase is complete.

As a committee, we welcome the commitment made by the Department of Public Works to continue doing routine maintenance on the road by blading, regravelling and culvert cleaning it. The committee recommended that RAL and Department of Public Works should engage and inform the petitioners on the construction process of the roads and update us on the progress on a regular basis. Though we want to praise a fish for its capabilities to swim, the Limpopo government led by the biggest liberation movement on the continent, the ANC, cares for its people. We have also received a commitment by the Department of Education that a school in Mohlaletsi will also be assisted with adequate infrastructural needs of water and sanitation. This and many more other achievements are a clear evidence that the work done by the committee has yielded the much-desired results and should be supported.

In 2015, the committee received a petition from the Mashiane Primary School in Sekhukhune regarding the lack of infrastructure, which was reported by Mohlaletsi village. The school was only one block with few classrooms that were not enough to accommodate all learners and proper ablution facilities and water. As highlighted in the Stats SA, the Limpopo provincial government recorded a decline of 447 million, largely as a result of the provincial Department of Education spending less on infrastructure projects, though it was recorded that the delays in the construction and completion of new schools, according to the department's Annual Report, were as a result of notorious COVID-19. Various projects were also reprioritised, causing delays in the allocation of new maintenance and servicing work to the contractors.

The committee, upon receiving the petitions from Malokong, Rooival and Limburg communities, had a series of meetings with the Roads Agency Limpopo and the Department of Public Works where they promised that the road will be constructed during the 2013/14 financial year. Through engagements, the committee was informed

by RAL that road D3534 is number 4 on the priority list of Mogalakwena Local Municipality and that the estimated budget for the road is R200 million. Therefore, the project will be constructed in phases, depending on the availability of funds. The committee recommended that since the conditional assessment was done in 2016, it should be done again to check the current condition of the road. The committee further recommended as follows: that the Department of Public Works should fast-track the process of servicing the access road and update the committee regularly. RAL and the Department of Public Works should develop a plan on how the road is going to be fixed. As a committee, we resolved that we would visit the area again in six months' time to check on the progress and the condition of the road.

The Bakone ba Matlala Traditional Council submitted a petition to the committee in 2019 regarding the condition of road D3377 from GaMatlala to Limburg villages. In their petition, it was indicated that the Department of Public Works committed to fix and tar road D3377 in 2018 and it was not done, hence the petitioner decided to write to the committee to ask for intervention. The committee visited the area on 19 August 2021 to assess the condition of the road and noted with appreciation that the road was under construction. Members, it is incumbent upon this government to ensure that infrastructure development is central to job creation, and if we are serious about creating much-needed jobs, we must prioritise the building of roads, schools, clinics and become catalysts of change. Let us note that lack of adequate infrastructure not only holds back economic development, it also causes additional costs in terms of time, effort and money for people to access essential services such as healthcare and education. We thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokgonyana. I call upon Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker and greetings once more to everyone who is in this august House. The EFF is concerned that petitions that are submitted to government are not being taken seriously. Site visits are conducted just to raise the hopes of the people, but nothing is done to remedy the challenges raised by the community. Once the committee leaves on site, everything is forgotten as the people continue to suffer. The petitions that were submitted to the government on roads in Vhembe have not yet been attended to. The roads are still in a disastrous state, and yet the government wants the people of Limpopo to still think that they have something to offer.

All sorts of excuses are given when government should be acting on challenges that our people are facing on a daily basis. We are told that there is no budget to build roads, but there is more money for fruitless and wasteful expenditure; there is budget for everything else except for service delivery. What is the point of conducting oversight when you know you are not going to do anything after such visits? Madam Speaker, what is the reason of public participation when you know that you are not going to do anything after such programmes have taken place. The whole exercise is a total waste of taxpayers' money because such visits are merely done for compliance purposes and not to deliver services to our people.

The people of Sekhukhune are also victims of the incompetence and incapacity of the government. The D4199 road from Nkoana Moshate and Apel Cross is still in a bad shape since the petition was presented to the government for the road to be attended to. Motorists who use this road on a daily basis risk losing their lives because of negligence and poor governance by the government. Moshiane Primary School in Mohlaletsi was subjected to poor workmanship to an extent that the floors in the classrooms are cracking. That is what happens when you award contracts to family, friends and comrades. You will not get value for money. Mediocrity is the perfect word to characterise the governance patterns of the ANC-led government. The principle of good governance is not something they are familiar with; hence, the people continue to suffer mediocre services they get from the government.

The Malokong, Rooival and Limburg communities in Capricorn have also not been spared from the incompetent government. They submitted a petition in 2013 for the construction of the tar road, but to date nothing has been constructed. You submit a petition for construction of the tar road, you get it after 10 years. Is that what you call a sense of urgency, especially when it comes to the service delivery to the people? All that they do is promises, promises and more promises, but all in vain. They are the champions of empty promises. They have over a period of time mastered the art of promising and not delivering. The people of Limpopo should know that they have their trust in wrong people. The EFF is the only hope and the future for the people of Limpopo. Hon, Speaker I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I call upon Hon Phala. Order, honourable Members! Can we allow Hon Phala to proceed?

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The public participation and petitions committee undertook oversight visits to adjudicate on and engage the public as well as conduct oversight in the Vhembe, Sekhukhune and Capricorn districts. On 17 August 2021, the committee visited projects in Vhembe District related to roads petition. The Dzwirani/Madala Crisis Committee petition related to the upgrading of the bridge and tarring of the road to D3753. The committee was accompanied by officials from both the Department of Public Works and RAL. The oversight revealed that the road was a gravel road, which was silted and therefore had blocked the drainage structures and was indeed in a poor state. It was further noticed that due to a lack of regular and proper regravelling and the regular maintenance, the condition of the road had worsened. The committee recommended with agreement with both the Department of Public Works and RAL that the road be filled above ground to ensure proper drainage and that existing culverts and outlet structures would be cleaned, replaced or extended where necessary. The parties also agreed that the road would be gravelled and maintained regularly while waiting for funds to tar the road.

In Makushu village, the committee undertook an oversight on the roads D2018, D2678, D3673, D3679, D3656 and D3675 following Mr Samuel Ramadwa's petition on behalf of the Makushu community in Vhembe District. During the oversight, it was apparent that the condition of this road was unacceptable, and that the gravel was in a very poor state. It was rocky and very rough on vehicles which often break down because of the

road condition. The parties agreed that blading, regravelling and culvert cleaning of the road will urgently be carried out and maintained regularly while the relevant departments wait for funds to upgrade the road.

On 18 August 2021, the committee undertook oversight inspections in the Sekhukhune District, focusing on education and road petition projects. At the Moshiane Primary School, the petition centred around the issue of inadequate infrastructure as the school had just one block of classrooms which were inadequate to accommodate all learners. The school also did not have ablution facilities and water. This petition was adjudicated in the 2016/17 financial year, and the oversight was to check on the progress following the Department of Education's undertakings. The committee was pleasantly surprised and impressed with the progress made and applauds the Department of Education for honouring their undertakings. The school was built in 2017 and has proper infrastructure as well as basic services. The Department provided the school with 10 classrooms, new ablution facilities, new furniture, a borehole for water, and electricity. While this petition has been closed, the committee recommends to the department that the school requires an admin block, a kitchen and a hall.

With regard to the petition for Mr Mphela Ratsoma, in respect of a construction of the road D4199 from Nkoana to Apel Moshate, the committee drove along the gravel road for about 6 km and confirms that this road is in a bad condition, with challenges on the drainage. The committee engaged with the Department of Public Works and RAL and confirms that the funds have been secured for the design, and the design process will start as soon as the evolution process has been completed during the 2021/22 financial year. It must, however, be noted that the budget for the construction phase still needs to be secured once the design phase is completed. The parties agreed and confirmed that there will be ongoing blading, regravelling and maintenance of the road until the upgrade is finalised. The committee further recommended that the Department of Public Works and RAL meet with the petitioners and update them on the construction process and keep them updated regularly until conclusion of the project.

The committee conducted oversight in the Capricorn District where the Malokong and Limburg communities submitted a petition in 2018 regarding the poor road conditions in their areas; the committee can confirm that the road D3534 is number 4 on the priority list of Mogalakwena Local Municipality with an estimated budget of R200 million. The committee further confirms that this project, will therefore, be conducted in phases dependent on the availability of funds.

In conclusion, the Bakone ba Matlala Traditional Council submitted a petition in 2019 regarding the poor state of the road D3377 from GaMatlala to Limburg village. Their petition indicated that the Department of Public Works had undertaken to upgrade this road in 2018. The committee subsequently visited the area on 19 August 2021 and can confirm that the road is currently under construction and is being attended to. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I call upon the chairperson, Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Madam Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; Members of the Executive; Leader of Government Business; our Hon Chief Whip; honourable Members, good afternoon. I stand before you on behalf of the ANC to give some emphasis on the report of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions on our recent visit to communities who petitioned our Legislature. Before I could proceed with the debate of the matter at hand, it is indeed unavoidable to mention once more, as the other speakers before me have done so, that the coronavirus pandemic is with us to stay. The possibility of the fourth wave is not just a scare, but a reality. This is so after the discovery of the Omicron variant virus by the scientists of our country, South Africa, which led to the untimely travel ban of travellers from our country to major destinations of the world. We join our President in condemning this bizarre situation of travel ban to South Africans which left people stranded in our airports and outside our country. However, people should take precautions before taking any unnecessary journey. As legislatures, we must avoid overcrowded areas and lead by example, by staying at home as much as we can.

The recent local government election gave political parties, with the ANC leading the pack, the opportunity to connect with the people, and thereby create a dialogue for most of the grievances that give rise to petitions by our people. Most of the petitions, amongst others, are about roads infrastructure, RDP houses, demand for additional classrooms and isolated incidents of individual frustrations of miscalculated pension payouts, identity documents, to mention but a few. With a listening ear, we can be able to indeed reduce a number of petitions that are written by our people by making a follow-up on those issues raised during elections and look for solutions together with our people, as the Freedom Charter states, "The People Shall Govern!" The focus of the recent oversight visit, as the previous speakers indicated, was on roads and on school infrastructure petitions.

As others decided to be deliberately provocative, and particularly that the honourable Chief Whip covered most of the issues on the project that we visited and the situation as to how it unfolded together with our people, I'm going to deviate a bit from my input.

I want to address myself to the previous speaker who indicated that she represents a party that is a government in waiting, unless I did not get her very well. I am referring to Hon Managa. These are members that are always available to indeed work with us as we go to our communities. That is where I should start and I commend them for being available. When we go to our communities to make sure that we involve our communities in whatever we do as government, of course, led by our honourable Premier, Chupu Mathabatha. It is not true that when we go to our communities we are going there just to be there because we do not have anything to do, or just because we want to comply with the legislation.

The issue of public participation and engagement with our communities does not necessarily start from the Freedom Charter where it says the people shall govern. Public engagement is the bedrock of our democracy. We cannot do anything without involving our people. We are also not saying that we are the solution to all the problems that our people are facing. But together, we can indeed find a solution to many of the challenges that they are facing as humanity. Their frustration is our frustration; we are not going to pass the buck. We are not going there to promise them anything. We are

governing with them. They are part of us. They voted us into office. Whatever we do, we take them along.

We understand what my fellow comrades on the left are saying. They were part of us in the recent past; they decide that you walk away from because they would not agree with what we wanted them to do. They had their own approach of just destabilising meetings, destabilising legislatures and destabilising the Parliament. Everywhere they are, it is just destabilisation and calling for points of order. That is what they do. It is not how I normally do things, but I cannot accept a situation where our whole programme is undermined to say this is just there for compliance. We are serious about engaging our people in whatever we are doing.

On the question of government in waiting, I do not know for how long they are going to wait because the ANC is going to govern this country, and the whole world knows, until Jesus Christ comes back. It is only the ANC that was formed inside a church. I am not sure where their party was actually created, maybe in the shebeen, maybe somewhere else. But the ANC was formed inside a church. Therefore, even the One up there knows that this country is led by the ANC, and it will be so until Jesus Christ comes back. What is happening in Gauteng, in other municipalities down there, those people down there, in Xitsonga we say, vanhu lava nga hala evokweni ra mina ra ximatsi, vanghenise xandla eka ku yisa vanhu va hina eGauteng evukhumbini. Xa vona i ku yisa vanhu evukhumbini, naswona ha ha ta lava ku ri vanhu va le tindzhawini letiya na vona va chuchiwa. Himpela, loko swilo swi nga fambi kahle, vanhu va ya evukhumbini. That we understand, and we believe again, it is only the ANC and the One up there that will assist in those areas.

As I conclude, ... [INTERJECTION]

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, I have a point of order. Let us go back to the debate; he is talking politics now. It is not acceptable.

MR MDAKA

As I conclude, I was responding to what was coming from the parties on my left. We are still going to engage with our people. Let me remind you of something; people are now demanding roads as it has already been indicated, but before, they were talking about electricity. The ANC-led government has assisted to make sure that there electricity in all our villages. Our municipalities have assisted in making sure that villagers are now connected to electricity. We might be having challenges now. Today, why are roads a top priority? You know in the recent past, including during apartheid, there was only one vehicle in the village. Therefore, when we started the government in 1994, people were not demanding roads. We were there. I do not know if these parties that are on my left were there, but we were there. I know that some of the parties have now gone down the drain and other new parties have emerged. But the ANC has always been there. We are not worried. We know that some of the parties on my left will go and other parties will emerge, but the ANC will remain. It will only be the ANC that will keep on working with our people. These other ones will not go anywhere. I thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

MS MANAGA

That is not public participation; that is politics.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mdaka. We will now allow Members of the Executive Council to come and respond. I call upon Hon Boshielo.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have because I think I have responded to a lot of issues, or should I go through what the Members have asked?

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, you are only allocated five minutes.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Alright, Hon Aphiri, I think you are right. Education is a precondition for development in any country. That is why we have taken a decision that all the primary school learners must come back to school. We know we do not have much, but it is not sustainable for them to come twice a week. When they come the next week, they have forgotten everything and you cannot call that education. So that is the reason we said bo seka bo e ja gona mola and other things, but that is the main reason why we were doing that.

In terms of the teacher assistants. We would like to really thank our President and "Moreki" for assisting us. Through that programme, we were able to create 38 439 jobs for youth between the ages of 18 and 35. Most of them are qualified and some even have LLBs, but they cannot find jobs. When you talk to them, you can see how grateful they are. At least they have something to take home. I agree with you; we have asked the President to extend it. They have extended it to March 2022. I hope they do it again because I can tell you, it puts bread on the table.

In terms of the two schools, Rivoni and Asiphumelele, with Rivoni the contractor is on the ground. They are busy with it now and with Asiphumelele they are busy with the design because of the landscape. But remember, we have meanwhile bought them new mobile hostels which are electrified, new beds and all other things. There is progress on both of them. We are on top of them. In terms of spending per our allocated budget, we are taking the counsel, but remember education some other times is the other way round, like the academic year is from January to December, the financial year goes the other way round. That is why for examination you will only have that expenditure towards February and March because you can only pay after exam markers and all others. It is sometimes the other way round, the same with the books, LTSM, you can only deliver them towards the end of the term when you have the number of learners, and when you do the top-ups of the textbooks, you need to have the enrolment. We take the counsel; we are trying as much as possible, and I can promise you, Hon Aphiri, I want an unqualified report as much as yesterday. The good

thing is that we have a good relationship with the Auditor-General, and I meet with her almost monthly so that she helps us. We only have one matter of emphasis; we are almost there. We are also taking the advice that we need to take that into consideration.

When it comes to consequence management, we have taken your counsel, Members. On schools, I think some Members were asking me about the number of school toilets that we are building. As I am speaking to you now, 120 school sanitation facilities or toilets have been built, colleagues, and 54 are at around 76% to 99%, and it is only 7 that have taken us to court. We have also terminated 2 contractors who were doing shabby jobs, and we have PMU now at the moment, and we are able to do things faster. That is why we are able to file the report that the court wants; you no longer hear about Limpopo in the media. On consequence management, we cancel contracts with people who are not performing. We take your advice very seriously.

Hon Maritz, in terms of lack of resources and learning materials, what we do as this government, which we prioritise more than anything, is to make sure that our learners have books and textbooks. We can run short of other things maybe, but not learning materials; we make sure that they have them. With regard to the proper toilets and everything, fortunately I had a meeting with both the Minister of Sanitation and Water, and also the Deputy Minister. The Deputy Minister is a water engineer. He was telling me that in KwaZulu-Natal, they introduced a toilet where they harvest rainwater and use it for flushing. But remember, our school can only have the facilities that the village has; if the whole village is using the pit toilets, there is no way in which a school there can have a flushing toilet. It is just that we try to make them to be decent so that they can be able to be used. We are also trying to bring new technology and not necessarily throw our hands in the air.

In terms of eLearning, we are very grateful. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka. Are you paying revenge now?

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Gabotse mathata a gago ke eng? Why are you disrupting?

MR SESHOKA

What revenge?

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Hon Chair, ...

MR SESHOKA

What revenge?

THE SPEAKER

You said she disrupted you.

MR SESHOKA

I am saying when they disrupt us, you keep quiet.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Did I disrupt you?

THE SPEAKER

Can you allow the MEC to conclude, Hon Seshoka?

MR SESHOKA

We have been doing that, if they keep quiet, we can do that.

THE SPEAKER

Can we allow her to finish?

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, can you proceed?

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am just summarising; in terms of the examination, like I said, we never had any problem in terms of COVID-19. In terms of the catchup you asked about, we have a good relationship with the SABC. When the lessons ended and when we started our examinations, I had a meeting with them. They gave us two weeks free for revision. We give them the subjects that the learners are going to write and then for free they do the revisions. What was disappointing was Eskom because sometimes they took the electricity when our learners were writing, but the DG was able to go and talk to the CEO of Eskom and then we gave them the timetable and we were able to finish without problems.

Let me thank *Thobela FM*, *Phalaphala FM* and *Munghana Lonene FM* for helping our learners in terms of free education. [APPLAUSE] In terms of primary school compliance to COVID-19 regulations, we try as much as possible to do that. We even went a step further. We have now given schools on top of norms and standards, money to buy masks so that they do not have to go through many processes to buy masks. We have given them money to buy masks and sanitisers if they are not available. That is why you went there, and so at least there is something that is done, and they are cooperating with us.

When it come to the SGBs, honourable Members, maybe you should help us as you do the public participation. There are members of the SGBs that rent children and then they become SGB members. The first thing they rush to is the cheque book or they

steal like you are saying, you are right chair. At Dibeng, they stole the food, they even stole the windows and the roof because they did not want learners to go to Phuti Seopa, which is a school. We cannot just build a school when we have a school. You know the reason why they did that is that they thought we were going to build a school and they get the 30% for not doing anything. That is the reason they were doing that; the chairperson of the SGB had a criminal record. He was in jail at some time and everybody in the village was afraid of him, but he found his match. I went with the police commissioner, and we dealt with the matter. We would like you to help us because you cannot be an SGB member, but be the one who closes a school and says children must not go to school. It does not just make a lot of sense.

Lastly, in terms of undocumented learners, colleagues, I think we have said this a long time ago. Sometimes Section 27 or whoever takes us to court and fights for this. When the court takes a decision, it doesn't even look at what you have and not. In Limpopo only, chairperson, it is not 54 that you are talking about; it is about 40 000 learners who are undocumented. If you go to Nkowankowa Primary School, they were about 100 there and they want feeding scheme; they want textbooks; they want transport; they want everything. The next thing, we overspend because they were not budgeted for, and then when we come here, you cut our necks and then if we do not take them, the court also takes action. It is a problem, but we are living within it, and we will be able to manage.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the committee for the good work and counsel that you are giving us. Opposition parties, we are taking into account what you are saying because you want us to be able to improve. Thank you very much, chairperson and thanks to all our members. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Can you interrupt, where is Seshoka to interrupt?

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much and thank you, honourable MEC.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you are acknowledged.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members, a re yeng re yo hlapa matsogo ge re etšwa mo mojako. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

It is outside, you just pick and go. Honourable Members, order! Order, Hon Mathye!

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Thursday, 02 December 2021 at 10:00 and it will be a hybrid Sitting, meaning other Members will join virtually and others will attend physically. We are further encouraging all Members who will be part of the debate to come physically here in Lebowakgomo.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
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**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 02 DECEMBER 2021

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**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 02 DECEMBER 2021
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 all be seated. Honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this august House and members of staff, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. Honourable Members, before we proceed with our business of the day, I would like to remind you that today, we are going to have two sessions. The first one will be our normal business of the day. After we adjourn our Sitting, we will immediately continue with the launching of the caucus. Thank you very much.

Let's proceed with our programme.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any Motions without Notice in terms of House Rule 145? There is none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any Notices of Motions in terms of House Rule 146? Thank you.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements in terms of Rule 200? There are none.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statement? There are none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports and papers? There is also none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture.

Committee chair, over to you.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me greet everybody here, honourable Members, Chief Whip and those who joined through teams. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, rise before this august House to present the 2021/22 First Quarter Report for consideration and adoption ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mahasela, I am advised that you should come to the podium so that even those who have joined virtually can see you.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I would like to greet everybody in the House, honourable Members, Chief Whip, and the honourable Members who have joined through teams. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, rise before this august House to present the 2021/22 First Quarter Report for consideration and adoption. I so move. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mahasela. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, hereto second what Hon Mahasela has just said. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to our Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Selane. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker in absentia, Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs in absentia, Hon Premier in absentia, Leader of the Opposition, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, honourable Members of this majestic House, and all protocol observed.

It is quite unfortunate that when we woke up in the morning, we were told that the rate of unemployment in this particular country is at 54,5%, similar to the Western Cape. That is a debate for another day which I think will be scrutinised carefully.

On 11 to 14 November, the provincial Legislature sent a delegation to the 55th Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at Abuja in Nigeria. This Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was previously termed the Empire Parliamentary Association as an organisation that works to support good governance,

democracy and human rights. In 1989, Queen Elizabeth II led this institution and proposed that this Commonwealth Parliamentary Association should be hosted annually. It must rotate amongst Heads of the State and of governments. In the same year, a structure called the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians was established to increase the number of females elected representatives in parliaments and legislatures across the commonwealth, and to ensure that women issues are brought to the fore in the parliamentary debating legislation.

This structure of women provides an opportunity to build capacity to women elected in Parliament to be more effective in their roles, improving awareness and their ability as parliamentarians, particularly both males and females. Hon Speaker, what are the observations which this delegation has made in that particular conference, but also with regard to that particular institution. It is important to make such critical appraisals, necessarily, because this institution serves as a basis to create laws to uplift the socioeconomic conditions of the Africans in particular - Blacks in general. However, this structure remains a gentlemen's arrangement of some sort because it does not include the youth who are active in the transformation agenda of the African Parliament.

This structure is characterised by people who enjoy the luxury and comfort on behalf of the African people. It is quite unfortunate that the agenda of African unity and the transformation of the African diaspora remain compromised because there is no political will at all to change the condition of South African people. Interestingly, Hon Speaker, issues that must be placed on top of the agenda such as cross-border laws, Refugees Act, free trade relations, security threats and xenophobia are being compromised. This in essence ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable chair, with due respect, I am tempted to ask you not debate on the CPA because it is national matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I thought I must just make a synopsis.

THE SPEAKER

We don't have a stand on that one, honourable chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Firstly, we must appreciate and congratulate the appointment of the HOD, Ms Daphne Ramokgopa and the Chief of Staff, More Mokobane. Their appointment is a living testimony that the struggle for gender equality amongst men and women of this particular country will be realised. It is only the ANC-led government across the political diaspora which is capable of ensuring that women representation in all sectors of power is indeed realised.

The experience and understanding of the political and administration interface demonstrated by these women will extremely hold the department to continue leading in the attainment of clean audits.

Secondly, we must appreciate that the department is hard at work in ensuring the building of the provincial state theatre. It was reported by the committee through our oversight work that the provincial theatre planning is on a complete state. The department has indicated that the professional service provider was appointed through the framework agreement in preparation for the drafting of the bill of quantities and tender documents. It is worth to know that the plan and design of the theatre are completed, and the allocation of land was facilitated by the Polokwane Municipality. This shows that the department is committed to deliver services to our people, hence they reported that this particular project will be completed by 2024.

We must also note that COVID-19 has crippled us big time. Though COVID-19 cannot be used as an excuse in delivering services to our people, the building of the libraries by the department is of paramount importance. The completion of buildings such as the Seleteng Library is an important political milestone and an epitome of the commitment to serve our people with pride, necessarily because we said, we must lead with courage. These libraries must be urgently opened so as to avoid the white elephants which are existing in our communities without being maintained. We are, however, disappointed by the noncompletion of certain libraries by the contractors because it affects the image of the department. These contractors who are tortoisising must never be considered in future projects because they are failing the department in their responsibilities. However, we are delighted by the fact that the department has committed to work with the traditional leaders to solve the complex problems of completing libraries such as the Mulamula Library. The department has indicated that it will report back to the committee the nature and the degree, but also the extent of the problems which they are encountering.

Fourthly, we have noted the responsibility and functions of the national department, and particularly those of the provincial department. The committee has learned with disdain that most of the stadiums are constructed, maintained and controlled by the municipalities. The worry of this committee is that some of the stadiums are incomplete, dilapidated, and the responsibility relies with the municipalities. We even wonder if these municipalities, throughout their allocated budget, use the budget effectively for construction and maintenance of those particular stadiums. Informed by the state of the stadiums in our province, one can conclude that the money allocated for construction and maintenance is prioritised for paying abnormal and exorbitant salaries in municipalities. Though, the department through the MEC, Hon Anna Moraka, promised to engage with the department through MinMec and other programmes to consider all these facts.

One of the several questions that we want to ask is that, why is the control and the use of the libraries under municipalities whereas these libraries are constructed by the department through extensions? Is it because this department is mostly led by young people and these young people are clueless about the budget? This department must be capacitated and given enough budget to overcome the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality like most of the departments. These are worrisome questions which warrant good answers. We are confronted by these questions as a collective, and there is a need for us to provide answers. It cannot continue to be like

this, Hon Speaker, because at the end of the day, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture cares about the community in terms of sports, arts and culture. This must change, and change is the greatest element or characteristic of leadership.

Having considered and scrutinised the myriad of the problems which are faced in this particular department, the committee recommended the following:

- That there is a need for a concerted effort to improve the budget spending;
- That regular budget meetings be held monthly to improve payment processes and implement corrective actions where it is necessary;
- The moratorium of filling the vacant posts should be lifted to enable the department to optimally perform its duties and functions to avoid underexpenditure;
- The department should request that the contractors be placed on strict terms and penalties that should be applied regarding the construction and infrastructure projects;
- The department should ensure that infrastructural projects move at a speed of a cheetah if not of a paraffin; and
- All those targets that were not achieved during the first quarter should be given priority in the second quarter to avoid negative findings by the Auditor-General and the portfolio committee.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. The next speaker is Hon Mohlala.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, Hon Mohlala has reported that he will be connecting on the virtual platform. We are expecting him to connect virtually, and if he is not responding and connecting, we can allow you to pass.

THE SPEAKER

I was going to say that Hon Seshoka, because we have agreed that those who are going to form part of the debate should make sure that they come physically to the Chamber. That was agreed upon and all political parties were represented when that decision was taken. So, I am going to pass. The third one is Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The construction of the libraries commenced in 2018. By June 2021, the progress report on the construction of the following libraries was as

follows: Seleteng Library was 95%; Runnymede Library was 99%; Mulamula Library was 57%; and Mavalani Library was 72%.

The practical completion inspection was conducted at Runnymede Library and Seleteng Library, and the contractors have been working with the practical completion list. It was reported by the department that the Seleteng Library achieved practical completion on 29 July 2021 and Runnymede Library practical completion was achieved in August 2021. Mavalani Library progress has improved since the contractor ceded some of the work to the cessionary. Mulamula Library was once affected by a strike; however, the issues were resolved.

The 30-day invoice payment should be a team effort by both the department and the service provider. The report outlined that the total of valid invoices paid within 30 days was at 99,9%. The outstanding 0,1% was not paid due to late submission of invoices by the service providers. Although this was beyond the department's control, as a committee, we recommended that continuous reminders should be sent to end users to submit all outstanding vouchers on time.

The quarterly target of performing one asset management reconciliation was achieved during the first quarter. Since the implementation of the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) System, there has been no challenges regarding assets. The department has achieved an unqualified audit report in the 2020/21 financial year. The department also took advantage of the National School of Government free online courses, and instead of implementing one plan skill development intervention, they exceeded this target by implementing six.

On sport, the report outlined that on the number of athletes supported by sport academics, the target for the 2021/22 First Quarter was to support a hundred athletes through the sport academics. The department achieved this target. Further, it indicated that the department supported a total of six sport academics, and consequently achieved its quarterly target. The department intended to train people to deliver on academic programmes, and the target for the 2021/22 First Quarter was to train 10 people and the department achieved this target. The report indicated that the department supported a total of five sport focus schools, and consequently achieved its quarterly target. There were no planned targets on the number of people trained as part of the Club Development Programme and the number of provincial programmes implemented for the first quarter.

The department performed fairly well and achieved its targets. Most unachieved targets were due to the COVID-19 regulations that restricted most of the department's activities. Hopefully, as more people get vaccinated, the department will soon be able to achieve and deliver on its programme mandates. Amongst other recommendations, as a committee, we recommended the following:

- The department should request that contractors be placed on strict terms, and penalties be applied regarding the construction of infrastructure projects;
- Implementation of this regulation should be prioritised;
- That the department should ensure that projects and infrastructure move in a speedily pace and that projects be completed on time;

- The department should furnish the committee with the report on the progress of Tshitangadzimeni Heritage Site; whether the standard of the work from consultants was found wanting; and
- Reports on feasibility studies must still be improved.

Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Committee chair, Hon Mahasela, you may take to the floor.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo; Premier in absentia, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, Essob Mokgonyana; honourable Members of the Executive Committee and all honourable Members in this august House, including those who joined through teams, I greet you all. All protocol observed.

During the 1996 Olympic Games, Juan Antonio Samaranch said, "Sport is friendship, sport is health, sport is education, sport is life, sport brings the world together." Hon Speaker, allow me to congratulate the department and MEC, Hon Moraka for appointing a woman for an HOD position. I think they need to be given a hand of applause. [APPLAUSE] Thank you.

Sport is an important part of the cultural and social life in the province. If ever one likes to play or observe sport, Limpopo has a busy sporting calendar with major events in football, netball, volleyball, rugby and cultural activities taking place throughout the year. Whatever your taste, you will have the opportunity to watch or take part in a wide range of our respective activities.

On Administration, it was indicated that the nine top risks were implemented during the first quarter, and the annual target was consequently achieved. The department also managed to pay a total of 99% valid invoices within 30 days. The outstanding 1% was not paid due to late submission of invoices by service providers as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions. A disbursement schedule for all payment runs has been distributed to all employees. Members, as we congratulate the department for paying service providers on time, we must also normalise doing what is due for their clients. Most contractors have multiple clients. By not paying quickly, we are giving them reasons to do yours late, and in a less focused time of their workday.

If you are not paying promptly, you are then literally getting less value for the same money. Of course, it is worse if you plan to work with these contractors for more than one month on one project. By paying on time every time, you are signalling your interest in maintaining the relationship and building mutual trust.

On Cultural Affairs, we have realised that culture affects our every basic need of life. Most societies these days have become multicultural as more and more people migrate across countries and continents. We live around, socialise and work with

people from different cultural backgrounds and different parts of the world. So, it is advisable that the department must provide artists with business skills training to upskill them on compliance issues. Currently, the entire country has been enjoying lockdown house parties organised by DJ Shimza. As a province, we must learn a few things from that so that we can host digital entertainment initiatives in partnership with SABC. While partnering with SABC, we will be in a better position to broaden our own views in order to attain harmony in this culturally diverse environment.

When it comes to Library and Archives, education efforts over several years have seen the positive involvement of libraries in education by offering them referral services, information and teaching resources individual tutoring programmes and education classes besides their outreach to specific people's programmes and educational classes. Besides being taken up now by libraries, it alludes to their active enhancing involvement in education. Distribution of resource materials to institutions including hospitals, prisons, homes of the disabled and old age rehabilitation centres, groups with education-related problems, adolescents involved in crimes, the unemployed and the like, makes a visible impact in their education.

In the 2020/21 Annual Performance Plan, the department indicated that four new public libraries were under construction, in Runnymede, Mavalani, Mulamlua and Seleteng. They were on phase two during the 2021/22 financial year. The construction is at a slow pace. The committee even recommended oversight visits to the four libraries construction projects. The construction of the following libraries commenced in 2018 by library infrastructure projects that was upheld in March 2020. I have already mentioned the four libraries.

When it comes to Sport and Recreation, we welcome the support made by the department of supporting the 100 athletes with medical screening from netball, volleyball, rugby, football, cycling and athletics with the following: General medical assessment; Cardiac assessment; Muscular skeletal examination; and Electrocardiogram.

As per procedure, the committee requested the department to furnish it with the names and the number of athletes who benefitted from the grant. Further, we requested clarity on why only 83 athletes benefitted instead of 196 and an indication of the dates when the payment will be effected.

South Africa's Department of Sport, Arts and Culture announced a relief fund of R150 million for artists, athletes, technical personnel and the ecosystem that supports them. The Coronavirus pandemic has infected thousands and plagued the global economy into what the International Monetary Fund warns to be the sharpest downturn since the Great Depression. Not surprisingly, COVID-19 has also affected the sporting calendar with professional leagues everywhere suspending their activities to limit the spread of the virus. Even the Summer Olympics, typically one of the world's most watched sporting broadcast has been pushed back by a year. As we all know that this is the government of the people by the people, the portfolio committee met and resolved shockwaves around the world leading to a public health emergency that has killed those affected artists that need to be paid. Unfortunately, it was reported that some of the officials sorted themselves with the government's purse.

As part of the recommendations, the committee mandated the department through their risk office to identify officials who applied for the COVID-19 relief fund to be named and brought to book. It is given that sport for social development is a method of bringing about social change. Sport and play are used as tools for peace and development. It is recommended that there should be serious collaboration with Social Development and provide sport equipment and facilities to support disadvantaged communities: the homeless, shelters and the elderly.

In conclusion, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. It is a very famous English proverb. We have all heard it at least once in a lifetime. Sport is a very critical part of everyone's life which helps the participants to learn various virtues like teamwork, coordination and helps to keep the body strong and healthy.

On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, I move that this report be adopted by this august House. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mahasela. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to Members of this august House, Chief Whip of the majority party, including my colleagues in the Executive Council.

Speaker, I am pleased to acknowledge the inputs as made here by honourable members of this portfolio committee. I want to assure Members that all their inputs are being well received by the department. We are making an undertaking that all these issues of sport infrastructure in our municipalities are going to be given the necessary attention they deserve because this is a prerogative of the national ministry of Sport, Arts and Culture. Where we are as a province, we have taken stock of the state of our sport facilities in the province. We are going to go to MinMec, and present a compelling case to the Minister to say, the MIG (Municipal Infrastructure Grant) that is given to municipalities for these sport infrastructure, maintenance and also for them to erect these facilities must then be given to the department because when municipalities are given this allocation by National Treasury, they then tend to prioritise other service delivery-related issues at the expense of our people in the sector of sport and recreation. This is an issue that is receiving the necessary attention. In the coming week, we will have a MinMec where the Minister will receive a report from Limpopo. I believe that other colleagues in other provinces are also faced with similar challenges like what we are observing in the province. We believe colleagues will then agree with us that the allocation of the MIG for sport and recreation infrastructure must then be redirected to the department so that the issues that are raised by Members can then be attended to without fail.

The concern as raised by honourable Members about the lack of clarity with regard to libraries that are not yet complete, I need to put it in proper context here that libraries that honourable Members are mentioning are almost complete. I am speaking about the Seleteng Library that has been completed, and even two weeks back we had made a commitment to go there and handover this facility to our communities. We couldn't

proceed because there were stakeholders that felt that the handing over of the library can't proceed before we could change the name Seleteng Library to something else that is going to be in line with the heritage of the people of Lepelle-Nkumpi. I am just citing that issue so that Members can then understand that the issue now is beyond us because where we are, we have built the facility. Now, we are stuck in the process of renaming that facility.

When we engaged with the municipality, they made a commitment that we need to prioritise service delivery to our communities. The renaming process can then happen whilst the facility is being utilised by our communities. I think we are starting to find each other in that part of the province, in Lepelle-Nkumpi. I believe in the coming fourth quarter, the library of Seleteng will be handed over to the communities so that they can develop their children academically.

We are also going to hand over Runnymede Library because it was also completed. It is just that there were some challenges with the roof that was leaking as you know that for the past two weeks, we have experienced heavy rain. It then tells us that the contractor who was on site, did not do due diligence on the issue of monitoring the work by the contractors. I believe, Chair, where we are as a department, the contractor must then be held responsible with regard to this shoddy work. They must correct their mistake so that the Runnymede Library can then be handed over to our communities.

With regard to the Mavalani Library, we are also about to complete the construction. I believe members of the portfolio committee have undertaken an oversight visit to that facility. They are well aware that we are ready as a department to hand it over to our communities. The only library that I believe we are not registering progress is the Mulamula Library. The issue there as raised by honourable Members, is not within the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. It is around issues of traditional leadership disputes in that area of Mulamula. I have been engaging with MEC, Hon Makamu, so that we can engage with the community of Mulamula and make them realise that the issue of the traditional leadership disputes should not happen at the expense of our people. We must prioritise the development agenda in that part of the province so that whilst they address the issue of the traditional leadership dispute, our children can also be benefitting from this service delivery-related issue of a library that is going to change the lives of our children for the better.

On the matters that concern asset management, I fully agree with Hon Phala that the department has also managed to improve on its audit opinion by the Auditor-General of South Africa, necessarily because we are able to account for all the assets that are there in our libraries. We believe that the matters with the RFID System are going to be attended to by the Provincial Treasury so that we don't regress on the audit findings by the Auditor-General because we want to move the department towards a clean audit.

On the issue of the theatre, I believe Members are agreeing with us as a department that even the Premier has prioritised the theatre. It is a standing item in our EXCO. The Premier wants to receive progress on this long-awaited theatre for our people in the creative industry in the province to be constructed. We are busy with the planning and the designs. I am going to be meeting with the MEC, Dr Masemola, so that we can expedite the issue of planning and designs, so that the actual construction work can start to happen in earnest.

On the issue of the 30-days payment policy, we all agree with the concerns of Members that once we delay payment to these service providers, we must know that we are also frustrating our SMMEs because they depend on those payments for them to be able to run their companies. I believe this is an issue that happened in the past before we could stabilise our finance unit. I am pleased to report in this august House that we have managed to appoint a CFO who is from time to time looking at these issues. I believe this is a going to be a challenge of the past going forward. We are also going to advertise other critical positions within finance so that we can be able to address all the concerns as raised by honourable Members.

On the issue of equity, Hon Speaker, you know very well that even the Office of the Premier is watching the department ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion, honourable MEC, you have one minute left.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

On the issue of equity, Speaker, you know very well that even the Office of the Premier is watching the department that must then comply with matters concerning equity. Where we have vacancies in the department, we are going to make it a point that we prioritise our women, our youth, those that are having expertise in those fields, and we make it a point that we comply with equity issues.

The corruption that happened at the National Arts Council (NAC) has got nothing to do with the province of Limpopo. Where we are as a province, we have managed to adjudicate for the COVID-19 relief fund for our people in the creative industry, and there were never reports that indicted that there were elements of maladministration within that process. This issue of NAC, I believe the Minister is dealing with it because even those resources at the national level were meant to benefit our artists and not our officials.

Speaker, I want to thank the Members and assure them that they will get all the reports that they have asked for in due course as we interact with them going forward. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Consideration and Adoption of the Following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. Committee chair, over to you. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As duly mandated and authorised by the chairperson of the committee, Hon Isaiah Mmabogahla Messina Masekoameng, that on behalf of the portfolio committee, I present the report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration and adoption. It is the 2021/22 First Quarter Report.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Aphiri, you are recognised.

MS APHIRI

Hon Speaker, I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You can proceed, chair.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and Members of this august House. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, I hereby as duly authorised and mandated, present the Oversight Visit Report to Norjax Tomato Paste Plant in Greater Tzaneen Municipality for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second the motion as tabled by Hon Mathe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Chair, over to you.

MR MATHE

Thank you once again, Hon Speaker. I present on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development the Oversight Visit Report to Greenlife Vegetables project, Mabunda Citrus project and Masalal Citrus and Vegetables Packhouses that was undertaken on 9 September 2021, for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Mochadi, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to all Members in the august House. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the presentation of the report for adoption by the duly mandated – bjale ka gore o a bolela, ga ke kgone go mo akaretša, Mohlomphegi Mathe, by the chairperson of the portfolio committee. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mochadi. Honourable chair, over to you.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, I hereby present the report on the briefing session by the Limpopo Regional Land Claims Commission (LRLCC) that was held on 8 September 2021 to this august House for consideration and adoption. I thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable chair, you did not mention oversight visit to Inhlahayami.

MR MATHE

Sorry, Hon Speaker, I think obviously old age is catching up with some of us, and the consistent distractions from 'Hon M J or J something', I am not sure whether it is Seshoka or Buthane. I want to present the Oversight Visit Report on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, for Inhlahayami Vegetable Project and Raleputso Vegetable Cooperative Project around the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality to the august House for consideration and adoption. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Do we have any seconder? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, hereto second everything which Hon Mathe Simon has just presented to us. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selane. Honourable chair, you may come and present the last one.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I want to present the report on the briefing session by the Limpopo Regional Claims Commission, which was held on 08 September 2021 in this august House, for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereto second what has been presented by Hon Mathe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Monicca Mochadi, our Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha in absentia; Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou in absentia; Chief Whip of the Legislature; Chair of Chairs in absentia; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Members of the Executive Council; and all honourable Members attending virtually, I greet you all in the name of Jesus.

Hon Speaker, when we meet different agricultural sectors, the issue of land restitution always comes up. People ask us about land being taken away from agriculture and the failure of post-settlement farms. Most of the time my response would be that all of us within the sector need to work together. We need to make sure that agriculture is taken care of and is sustainable. Members, as per the procedural orders of the Legislature of the Limpopo province adopted on 28 February 2017, the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development was briefed by the Limpopo Regional Land Claims Commission, on successes and challenges faced by the commission. So far, up to 08 September 2021, the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, received a number of land claims from different regions across the province, in respect of properties in vast areas of Capricorn, Mopani, Vhembe, Sekhukhune and Waterberg.

The land claims were launched in the prescribed manner as per the Restitution of Land Rights Act 22 of 1994, which entitled a person or community dispossessed of a right to land after 19 June 1913, as a result of past discriminatory laws and practices, to restoration of the right or equitable redress. There is a serious challenge in regard to the way that the process has been handled up to now.

It would be impossible to meet the land claim deadline even if all landowners were willing-sellers. Only a small percentage of land claims have been published in the Government Gazette and after publication, less than 11% of Limpopo's land claims have been completed and Limpopo is way far behind. Tried by all means to reconstitute those lands, but ahead of the rest, it has pushed most of the lands which have been reconstituted, like the Makgoba land.

On agricultural producer support and development, the department indicated that 262 instead of the targeted 350 farmers were trained on CASP (Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme), exceeding the target of 150. Additional farmers were trained in response to a critical need of ensuring farmer compliance with water rights regulations, which is a problem to most of the farmers in the province.

On the issue of unemployment, we cannot keep quiet. Unemployment has a significant psychological impact on the youth of our province or of our country at large. It is

possible for a young man to be affected by psychological disorders such as depression and anxiety because of the ambiguity of the future and the feeling of uselessness or loss of self-worth. Furthermore, this is a problem which we must really put forward and take care of as a portfolio committee. We feel it is worrisome to see our young people qualified with agricultural qualifications, but they are unemployed. However, the department could only place 08 instead of 120 unemployed graduates on agricultural enterprises for practical skills development.

The portfolio committee appreciated the efforts the commission has displayed in providing redress to victims of the previous race-based land dispossession. Among the many challenges that the Limpopo Regional Land Claims Commission highlighted, is that production failures on land reform, have led the department to fall back on old elites and traditional leaders to control CPAs, because CPAs are uncontrollable. CPAs are a law unto themselves, and that's where they fail the restituted lands. The failures are not due to human incapacity. They are caused by system design faults and the massive manipulation and looting of the land reform budget and processes. Honourable Members, to succeed, farmers need to secure land rights and control over their resources, including water rights. I reemphasise this because it is a serious problem for our farmers.

The department's default choice of tribal control and ownership of land is a recipe for continuous corruption and rights abrogation. Thus far, conditional powers of expropriation have not been used in pursuit of land redistribution. Instead, a policy choice has been made to follow a willing-buyer, willing-seller approach, based on voluntary sales. Land redistribution has proceeded at a low and uneven pace over the past years, with fluctuations both in budgets and scales of land being acquired and redistributed. It is quite disturbing to realise that the latest redistribution strategy, PLAS (Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy), which does not allow for transfer of land ownership to beneficiaries, and the absence of long-term leases, leaves beneficiaries' land tenure rights insecure. Without clear and secure land tenure rights, land redistribution beneficiaries struggle to get production support from state departments.

The recommendations which the portfolio committee is bringing to the table, are that the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, having been briefed by the Limpopo Regional Land Claims Commission, noted that a lot of funds have been invested on land claims, but returned and restored land gets vandalised. Some are even given back to Whites; they lease it back instead of production being enhanced. The Limpopo Regional Land Claims Commission must improve its relationship with the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, to ensure that restored agricultural land remains productive to maintain economic growth and job opportunities. The LRLCC and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development must explore the possibility of relaxing the powers and autonomy of the CPAs, to ensure that the department remains involved in the affairs of the farms which are restituted, to ensure sustainability, economic growth, and job opportunities. The portfolio committee will continue to engage with the Limpopo Regional Land Claims Commission, and conduct oversight visits to restore and hand over land and farms.

The portfolio committee having been briefed by the department, and having considered and scrutinised the 2021/22 First Quarter Financial and Performance Report of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, made the following recommendations:

- The department must at all costs prevent delays by contractors on agricultural infrastructure in projects such as crops, livestock, and irrigation schemes;
- The department must put in place strong monitoring and enforcement of contractual agreements to ensure timeous completion of all projects;
- The department must always reach its targets since the portfolio committee will no longer accept COVID-19 reasons as a delay by contractors as reasons for the department not to achieve its targets;
- The department must assist farmers with the acquisition of water rights certificates to comply with legislation; and
- The department must execute consequence management on officials who proved poor performance, particularly on issues raised in the previous committee resolutions.

In conclusion, the ultimate aim of providing support to land reform projects, is to contribute towards creating active and sustainable rural development communities that have access to healthy food and decent employment opportunities. What is clear is that land redistribution is moving in a contradictory direction. On the one hand, government is entering into costly ventures to acquire high value land and conclude deals with strategic partners to run commercial farms and associated processing facilities. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Your time is up Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, I support the move for the adoption of the Portfolio Committee's Oversight Visit Report presented as well as the briefing session by the LRLCC. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

The next speaker on the list is Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to greet all Members present here and those that have joined on the virtual platform. Hon Speaker, in line with the Constitution of the country and the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature, the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development embarked on oversight visits to Mopani projects to assess successes and challenges of government-funded projects. Ideally, the agricultural support to merely emerging farmers or previously disadvantaged farmers remains the core business of the department in redressing the reality and the past imbalances of the apartheid government that massively supported white farmers only. The Department of

Agriculture under the ANC-led government, instead of supporting our farmers, continues to set our farmers to fail, by providing half-cooked funding. Our farmers are generally not fully funded. Some of the projects take time to be completed. Farmers who are supported are either given infrastructure or production inputs. In the case where production inputs are provided, it would be a once-off support which does not make any agricultural business sense.

Hon Speaker, this department is in most cases seen to be the department that dispenses funds without value for money. Hence fruitless and wasteful irregular expenditure and unauthorised expenditure are rife in this department. It is only under the ANC-led government that the departmental senior officials are rewarded with bonuses for dispensing funds to farmers without a meaningful impact on the ground. This is attributed by the incapacity of the ANC-led government to deploy credible MECs and HODs to departments.

Hon Speaker, the Norjax Tomato Paste Plant is one of the disastrous and heartbreaking projects. The project is situated in the Politsi industrial area under Tzaneen Municipality. This tomato processing plant is 51% owned by a group of African tomato growers under APOL, partnered with a white-owned Neotech company, owning 49% of the Norjax Tomato Paste Plant. In 2009, the department bought 51% shares in the plant on behalf of the tomato growers from the Neotech company to a tune of R17 million. This transaction happened without close supervision by the department. Up to now, the department cannot produce contracts or certificates of shareholding between APOL and Neotech. What makes the situation worse, is that the shares do not include the land on which the plant operates. This is the department that dispenses funds without looking at the value for investment.

In simple terms, the Department of Agriculture in Limpopo, paid R17 million to a white-owned company, without checks and balances. What a fruitless and wasteful expenditure by the government of the old liberation movement. The MEC and HOD of this department see no wrongdoing in purchasing this investment of land that is owned by a white man, because the ANC-led government worships whiteness in this country. Due to poor support systems by the department, the company started experiencing cashflow problems in 2010, and there was also strong competition from the Chinese, who produced the same product at a lower cost. In 2015, when the plant was not working properly, the farmers approached the department for assistance with the repair of the plant, mainly the evaporator of the system. An amount of R95 million, was injected into the project by the department to import the whole process plant with a capacity of 700 tons of tomatoes per day, compared to what was initially a capacity of 350 tons of tomatoes per day. The question that comes to my mind is, where will the black farmers get 700 tons of tomatoes to service this plant? If this is not a fruitless and wasteful expenditure, how does the MEC explain this?

The plant remains a white elephant to date, after it was commissioned last year, 2020, because the specifications did not include the chiller, which needs to be imported from Italy as well. Worse, the system was installed without checking the electricity transformer, that is also an additional cost. It is reported that for the plant to be operational an additional R41 million is required, and the department does not have funds to assist in this regard. What a wasteful expenditure. As we speak, the landowner has closed the gate for access, because the company is owing him money for leasing the land. It is a matter of time before the landowner will take over the plant

to cover his land costs. It is only under the ANC-led government that the taxpayer's money would be used to develop the company of a white capitalist, using our own poor farmers. With all these revelations, the MEC, the HOD, the senior management of the department are still enjoying their benefits, including bonuses because consequence management does not exist in the Mathabatha administration.

Farmers are now suffering because they have nowhere to market their produce, and their tomatoes end up perishing. The portfolio committee resolved that a forensic investigation on this project must be done to unearth the truth about this project. The EFF will continue to pursue the matter until those who are responsible for this fruitless and wasteful expenditure are brought to book in the interest of accountability and promotion of good governance.

The Inhlahayami Vegetable Project is an example of how a black female farmer started a farming project from scratch, without a budget, and made it to where it is today. Ms Hlatshwayo started this project in 2013 without any support but today she has grown a project from being a subsistent project to a small holding farm enterprise, employing five workers. We applaud and commend this woman for her hard work and passion for farming which is one of the key economic drivers in the province. She debarred the myths and lies that farming is only for White males, and that Blacks know nothing about farming. Truth be told, Africans are the ones who taught white people about farming, especially with the traditional method used today. We call upon the Department of Agriculture to provide Ms Hlatshwayo with ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, there is a hand. Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, can the Premier of this province be respected and be honoured as a Member of this House? He cannot be called the Mathabatha administration. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, can you address the Premier as the Premier.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I am not addressing the Premier, I am addressing the administration.

We call upon the department to provide Ms Hlatshwayo with a borehole, tractor, electricity, proper fencing for her to maximise production and employ more people in the community.

The Raleputso Cooperative is an ideal model of a cooperative that Limpopo must be proud of. Out of the five members of the cooperative, four are females and two are youth. This cooperative is doing well with the support of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development. The success of this project was brought about by the well-coordinated support from

these two departments. The project of 26 hectares is currently producing cash crops like cabbages, green peppers, tomatoes, chilies, and other vegetables for formal and informal markets. It is recommended that the department must advise the farmer to produce vegetables at the right time, not on a bumper season, for them to be able to catch on the prices. A solar panel must also be recommended for this project, to cut the cost of electricity.

The Greenlife Vegetable Project is a project that has potential to produce vegetables and feed people from the surrounding areas and provide to the national market. The problem is the incompetency within the department that took two to three years to complete just a mere net shade on one hectare. The corruption element destroyed the planting plans of this project. What is supposed to be support to this farmer, is now a burden, because the farmers must suspend production for two years while waiting for the installation of the infrastructure. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

One minute left.

MR SESHOKA

The EFF would like to know why the department puts water rights as a prerequisite for assistance, knowing very well that the processes to acquire such are not favourable to our people. The EFF would like to know, how many farmers in this province, particularly Africans, have water rights certificates to justify that as a requirement for support.

On the Mabunda and the Masalal Packhouse Projects, the two projects have successfully been implemented by the department and we applaud the department for delivering such projects. It was heartwarming to see the projects because all that the department has reported has been implemented. We found the projects working and the majority appreciated the work which was done by the department. For that we commend the MEC, the HOD and the department. However, the beneficiaries are complaining about the cost of electricity, and the gravel road from the farm to the main road which affects the quality of the citrus when delivering. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Your time is up.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Kedibone Lebea, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

MS LEBEA

Hon Speaker, it was one richly gifted mind, that said: "Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds." That was Albert Einstein. Hon Seshoka, he who alleges, must prove. The Hon Premier is still running a tight ship, sailing in the right direction. Until that time you become a government, we will wait for your own HODs and MECs, but currently the ANC is doing very well. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker; Premier, Hon Stanley Mathabatha in absentia; honourable Members of this august House; and those who are connected on the virtual platform, a blessed morning to you.

Hon Speaker, the Sitting takes place in the midst of the outbreak of the Coronavirus B.1.1.529, which has been labeled the Omicron variant by the World Health Organization and classified as a variant of concern and an unmatched humanitarian disaster ever seen in the 21st century. Equally Speaker, the month of December is known as World AIDS Month, around the world, and when a developing country like South Africa is faced with these unforgiving pandemics, taking into account the current economic dispensation of the country, the unpalatable levels of unemployment, poverty, and inequality, it is quite clear that we need a radical solution to address this inherent, rigid, stringent, and inexorable status quo. This quickly throttled my mind that the implementation of the Freedom Charter will not be an easy task to some, as this will unleash a catastrophic, well-orchestrated effort and push back from the owners of the means of production. To those who are entrusted with these responsibilities, we are saying to you: "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." That was Nelson Mandela.

Hon Speaker, as honourable Members of this august House, representing the aspirations and wishes of the millions of people of the province, we have a commitment that we should not falter in discharging our mandate of improving their livelihoods. This duty is delegated to us by millions of people who still see the ANC as the only organisation that must provide them with a better life. Protocol dictates that the department should brief the portfolio committee on its 2021/22 First Quarter Financial and Performance Report of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration.

This has been done, and we as Members, will ensure that we continue playing our oversight role over the department with diligence. The department focused on key strategic priorities which are aligned to the New Growth Path, the National Development Plan, and the Medium-Term Strategic Framework. These are identified priorities that are guided by the Limpopo Development Plan, in order to contribute to the economic growth. The department coordinated the development of agriparks in Limpopo. The department also focused on the implementation of the Nine-Point Plan, particularly on improving the agricultural value chain, as well as unlocking the potential of small, micro, and medium enterprises.

On budget and expenditure, in the Annual Performance Plan for 2021/22 financial year, the department has allocated a total adjustment budget of R1,547 billion to seven key programmes. During quarter one, the department spent a total of R366,881 million or 24%, instead of the projected 25% of the total adjustment budget.

On programme performance, in terms of the achievement of targets in all programmes, the department has achieved 30 out of 47, which translates to 64% on indicators with targets set for quarter one under review.

Programme 1: Its purpose is to manage and formulate policy directives and priorities, and to ensure that there are appropriate support services to all other programmes regarding strategic management, finance, personal information, communication, and procurement.

Senior management sub-programmes: on security management services, there were five security threat risk assessment reports compiled, while on the corporate services sub-programme, one human resource plan was conducted as planned, while, on the financial management sub-programme, the department submitted one financial statement as per plan.

Programme 2: The purpose of the programme is to provide agricultural support services to farmers to ensure sustainable development and management of natural agricultural resources. The department reported that it did establish three agricultural infrastructures which were not planned for the quarter under review. This was because the completion of this project was scheduled for the 2020/21 financial year, but there were delays due to slow progress on the part of the contractors.

Programme 3: The programme is to provide support to all farmers through agricultural development programmes. The department further indicated that 262, instead of the targeted 350 farmers were trained on CASP, exceeding the target of 150. This is due to the fact that additional farmers were trained in response to a critical need of ensuring farmer compliance with water rights regulations.

Hon Speaker, poverty remains the biggest threat to human dignity and its eradication is vital for development. Poverty should not be treated as merely a developmental project. The agenda must include provisions of all basic amenities such as safe drinking water, adequate nutrition, educational facilities, etc. Poverty has to be eradicated through the process of youth empowerment. Furthermore, the department must upscale and support the youth in funding projects such as citrus, vegetables, forestry, red and white meat, chicken feet and tussers. Furthermore, it is our understanding that the sector must be adequately transformed. In that, as the ANC-led government, we will be radically addressing the challenges as planned in the National Democratic Revolution.

The portfolio committee was more concerned about delays on summer support projects such as crops, livestock and irrigation projects, because this prevents farmers from producing and making financial income. This has been recurring for the past three or more financial years. The slow progress of work by contractors continues to impact negatively on agricultural infrastructure project implementation. The portfolio committee noted with regret that the department is still blaming delays by contractors in achieving some of its targets, and as the portfolio committee, we wish to send a clear and stern message to the department that set targets must be adequately achieved, since the portfolio committee will no longer accept COVID-19 and delays by contractors as reasons by the department not to achieve some of its targets.

Hon Speaker, allow me to speak on food security as a solution to triple challenges. The view of the ANC remains that land is the answer to poverty. Inequality and unemployment have no basis in reality. Reducing hunger and malnutrition and improving food security, have come to the forefront of the global political agenda. Food security remains a priority for all nations, however, Limpopo with its huge and growing population, faces a particular challenge. Although the committee applauds the intervention made by the department on the number of hectares cultivated for food production in communal areas and land reform projects, as the committee we encourage the increased support to farmers on irrigable land. However, notwithstanding these challenges, we are aware of the results of fighting some of these challenges. We are also pointing to the reality that in spite of the package of intervention, which was made to date, our agricultural system still needs a lot of attention.

As I conclude, let me borrow from one of the great minds to ever cross this side of heaven: "We base our struggle on the concrete realities of our country. We appreciate the experiences and achievements of other people and we study them. But revolution or national liberation is like a dress which must fit each individual's body. Naturally, there are certain general or universal laws, even scientific laws for any condition, but the liberation struggle has to be developed according to the specific conditions of each country." That was Amilcar Cabral.

Thousands of people in South Africa already live with food insecurity and are now further at risk of potential job losses, loss of income, or reduced food production and trade. Decisive action in the immediate term can help to ensure that South Africa's agricultural and food systems are strengthened, not just for the duration of the pandemic, but for a longer term. Let each and every one of us rise to the task of making Limpopo a better province. It is through unity in action that our vision, our ANC manifesto, our hopes, and dreams will be realised. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. Hon Smalle, it is your turn to take the podium.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good afternoon to Members as well as Members of the Executive. Hon Speaker, as the year comes to an end, one continues to realise the importance of the agricultural sector, in as far as it has consistently created jobs. During the last quarter under review, agriculture across our province created 11 000 more jobs, compared to the same period in 2020. At 6,2% towards the national GDP, agriculture is the second largest sector nationally and contributes 2,1% towards the Limpopo GDP, which is well below average against the national norm. As part of the portfolio oversight mandate, the committee embarked on several oversight visits to Norjax Tomato Plant, Inhlahayami and Raleputso Projects, Kgalepe Mabunda Citrus and Masalal. When evaluating the performance of support given to these projects, especially by professional staff, it is clear that there are some staff who care for the success of these projects as if they are their own. The appreciation expressed by the beneficiaries is sincere and one of full gratitude.

The same cannot always be said of the department. Planning of the Norjax Tomato Plant, at an initial investment of R17,9 million, as well as the partnership with Italy, only to find out, that should any technical difficulties hamper the project, no one locally can assist this project and support must be given from Italy. Investing into a plant, where the property is not owned by the beneficiaries, is counterproductive to what needs to be achieved, noting that none of the local tomato manufacturers have benefitted from the project in the last six years as the plant is not operational. The lease on the plant has resulted in further stalemates by the owners.

There is a need by the department to urgently intervene with reference to land ownership in order to save the project. In doing so, it will overinvest in this project. Operational cost of around R3 million is needed to kickstart the business model. The Democratic Alliance believes that leadership plays a financial role, by doing a financial risk assessment, followed by a possible loan application. Current delays in the plant have hampered the tomato production in the area, as well as the cost to local farmers. The four other projects, as well as the citrus project's major challenges will be around the securing of water licenses to increase production in those specific areas. The department at provincial level as well as at national level, must start the very difficult debate around how we are going to secure more water rights for these upcoming farmers. The assistance given by the circuit has resulted in backlog farming and beneficiaries that moved from small-scale farmers to a more independent commercialised farming unit. Most of these projects are now giving stable work to between six to twelve people, as well as enabling themselves to improve their own livelihoods and to access farming markets.

The Western Cape Agriculture has recognised the current need for nutritious, affordable, and sustainable food supply, and is currently funding the Greenhands Community Food Garden Project on the West Coast. The volunteers are mostly women, and the ground provides for irrigation, fencing, water tanks, garden tools and production inputs such as seedlings, fertilising compost, and containers for storage. These types of initiatives, curtail household hunger of those who are finding themselves in dire financial constraints. An inclusive meeting with strong regulations on the future of water rights and the support towards small-scale farming, is desperately needed. Conventional electricity has also become too costly for remote small-scale farming, and other more productive costs should be evaluated, such as solar energy, to support these enthusiastic small-scale farmers. Our farmers and their employees are national assets. They continue to produce the agricultural commodities that provide our people in South Africa with food, clothing, and other day-to-day necessities. The agricultural sector across our province deserves the support and protection from local, provincial, and national governments.

Land restitution has shown that land redistribution has failed due to the lack of the necessary resources, the lack of access to farming machinery, production training afforded to beneficiaries, and the awarding of title deeds. We also call on the MEC to fast-track many of these outstanding title deeds that our current successful small-scale farmers are farming on, and their need to title deeds. They cannot continue to wait for government support, but with their own title deeds, they will be able to access economic and financial markets on their own, and they have proven that they can do so. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Hon Mathe, the acting chair, over to you. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Members of the Executive Council; Members of the provincial Legislature present here today; members of staff and everybody; Members that have joined this Sitting through various platforms, YouTube, Teams, etc., I want to take this opportunity to greet you all. But, before I proceed with what I'm supposed to do, I also want to greet the Premier of this Province in absentia, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, who is our Premier. He is our Premier, and that becomes my emphasis. He might not be a Premier to others, because they are still dreaming about a government in waiting. Maybe they will have their own premier in that government in waiting that could come probably around 2063. You are good at insulting people, but not good at what you are doing. I look handsome, very handsome.

Madam Speaker, I am humbled about the fact that we debate in the 150th year of our late revolutionary mother of the nation, Motlokwa, Mama Charlotte Maxeke, who paved the way for our freedom. In one of her favourite speeches, Mama Charlotte Maxeke once said: "This work is not for yourselves – kill that spirit of self, and do not live above your people, but live with them. If you can rise, bring someone with you." Honourable Members, these wise words of Mama Charlotte Maxeke remind us of the task ahead, which is to protect the fundamental right to dignity of all our people, and to guarantee them a decent life. As government, we understand that there is no true freedom as long as poverty still exists amongst us. In the spirit of Mama Charlotte Maxeke and other stalwarts who fought for this freedom, and as government of the people, we echo their spirit that as long as our people's freedom is sustained, they shall rise above poverty, which is why we have declared poverty as our number one enemy against the people.

In this House, Members have debated unemployment figures and have also reflected on the issue of food insecurity. All honourable Members have agreed that agriculture is one of the most important sectors in terms of job creation and insuring food security. Accordingly, as Limpopo Province, we have undertaken to embark on the agricultural revolution. We have planned to intervene to stimulate the growth of the entire agricultural industry. The portfolio committee noted with concern that during the 2020/21 Fourth Quarter, there was underachievement in the following highlighted areas: agricultural infrastructure establishments, green jobs creation as well as the LandCare training and awareness sessions. The department reported that nine instead of five Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes were managed. The additional warnings were issued, and awareness conducted on flood hazards due to the Eloise Tropical Cyclone that occurred during the late summer season. It is indicated that one disaster relief scheme was managed, and sixty farmers were assisted through that scheme, and we appreciate that. We remain confident as the government of Limpopo that we will always respond and heed the calls that are made by our people when they are confronted by natural challenges or disasters.

Infrastructure leads to expansion of markets, economies of scale and improvement in factor market operations. The development of rural infrastructure helps to enlarge markets with greater access to various sectors of production. Rural infrastructure like

other public investments raise agricultural productivity which in turn induces growth in the rural areas, bringing about higher agricultural wages and improved opportunities for farm labourers.

The department indicated that 82 students graduated from agricultural training colleges exceeding the target of 80. Normally, when a target is exceeded, maybe to put it in simpler terms so that my friend, Hon Seshoka, could have a better understanding, is that when you write an examination, if the total mark is 100 and you obtain 98 or 100 that is a distinction. Above 100 is a super distinction. The department in this regard obtained a distinction because they have surpassed a target of 80. Furthermore, 61 instead of 100 agricultural higher education and training learners were registered in the two colleges for 2021. The shortfall was due to delay experienced in the completion of the academic year and as a result the registration for 2021 academic year was still ongoing at Tompi Seleka Agricultural College.

The portfolio committee which amongst others, Hon Seshoka is a member of, appreciated that 199 participants were trained in agricultural skills and development programmes exceeding a target of 100 since more participants turned out for training. Instead of 100 the department trained 199. The portfolio committee, including Hon Seshoka appreciated that. The department had planned to help 40 producers to access markets but only 32 were assisted since fewer producers requested market linkages support due to uncertainties around COVID-19. The department further reported that 567 agribusinesses were supported with production economic services thereby falling short of a target of 1000. The underachievement was agribusiness information days, value chain workshops and demonstrations could not be held due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on mass gatherings. If it was not because of those restrictions, the department could have achieved the targeted 1000.

Since agriculture employs many people, it contributes to economic development and as a result the income level as well as the people's standard of living will always derive from this sector. We recall that on 18 September 2020, one of my first visits outside Makhado, the Mara Research Station after the devastating corruption happened, the estimated damage to the centre was plus-minus R1,57 million in losses of over 100 cattle. As much as we acknowledge officials and technicians who came together and help each other to recover some of the lost livestock; their commitment to their work can be an example for all of us in the province.

The portfolio committee recommends that an accounting officer must on regular basis account to the portfolio committee on theft of livestock, laptops, desktops investigations and appropriate action must be taken ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

A point of order.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

I am rising on a point of order because the Member who is presenting here, instead of presenting on the reports that are being presented, he is busy entertaining the Fourth Quarter Report which was presented already. What he is presenting is what is contained in the Fourth Quarter Report not the First Quarter Report or the oversight visits that were undertaken. As I am listening to him, I can hear he is reporting about things that we have already passed. I think you need to call him to order so that he can focus on what is to be presented today.

THE SPEAKER

Can you proceed, Hon Mathe. Hon Seshoka, when a Member is on the platform during a debate, we are not allowed to interject him. The MEC will respond on the matter that he is raising. Can you allow him to proceed?

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I am going to allow ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No. You are not allowed to comment on the debate that Hon Mathe is making. You are not allowed, Hon Seshoka. It is not your role.

MR SESHOKA

No one has ever said it's my role. I am rising on a point of order, Hon Speaker. I was not debating. I was rising on a point of order that having listened to his debate, he is talking about things that fall under the Fourth Quarter Report.

THE SPEAKER

What I am saying is that you are not allowed to comment on the debate. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

I am not commenting, I am rising on a point of order which is allowed by the rules of this House.

THE SPEAKER

You are commenting, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

I am not commenting, I am rising on a point of order. That is why I am asking for your ruling. If you are to rule that I am out of order, then you should rule as such. You can't be saying I am commenting or debating. I am rising on a point of order. It must be respected as such.

THE SPEAKER

You are out of order. I am saying, sit down, you are out of order.

MR SESHOKA

Thanks for your inconsistency, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

You may proceed, Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

We will not be told or be taught as to how we should debate. Where the department did good things, we will talk about them every day because that is the good story to tell. Wait for 2063 and you will speak about your good story. The only thing that you know is to misunderstand handsome people and claim that they are not handsome. That is the only thing you are good at.

As highlighted by President Cyril Ramaphosa during SONA 2021 when he said that despite COVID-19, South Africa's agricultural sector has performed remarkably well. In the 2020/21 financial year, we became the world's second largest exporter of citrus with strong export growth in wine, maize, nuts and sugarcane. Hon Premier and MEC, let us pedal down the good relationship that we have with the Zebediela Citrus Estates by visiting time to time to ensure and reclaim the farm status they once had.

The estate was at some stage the largest citrus plantation in the southern hemisphere with more than 3000 hectares of planted citrus. Talking to farmers across the province, some in the corridors, it is clear to me that they have a single and strong visionary management in the department and two research centres; one that will be allowing the province to keep its standards and transform the potential of this sector into reality and better the lives for their families. There are many challenges that can and should be addressed in the province and agricultural sector. This includes the lack of access to finance, which inhibits the adoption of new technology and constrains relationships hence supply chain takes long to procure essential equipment in the Mara Research Station. Lack of access to information, training and knowledge hinders business expansion and new investments. All the time the department is encouraged to capacitate the Supply Chain Management Section to ensure that there are no delays in the processing of procurement and contracts in general.

Members, we have envisaged a bright future to agricultural and rural communities in the future provided we take the wise steps today guided by both the National Development Plan and the public policy. As I come to a close; I would have closed a long time ago if there was no protest by the forever protesting, Hon Seshoka. As I come to a close, I want to take my mental and spiritual flight to the continent of my birth, Africa, and remind this House that; Africa is our beginning and our ending. We owe a debt of gratitude to our forefathers and foremothers of our planet Earth to this continent. Our contribution to the development of our agrarian innovations should rid our whole land of famine. Therefore, Members, let us constantly be reminded of the role and the responsibility that need to be undertaken by all of us and the department.

In these, note that the committee has attempted to provide a nonpartisan agenda of ideas that can take us to a proper and correct direction. I thank you, before Hon Seshoka can protest. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, acting chair. We shall now call upon the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development to respond to the debate. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Good morning, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier in absentia; honourable Members, Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, I greet you all. Yesterday was World AIDS Day. We are glad that our government is taking the Aids pandemic seriously. As the department, we are impressed that there is progress. We are aware that there are delays by contractors in completing projects., The House must be assured that there will be penalties. Together with the national department, we shall try by all means to assist farmers in acquiring water rights. As a department we must assure the House that we shall never use COVID-19 as an excuse for failing to achieve some targets. The portfolio committee and the House will be regularly briefed on the punitive measure to officials who have performed below par.

On the issue of Norjax, let me indicate that as the department we are aware of the serious challenges faced by the Norjax Project. We shall together with Treasury, institute a forensic investigation as a matter of extreme urgency. As part of accountability, we shall definitely supply the committee with the total investment cost of the project. Together with LEDA we are busy with plans to purchase the land. When coming to Raleputso Vegetable Cooperative, let me indicate that we are proud of the cooperative which is led by a woman. We shall assist them to explore the possibility of using solar panels so as to reduce electricity costs. We shall also assist in the drilling of boreholes.

With regard to Greenlife Vegetable Project, let me highlight that, the delay by the contractor in building shades is a cause for concern to us. In this regard, we shall supply the committee with a list of penalties to be effected. We are aware that majority of contractors are from outside the province, which is a cause for concern.

When coming to the Mabunda and Masalal citrus farms, let me indicate that together with the Mabunda company, we shall make sure that they do not rely on strategic partners. We shall liaise with the Department of Public Works for the construction of an access road. With regard to the Masalal citrus farm, the major concern is the delay in the completion of the packhouse, and as such, the department will ensure that the portfolio committee is updated regularly.

Once more, I need to thank Members for the oversight visits. I really appreciate it. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC for the response.

7.3. Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA

Committee chair, you may take the podium. [APPLAUSE]

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, present a report of the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs on oversight visit to Marapong Community Residential Units Project in Lephalale, Military Veterans housing units at Alldays in Blouberg, low-cost housing units at GaMametja in Maruleng and GaMogashoa Ditlabaneng Traditional Council offices at Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality for consideration and adoption by this august House. I so move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I rise to support the move made by Hon Johanna Aphiri for the consideration and adoption of all the oversight visit reports that they presented as a committee. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathye. We shall now refer to our Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Mochadi. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Speaker, Hon Molapo; Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha in absentia; Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou; Chair of Chairs in absentia; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Selane; Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana; Members of the Executive Council present, honourable Members of this august House together with the honourable Members who are joining us on virtual space, I once more bless you this morning.

Madam Speaker, I want to appreciate the opportunity given to me to debate on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA about the oversight visits which have taken place in various areas of the province.

Legislature committees are established as instruments of the House in terms of the Constitution to facilitate oversight and monitor the provincial government. These committees are engine rooms of legislature oversight and legislative work. The Constitution states that the Legislature is elected to represent the people and to ensure governance by the people under the Constitution. The Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA performs oversight by ensuring that the Executive Authority of a department is able to ensure that they account to the portfolio committee for service delivery which takes place so that all citizens can live a better-quality life.

The portfolio committee undertook oversight visits to Marapong Community Residential Units Project under Lephalale Local Municipality. It went to military veterans housing project in Alldays under Blouberg Local Municipality, the low-cost housing project at GaMametja under Maruleng Local Municipality and the Ditlabaneng Traditional Council office at Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality. The Freedom Charter stated that there shall be houses for all citizens in particular the poor people who are in need of shelter and who were previously marginalised.

Our people must find comfort in those houses provided by the government of the new democratic dispensation. The aim of the Freedom Charter is to answer the pressing and immediate needs and lay the indispensable basis for the aspiration of poor people. The housing project at Marapong does not make the poor people of Marapong to believe that their expectations would be realised. The department must act swiftly and promptly in ensuring that the project is brought to life and meet our people's expectations in terms of service delivery.

The project was started in December 2016 and to date no single housing unit is occupied. The department planned to build 350 housing units. The department reported continuous stoppages of the project by workers and nonpayment of subcontractors by the main contractor. The committee noted that there was no proper planning of the Marapong CRUs (Community Residential Units), hence there was no bulk water supply and sewage system as part of the structural plan. The condition of the land where the structure is erected is sandy, meaning it is a movable area, the foundation does stand properly.

The committee is concerned that a huge amount of money will be a fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Going forward, the department might come back and request more funds for the project. It was reported by the Housing Development Agency (HDA) at Lephalale Local Municipality that material to the amount of R9 million was stolen due to nonavailability of security on-site.

The municipality reported that the fact that the project does not come to completion brings them at loggerheads with the community at Marapong. The committee reports to the House that, during the engagements with the Housing Development Agency about three councillors, including the ward councillor were present in the briefing. The municipality expressed their disappointment on the involvement of the Housing Development Agency by the department.

The municipality further suggested that the department should remove HDA as the implementing agent and directly implement the project. This was mentioned with the background that the Housing Development Agency made several promises to the community of Marapong and the Lephalale Local Municipality and nothing was fulfilled until the oversight visit by the portfolio committee.

During engagements with the HDA, the committee proposed in addition to other recommendations that if a project is not completed, money must be recovered. There must be a thorough financial and cost analysis of that project and the contractor must be held accountable for the damages caused. Even though the HDA is appointed as the implementing agent, the department is held accountable because it never gave the HDA the latitude to appoint the contractor. The department appoints the contractor

on behalf of the HDA and the HDA has no capacity to implement the project. The committee advised the department that the situation at Marapong must be rectified and the project must be completed.

History is not just an account of past events. It is also an interpretation of those events and developments. It underpins our identities as individuals, as societies, and as a nation. It is for this reason that history is deeply political. How people understand their past determines to a large extent determines how they understand themselves, their role in the world and the nature of the challenges. So said John Pampallis and Maryke Bailey.

The committee agreed that the role played by our Chiefs in the struggle and resistance against apartheid should not be undermined. It is undesirable that the department allowed the contractor to abandon the project at Ditlabaneng Traditional Authority in Sekhukhune whilst it was near completion. The committee noted that the durability of the structure already built will be compromised if it stays longer that way. The department must account as to why the project is not completed. The contractor must also be held accountable.

The committee is satisfied with the housing units at GaMametja. Well done to our department and keep up the momentum which ensures that the poor benefit from our government and our government remains solid in delivering services to our people.

In conclusion, the committee recommends that the department must come and account as the contractor is given extra money every year whilst the project is not completed, and he is not on-site to ensure that the poorest of the poor in Marapong benefit from our government.

I support the move for the adoption of the portfolio committee's oversight visit report as presented by the chairperson of the committee. Ndo livhuwa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mochadi. Hon Seshoka, you may take the podium.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Once more, greetings to my colleagues. Hon Speaker, the EFF government will provide quality and spacious houses to all the people. These houses will be located within a sustainable human settlement with basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity, schools, shopping complexes, sports and recreational grounds and parks.

The abovementioned commitment from the EFF lacks in almost all the housing developments that the ANC-led government has embarked on. A clear example is Extension 133 in Seshego, wherein even a double bed cannot fit in the house. On the Marapong development, what actions were taken against those who paid R33 Million before commencement of this project? Now that the ANC-led government is intending to close most of the power stations, how will the revenue be collected as workers will be unemployed or they will be forced to return to their respective homes.

The department must find a way of engaging in projects without the HDA which was part of the corruption scheme at Talana and other areas. The HDA is the same state entity which illegally awarded Talana project which was overpriced to a company which faced tax matters and CIBD (Construction Industry Compliance Board) compliance. All these were ignored because the HDA officials are friends and are drinking with the owners of the illegally awarded company. In the next Sitting we want a report on who is arrested, who has been fired and when will the project of Marapong be completed. The contractor must be blacklisted with immediate effect, the breakdown of how moneys were spent must be availed to this House in the next Sitting including the memorandum of understanding.

It is only one house in Blouberg for military veterans that was constructed. Now, the question is: how many houses were planned for this area? We submit that the MEC provides a report on these military veteran houses for the entire province in the next Sitting. The people must know who these people and their struggle credentials are of being exiled. Lately, there are some young fellows in the ANC who call themselves MK Veterans and yet most of them are born-frees. They were born after the dawn of democracy, but they still call themselves MK Veterans. Are these people who are being allocated houses by the state rewarded for being MK members during the struggle? When will Mrs Shokwane who stays at GaMametja in Maruleng with her eight children, accommodated by her daughter, get her own RDP house? She is amongst many residents who applied for houses many years ago and are being denied houses due to corruption. The house of Mrs Shokwane must have all facilities which are friendly to a disabled person.

It is an insult to the royal house of Ditlabaneng at GaMogashoa that the government failed to complete the traditional council office in time and the site has been left for thugs. This House must apologise to the traditional council and serious action must be taken against those who are involved in this mess. The department must further update this House on any other construction projects that are undertaken, and such information must include the name of the contractor, the contractor value, up to date work progress and original completion date.

Lastly, the department must further establish a list of all people who have been registering on the housing list and their names vanished for whatever reason and these people must be given their houses. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Hon Smalle, you may take the podium.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. To quote Aristotle: "The mistake lies in the beginning - as the proverb says: 'Well begun is half done'; - so an error at the beginning, though quite small, bears the same ratio to the errors in the other parts." Section 7 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) requires National Treasury to prescribe a framework for cash management and this is done by way of the Treasury regulation. Section 38 of the PFMA obliges accounting officers of state departments to ensure that a department or its entity set up and maintain effective, efficient and transparent systems of financial and risk management and internal controls. An accounting officer

will be responsible for effective, efficient, economic and transparent use of the resources of the entity and must take appropriate and effective steps to manage all working capital efficiently and economically.

The issue of prepayments or advance payments flouts set out from section 71 of the PFMA which says that; National Treasury must prescribe a framework for these cash management. Further, chapter 15 of this Treasury regulation covered amongst others, the issue of these prepayments. Paragraph (15)(10)(1)(2)(c) says that cash management includes avoiding prepayments or payments in advance for goods or services. The principle is that services of these goods should have been received before payments are made.

It is against this backdrop, Hon Speaker, that the R33 million advance payment for the Marapong housing unit in Lephalale must be questioned. This project commenced in 2016 and it is yet to be finalised. Apart from the awarding of the finances, vandalism and theft are just a few of the problems experienced for this project not being completed. Limpopo residents across the province are in desperate need of dignified housing, whilst some residing in hostels and informal settlements continue to live in inhumane and appalling conditions, due to the department's failure to complete these projects and spent its allocated budget for housing.

Many people have been on the housing waiting list for years, still there is no guarantee as to whether they will be allocated houses. We, therefore, seek that the department appoints a forensic investigator as well as enforce the legislation as I stated above and hold the relevant officials also accountable for their failure in holding the contractors accountable but also to play their oversight role in ensuring that government's money is well spent.

The oversight visit to Ditlabaneng Traditional Council offices showed that the infrastructure project was only running for a period of one month when the contractor abandoned it. A full report on the expenditure and reasons why the project collapsed is needed. At GaMametja 100 housing units were built according to specification and handed over to the relevant beneficiaries. The department should be applauded in that regard.

From the oversight visits, it is clear that the department continuously failed to implement and follow Treasury regulations. The Public Finance Management Act requires all accounting officers to have a system of properly evaluating and monitoring capital projects. The Standard of Infrastructure Procurement and Delivery Management known as SIPDM sets out a controlled framework for infrastructure planning and delivery by prescribing the minimum standards for a concept note pre-feasibility or a feasibility report. The failure to report on failed projects or to act and the reckless behaviour by the department to pay services providers for work not done constitutes an offence and therefore requires action to be taken.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, money is being squandered on abandoned projects with impunity. This department needs to show some empathy and care about our residence's dire needs for dignified housing. Therefore, we ask the MEC to start acting against those officials that were responsible for these failed projects. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Hon Aphiri, you may go ahead. [APPLAUSE]

MS APHIRI

Once more, thanks Madam Speaker for the opportunity. Madam Speaker, we undertook the visit. That visit was undertaken as an obligation by the committee mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa to maintain oversight on the provincial Executive Authority and on any provincial organ of the state. The purpose of the oversight was to assess progress in the construction of the CRUs and other projects implemented by the department. The oversight also meant to check as to whether they were built according to specifications and whether there was value for money.

On arrival in Lephalale, Marapong township, we first held a briefing with representatives from the Lephalale Municipality and the Housing Development Agency which is appointed by CoGHSTA as an implementing agent. The committee reports to the House that the purpose and intentions for the construction of Marapong community residential units is good despite the challenges it faces. Site handover was done in December 2016 with construction period of 24 months as per the tender. The project is planned to deliver units to address housing challenges in Marapong.

The committee was also grieved that the contractor was paid R33 million in advance to kickstart the project. Since the dawn of democracy, with a project of that magnitude supply chain management regulations are clear that a contractor should possess the skills, experience and capital to start and complete the project without stoppages. The committee also learned that the contractor appointed subcontractors to perform certain duties. The project has been stalled on numerous occasions allegedly due to nonpayment of these subcontractors. The project is one of the biggest delivery this government has ever done in the Lephalale Local Municipality that would be a long-standing legacy for human settlement.

It does not augur well for the committee to report to this august House that to date in that project, about 42 units are completed and are awaiting bulk services connection for final commissioning and handover. Some units are at roof level, some at wall plate level and others are waiting for floor slabs. There are 94 units that have not been touched. The contractor has abandoned the project and has left the site. The contracted security has left the site as well, making way for the property to be vandalised. Windowpanes on a number of completed vacant blocks have been smashed, doors which were hanged have been stripped and stolen and floor tiles removed, light fittings and switches installed have been taken et cetera.

There was contradiction of information provided by the Housing Development Agency and the Lephalale Local Municipality on the project which also differs from the information provided to us by the department. The department could have taken action on completed housing units and allocate them to beneficiaries to prevent vandalism. But lack of bulk services made it impossible for completed units to be occupied as an attempt to avoid invasion or vandalism. These bulk services were not planned for when the project was conceived. That project should not be left unattended without corrective measures.

The committee recommends to the House that all recommendations proposed by the committee must be implemented to correct the situation at Marapong. In addition, action should be taken against officials as other Members have already alluded to, that are found to have been involved in the advance payment made to the contractor as well as dereliction of duties with regard to the monitoring of the Marapong project. There is a greater likelihood that prices will escalate for the project to be completed.

The department must provide a detailed report to clarify the number of housing units built for military veterans, the names of those military veterans identified and a clear location of those housing units. The committee commends the department on the rural and urban housing units built at GaMametja. The units are complete and occupied and meet the expectations of the beneficiaries. We are not just complaining, where there is a good story to tell, we do that Madam Speaker.

However, the Department must investigate how a wheelchair-bound woman, Mrs Seswantsho Salisa Shokwane could not be allocated a house. She stays in a house with her eight children and that house was built for her daughter. It does not belong to her. It would be desirable that the recommendations proposed by the committee on the same project and the other projects like the stalled traditional council offices of the GaMogashoa Ditlabaneng be implemented. The committee noted that if not attended to urgently, money spent on that project will be fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Furthermore, it should be included in the monthly reports to the MEC for Treasury, and the amount involved should be disclosed in the Annual Report.

The extension and appointment of a new service provider will have an impact on the cost of the project. The committee request a detailed report regarding the stalled project of GaMogashoa Ditlabaneng Traditional Authority, the Marapong housing project as well as all the reports that we have made mention of in the reports as attached in the ATC. The committee supports the adoption as already requested. We emphasise that the House adopts the report as presented. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, committee chair, Hon Aphiri. We shall now call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to come and respond.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR COGHSTA]

Ndzi sasekile, a ndzi ri. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and good afternoon to colleagues and those who are on virtual platforms. Before I continue, Madam Speaker, how much time do I have because I noted each and every debate that honourable Members had ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You have five minutes.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR COGHSTA]

Okay, I will just go to the conclusion. Honourable Members, I think we have noted all the reports as presented by the chairperson and Members. It is true that this government, not only of the Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha but also of the President, Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, have made a commitment that seeks to improve the lives of our people. That is why we went on each and every year to allocate money to be able to do that. Yes, of course, if you are sitting down and not doing anything, you will not be bound to make mistakes. But as you are working, you are bound to make mistakes. The good thing is you make mistakes, and you are able to rectify them. So, as the Department of CoGHSTA, we will continue to do our best.

I heard colleagues talking about working with traditional leaders; I think you know that the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Basikopo Makamu, is always attending to the issues of our traditional leaders. He even went with the Deputy President to meet them in Malamulele. We will continue to engage them on the issues you have raised and make sure that we don't have that challenge.

In terms of financial management, Hon Smalle, I agree with you, but also as the department you know that we got an unqualified audit report because we always try as much as possible to improve our financial management. It is in the interest of the department but also it is in the interest of the whole government to be able to do that. Yes, we agree that we need to take care of our finances little as they are. That is why we have also taken a decision to take advantage of the recent local government elections whereby we will make sure that the people we hire at municipal level have the requisite skills and the relevant qualifications.

For those who are not skilled but are inside the system, we will make sure that we develop and train them so that they can be able to discharge their responsibilities. I agree with you, chairperson, that we need to do more monitoring and oversight and make sure that if there is a challenge, we correct it immediately; we do not wait for many years to do that.

I can assure this House that we are going to work with the state security institutions to make sure that those who have violated the financial regulations, we are able to deal with them and let the law take its course, like the situation at Talane, for sure you know that the directors of the company there have been arrested.

We are really on course in doing that, like we did in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, where the department stopped the contractor because he did a shoddy job. In the Department of Education, we stopped two contractors because they were doing shoddy jobs.

This government of Premier Chupu Mathabatha is really striving so hard to improve our people's lives but also to take care of our rand and cents so that our people can be able to benefit and have a better life as we promised.

The government in waiting, when they come in 2060, they would not have to go through what we went through after having gone for so many years under Apartheid, and we are trying to deal with the backlog. So, it is not easy. At least they would have come after the ANC had done everything in their power to make sure that our people are okay.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC, for the response.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN (Snap Debate)

Our first speaker is MEC, Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Speaker; Chief Whip of majority party; Deputy Chief Whip; MECs who are present here; Leader of the Opposition, Members of the august House and all protocol observed, good afternoon. Thobela. Avuxeni. Ndi masiari.

Today, we find ourselves in the middle of this year's observation of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign. The 16 Days Activism is a United Nations' campaign that takes place annually from 25 November to 10 December, which was commemorated as International Day of No Violence Against Women and Children, which is the International Human Rights Day.

Incidentally, World AIDS Day on 01 December and International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 03 December also fall within these 16 days. It actually makes perfect sense to productively use this time before the festive seasons, to place focus on vulnerable groups and individuals, those who might be facing the dark festive seasons as their living conditions may very well be tainted by violence, illness and oppression.

Hon Speaker, this year 16 days campaign is commemorated under the theme: "The Year of Charlotte Manna Maxeke - 16 Days of Activism - moving from awareness to accountability." The year 2021 has also been declared, "The Year of Charlotte Manna Maxeke." She was among the freedom fighters who wanted to see the total emancipation of women and the realisation of a truly democratic South Africa.

Mama Maxeke wanted to see that our people are serviced irrespective of race, culture and gender. The thirst for women and children justice restoration in general occupied a special place in her heart as she worked as a probation officer many years ago. The recent police statistics on contact crime as released by Minister Bheki Cele paint a very grim picture of what kind of society we are slowly turning into. As the Department of Social Development, we are deeply concerned over the increasing number of rape cases that have been recorded at 30 police stations across the country. It is very unacceptable that about 1000 women have been raped in a period of three months.

The figure represents an increase of 634 cases or 7,1% compared to the previous reporting period. Hon Cele revealed that the police stations that recorded the most incidents were the Temba Police Station in Gauteng, the Thohoyandou Police Station here in Limpopo, the Eastern Cape's Lusikisiki Police Station and the Inanda Police Station in KwaZulu Natal, during July and September this year.

Let me indicate that the increased number can be attributed to the fact that many victims are heeding the department's calls to break the silence when they are violated. This must, however, not deter our officials from the police, NPA (National Prosecuting Authority), social workers, NPO partners and other relevant stakeholders from continuing working very hard to create awareness and offer support to victims of gender-based violence and femicide.

We also urge our people to have improved relations with each other, learn to respect each other's rights and understand that 'no means no'. We must therefore utilise the 16 Days Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children to come up with vigorous awareness campaigns.

Hon Speaker, while pervasive gender-based violence is inevitable, it can and must be prevented. Stopping this violence starts with believing the stories of survival and adopting the comprehensive and inclusive approaches that tackle the root causes, transforming harmful social ills and empowering women and girls.

The fact that President Cyril Ramaphosa declared gender-based violence and femicide a second pandemic to COVID-19 is an indication that the government is determined to see a drastic reduction in gender-based violence. In addition to the implementation of the Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, which was announced by the President in September 2019, all relevant government departments and other entities need to make more resources available in order to come up with more programmes aimed at creating a safer environment for our women and children and teaching them their rights.

This will also augment our support to the NPO partners that are assisting us in a fight against the scourge, as well as giving all the necessary support to victims through the Victim Empowerment Programme.

We must all be activists against gender-based violence in our homes, communities, churches and workplaces. By so doing, we will be able to challenge cultures and practices that perpetuate gender inequalities and consistent abuse of women and children at personal and societal level.

Together, let us take action to support the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign. Success in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide depends on the combined efforts from all sectors of society, including government, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations and communities.

Crime and social ills pose a serious threat to the stability and even to the pocket of the province and has the potential to reverse all the gains achieved through the sacrifices of so many people if left unchallenged. We know that there are some communities that remain ignorant of the dangers that social ills pose to individuals, families and society at large.

As I close, Hon Speaker, we will continue our multifaceted approach and cooperation between the Department of Social Development and the Department of Transport and Community Safety, our agencies, nonprofit organisations, action groups and more, to have these social ills routed out. However, it starts with empowering our communities

with knowledge and willingness to address these ills themselves from the grassroots level. We remain battle-ready to create a caring, progressive and self-reliant society.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Mphahlele, the floor is yours. [APPLAUSE]

MS MPHAHLELE

Le phaphathela nna matsogo, thank you, honourable Members. Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable MECs who are present here, honourable Members of this august House and those who are attending this through Teams, I say good afternoon. Ndi matsheloni. Ndi masiari, thank you for the correction.

Hon Speaker, there is no activism on this side of government to viciously deal with the issue of gender-based violence in South Africa. Despite statistics on women and children abuse soaring on a daily basis, nothing cogent is being done to address this madness in our society.

The police and justice system are not doing enough to root out this illness, and as a result, women and children continue to live in fear in their own country. They continue to suffer in the hands of sick men who feel that only them have a right to live. While other groups in society seem to enjoy the hard-earned fruits of democracy, they continue to be gripped by fear on a daily basis. They do not enjoy the much talked about freedom attained since the dawn of democracy.

The EFF argues that until women and children are free to walk on the street without having to watch their back, we have not yet attained the freedom that is being talked about. What we need is real freedom that ensures and protects the right of children and women in our country and not this artificial freedom that we have come to experience.

The devastating impact of lockdown on the already severe gender-based violence issue has been exposed. The government's Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Command Centre, a call centre to support victims of GBV, recorded more than 120 000 victims in the first three weeks of the lockdown. Just a week later, in Pretoria, a similar call centre was receiving up to 1000 calls a day from women and children who were confined to abusive homes seeking urgent help.

Prior to the pandemic, femicide in South Africa was already five times higher than the global average of the female interpersonal violence death rate. That was the fourth highest out of 183 countries listed by the World Health Organization in 2016. Evidence has now emerged that the suggested cases of violence against women are increasing. Just recently, in Limpopo, more than seven women were killed around Seshego by a man who lured them by promising them jobs that do not exist, and this is because of a lack of jobs.

These women deserve to live like any other. No one has the right to take away their lives. Even their Maker will not abruptly and gruesomely take their lives like that. The

death of these women left their families and communities devastated and the pain that they feel will take long to heal.

Is this the kind of society we fought so hard for and aspired to attain, where women and children are killed on a daily basis? There is currently a rise in the kidnapping of children on the way to school in exchange for ransom. The Moti brothers, who were kidnapped for three weeks while on their way to school, come to mind and thank God they were released and all of them alive. But many of these children who are being kidnapped on a daily basis may not be as lucky as them. They are killed, and their bodies found mutilated in the bushes.

The Department of Social Development in Limpopo handled 673 cases since lockdown. Just more than 280 were registered in August alone when the country celebrated Women's Month. Recent incidents as reported by the SABC news in 2020, include the killing of a 20-year-old TVET college student, Kgaogelo Shai, whose partially decomposed body was discovered in a dry stream at Mokgoloboto Village outside Tzaneen, 17-year-old teenager who was allegedly killed by a 19-year-old boyfriend at GaMadiba outside Mokopane, and the incident left the family distraught. In another incident, a 33-year-old, Elizabeth Tjani, was found with multiple stab wounds at her home on Sunday at Sterkfontein near Groblersdal. A 22-year-old, Grace Mudau of HaMutsha Village outside Thohoyandou also lost her life allegedly at the hands of her boyfriend.

Hon Speaker, sadly these are just a few examples, and the list goes on and on. Unfortunately, we are not reporting about the employment rate statistics, the reduction of poverty and inequality in our country.

Furthermore, we are not celebrating the positive strides on the fight against corruption and maladministration. We are reporting about women and children who continue to lose their lives on a daily basis at the hands of bloodthirsty vampires. What is this government doing to improve confidence in our communities in the police to deal with GBV? For instance, the case of Bridget Magarane in Burgersfort, who was killed in 2018, today is about four years ago, and nothing has come to light.

Are the police implementing the Domestic Violence Act? If yes, why is this number of GBV increasing? What is happening in this country is a disgrace and shameful. Clearly, there is no political will to address this cancer that is ravaging our society on a daily basis. The EFF demands that harsher sentences be imposed on men who abuse women, and the keys of their prison cells must be thrown away. These men deserve to rot in jail. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Phala K S, the floor is yours.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, as the Limpopo Legislature, we should be deeply concerned by the high number of sexual offences and domestic violence-related offences registered at the start of commemoration of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children.

It is ironic that the theme for 2021 is: “The Year of Charlotte Manny Maxeke - 16 Days of Activism - moving from awareness to accountability.”, because the Limpopo Provincial Government has so not taken up enough responsibility in addressing the scourge of violence against the women in the province. The province is currently losing the battle on violence against children and women, and the 2021/22 South African Police Service Second Quarter Crime Statistics for Limpopo painted a bleak picture.

Limpopo recorded a total of 1004 rape sexual offences. Sexual assaults and attempted sexual offences increased from the 2020/21 Second Quarter stats as follows:

- There were 834 rape cases, which is a 4,5% increase;
- About 818 sexual assault cases, which is 33,3% increase;
- About 54 attempted sexual offences, which is a 31,7% increase; and
- Eight cases of contact sexual offences.

The statistics also show that domestic violence continues to be a serious societal issue. The province recorded: 5 attempted murder cases; 8 murder cases; 18 rape cases; 6 sexual assault cases; about 232 grievous bodily harm; and about 354 common assault cases and domestic violence-related crimes.

Limpopo had three police stations, namely: Thohoyandou, Mankweng and Seshego, ranked in the top 30 stations nationwide for sexual offences, with Thohoyandou ranked third, Mankweng ninth and Seshego eleventh.

The province also has the same police stations in the country’s top 30 stations for rape offences:

- Thohoyandou is ranked second with 69 cases;
- Seshego is ranked tenth with 44 cases; and
- Mankweng is ranked thirteenth with 42 cases.

It is unacceptable that these three police stations are a recurring feature in the country's top 30 for sexual offences and rape lists quarter after quarter. This highlights the lack of support and resources in these stations to improve their response against perpetrators of sexual offences. Despite this serious issue, the Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and Disability of this House’s oversight visit has proved that the province still has victim empowerment centres that are mismanaged, underresourced and underfunded.

The centres are meant to play a central role in the prevention of domestic violence, in the provision of Victim Empowerment Programmes and counselling services and in the provision of shelter for victims of abuse. The sustained large number of sexual offences proves that SAPS in the province, and the Limpopo Provincial Government are still not doing enough to keep women safe in their communities.

There is a need for a concerted effort and greater resources to address the high number of sexual offences and domestic violence. As the Legislature, we must be committed to ensuring that the provincial government addresses the current culture of abuse towards women and, more importantly, address toxic masculinity and other behaviours that negatively impact women in our society.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. The last speaker on the topic is Hon Mokaba-Phukwana.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Hon Speaker; Chief Whip; honourable Members present, and those on virtual platforms; and MECs present, good afternoon.

This year marks 23 years since the United Nations adopted the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. The debate is important for us to reflect on the progress that we have made and the challenges we continue to face in building a safe society, free from fear and violence.

Ending the scourge of violence against women and children remains a top priority of this government. Colleagues, the campaign on 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is a very important period on our events calendar and proves that we are united with the rest of the world in combating the scourge.

Violence against women and children must come to an end. Together we can and must do more to prevent violence against women. We must provide services to survivors and ensure that the perpetrators are punished. The campaign is aimed at uniting the communities and families to ensure that:

- Men stop abusing women;
- Men respect women and children;
- Tough action against perpetrators is ensured;
- Young women and children are empowered;
- A better life for people to create a violence-free society is ensured; and
- Men and boys are recruited as active members of the campaign.

The campaign continues to raise awareness among South Africans about the negative impact of violence against women and children on all members of the communities. On health facilities, Madam Speaker, the gender-based violence reflects on inequities between men and women, which comprise the health, dignity, integrity, security, and autonomy of victims. It encompasses a wide range of human rights violations, including sexual abuse of children, rape, domestic violence, sexual assaults, harassment, trafficking of women and girls and several harmful traditional practices.

Anyone of these abuses can have deep psychological scars, damage the health of women and girls, particularly their productive and sexual health, and in most instances result in death. Other worst forms of violence in some African countries include systematic rape, which is used as a weapon of war, leaving millions of women and adolescent girls traumatised, and forcibly impregnated or infected with HIV/Aids.

As we entered the World AIDS Month yesterday, we must not shy away from the fact that the most affected are women, and much are as the result of abuse.

On women and gender, women's equity in life in the world and particularly in South Africa has long been observed and curtailed by the balance of social power, which is filtered in favour of males. The alarming statistics on femicide, rape and domestic violence demonstrate these unprecedented levels. According to the South Africa 2021 Demographic and Health Survey, one in five women older than eighteen has experienced physical violence. This figure is reportedly higher in the poorest households, where at least one in three women has reported physical violence.

Members, the continuous slaughtering of women won't go unnoticed. I am saying this pointing out the continuous cases reported daily. The COVID-19 lockdown shows that there is a serious need to combat gender-based violence daily.

We mark the 16 Days for Activism campaign not only to raise awareness about the negative impact violence has on women and children, but most importantly, to take a decisive stance against the abuse of women and children.

Let us say no to violence against women and children; let us say no to rape; let us say no human trafficking; let us ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes are punished by our courts. We believe that through the collective efforts of government, civil society organisations and the business sector, we can broaden the impact of the campaign. By supporting this campaign, thousands of South Africans have also helped increase awareness of abuse and support for victims and survivors of abuse.

On building capabilities, the domestic violence in South African is culturally deep-rooted and can be traced to the Apartheid era. As South Africa begins to rebuild following the COVID-19 pandemic, grassroots activities in the country are hoping to see the renewed commitment to tackling GBV. Ultimately, it remains to be seen whether the government will push through any further plan of action aimed at reducing instances of GBV within the country. The year 2021 has proved to be a decisive year for South Africa as it emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the ongoing women rights crisis.

On prevention and response, much of our efforts as South Africans have to be focused on response. However, our response efforts need to be supported and implemented by prevention programmes and policy development. By addressing the underlining interlinked causes of GBV we can work towards preventing it from happening in the first place. While Limpopo has a high level of GBV, we must also lead in the field of prevention and intervention in low and middle-income regions.

We need to identify models which work to respond and to prevent violence, and we can work on scaling those to reach more people. At the same time, as a society, we can work together to find new ways to address GBV based on the current evidence and respond to this national crisis.

As I conclude, Madam Speaker, we must be worried about what has happened in our psych as a society. We need to integrate the values of Ubuntu with our democratic values. These values must be reflected in our actions. We need a discourse on the distraction of our cultural norms. Freedom will be meaningless if women and children cannot walk freely in our streets. Freedom will be meaningless if our children cannot play freely in their neighbourhood. Freedom will be meaningless if the home is no longer a safe place to be for women and children.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The announcement I made earlier when we started with our Sitting still stands. After we adjourn, we will have a five-minute break for Members to stretch their legs and to advise the honourable Members who are attending virtually not to disconnect. They should continue connecting so that immediately we adjourn, we should proceed with our second session. We could see that our guests have already arrived, so after adjournment, we will proceed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 07 December 2021 at 10:00. The Sitting will be hybrid. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 07 DECEMBER 2021

It's your voice, use it!

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
HYBRID SITTING
TUESDAY, 07 DECEMBER 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now have an opportunity for a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations in terms of Rule 14.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much, honourable Members. We are having this Sitting virtually upon advice from the Department of Health. We will be advised regarding the current status during the presentation under Executive Statements

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any Motions without Notice in terms of Rule 145? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good morning to the House.

**A DESPICABLE INCIDENT WHERE A SIX-YEAR-OLD TODDLER WAS RAPED
IN DARK CITY VILLAGE, OUTSIDE BURGERSFORT IN THE SEKHUKHUNE
DISTRICT**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to move a motion without notice that this House notes the despicable incident in which a six-year-old toddler was raped and murdered in Dark City village in Praktiseer outside Burgersfort in Sekhukhune. It is shocking and disheartening that we still see incidents of gender-based violence and femicide continuing in the province, even when government has amplified its messaging around this demon.

It is more surprising that this incident took place during the period while the country is commemorating the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children. The report says that the suspect in this horrific case is a 28-year-old male, whom we are confident will meet the might of the wrath of the law.

We welcome the intervention by the Department of Social Development for dispatching social workers who have provided psychosocial support to the family of the victim and other affected parties to ensure that they cope well after this horrific incident.

We have also learnt that the MEC for Social Development, Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale, will pay a courtesy visit to the bereaved family later today, to pay homage to the family and pass our condolences as government.

May the soul of the little girl rest in peace! I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can we have a seconder to the motion? Hon Kekana, you are recognised.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to second Hon Monyamane on the motion presented. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members of this august House present, Hon Premier, Hon Chief Whip, and leaders of the opposition, good morning.

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO MEDICAL SPECIALISTS WHO TOILED
AROUND THE CLOCK TO DEAL WITH BACKLOGS THAT PLAGUED THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCE
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the ANC to move a motion without notice for the House to commend the group of healthcare workers who toiled around the clock to conduct more than 400 surgical operations to deal with backlogs that have plagued this province over the past few months. Groups of medical specialists and other healthcare workers have conducted this operation in an attempt to eradicate the backlog that has had a negative impact on the provincial health services in the Waterberg District.

Some of these patients have been grappling with injuries, broken legs and other ailments that required surgical operations for a longer period of time.

This is the Department of Health, led by MEC Dr Ramathuba. We welcome the Rural Health Matters programme initiative, through which healthcare workers volunteer their time, energy, and expertise to expedite the waiting list of patients who are in the queue for an assortment of medical procedures.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Can we have a seconder? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and good morning to all honourable Members. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, would like to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health, Hon Matlou. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Managa, you are recognised. [SILENCE] We will come back to her later; she might be having connection problems. Hon Smalle you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Hon Chairperson, I don't have a motion at this given stage, but I've got a notice of motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I saw your hand up.

MR SMALLE

I'm sorry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Over to you, Hon Managa. [SILENCE] Are there still any ... [INTERJECTION]

MS KEKANA

I'm also trying to raise my hand, Hon Speaker. It's Hon Kekana.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Okay, you can proceed. Is it a motion without notice?

MS KEKANA

Yes. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [INTERRUPTION]

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo Vho Azwindini Jeremiah Ndou. Am I audible, Hon Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is that Hon Managa? Ndi ri ndi Muhulisei Vho Managa naa? Hon Kekana, can you proceed, we will come back to Hon Managa later.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, EXCO Members, all honourable Members and officials, good morning.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO *THOBELA FM* PRESENTER DR MOLOKO MASHAMAITE FOR BEING AWARDED AN HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES

(Motion without Notice)

I, Nakedi Kekana, rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to congratulate Thobela FM presenter, Dr Moloko Mashamaite, for being awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in African languages by the University of South Africa. This is in recognition of the immense contribution to the vibrant growth of African languages in broadcasting.

Honourable Members, we all agree that Dr Moloko Mashamaite is one of the proponents of the Sepedi language during our time. He has not only helped grow the language, but counts among the few people in this day and age to make the language more appealing across all spectrums of society. This is befitting to a man who has done one show called 'Mekgolokwane' for a period of 33 years unflinchingly. He is a well-travelled broadcaster who has represented the Sepedi language with dignity and pride, and it is our wish that the current breed of presenters should emulate him and do better.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can we have a seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Kekana. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are we still having any motions without notice? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised. [SILENCE] We seem to have problems today with a lot of honourable Members. Hon Seshoka, I see that your hand is up.

Hon Managa, can I come back to you now, are you able to connect?

MS MANAGA

Yes, I can hear you clearly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, I can hear you clearly too. You can proceed.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa tshanda tsha Mudzalatshidulo Vho Azwindini Jeremiah Ndou.

THE RAPID RISE IN NEW COVID-19 CASES IN LIMPOPO
(Motion without Notice)

Nne, Managa Lilian, ndo rumelwa kha ino Ndu nga lihora la Economic Freedom Fighters, ndi na likumedzwa li ne nda khoutu u li swikisa mats Sheloni a duvha la namusi malugana na kheisi ntswa dza COVID-19.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Limpopo is fast recording new cases of COVID-19 with the resurgence leading to a fourth wave driven by Omicron. It is reported that during this past week only, Polokwane recorded 494 new COVID-19 cases, while Lephalale recorded a total of 465 new cases and one death. The total new COVID-19 cases recorded in Limpopo is 2 101. These are shocking rates. As we are aggressively and radically fighting against the pandemic, more aggressive awareness needs to be conducted in order to encourage more people to vaccinate.

The EFF is quite disturbed by the rate at which this pandemic is spreading. We call upon those who are not yet vaccinated, to urgently do so hoping that each one of us here in this House has got his or her jab.

We equally call upon government to expand vaccination programmes to reach out to as many people as possible. There is a need to keep the life expectancy of this province at a normal level and not lose people while the government can still do something about it.

I so move, Hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Can we have a seconder to the motion? Can we request honourable Members who are going to be speaking to switch on their cameras, so that we are able to see who is on the floor, because we are also on YouTube and other social media platforms. Hon Mohlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings to you, Deputy Speaker, and to the House. I do second the motion as presented by Hon Managa. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mohlala. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised. [SILENCE] Hon Seshoka? I think Hon Seshoka is struggling there. Are there any further motions without notice? There is none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any Notices of Motions in terms of Rule 146? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

**THE HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DUE TO FAILURE BY THE LIMPOPO
GOVERNMENT TO CREATE JOBS AND STABILISE OUR ECONOMY**
(Notices of Motion)

I read a notice of motion for the House to debate the correlation between the high numbers of unemployment and the inability by the Limpopo government to create jobs and stabilise our economy.

I hereby move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House debates the third Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) which revealed that Limpopo's expanded unemployment rate has risen to 54,5%, a year-on-year increase of 7,6%. Limpopo further recorded the second largest increase in official unemployment rates in the third quarter, up by 2,1% from 30,4% to 32,5%.

These statistics effectively means that out of a workforce of 389 000, just over (inaudible) are being employed. All sectors with the exception of construction, experience quarterly losses in employment: agriculture lost 20 000 jobs; mining lost 11 000 jobs; manufacturing lost 12 000 jobs; trade lost 31 000 jobs; community and social services lost 37 000 jobs; and private households lost 19 000 jobs. The above unemployment pandemic is directly linked to a bloated public sector wage bill, insufficient infrastructure at municipal level to create a conducive environment to attract investment, the incapacity of LEDA to manage and effect the two SEZs, the inability of LEDA and its subsidiaries to compete with the private sector and to show profit. Proactive changes in the department ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, we expected you to give notice and now you are going into the details and content of the motion. I think you have given notice; we can get a seconder and then move. Can we have a seconder to the notice of motion? Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Hon Speaker, I hereby second the motion as read by Hon Smalle. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other notices of motion in terms of Rule 146? Hon Raphela, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

No! My apology, we don't have a notice of motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MR MOHLALA

Greetings once more, Hon Speaker, the House, all leaders and the Leader of the Opposition.

**THE LACK OF WATER IN WARD 32 ROSTOCK VILLAGE AND THE
CHALLENGING ISSUE OF WATER SHORTAGES IN THE SEKHUKHUNE
DISTRICT**

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the shortage of water in many areas of Sekhukhune has become a norm. Despite having been completed six years ago; the De Hoop Dam, one of the most expensive and biggest dams in South Africa, does not provide clean running water to the 1,2 million people in Sekhukhune. The De Hoop Dam in Limpopo is a gravity dam on the Steelpoort River near Burgersfort and was constructed on a budget of R3,4 billion. When this dam was built it was seen as the great water hope for the people of Sekhukhune and yet no other place in Limpopo suffers water shortage like Sekhukhune.

The people of Fetakgomo-Tubatse in ward 32 Rostock village do not have access to water and the situation has been like this even before the dawn of democracy in the early nineties. These people and many other communities in Limpopo have never enjoyed the fruits of hard-earned democracy. They hear people speaking about it, but it has never reached or touched them. They've never experienced this much-talked about democracy. This has pushed them to drink water with animals in bacteria-infested dams and rivers putting their health in a serious life-threatening situation.

Hon Speaker, what have the people of Sekhukhune done to deserve such treatment? What sins have they committed to deserve this kind of punishment? Must they eat Holy Communion so that their sins could be forgiven? We don't know; you tell us.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to our people.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mohlala, for that statement. Are there any comments from the Executive?

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Yes, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, honourable MEC, you may proceed.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and greetings to the House, Members of the Executive, Hon Premier, and leaders of the opposition. We take note of the statement as read by Hon Mohlala, the issue of water being a challenge in Sekhukhune, specifically in the area that he raised. I must indicate that it is a matter that the province is working on because it affects most of the areas in the province.

You might have seen the visit by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Hon Senzo Mchunu, which is an indication that we are trying our best to make sure that all projects that have stalled, including the project of Flag Boshielo, are attended to. By so doing, we will be resolving a lot of challenges within the Sekhukhune area including that of ward 32 of Fetakgomo-Tubatse that Hon Mohlala raised as an example.

We are on course to resolve the issue of water shortages in the province. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other Members' Statements? Hon Raphela, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker and the ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Switch on your camera, please.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks. Am I fine now?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, we can see you. It has gone off again.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

They are controlling it from that side. Thanks, Hon Speaker, and greetings to Members of this august House and leaders of the parties including our Leader of the Opposition.

**THE MOTUMO TRADING POST AND GAME RESERVE PROJECT, A WHITE
ELEPHANT FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS**

(Members' Statement)

The Motumo Trading Post and Game Reserve in Botlokwa is a project that became a white elephant since the completion of its construction more than 18 years ago. This project was initiated in 2003 on the N1 road in Botlokwa and to the disappointment of the communities in that area, the project never functioned to date. In 2018, seven thatched roof houses, the conference hall and everything that was inside caught fire and burnt to ashes. Over the years, the project suffered from vandalism and looting to an extent that nothing was left of it.

The multinational facility has never served any purpose to the people of Botlokwa because we are being presided over by a government that does not value service delivery, yet they claim to be a caring government, when they value tenders mostly.

Currently, there are security officers guarding the project while the service provider is being paid to guard a project that does not benefit the people of Botlokwa with anything.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in the Capricorn District has completely abandoned the project. This project is one classical example of fruitless and wasteful expenditure on a massive scale by this government. It is one project that will forever haunt the ANC-led government for its failure to construct and utilise infrastructure projects for the benefit of the people. There are many infrastructure projects across the province which are white elephants and not benefiting communities at all. These facilities are exposed to vandalism and theft leaving them in ruins.

The Motumo Trading Post and Game Reserve could have grown the local economy of Botlokwa and created jobs for many of our unemployed brothers and sisters. The story of this project is the symptom of a government that has deserted its own citizens and left them to fend for themselves.

We call upon the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture to investigate this matter and help revitalise the project. We want nothing but to see it operating next year.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Raphela. Hon Raphela, we needed you to switch on your camera while you were speaking, now you are switching it on after speaking. Are there any comments from the Executive? [SILENCE] MEC Hon Thabo Mokone? There are no comments from the Executive. We'll refer the statement to the relevant MEC for her to come and respond in the next Sitting. Hon Ramathuba, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, and greetings to honourable Members and colleagues from the Executive. We have noted the statement, and as the Executive, we are definitely going to look into the matter and be able to provide the august House with a relevant update on what we are doing about that particular infrastructure. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Ramathuba. Are there still any Members' Statements? There is none.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 201? Dr Ramathuba, MEC for Health, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you once more, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the House, and colleagues in the Executive Council.

UPDATES WITH REGARD TO THE RESURGENCE AND EMERGENCE OF A NEW VARIANT CALLED OMICRON (Executive Statement)

I rise on behalf of the Department of Health to officially update the House about the resurgence and emergence of this new variant named Omicron. This is the variant that has been driving infections in recent days. Our Health Minister, Dr Joe Phaahla, has announced last week Friday that the country was officially in the fourth wave.

The positivity rate has since drastically moved from just less than 3% to around 22% in a matter of days. The Omicron variant, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), has been detected in 38 countries and early data already suggests that it is more contagious than the Delta variant which drove the third wave of infections. Omicron has about 30 mutations on the spike proteins which is the mechanism used to bind to human cells, and according to the WHO, some of these mutations are associated with higher transmission and the ability to escape immune protection.

The WHO declared Coronavirus a public health emergency of international concern since 30 January 2020. Since then, as a country we have seen ourselves recording a total of more than 3 million cases, wherein at least we had recoveries of 2,8 million people and the positivity the rate today, as I have indicated, is at 26%. We, as a nation, registered 6 381 new cases over the past 24 hours with Gauteng leading with 4 488 cases. As Limpopo province, we have registered 193 new cases bringing the total number of active cases to 3 456, and yesterday's statistics should not be used as if we had a decrease from the 600 that we registered on Friday. You must understand that usually on Mondays, because most people don't go for testing over the weekend and we are not operating in full capacity the numbers are low. The real picture will be seen starting from Tuesday and Wednesday when we get the results of those that would have tested.

The provincial resurgence highlights, just to give you a summary which confirms that indeed, as a province, we've also entered the fourth wave, include, firstly, if you look at week 47, on the seventh day average, which was 50%, because the total number of cases that we registered during that week were 347, and compared to what

happened in week 46, where on average because on some days, they will register zero cases, that increment translates to 400%.

That is why, honourable Members, we say that there's been a huge jump of 400% from week 46 to week 47; and it is a worrying factor. If we also look at the provincial weekly active cases index, it has increased to six cases per 100 000 population. At a district level, it is worse. When you look at case indexes especially in Waterberg, there are 20 cases per 100 000 population especially in Bela-Bela and Lephalale. They have already surpassed the response level, being at 20 and 54 cases per 100 000 population respectively. So, a total of 181 cases were admitted to hospital during week 48. This is an increment of 90% from week 47, when you look at a district level. On admission itself, it's also beginning to tell us that indeed we have entered the fourth wave. About 71% of our admissions, and we must emphasise this, has been unvaccinated compared to the 29% of the vaccinated population. The 29%, we have looked into in each and every case, and realised that it is from those that received probably only one dosage of Pfizer and did not come for the second dose. Therefore, we are making a call to those who have received their first dosage to come and get fully vaccinated. Those who are fully vaccinated, we have noted that they might test positive and form part of the statistics, but they don't form part of hospital admissions, or do they form part of the mortalities.

The reported admissions and death statistics should be interpreted with caution because of reporting delay challenges. The seven-day moving average indicated that the province is in a resurgence of COVID-19 and all districts are currently encouraged to strengthen their surveillance and response activities. We need to go back to basics on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The question that many of you, honourable Members, would ask is, what is new? The WHO, as I indicated earlier on, after the discovery of this new variant, the B.1.1.529, which they have already named Omicron, has displaced this Delta variant as a dominant variant circulating in South Africa.

There are theoretical concerns that this variant is slightly more transmissible and may have reduced sensitivity through past infections or vaccines and antibody development. We have been raising this issue that as long as the entire population or 70% of the population is not vaccinated, we are going to experience the re-emergence of the variants or the emergence of new variants which might even be more transmissible, or our vaccines might have little impact on them because this variant would have already been exposed to these vaccines because they are also infecting people who have been vaccinated.

The early data shows that re-infections are higher due to Omicron, even though we have not received the formal reports yet. The increase in cases of re-infections is also suggestive of immune escape mutations present in Omicron. The current public health measures such as the wearing of masks, social distancing, improved indoor ventilation and hand hygiene remain effective. That is why, the advice currently is to avoid meetings in an enclosed environment because that becomes more dangerous for the transmission of this new variant. Also, data from clinicians suggests that patients with Omicron are younger with clinical presentation similar to that of past variants. You can see that even the newborn babies are now testing positive, and they are being admitted.

It's very painful, Hon Speaker, that immediately after a woman gave birth, by the time the child is expected to play, most of them are now from mothers who are positive and after being delivered they are taken to the neonatal unit. We are seeing admissions of babies across the country especially in our academic hospitals in Gauteng.

That is why the call here to pregnant mothers must be: please go and get vaccinated because you're not doing it for yourself, you are doing it for your unborn baby. We call upon lactating mothers to vaccinate because research has shown that breastmilk is also able to protect your newborn baby when you as a mother has been vaccinated and you are exclusively breastfeeding. The implication of this new variant is still unclear at this early stage and therefore we remain cautious and on alert for the increase of cases.

The pillars of COVID-19 response will remain the same including the non-pharmaceutical measures and most importantly the vaccine. In order to reduce the risk of transmission this coming December, the province should focus on risk communication and community involvement. That's where we are expecting honourable Members to assist and support us on risk communication and community involvement.

We are also increasing our public health measures against Omicron. Let's use them because there are likely to be more infections and breakthrough infections. Those who are vaccinated are less likely to have severe COVID-19 infections. Currently, those who are vaccinated, even with the Omicron variant, have just shown a one-day flu and that's it. So, Hon Speaker, we remain conscious and are on alert for the increase of cases and we enforce adherence to prevention.

Let's accelerate the vaccination programme in order to protect the vulnerable from severe forms of disease and ensure that our health facilities are prepared for the increase in hospital admissions, because we don't know what this variant is bringing. Let's put measures in place to prevent disruptions of other essential services.

We have seen what the three past waves have done. Once they hit us, even the hospitals stop looking after patients with other conditions like TB, HIV/Aids, patients with cancer and those needing operations. It's only after the wave that we have to be innovative and come up with programmes like Rural Health Matters to clear surgical backlogs. When we go into the hard lockdown, not only is the economy affected, but it also affects other healthcare services.

Omicron and the current Sars-Cov-2 diagnosis and treatment, we must note that this variant, because it has such a large number of mutations, some of them are concerning. There are questions that are raised about the test accuracy, especially on PCR to diagnose COVID-19. Several laboratories have indicated that for one widely used PCR test, one of the three target genes is not detected, what we call S-gene dropout or S-gene target failure. The widely used PCR test continues to detect Omicron as we have seen with other variants as well.

Studies are ongoing to determine whether there is an impact on other types of tests including Antigen Detection Tests. There is no reason to believe that the current COVID-19 treatment protocols and therapeutic treatments would no longer be

effective. In our province there is a research laboratory in Moutse owned by an NGO, Ndlovu Care Group. They are also able to detect Omicron.

The report that they have just given me yesterday is that all cases that are now testing positive for COVID-19 are all testing positive for Omicron. This therefore means that Omicron is here in our province, and we are currently dealing with it. That's why you see the numbers spiking. The vaccine and Omicron; we should see ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, if you could move towards rounding off the statement.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Hon Speaker, let me give the recommendations relative to Omicron. Our districts must strengthen public health measures to reduce COVID-19. We must intensify our risk communication, the readiness of public health and the vaccine. In summary, in terms of the vaccine, as a province we have been doing fairly well. When it comes to the above 60 age group – and this is important information – the province has 549 876. We have registered more than 89%, we have vaccinated more than 76%, and the fully vaccinated population is at 67%. Moving to the age group between 50 and 59, 68% is vaccinated. We are worried about the 35 to 49 age group where only 49% has been vaccinated. The 18 to 34 age group is worse. We have only vaccinated 34%. We are not so worried about the 12 to 17 age group because we have only opened this group to be vaccinated recently.

As I conclude, I must indicate that there is sufficient vaccine stock, both in the province and nationally. Therefore, the issue of the availability of vaccines is not a problem. Regarding the issue of the availability of vaccine sites, we must indicate that the province still operates with the 37 primary fixed sites. We also have 206 PHC sites, and 100 outreach teams that are going out to vaccinate people. As a province, we are also having 18 PHC facilities that have just been opened to vaccinate people. So, our challenge remains the vaccine anti-vaxxers, vaccine hesitancy, the low numbers of the population being vaccinated despite the high efforts and investment. Of course, the non-compulsory ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Let's conclude, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Let me conclude by saying that it is high time that we start exploring mandatory vaccination so that we can get all our people vaccinated. Honourable Members, my call to all of you is, help us so that we can help our nation. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. We allowed you to be a bit longer because it's an important matter confronting us. Can we have comments from political parties. FF Plus, Hon Maritz, you may proceed.

MS MARITZ

Hon Chair, I am satisfied with what has been said. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Member of the DA, over to you.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Chair. Indeed, we do agree with the honourable MEC. The new variant is a challenge. The rate of spreading is also a concern for us. We are encouraging people to go out there and be vaccinated. We think that vaccination is the way to go, we encourage vaccinations and we'll be supporting the call for people to go out and be vaccinated. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Member of the EFF, over to you.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Thanks, MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba for the health education you gave us this morning on Omicron. Honourable MEC, we fully agree with what you have said. As the EFF, it is still our call that there should be strong awareness campaigns to caution the public on health education and health promotions, and ways to prevent the spread of this transmissible or deadly virus that is within these 38 countries. We know that B.1.1.529 is here with us and is also transmittable.

We are calling upon your department, and we are going to join you as the department in making sure that our communities, especially the people who are staying in rural areas, whom we might think are aware of what is going on, are made aware of this virus. We are making a call to you and the department to find different ways and platforms to make communities aware of this new virus confronting us, because we don't want to witness what happened last year December, January, and early February this year because it was really heart-breaking.

We are making a call to all of us to join hands and impart the knowledge that we have about the spread of this virus. We are also going to help educate community members on how to prevent the spread of this deadly virus. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Member of the ANC, over to you.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the ANC, we want to appreciate the good work that the department is doing, particularly as led by a woman of passion and a woman of integrity, Dr Phophi Ramathuba. We believe that we can do more in relation to the work that they have been doing. We are also quite encouraged by the awareness campaign that the department is doing. If you move around the malls, particularly where I come from in Tzaneen, there are communication officers in the communication sections who are going all out in the Dr C N Phatudi Hospital, Nkhensani Hospital, Van Velden Hospital and not excluding the district hospital, in terms of awareness campaigns. They are doing quite well. They are everywhere in social media. We also encourage, honourable MEC, that all your communication heads in all areas of hospitals do as these particular employees are doing. They are quite creative and innovative. At all given times, you will see them coming up with something quite interesting and fascinating. These are the things that will create awareness and make young people go out there and vaccinate.

More importantly, we must also stress that, as the ANC, we will continue to support the department to make sure that the issue of putting on a mask – you might have seen that it has degenerated and a lot of people are no longer putting on their masks – is adhered to. We must put on our masks; we must vaccinate; and make sure that we wash our hands.

This includes the issue that relates to possible mandatory vaccination which we believe might also help, because you can't respond to a pandemic as if you are responding to a policy matter. A pandemic is something that comes without you being aware of it and you should provide leadership.

We want to appreciate the leadership provided by the President as the Commander-in-Chief of the country to make sure that the issue of mandatory vaccination come to mind and we are able to save many lives.

As the ANC, we will be here during weekends and weekdays to help the department in ensuring that we spread the message across the entire province. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for those inputs. Are there any further Executive Statements? There are none?

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any Tabling of Committee Reports, Other Reports and Papers? If none, we shall go to the next item.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development.

Over to you, committee chairperson

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, I, Sarah Monyamane, present the 2020/21 Fourth Quarter Report for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can we have a seconder? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF CHAIRPERSONS

Thank you, Hon Chairperson. We are here to second the report as presented by the chairperson of the committee.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Hon David Selane, you are first on the list.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF CHAIRPERSONS

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Hon Chair of Chairs; Hon Premier; chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Sarah Monyamane; honourable Members of this majestic House, all protocol observed. Hon Speaker, section 114 of our precious Constitution mandates the Legislature through our committees to ensure that all provincial organs of states are accountable and that we should always maintain oversight over the Executive, including the implementation of legislation. This is precisely what the Portfolio Committee on Social Development is doing in exercising its powers and functions to ensure that the department delivers on its mandate of servicing our people.

The Department of Social Development has overspent its budget due to contractual obligation, because its infrastructural projects that were constructed overlapped from the 2021 to 2022 financial year. This is an explainable circumstance which the committee has identified. We believe that this will be corrected in future when the environment is normal.

Hon Speaker, it is quite unfortunate that the department could not achieve its annual target in terms of the performance indicator, though we have noted that something was done by this particular department, because it was able to achieve 60% of its annual target.

The other worst scenario in our case is when provincial departments in their majority fail to implement the Employment Equity Plan. This policy directs everyone, including all provincial departments to recognise the struggle of women across the country because women are the ones who bear the brunt of poverty designed by the colonial and apartheid enterprise. It can never be, and it will never be, Hon Speaker, that the government led by the ANC, that after the development and formulation of our precious policies aimed at redressing the legacy of the past discrimination, fails to implement the Employment Equity Plan in all sectors of society, including the Department of Social Development. The question of equity and redress is fundamental

for the pursuance of the objectives of the national democratic revolution as led by the ANC. It is precisely so because the department could also not achieve its 50% target of women in senior management positions. Only 13 out of the total number of 27 women were employed at SMS level, and this constitutes 48% of the target. Despite all these developments, Hon Speaker, 64 people living with disabilities were employed against a workforce of 3 000 people and this constitutes 2,1% of the departmental target. However, we must appreciate that the department has exceeded the target of 2% of the people living with disabilities.

This department is one of the critical institutions that deal with social service professionals. These social service professionals must be provided with tools of trade to work effectively for the purpose of service delivery. However, we have noted the inadequacy of the tools of trade procured and allocated to these professionals. This is the result of poor budget allocations and failure by the department to prioritise as part of the epicentre for the selection of the strategic management process.

We are delighted by the fact that the department has complied with the call by both national and provincial governments of paying invoices within 30 days. This is remarkable progress because out of 5 741 invoices, about 5 735 were processed within 30 days. The remaining six invoices were not paid due to incorrect capturing and wrong information thereof. This shows that the department is hard at work in responding to the challenges faced by government.

Despite these developments, all 2020/21 accruals together with all long outstanding invoices were paid on 31 March 2021. It is irrefutable evidence that irregular expenditure amounting to over R1 million on school uniform incurred in the 2011/12 financial year was still awaiting final investigations from the Office of the Premier. This is a clear demonstration of how corrupt mafias within the institution are and the willingness to render the department dysfunctional. It is quite unfortunate that the MEC, Hon Christian Nkakareng Rakgoale, found this notorious scandal and it is incumbent upon her to provide leadership. This case is a clear demonstration of general corrupt practices by most of the officials in the provincial government and people continue to enjoy the blame games and shift responsibilities for their action. How on earth is it possible to have cases from 2012 not being resolved? This is proof that some officials and politicians are in corrupt relations with one another. There is generally no fundamental reason why such cases are not resolved, perpetrators are not brought to book and money is not recovered.

Hon Speaker, an amount of R50 million on the procurement of security services was incurred in the 2012/13 financial year, and it still needs to be investigated. The departmental official, boldly and in a borrowed confidence, told us that they are still waiting for investigations from Provincial Treasury. The question is: How on earth do you investigate the money used, but fail to account to it? This is English gymnastics, Hon Speaker. Perhaps we should ask a question to the Provincial Treasury, why must it take so long to complete investigations in such cases? The level of corrupt practices and activities like in many other departments cannot be ignored. Irregular and unwanted expenditures incurred also cannot be left unattended. The time has come for us to be honest on the implementation of consequence management without fear, favour, or prejudice.

What then becomes the role of the Provincial Treasury ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You are left with one minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF CHAIRPERSONS

... if money was lost and recovered? How will the Department of Treasury allocate resources to the departments effectively if they fail to monitor the use of money by the departments? All these problems happen under the watch of the Provincial Treasury.

With the agony from these fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and irregular expenditure experienced by this department, we commend this department for obtaining an unqualified audit finding in the 2020/21 financial year.

Hon Speaker, having interacted with this particular department on the 2020/21 fourth quarter performance, we recommend as the committee, that this particular department must spend its budget accordingly, avoid underspending and overspending, comply with the Employment Equity Act, continue to provide tools of trade to social service professionals, and make sure that ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Member, your time has expired.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF CHAIRPERSONS

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You're welcome. Can we move on to the next speaker on the list, Hon Buthane; but I see Hon Seshoka on the screen. [SILENCE] Have you muted or is something wrong with your audio? You are not audible at all. Check on the icons there, maybe the volume is off. [SILENCE] It is still not on.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

If he is at the Parliamentary Village, he can come and use mine.

MR MATLOU

Someone can just call him, and he can connect on a phone.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

He can come to my house if he is at the Parliamentary Village.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Members, let's see if he can sort it out. [SILENCE] Hon Seshoka, can we come back to you while you are trying to sort out your technical issues and go to Hon Katlego Phala in the meantime?

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is that Katlego Phala?

MR MAHARAJ

The total budget allocation for the department was R2,3 billion and the adjusted allocation was R2,2 billion. The expenditure was R2,1 billion, which was 96% of the total allocation and was slightly below the expenditure norm. The Restorative Services programme underspent at 74%, the Children and Families programme expenditure was 93% and the Development and Support programme was 97%. The department was unable to reach 50% target of women in Senior Management Service positions. It was reported that 13 women of the total number of 27 were employed, and the achieved target was at 48,1% in the fourth quarter. It was further reported that 64 people with disabilities were employed and 2,1% was achieved.

It is a positive note that the department began to make progress with regard to the inadequate allocation of tools of trade to social services professionals. The department procured 100 cell phones and 100 routers during the financial year. A total of 24 vehicles were also procured. Furthermore, plans were underway to ensure that finally all the social services professionals have access to the tools of trade. The committee advised the department to continue with the provision of tools of trade to social services professionals, since they are tools short to carry out the departmental services.

Hon Speaker, it is worrying that the department had accruals amounting to R105 million which were carried over to the 2021/22 financial year. It is however admirable to the department that they did make efforts to address irregular expenditure and fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

The committee noted that the number of orphans and vulnerable children who received psychosocial support services increased by 1 956. The actual number was 2 479 compared to the actual target of 523. The department explained that the deviation was due to the high rate of gender-based violence, which resulted in more children being affected psychologically. Given the explanation by the department, it is unacceptable that the budget allocation of victim empowerment sub-programmes was R68 million. The expenditure was R58 million, and therefore an underexpenditure amounted to R9,6 million despite the high number of gender-based violence cases.

Hon Speaker, it is clear that the department needs to spend the Budget accordingly and avoid overspending and underspending at all times, especially with the VEP sub-programme taking into consideration that cases of gender-based violence and femicide were on the rise.

The committee also recommended that the department needs to comply with the Employment Equity Plan in relation to women in Senior Management Service positions and needs to continue to provide tools of trade to the social services professionals for the smooth running of service delivery. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maharaj. Hon Seshoka, are you succeeding? [SILENCE] Hon Seshoka? Is it connected; I can't see him anymore?

MR MOHLALA

He is just struggling to come in, but he is online.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Can somebody check with him if he is succeeding, because I don't have his phone number here?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Re a mo emela, Speaker? Aowa, banna!

THE SPEAKER

What's wrong, Hon Chief Whip?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Ga a gona, akere.

MR MATLOU

Re boletše gabotse gore a connecte ka founé. It was going to be easy.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Mmotšeng a namele fridge.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Akere o ile gaMakamu go khonektha. A a kitimele gaMakamu go khonektha.

THE SPEAKER

MEC o reng?

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

I agree with you, Hon Speaker; a re mo emeleng. O a kitima.

MR MATLOU

O ka kerea a le ka mo tikologong ya gaborena a nametše sehlare. Šo yena.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Re a mmona. Re nyaka go mo kwa, ga re nyake go mmona.

MR SESHOKA

Can you hear me now?

[BACKGROUND NOISE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, we can hear you now Hon Seshoka. Let's have order and give Hon Seshoka the opportunity to make his comments.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I think I had a technical problem on my side. The gadget gives me problems. Nonetheless, let me continue with my debate.

Hon Speaker, thank you very much, and greetings to all Members present here today. The department indicated that it has acquired 55 vehicles during the 2019/20 financial year, but the most disturbing thing is that payments were not honoured, citing cash flow problems. The question is: Were these vehicles not on the budget? If not, why do you acquire something that is not budgeted for? The whole administration of Premier Mathabatha has become a joke and mockery to the principle of good governance? The government has become a laughing stock hence the confidence on the side of the people has diminished.

Furthermore, the EFF is concerned that all professionals in the department have no necessary tools of trade, and yet the department is expecting them to perform to their full potential. Lack of tools of trade for professionals negatively effects service delivery, hence our people continue to lack services, especially social welfare services.

Why is there no urgency by the Office of the Premier to finalise all investigations in the provincial government, some dating as far back as 2011? These investigations include among others, the illegal purchasing of school uniform and illegal procurement of security services. What is the Office of the Premier and the department trying to hide? Whatever they are trying to hide will at the end of the day come out into the light. Only the truth can set them free, but for now they are still in the bondage of dishonesty.

Instead of focusing on fulfilling its mandate, the Office of the Premier is busy protecting cronies in the department and entities from taking responsibility for their actions. The EFF is not surprised that there is no consequence management in the administration of Premier Mathabatha. We are officially in a banana province. People do as they wish knowing very well that there will be no consequence management, because they enjoy

protection from the powers that be. No investigations in the departments are completed on time. It takes the government years before any investigation can be completed, resulting in bloated budgets over a period of time. Even if they say you are cooking the investigations, it can't take this long. Hon Speaker, we cannot afford to postpone accountability, because people need to know what the final investigation outcome on this project is.

The EFF has been expressing its unhappiness in the House on the number of unemployed social worker graduates in Limpopo, and all these fell on deaf ears. This happened despite the dire need of social workers in the province and because of the frustration, social workers end up seeking employment in other provinces where their services are being appreciated. Your lack of vision and poor leadership is taking this province backwards, as it continues to encourage brain drain left, right and centre. The majority of these graduates enrolled at the university to study social work through government funding. The government helped them with funding only to dump them as soon as they graduate.

Hon Speaker, it is disappointing and sad that the budget of the ECD centres is still inadequate to date. This clearly shows the attitude of government towards the ECD centres because it is clear that they do not value the importance of these institutions and the role it plays in society. The EFF knows the failure to provide water tanks to all eligible ECD centres in the province. This happened because an incompetent service provider with close proximity to power that be, was awarded a contract to deliver water in all ECD centres only to disappoint them. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You are left with one minute.

MR SESHOKA

Sadly, the money was returned to Treasury, which may be directed to other departments which need it.

The COVID-19 food relief programme was used as a tool to feed loyal ANC members and supporters at the expense of our poor people in the province that need such food parcels. It is a disgrace and shameful that such things are still happening in this day and age. The EFF is the only hope for the people of South Africa. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Seshoka. We shall now call upon the chairperson of the committee, Hon Sarah Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chairperson of Chairpersons, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable MECs, the Leader of Government Business, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, the Leader of the Official Opposition, honourable Members, traditional leaders, religious leaders and colleagues, good morning.

The portfolio committee commended the department on its hard work in obtaining an unqualified audit opinion. The committee noted that there were findings in the 2019/20 financial year and were encouraged to address those findings and strive for a clean audit in the following financial year. The committee was encouraged by the report received from the department that the 2019/20 audit action plan was developed and the implementation being monitored in the 2020/21 financial year. It was further indicated that 37 audit findings were raised by the Auditor-General. The department managed to resolve 34 findings by 31 March 2021. Only three findings were unresolved at the time the committee engaged with the department.

The department explained that the unresolved findings were fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred in the construction of the Phasha Selatole One Stop Centre. The committee further commended the department that the long-standing irregular expenditure on the procurement of school uniform and security services amounting to R13,889 million incurred in the 2011/12 financial year was partially resolved. The department should ensure dedication on addressing irregular expenditures because they are undesirable and obscure progress of service delivery.

The committee noted that an overexpenditure in relation to services to older persons was incurred. It was observed that an amount of R149 million was incurred instead of R91,6 million of the budget allocation. This overexpenditure was at 163%. However, the committee observed that there was an underexpenditure on the sub-programme on people living with disability amounting to R141,9 million instead of R183 million of the budget allocation. The expenditure was at 78% for the sub-programme. The department must ensure that monitoring is at its peak to ensure that money is spent according to the target set in the APP.

The committee commended the department for implementing the court order that all ECDs owed must be paid retrospectively. The department reported that the national Department of Social Development had a court case in relation to non-payment of subsidies to ECD centres through Equitable Share and Conditional Grants. It was further explained that on 20 October 2020, the court ordered that all ECD centres during all lockdown levels operational or not should receive 100% payment. The department must furnish the committee with a detailed report of those payments made to ECDs.

Hon Speaker, the committee noted that the department procured water tankers for ECD centres. However, water tankers were supplied to four districts only during the quarter under review. The installation of water tankers in 51 ECDs was outstanding in Vhembe District for the 2020/21 financial year. The department was requested to provide progress report on this matter, and they responded that a service provider was appointed for the installation of water tankers in the Vhembe District. The department further reported that the service provider failed to deliver the services and the contract was terminated. It was explained that the budget which was committed for the project was surrendered to the Provincial Treasury at the end of the financial year since it remained unspent. It was further explained that a rollover has been requested from the Provincial Treasury to appoint a new service provider to deliver the services and the department was awaiting approval. The department must furnish the committee with progress report on the request made to Provincial Treasury.

Hon Speaker, the delay of service delivery to communities whilst their expectation was raised causes a mistrust between the government and communities. The department must ensure that the matter is addressed in the following year.

The department reported a decrease in the crimes committed by children who were in conflict with the law during the fourth quarter. The committee appreciated the work done by the department in this regard. The department explained that the rotational school attendance programme assisted in keeping children out of the streets and prevented them from committing crimes in groups. Furthermore, the reports indicated that less children committed crimes with regard to the number of sentenced children in secured care centre programmes.

The department reported that the number of children in conflict with the law who were referred to diversion programmes increased during the quarter under review. It was indicated that petty crimes increased as children were left alone in communities. Furthermore, the number of children who completed diversion programmes increased by 85. The department explained that the over performance was due to previous backlogs being addressed and more children complied with diversion orders. The committee encouraged the department to proceed with counselling and programmes that will help to change their mindset.

We must appreciate the fact that the compelling reason by the lockdown levels that people stay indoors longer resulted in the loss of income for some, anxiety of contracting COVID-19, and that also led to gender-based violence. This was reported by the department in relation to the sub-programme on *Victim Empowerment*.

The committee was concerned that the department continued to underspend on its target approved by the House. The department was allocated R68,74 million and the expenditure was R58,460 million. The Budget decreased by R9,614 million, and generally the underspending forces the department to return money to the Provincial Treasury and further apply for rollovers. This does not augur well with the committee because it also gives the impression that the department does not need much money for service delivery.

Hon Speaker, in supporting the adoption of the 2020/21 Fourth Quarter Report, the department must ensure that all recommendations made by the committee are implemented. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Monyamane.

7.2.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Can you hear me, Hon Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, I can hear you. Can you also switch on your camera please?

MS MONYAMANE

It is on. Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, I, Sarah Monyamane, present the 2021/22 First Quarter Report for the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption by the House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can we have a seconder? Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I raise my hand to second the motion as presented by Hon Monyamane. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and the first on the list is Hon Caroline Mahasela. Your time starts now.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I would like to greet the Hon Speaker, Ms Molapo; the Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; the Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou; the Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; the Hon Deputy Chief Whip; the Hon Chair of Chairs, and the Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members; honourable MECs and Hon Sarah Monyamane, the chairperson of the portfolio committee.

Hon Speaker, in the first quarter of the 2021/22 financial year, the department reported that they received a total budget allocation of R2,4 billion, which was decreased from R2,3 billion in the 2020/21 financial year. At the beginning of the 2021/22 financial year, the country was still hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and more funds were still required to purchase PPEs. However, the overall expenditure for all the programmes was R387,5 million which was 19,2% of the total allocation and was below the 25% expenditure norms. The Children and Families programme, which is the department's key programme with the highest allocation of 43% of the total budget allocated, reported a spending of 15%, which was the lowest of all programmes. This is an underspending, and the department must develop measures to avoid it in the next financial year. The budget must be spent according to the approval of the APP irrespective of which quarter of the financial year.

The committee observed that the department had a plan to review the organisational structure in the first quarter of the 2021/22 financial year. The department explained that the plan to review their structure was due to budget reduction on compensation of employees amounting to R257,9 million. The committee advised the department to

provide a progress report in this regard. The committee received a report from the department about the 2021 recruitment plan. [INTERJECTION]

[BACKGROUND NOISE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Members can you mute your mics because you are disturbing and interrupting the speaker on the floor, please.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The department reported that a summary of the plan was submitted to Provincial Treasury for approval which included 60 overall posts with an expenditure of R38,4 million attached to the plan. The department explained that the Provincial Treasury approved the filling of the three chief directors' positions for Welfare Services, Community Development, and Chief Financial Officer. The reason for approving these three positions were attributed to financial constraints in the province. The Provincial Treasury was engaged on considering other critical positions. The committee appeals to the Provincial Treasury through the House to review the funding of the proposals submitted to enable the department to increase its human resource capacity.

During the quarter under review, the engagement of the committee with the department revealed that the total amount allocated to Conditional Grants was R198,7 million and an amount of R144,6 million was spent for this purpose. This is an underspending which is undesirable, because it implies that people did not receive services according to their expectations. It also shows that the department did not spend according to targets in the quarter under review.

It was reported that R90,9 million was allocated to the EPWP incentive grant, which is R16,7 million for ECD maintenance for PPEs, R11,8 million for ECD expansion subsidy and R58,2 million for ECD stimulus subsidy. The department reported that a rollover was requested ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

One minute left.

MS MAHASELA

... the approval was granted, and an implementation plan was drawn to start with the processing of accrual payments. It was indicated that the Conditional Grant rollover amount of R4,11 million was received from Provincial Treasury. The department reported that 33 communications of audit findings were addressed. The department reported further that a total of 23 internal audit findings were unresolved, and the remedial action would be implemented in the 2021/22 financial year. It was indicated that Shared Internal Audit Services was busy with their follow up audit to confirm that findings were resolved.

Hon Speaker, I support the motion for the adoption of the 2021/22 First Quarter Report with all their recommendations as presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mahasela. The next speaker on the list is Hon Joseph Buthane, but Hon Seshoka will stand in for him.

MR SESHOKA

Indeed, Hon Deputy Speaker, I am going to present on behalf of Hon Joseph Buthane. Greetings once more colleagues. The EFF is disappointed that the key programme on Children and Families was unable to spend its budget as expected. The implication of this is that services were not rendered to the people of Limpopo. The questions we are asking are: Did the department put measures in place to ensure that targets are achieved in this remaining quarter? What informed the so-called slight underspending of 2,5% on programme 2? What exactly triggers these accruals and are there funds for resolving these accrual rollovers for the previous financial year?

The ECD centres and NPOs play a fundamental role in the development of our communities, and they should not be delayed in releasing their funds as per departmental mandates. What exactly causes the underspending or delays in the transfer and subsidies? The EFF Limpopo commends the department's decision to insource officials at secure care centres. We further encourage the department to expand on this insourcing project. The department must resolve the OSD matters including progression of employees within six months, failure which the morale of the employees will affect their performance negatively.

Serious action must be taken against those who were involved in the Phasha-Selatole One Stop Centre. A progress report on the consequence management in particular on this matter must be submitted within 30 days to this House. The report must be comprehensive, including how the land was acquired. What are the plans to ensure that Shiluvana Frail Care Centre complies with the Act to avoid a disaster such as the one that occurred at Life Esidimeni? Why did the pharmaceutical depot decide to stop supplying Life Esidimeni with medication?

The process of buying school uniforms for vulnerable students must be communicated properly with the public. Given the low numbers of beneficiaries as per report, more communication is required in this regard.

Hon Speaker, community cooperatives must be empowered to design school uniforms. This will create quality jobs for our people. Did SASSA resolve challenges raised by Moroke, Praktiseer and Phalaborwa in relation to their non-functional and ineffective systems?

The EFF proposes that the ECD practitioners must be absorbed by the department and additional training provided. When that is done, preference should be given to women when filling these vacant posts. This will enable the department to comply with the Employment Equity Act. A detailed report must be presented on the payment of unduly performance bonuses and unauthorised expenditure amounting to R10 million

incurred on the Seshego Treatment Centre. This is a long-standing matter and remains unresolved. We need answers now and not tomorrow, because we feel strongly that there is an attempt to hide something, and we will expose you. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Seshoka. I suppose Hon Maharaj is the next speaker.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The total Budget allocation of the department was R2 billion and was decreased from R2,3 billion in the 2020/21 financial year. The Children and Families programme, which is the department's key programme with the highest allocation of 43% of the total budget allocation, reported a spending of 14,7%, which was the lowest of all programmes. They underspent due to transfers and subsidies on Early Childhood Development and Non-Profit Organisations for which payment was not made in the first quarter. The department underperformed on the appointment of women in SMS positions. It was further noted that the performance of the 2021/22 first quarter was 47,6% against 28,1% of the 2020/21 fourth quarter and there was a regression.

The number of people living with disability remained the 2% as was achieved in the previous quarter. The land matter relating to the GaPhasha-Selatole One Stop Centre continues to be a dark mark on the running of the department. The department reported that the centre was built on privately owned land, and the owner obtained the judgment against the department. The owner of the land indicated that he would settle for R40 million. The Office of the Premier explained that by law the building on that land belonged to the owner of the land. It was further explained that an evaluator was appointed to evaluate the property and the value was R12,2 million. The committee found that there was some degree of negligence on dealing with the process of acquiring GaPhasha Selatole One Stop Centre. The process should have included a team of experts to assist in acquiring the land. It is clear that there should be consequence management to the responsible officials within the department.

The Shiluvana Frail Care Centre matter needs to be addressed as it has dragged on for far too long. There is still uncertainty over whether the department should be the lead in the running of the centre despite an exercise of the benchmarking of both maintenance and repairs of equipment. Machinery and infrastructure need to be prioritised at the centre.

The non-compliance with the Mental Health Act also leaves the department at risk and needs to be addressed urgently.

Hon Speaker, it is encouraging that there has been progress on the move of ECDs to the Department of Education. Consultation with the affected officials was underway and was nearing conclusion in all the districts at the provincial office in relation to challenges about data, information management, and systems asset management. The department reported that there was a need to develop a policy for integrating the ECD into the Education Department.

The committee recommended that the department needs to spend their budgets accordingly. Programme spending must be in line with the expenditure norms. The department needs to comply with the Employment Equity Act in relation to women in Senior Management Service positions. There needs to be quarterly reports on the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre, compliance with the Mental Health Act and the maintenance and repairs of the boiler, borehole, sewerage plant and generator. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Monyamane, you are the next speaker.

MS MONYAMANE

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, leaders of the opposition parties, honourable MECs and honourable Members, good morning. We have entered the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. I am completely outraged at the level of gender-based violence taking place in South Africa today. We need all spheres of society to come together to ultimately address gender-based violence. Our legislation and institutions should support the empowerment of women, promote gender equality, and oppose oppression and all forms of violence against women, yet violence is still being experienced by women on a daily basis. There are millions of women in our country who have been forced to remain silent in the face of ongoing abuse and violence they have experienced or witnessed on a daily basis. The heart-breaking situation of women who were found dead around Seshego was just the tip of the iceberg with regard to how gender-based violence has reached a tipping point in South African society. Harsher actions must be taken against perpetrators, and we commend the men and women in blue for apprehending and putting behind bars the man who is a spineless psychopath and committed these evil deeds.

Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee is concerned that the department is consistently not spending according to its mandate. The committee noticed the overspending or underspending by the department on most of its sub-programmes. It is time that the department should review its spending pattern in line with the approved Annual Performance Plan. In the first quarter the total expenditure of the department is R387,551 million, which is 19,2% of the total allocation and is below the 25% expenditure norm. The Children and Families programme, which is the department's key programme with the highest allocation of 43% of the total budget allocation, reported a spending of 15% which was the lowest of all the programmes.

On programme 1: Administration, the department reported an overexpenditure of 26,6%, which is above the expenditure norm by 1,6%. The department explained to the committee that the overspending was due to accruals from the 2020/21 financial year. The committee is also concerned about the accruals. The department also reported accruals in terms of the 30-day payment policy whereby six invoices were not paid within 30 days due to incorrect capturing of the invoice, receipt date, and other payments as a result of system errors. The department must make sure that systems are constantly monitored to avoid errors which will portray a wrong picture that the department lacks capacity in the finance section.

The committee received a report that programme 4 spent 18,4% which was also below the expenditure norm. The department explained that the underexpenditure was due to insourcing of secure care centres. It was further explained at the department had provision of compensation of employees to appoint officials in secure care centres. However, the appointment was put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions. The department must implement this target as planned considering that COVID-19 lockdown levels keep on changing to avoid audit queries and funds being returned to Provincial Treasury. The committee noted that the department set aside R6 million to pay retention amounts and final accounts.

Hon Speaker, the department explained that during construction retention, money was deducted from each contractor's payment and will be paid at the end of the project through a final account. It was further explained that items that were also of poor workmanship were not paid in full until the contractor fixed them. It was indicated that there were also additional fire water tankers that were requested by the Modimolle-Mookgophong and Polokwane local municipalities due to low water pressure at the two centres. It was stated that Saselamani construction was complete, furniture has been purchased and Eskom has connected electricity. The construction of a water tanker in Mankweng will be completed in July 2021. The committee recommended that there must be continuous monitoring on the implementation of this project. The department must in the next meeting report on progress made.

In conclusion, the department reported that maintenance and renovations will be commissioned at 21 existing departmental offices and one stop centre this 2021/22 financial year. The department reported that consultation with districts was completed. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure finalised the task of issuing orders by 15 June 2021. Furthermore, the 51 ECD centres would be maintained through the ECD Conditional Grant and sites were handed over to contractors by DPWRI on 28 May 2021. The committee will be exercising its oversight role on these projects. The department must also ensure that projects are implemented without hindrance.

The committee supports the adoption of the two reports with the recommendation to implement without deviation. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much to all Members who have participated in these two debates. We shall now call the MEC for Social Development to respond to the debates.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to your good self, the Chief Whip of the majority party and the Deputy Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Council and the leadership of the opposition parties present, the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs.

We appreciate the opportunity given to respond to the debates. Let me first indicate that as the department, we are taking note of the issues that were raised by the members of the portfolio committee. We also acknowledge that on issues of underperformance, plans have been developed to overcome this. As the department

we are committing that given the availability of the budget, the tools of trade for the Social Services programme shall be prioritised. We are also calling upon other departments to assist in resolving the outstanding historical and unwanted expenditure, especially because the department was able to finalise those within our armpit as a department. I'll give you an example. If you remember, the issues of the school uniform in 2012 and the procurement of security services was when the department was still merged with the Department of Health and was known as the Department of Health and Social Development. You'll agree with me that it was in 2012 and it has been long. Therefore, it means that we still need information from some of the departments such as the Department of Health and the Department of Education, the Office of the Premier with the assistance of our Provincial Treasury. We must also indicate that we appreciate the support and the commitment that we get from the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury so that those matters that you are talking about, such as the unwanted expenditure, are dealt with and brought to finality.

We are acknowledging that the department has been under pressure to employ social workers. Colleagues must also understand that the same budget where money has been cut or redirected is presented in the same House. We request the House and the portfolio committee to acknowledge the fact that we are operating under serious financial constraints wherein when money is redirected, it is really not within our powers to do anything. We must also appreciate the fact that we are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. We are going to deal with this matter as and when money is given to us to render such services.

I should also report that a significant progress has been made nationally to engage other departments on the employment of social workers with a very promising results with such engagements. It is our hope that those departments will adhere to the request from the national Department of Social Development. You would know that departments such as SAPS and Education nationally, also require the services of social workers and it is our hope that they will tap into those trained social workers that we have in our database. Let me also indicate that this department has a relationship with Home Affairs as well, because Home Affairs needs the services of social workers.

The department was able to review the organisational structure based on the ECD migration requirements of the Provincial Macro Management Framework. However, we should indicate that the process of reviewing the entire structure will be commencing, since the structure is left with two years for a review.

I must also bring light to the House that issue of the OSD has since been resolved. We are currently paying some Social Service programmes and dealing with the long outstanding accelerated grade progression which is due to about 545 employees.

In conclusion, let me also indicate before this House that during the Budget adjustment, the department received an allocation of R11,4 million from the Presidential Youth Empowerment Initiative. To that effect, we appointed 475 contract social workers for a period of four months, starting from this month to March 2022, to assist in the fight against social ills such as gender-based violence and substance abuse ravaging our communities. We hope that Treasury will also come on board to ensure that more funds are allocated so that we can continue with our work of clamping down on social ills.

Thank you for the opportunity, Hon Deputy Speaker. We appreciate the work that the chairperson, Hon Sarah Monyamane, and all members of the portfolio committee are doing. Your monitoring and the advice you continue to give to the department, we really appreciate. We commit that all those issues that have been raised by the portfolio committee will be looked into. I have already indicated that we do have action plans in terms of dealing with such matters.

We have also noted the issue that has been raised by almost all members of the committee of adhering to employment equity. The department will make sure that this matter is addressed as and when money is allocated to us to appoint additional employees. Chairperson, thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for your response, honourable MEC.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

Hon Chief Whip, it is your turn.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE NCOP PLENARIES

(Motion for Ratification)

Section 61(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa read together with House Rule 226(3) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House provides for the designation and appointment of Special Delegates as required from time to time.

In line with these provisions, I hereby move that this august House resolves to appoint the following honourable Members to attend NCOP plenaries as follows:

- 07 December 2021, which is today: Debate on the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill. Members appointed to attend: Hon K A Phala, Hon N M Lekganyane, and Hon M I Masekoameng.
- 09 December 2021: Debate on the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. Members appointed to attend: Hon M A Mokaba-Phukwana, Hon F F Radzilani, and Hon M I Masekoameng.
- 14 December 2021: Plenary to deal with Committee Reports and Legislation. Members appointed to attend: Hon E M Mokgonyana, Hon A J D Ndou, and Hon K M Lebea.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Chief Whip. Are there any announcements? If none ...
[INTERJECTION]

THE CHIEF WHIP

It must be seconded, Hon Chair. The motion must be seconded.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Can we have a seconder to the motion presented by the Hon Chief Whip? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Deputy Speaker, I, second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip of the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

9. ADJOURNMENT

Thank you very much. Are there any announcements? If none, the House is adjourned until 09 December 2021, which would be the last Sitting for this Legislature this year. Thank you very much, honourable Members.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]



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**VERBATIM REPORT
OF THE
DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 09 DECEMBER 2021

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**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
VIRTUAL SITTING
THURSDAY, 09 DECEMBER 2021
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Thank you, honourable Members. Are there any Motions without Notice? Who has raised their hand? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good morning to the Executive.

**THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO INTRODUCE
LIFESTYLE AUDITS ON PUBLIC SERVANTS
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move that this House takes note that on 07 December 2021, the Public Service Commission announced the introduction of lifestyle audits as part of efforts to ensure integrity in the public administration. These audits are aimed at ensuring that public servants, including Ministers, Premiers and MECs, live according to the reported incomes.

In August 2020, Western Cape Premier, Hon Alan Winde, released a lifestyle audit report conducted on himself and his entire executive.

On 20 October 2020, the Democratic Alliance requested Premier Mathabatha, through a Members' Statement in this House, to lead transparently and ethically and to order that lifestyle audits be conducted on himself and his executive.

Finally, lifestyle audits are critical management tools to identify those who, based on extravagant lifestyles, might potentially be engaging in unlawful activities and to ensure that those who are inclined in future to keep their fingers out of the cookie jar.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Risham Maharaj, hereby stand to second the motion as read by Hon Smalle.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice?

MS MANGANYE

Yes, Hon Deputy Speaker. It is Hon Manganye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Proceed, Hon Manganye.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

**A CALL FOR THE CONVERSION OF INDUSTRIAL PARKS INTO
MANUFACTURING CENTRES FOR ECONOMIC REVIVAL**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes that the people who are abused are mostly women and they continue to be at the receiving end of poverty. The downward trend of unemployment affects even the graduates who would automatically qualify for a job opportunity or entrepreneurial support by government.

The Premier in his 2020/21 State of the Province Address painted a rosy picture about industrial parks in the province indicating that they are catalytic projects which are aimed at stimulating economic growth and job creation; and promised to revitalise them. To date, the majority of these industrial parks remain white elephants. No significant utilisation has taken place.

The EFF in Limpopo calls on the provincial government to urgently convert some of the industrial sites into health and safety manufacturing centres wherein PPEs and other health amenities can be manufactured. This initiative must include manufacturing of sanitary towels, hospital linen, gowns, and school uniforms. The above initiative will create massive jobs per district and revive economic activities in the province.

We cannot relax when many people are unemployed and hopeless, yet we pretend as if the current procurement module of government is pro-job creation and sustainable. Manufactured goods will be used by the state and be sold to public and private entities beyond our borders given our strategic location towards most African countries. Massive industrial activities will include a tomato processing plant, in which the state has since spent millions without yielding positive results. The second phase must include beneficiation of all minerals in districts where they are extracted. The process

will create millions of jobs as beneficiation will expose other by-products, which our country does not benefit from currently.

We need a solid leadership which is not afraid of taking decisions in the interest of the poor.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can we request Members who are not on the floor to switch off their cameras and allow only the one on the floor to have the camera on? I call upon Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, honourable Members of this august House, I greet you all in the name of Jesus.

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE ORDAINMENT OF HON FLORENCE
RADZILANI AS A BISHOP**

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes and congratulates one of our own, Hon Florence Radzilani, for being ordained as a bishop of the Spirit Ambassador Ministry International. Hon Florence Radzilani joins the ranks of the women of the cloth, a move that should serve as a motivation to the rest of society and dispel the myth that some positions in the church are reserved for males only.

On behalf of the House, we want to congratulate Hon Radzilani on this spiritual achievement, and we are confident that she will continue being the light that shines and brings us closer to the Lord in this trying time.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Chair!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Who is that?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

It is Buthane.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The latter speaker who was on the floor was not on video ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, you are out of order. Can we have someone to second the motion?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

She was not on video. We must see them like you have said.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

She was on video.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

We did not see her.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I recognise Hon Mahasela.

MS MANAGA

Sorry, Hon Speaker, it is Managa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Are you seconding? We want the seconder.

MS MANAGA

No, I raised my hand earlier because Hon Manganye's motion has not been seconded.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

But can we first second the motion by Hon Mochadi? Then we will come to you. Is there any seconder?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No, but Chair, she is raising a valid point. You cannot dismiss it like that.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I am not dismissing it.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

She is saying that we cannot second the second motion when we did not second the first one. Let us start with the first motion and then proceed to the second one.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Alright. Is there any seconder to Hon Manganye's motion? Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MR MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Managa Lilian, rise from the Economic Freedom Fighters to second the motion as read by Hon Manganye Tinyiko Florence. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to Hon Mochadi's motion?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Chair, I want to object to the motion as moved by Hon Manganye and seconded by Hon Managa respectively.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The motion is objected to and falls off. Is there any seconder to Hon Mochadi's motion?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, it is Hon Buthane. Chair, am I correct to understand that the Chief Whip of the ANC is objecting to the motion on insourcing and revitalisation of industrial sites that the Premier spoke of and said he is working on them? Is he saying that?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, Hon Buthane.

THE CHIEF WHIP

We can give reasons if Hon Buthane ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

There is no need for reasons. The motion falls off. Can we have a seconder for Hon Mochadi's motion please?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Le padile Essop. Mara le botšiše Sebabi.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Go and read the Rules, Hon Buthane.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Chief Whip and Hon Buthane, you are out of order. You are not on the floor.

THE CHIEF WHIP

But sometimes you must allow us to give reasons ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

There are no reasons to be given. Can we have order please! Can we have a seconder to Hon Mochadi's motion. Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I raise my hand to second the motion by Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, move to second the motion by Hon Mochadi. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

It has been seconded. I asked if there were any further motions without notice. Hon Smalle, I see your hand.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am objecting to the motion. My hand is up.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The motion has been objected to. So, it falls off.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Chair, and good morning honourable Members. Hon Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Chair, can we please call for the division of the House ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

But you should raise your hand; if there is no hand we pass.

THE CHIEF WHIP

But I did. You were too fast.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, what do you want me to do?

THE CHIEF WHIP

But you are fast, Chair.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No, no, no, we cannot work like that. Hon Mokaba is on the floor.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

When Hon Managa wanted to second the motion, we went back. We can still go back on this one.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

But there was no speaking.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Can we please have order. Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, can you please wait. Hon Mokgonyana, what were you saying?

THE CHIEF WHIP

I am saying Hon Buthane objected to the motion, which was presented by Hon Mochadi and seconded by Hon Mahasela. I am calling for the division of the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We have requested Members that they should switch on their cameras when they speak. Hon Mokgonyana, can we do that.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Apologies, Chair. I have done that now. Can I repeat what I have just said?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You can repeat.

THE CHIEF WHIP

I am calling for the division of the House on the motion that was objected to by Hon Buthane.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Now we must determine how we are going to vote. [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Chair!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Who is that?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

It is Buthane.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, what is going on?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am referring to what the Chief Whip is presenting here. Chair, you have passed this stage. It cannot be our problem that the Chief Whip is sleeping on duty. You have passed this stage; you are on the second part.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We have not passed anything; we are going to divide the House.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Mokaba-Phukwana is the one on the floor. Or is she being disrespected because she is a woman?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No. [LAUGHTER] You are not going to do that to us. We have requested Hon Mokaba-Phukwana humbly to pause so that we can deal with the issue that has been raised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

But the Chief Whip must wake up. He cannot be looking after the sheep when we are busy here and then comes and disorganises us like this.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We will deal with it. Can we then divide the House? We are going to count the hands that agree with the motion and those that are objecting to the motion. Those that agree to the motion will raise their hands, and we will count them. Can we first lower the hands? Hon Matlou, Hon Mahasela and Hon Monyamane, can you lower your hands?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

But Chair, how are we going to count ourselves here because we cannot see ourselves? We must count as Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We have the Secretariat and ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

But we want to see ourselves as Members. Honourable Members, we must also make sure that the hands that are up are correct.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You can see yourself on the screen.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Yes, put them here so we can see, and we can agree with the numbers.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those that are going to raise their hands you will see them on the screen. Put your screen so that you can see every Member there.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Alright.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, those that are agreeing to the motion, can they raise their hands?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

But Chair, we only see the Order Paper.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You can switch on your screen so that it shows all the people. Do we understand the motion?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Yes, we do.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Please, can you not speak and raise your hand? We will request the Secretariat to count the votes. The Secretariat, can we get the numbers please? Thank you very much for that. Then we will have those who are against the motion. Thank you very much. Honourable Members, the 'Aye' have it. The motion therefore stands.

Can we therefore proceed if there are any other motions without notice? Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, was on the floor. Can all honourable Members who are not on the floor switch off their cameras?

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Hon Chief Whip, the Deputy Speaker and honourable Members, good morning.

THE PASSING OF ANC LUMINARIES
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, the ANC has lost notable luminaries who made a pivotal contribution to this country's liberation struggle. We have learned of the deaths of Cdes Ebrahim Ebrahim, Lindiwe Mabuza, and, most recently, Denis Ramphomane who have all made an invaluable impact on this democracy.

Cde EB, as he was known, was a gentle revolutionary and MK combatant, and a long-standing ANC member who joined the ANC as a 15-year-old in 1952. He passed away on Monday, 06 December 2021, and he was buried the following day according to Muslim tradition.

Lindiwe Mabuza, who served as a journalist for *Radio Freedom* and subsequently an ambassador to Britain and several other countries, has also departed from this world of the living. She joined the ANC at a relatively young age and has been a great part of its foreign-based combatant that the apartheid regime had isolated.

We have also learned of the sudden passing of Cde Denis Ramphomane, who at the height of the 1976 Soweto Uprising, left the country to join the ANC and MK in exile. The hero of the Battle of Witkleigat passed away after a long illness.

We join thousands of South Africans to mourn these selfless individuals who had sacrificed their youth to ensure that apartheid was finally brought down on its knees.

May their souls rest in peace!

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much and thanks for your patience. Is there any seconder? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, and good morning to all honourable Members of this august House. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, would like to second the motion as presented by Hon Mmapula Mokaba-Phukwana. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? If none, can we move to notices of motions? [INTERJECTION]

MR SMALLE

Speaker, you did not see my hand.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, you can proceed.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**APPRECIATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR
VOTING AGAINST THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move a motion without notice that this House:

- Extends its gratitude to the National Assembly and its Members who voted on 07 December 2021 against the amendment of section 25 of the Constitution.
- Further notes that 204 Members of Parliament voted in favour and 145 voted against the Bill. The required threshold was 267, which is a two-thirds majority.
- Notes that land expropriation is an emotive issue and expropriation without compensation has been a contentious issue and the process to amend section 25 has been a difficult process.
- Further notes that the EFF wanted a wholesale nationalisation of land while the ANC foresees state ownership and custodianship existing alongside private ownership.

- Further notes that the Democratic Alliance was opposed to any amendments to section 25 of the Constitution as the party believes that section 25 was not the real stumbling block to land reform.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you very much. I, Risham Maharaj, hereby second the motion as read by Hon Smalle. Just for interest's sake, Hon Speaker, the camera does not seem to be working on this side.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Okay. Hon Buthane, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you. I rise to object to the motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The motion is objected to. We shall divide the House again. Those who agree with the objection to the motion will raise their hands.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Are you saying those who are agreeing with the objection, right?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, those who are agreeing with the objection to the motion. I never said those who are objecting to the motion at this time. Thank you very much. We can lower our hands. Those who are for the motion, can we raise our hands? The motion has been objected to, and therefore falls off.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any Notices of Motions in terms of Rule 146? There are none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Statements by Members? Hon Buthane, please lower your hand. Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

A-Gs CONCERNS OVER THE GROWING TREND OF WATER SHORTAGES IN LIMPOPO

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, in the Auditor General's Consolidated General Report on Local Government Audit Outcomes for 2018/19 released on 01 July 2020, the A-G expressed concerns over the growing trend of water shortages in Limpopo, specifically in the Vhembe District. During that period, Vhembe District Municipality recorded water losses of R204 million and the historic debt to the water board now amounts to R830 million. Not much has changed. Residents of Makhado Municipality have been without water for more than a week, because the Vhembe District Municipality prioritises water infrastructure repairs rather than to have interim relief measures in place. The water crisis in Vhembe and the province at large is not only a concern for the DA, but the South African Human Rights Commission also held hearings in October 2021 to ascertain the severity of the crisis and who is to be held responsible.

Whilst we are eagerly awaiting the Commission's findings, the MEC for CoGHSTA must ensure that municipalities have adequate water infrastructure in place, and more importantly, that it is maintained on a regular basis. The loss of funds emanating from water losses has a direct impact on the municipalities' ability to render basic services to the citizens of this province. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any response from the MEC for CoGHSTA?

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I have raised my hand and my video seems not to be working well. I want to welcome the statement made by Hon Maharaj from the DA and indicate that the issue of water in the province is well-recorded and being attended to. I want to be specific on the matter. Regarding Makhado, it is the Makhado CBD and some surrounding townships which had a challenge with water. The matter is receiving attention. I personally had an engagement with the Executive Mayor of Vhembe and the Mayor of Makhado, only to find that the challenge was with the Albasini Dam. Challenges were that there was a malfunctioning of the generator. The matter has since been attended to and there are people on site trying to restore water in the town of Makhado. In no time water will be restored to the people in the CBD and surrounding areas. It is a matter that we have already attended to. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Are there any further statements? Hon Mohlala, I see your hand is up.

MR MOHLALA

LACK OF WATER AT LULEKANI IN PHALABORWA

(Members' Statement)

Thank you, Speaker. Greetings to yourself, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, colleagues and staff. Honourable Members, the people of Lulekani in Phalaborwa in the Mopani region are asking themselves what they have done to the ANC government to deserve the treatment they are getting.

The community of Lulekani, in wards 13, 14, 15 and 16, has been without water since the beginning of last year to date and the government has not taken any steps to attend to their challenge. There are water pipes installed in ward 15 and yet there is no water in Lulekani. The question we ask is: What purpose do these pipes serve if they cannot provide the people with water? Wards 13, 14 and 16 have boreholes, but the boreholes are not working at all. The boreholes have been put up by Mopani District Municipality, but they do not care if they are working or not, because this matter was brought to their attention. The 13 Jojo tanks installed in the area to the value of R2,4 million are just there for decoration purposes as the taps continue to run dry. Just like the R3 billion Giyani Water Project, this R9 million water project in Lulekani, which the Mopani District Municipality continues to dispute, cannot be accounted for and it is clear that the money has gone down the drain.

It seems like water projects in Mopani have become a vehicle for squandering money in what could be called a cash heist. Effectively, the lives of our people have been completely disrupted, because they do not have access to clean drinking water.

This government calls itself a caring government, but there is no care when you deny people access to clean drinking water, causing them to drink water containing bacteria, with animals. This is the worst form of violation of human rights or the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

Nothing makes you different from the government of Eswatini because both the South African government and Eswatini are involved in the violation of human rights, albeit in different forms. You deny people their right to access clean drinking water, access to housing and electricity while the Eswatini government, under Mswati tortures, arrests and kills political opponents clamping down on them because of their dissenting views. You are the same.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to the people of Lulekani in Phalaborwa.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mohlala. I see Hon Makamu's hand has been up as if he anticipated what was going to be done. Hon Makamu, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Before we respond to the challenge of water in Lulekani, specifically in wards 13, 14 and 15, we should clarify that there is a difference between the government of Eswatini and the government of South Africa under the leadership of the ANC. The honourable Member is aware that the ANC and this government

liberated him to an extent that he is able to say whatever he wants to say in this country. We are too different from the government of Eswatini.

On the issue of the water, I must indicate, Hon Speaker, that it is a matter that is also well-documented. The issue of water in the whole province, we are aware of it, including Lulekani wards 13, 14 and 15. I can confirm that a team from the department has been seconded to work with the team from Mopani and Lepelle Northern Water to find a solution to the challenges of water. Initially, it was picked up that we required what we call rescheduling of water because the capacity was not enough to cover the entire growing area of Lulekani. It is a matter that we are working on together with Lepelle Northern Water, BaPhalaborwa Municipality, and the district to resolve the challenge of water in Lulekani. We should be able to resolve it and come and report to the House, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Are there any further statements? Hon Mphahlele, over to you.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; honourable MECs present; Hon Jossey Buthane, the Leader of the Opposition; and Members of this august House, good morning.

SAPS IN MOGALAKWENA HARASSING COMMUNITIES (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF notes the abuse and harassment of the people of Mogalakwena by SAPS. The police in Mogalakwena are in favour of big businesses including mining companies as opposed to ordinary civilians. The police are against the people of Mogalakwena as they are always taking the side of mining companies like Ivanplats. This mine destroys graves of our people as and when they want to, and invades their yards and farms. Anyone who raises their voice to get clarity gets arrested.

When the contractor at Steiloo Mall failed to pay workers as expected, comrades were arrested for seeking justice on behalf of the workers. These comrades are the voice of the voiceless and the station commander at Gilead Police Station is also failing the community of Steiloo.

Three months ago, a young black male from GaMushi village between Steiloo and Marken was killed for just walking alongside the farm of a white man. When the community wanted to know what happened, the police arrested them, instead of arresting the murderous white farmer. When are we going to walk freely in our own land?

The extent to which the ANC-led government is afraid of white people is appalling. No wonder the police are patrolling the farms of white people only. SAPS does not apply the principle of equality before the law. They exist to serve the interests of their white minority hence our people lost confidence in SAPS. This is the ANC-led government for you. When you fight for the rights of workers and the poor people, they silence you

by locking you up. The ANC-led government is not what the people think it is. It is an autocratic government, hellbent on crushing down dissenting views.

The EFF calls upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to investigate this matter and protect the rights of the people of Mogalakwena. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mphahlele. Is there any response from the MEC for Transport and Community Safety or any Member of the Executive if the MEC is not connected? Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. We have noted the concerns that the honourable Member has raised, and we will inform the MEC for Transport, and Community Safety to follow them up. Thank you very much, Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further statements by Members? There are none.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any Tabling of Committee reports, Other Reports and Papers? We call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. A very good morning to the Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip, leaders of opposition parties and Members of this august House.

6.1 Tabling of the 2020/21 Annual Report of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL)

I am presenting, for late submission, the RAL Annual Report, Hon Deputy Speaker. In terms of the PFMA, section 65, the executive authority is expected to table the report to the Legislature by the end of September. The reason for the late submission was caused by IT challenges since we are no longer submitting hard copies to the Legislature. The IT system of the Legislature could not take a voluminous document such as the RAL Annual Report and therefore the department had to resubmit.

The delay is sincerely regretted, Hon Deputy Speaker. I therefore submit this report for consideration by the systems and the processes of the Legislature. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House.

We move to item 6.2 for the MEC for LEDET. He has been struggling to connect. I am not sure if he managed. Okay, welcome honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier, colleagues in the Executive Council and the Members of the august House. I am also going to follow my colleague Dr Namane Masemola.

6.2 Tabling of the 2020/21 Annual Reports of the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its agencies

I want to submit my sincere and unreserved apology to the Hon Speaker of the Legislature for not submitting the Annual Report for 2020/21 of the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) and Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB) to the august House timeously. Upon the reminder for submission of the Annual Report, we realised the omission is in submitting such reports timeously. I would like to profoundly apologise and commit that such an error will not occur again.

I sincerely hope that the Office of the Speaker finds this submission in order, and I therefore make a submission of the 2020/21 Annual Reports of LEDET, LGB, LEDA and LTA. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC. The Annual Reports are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House. We call upon the MEC for Health.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the House, honourable colleagues from the Executive Council.

6.3 Tabling of the 2020/21 Annual Reports for the Department of Health

I rise on behalf of the Department of Health to submit our sincere apology for the delay in terms of the submission of the 2021 Limpopo Department of Health's Annual Report. This was not as a result of our own doing, but as a result of a situation beyond our control as a department. There has been a late finalisation of the audit report by AGSA. As a result, it was not going to be practical to submit a report without the finalisation of the audit report. I, therefore, having sincerely apologised, submit and present the 2021 Limpopo Department of Health's Annual Report. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I'm sorry. I think I cut you off. Are you done MEC?

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Yes, Hon Speaker. I said thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Annual Report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Health and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House. Thank you very much.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

I call upon the Hon Chief Whip to deal with item 7.1 which is the Motion for the Suspension of House Rule 174.

7.1 Motion for the Suspension of House Rule 174

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. House Rule 173 provides that: "Unless otherwise provided for in these Rules, not more than one stage of a Bill may be taken on the same Sitting day if objection to a further stage is made by four or more Members."

It has therefore become necessary to invoke the provisions of House Rule 175 to suspend the provisions of House Rule 174 in order to allow the House to finalise the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B01-2021] today. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can I call for a seconder? Hon Makhurupetje MG, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thanks very much, Speaker. I, Mmakoma Grace Makhurupetje, rise to second the motion by the Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Grace Makhurupetje, for seconding.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

I call upon the committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation, 2021 be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Phala. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and first on the list is Hon Maria Lekganyane. Your seven minutes starts now.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. Hon Premier, Hon Chief Whip, Hon Chair of Chairs, all Members of the House, kgotsong. I, Maria Nakedi Lekganyane, rise to debate on the report of the Provincial Treasury on Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B04–2021] for consideration and adoption by this honourable House.

The Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B04–2021] was introduced in the House by the MEC for Provincial Treasury on 29 November 2021. The Bill was adopted and referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration, scrutiny, and report back to this honourable House. The Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill is a Money Bill and seeks to appropriate adjusted amounts of money from the Provincial Revenue Fund for the financial year ending 31 March 2022, and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The committee met with the Provincial Treasury on 01 December 2021 for a briefing on the principle and provisions of the Bill. Upon the briefing, the committee considered the principles of the Bill and agreed that it was desirable to appropriate adjusted amounts of money for the requirements of the province, as indicated in the Schedule of the Bill. The total adjusted allocation increases the provincial Budget from R68,7 billion to R75,3 billion. It is comprised of an additional Equitable Share allocation to the amount of R2,5 billion of which R1,6 billion is for 2021 wage agreements, and R853,7 million for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative. It also comprises Conditional Grants to the amount of R6,7 million, of which R620,1 million is for rollovers from the 2020/21 financial year, as well as the 2021/22 financial year. R39,1 million is an additional allocation for the Department of Health, R24,1 million is for Early Childhood Development in the Department of Social Development, and R2,3 million for Provincial Emergency Housing Grant in the Department of CoGHSTA.

It was found that provincial departments surrendered an amount of R978,1 million on Equitable Share allocation and applied for rollovers of R287,9 million but received

R226,6 million. The actual Conditional Grants to be surrendered is R1,3 billion and the requested rollover was R945,2 million, but only R620,1 million was received as rollovers.

The ANC welcomes the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill 2021, as a necessary tool in the hands of the ANC-led government in improving the lives of the people of Limpopo that have been negatively affected by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our economy continues to shed employment as businesses continue to struggle to stay afloat and recently released Gross Domestic Product statistics have highlighted the gravity of our economic challenges whereby the national economy has shrunk by 1,5% in the third quarter of 2021.

As the ANC, we welcome the Provincial Treasury allocation of R364,9 million and this means that the allocation to Treasury remains unchanged from the last financial year. We therefore wish to encourage the MEC, Hon Sekoati, and the leadership of the Department of Provincial Treasury as the custodians of the public purse in Limpopo to double their efforts in supporting the grants received and that the department spend these grants accordingly for the benefit of our people.

The reduction in economic output shows the critical importance of the role government needs to play in order to help stimulate the economy in the Limpopo province. The ANC is chuffed by the proactive budgetary commitments, especially the economic cluster allocation as it holds a potential catalyst towards the economic growth. The committee found that the department underspent on their Budget and as such surrendered on the Equitable Share and Conditional Grants allocation. Our recommendation as the committee is that amounts reflected on departmental allocations be appropriated.

In conclusion, the committee acknowledges the principle of the Bill and hereby moves that this report be adopted as the report of this House, and further that the Bill proceeds to the next stage of our legislative process. I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The next speaker is Hon George Raphela and your five minutes starts now.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks, Hon Speaker, and greetings to the honourable Members, and the honourable Leader of the Opposition. As much as we take note of the Bill, this is what is expected to happen, the EFF advocates for the tabling of a progressive, radical Bill which will change the lives of the ordinary people for the better, not to enrich the elite and politically connected tenderpreneurs. We need Bills that are developmental and people-centred because any government should exist for this vital and revolutionary principle. Until such time that the government gets to this level of understanding things, the EFF will never take them seriously.

It is regrettable and unacceptable that an amount of R1,3 billion of Conditional Grant will be surrendered to the Treasury. It should be noted by this House that when the Department of Cooperative Governance surrenders money, they are actually

surrendering service delivery. It simply means the provincial government does not have a service delivery backlog, while the opposite is the reality. We are not shocked, because it has become a norm for the government to surrender funds when the majority of our people are still living in squalor conditions. The new democratic dispensation which has become a laughingstock of note has not yet touched them.

An amount of R24 million was allocated to the provincial Legislature for compensation of employees and the 2021 wage agreements, which is a joke and a serious insult to the workers. Currently, workers in the Legislature have been offered a 1,1% once-off salary increment, which has zero impact on their notches. The question we need to ask is: What happened to the moneys that were not used last year in various programmes because of COVID-19? Why can't we use these moneys to address the salary increment of workers rather than insulting them with a 1,5% salary increment? This is a shameful salary – a slave increment offer. We call upon workers to reject it. Since the introduction of the so-called central bargaining, the exploitation of workers with regard to increment-related benefits reign supreme.

The prospect of the Makgoba fruit and Zebediela Citrus Project ever being revitalised is diminishing. Instead of working towards the revitalisation of these projects, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will surrender R12 million. It is sad that the people of Limpopo have been presided over by a government that is hellbent on destroying the jobs and the economy. It is also disturbing that the Department of Health will surrender R40 million from emerging **Davis Communication Centre Projects**. How do you surrender money from such a critical programme which is about life and death? This is disturbing.

A mere R28 million has been allocated to Polokwane Gateway Airport for its operations. This is a drop in the ocean given the challenges this entity is currently experiencing. Furthermore, the Department of Sport will surrender R8 million from the much talked about provincial theatre which has been consulted on but has yet to get off the ground. It means the construction of the provincial theatre will never happen. It will remain a farfetched dream whilst artists continue to suffer due to lack of opportunities. These people even surrender the money that is meant for the construction of traditional council offices. This is how disrespectful they are to the traditional authorities and communities they lead. The department surrenders on Equitable Shares and Conditional Grants because of underspending on their budget. This cancer of underspending is continuing unabated while the majority of our people suffer in the hands of this government.

The Premier is in a slumberland when this mess is happening under his watch. Consequence management does not apply in the administration of our Premier, especially when coming to Members of the Executive and senior administration in the provincial government.

We call upon the Premier to become serious in dealing with such issues and not become a liability. The sooner he is shown the door, the better for the people of Limpopo. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can we then have the next speaker, Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, the total adjustment allocations increased the provincial Budget from R68,7 billion to R75,3 billion. It is comprised of an additional Equitable Share allocation to the amount of R2,5 billion, of which R1,6 billion is for the 2021 wage agreement and R853 million for Presidential Youth Employment Initiative. An amount of R620 million is for rollovers from the 2020/21 to 2021/22 financial years. Among these, R39,1 million is an additional allocation for the Department of Health, R24,1 million is for Early Childhood Development in the Department of Social Development, and R2,3 million for the Provincial Emergency Housing Grant in the Department of CoGHSTA.

The way departments manage their budgets and programmes within the various departments remains a concern. The departments underspent on the budgets they were allocated and had to surrender on both the Equitable Share and Conditional Grant allocations. Provincial departments surrendered an amount of R978 million on Equitable Share allocation. The actual Conditional Grants surrendered is R1,3 billion and the requested rollover was R945 million, but only R620 million was received as rollovers. All the departments received fund allocations to fund for pressures in compensation of employees, including the wage agreement on top of other funding requirements that differ between departments.

The Budget for the Education Department increased from R35,7 billion and R32,5 billion and received an additional Budget of R3,1 billion to fund for pressures in the compensation of employees, including wage agreements and the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative. This allocation includes Equitable Share rollover of R2,16 million and Conditional Grants of R120,6 million. An amount of R400 million has been allocated to fund pressures on compensation of employees and wage agreements in the Department of Health. The department has been allocated R50,5 billion for claims against the state, which is insufficient for the large amount of medico legal claims against it. This should not be a risk the department constantly faces. The department also received R40 million for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative. The Budget was adjusted upwards from R21,9 billion to R23,4 billion.

The Department of Transport's Budget was adjusted upwards from R2 billion to R2,3 billion. GAAL continues to run in a poor and unsustainable manner. The entity that brought us the embarrassment of having our Polokwane Gateway Airport temporarily downgraded has been allocated R28 billion to fund the entity's operations and CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) findings. Public Works was allocated R931 million, R47 million which will fund pressures and cost of employment including wage agreements. R242 million was allocated for provincial roads maintenance grant rollover. Roads Agency Limpopo received an allocation of R250 billion to fund pressures in capital projects. Given the entity's history of poor financial management, these capital projects will need good management, project management and strict financial controls. The Budget of the department increased from R3,2 billion to R4,1 billion.

The committee recommends that it was necessary for prudent spending on departmental allocations and the amounts reflected on the Bill should be appropriated to departments accordingly. The different departments need to ensure that they have strong financial controls. It is a very concerning issue, that we seem to be having a

repeat of Conditional Grants not being spent and funds that are being returned to the National Treasury requires urgent intervention from the MECs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Your time has expired. Thank you, Hon Maharaj. The next speaker is Hon Rudolph Phala, the chairperson of the committee. Your seven minutes starts now.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker for allowing me to debate on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2021 [B02–2021] as tabled by the honourable MEC in the provincial Legislature. Some of the issues that have been raised by honourable Members in the debate are both irrelevant and not necessary for this debate. We hope that Hon Sekoati when he comes to respond, will adequately deal with those.

Some of the issues that we raised during our discussion with the department on the adjustment budget are the issues that we raise annually in relation to the principal Budget itself. These are being attended to, some of which are turning around already. One of those issues, if you look at the adjustment Budget, is the issue of dealing with the compensation of employees' budget, which is hitting the skies. It is a matter that needs continuous attention, because if you look at all the adjustments, almost all the departments are requesting money for compensation of employees. Almost all of them, Social Development; Sport, Arts and Culture; CoGHSTA; Department of Transport; Department of Public Works; Health; LEDET Department of Education; the provincial Legislature; and the Office of the Premier, have requested moneys in the adjustment because their compensation of employees is heating up. To that extent, it means it is a matter that needs attention. We want as much money as possible to go towards infrastructure and services for the people of the province. Most of the budget should be spent on delivering and rolling out infrastructure in the form of roads, bridges, clinics, schools, and hospitals, and to deliver housing for people and all other categories of infrastructure that will help the livelihood of our people. If we increase overtime and compensation of employees, we will not be spending enough money on rolling out the necessary infrastructure for the people of the province.

One of the challenges we raised, which is a continuous matter that we raise in the Budget and are still raising now and will continue to look at, is the spending on Conditional Grants, where some departments and entities are not spending as much as they should on the Conditional Grants that come from national government into the province to deliver services in various categories. It is a matter that needs attention so that those grants do not get returned to national government and end up going to provinces that are spending better. The people of the province lose when those categories of Conditional Grants are returned to national for that financial year. Even in this year, we see that is a matter that needs attention, so that by the end of the financial year on 31 March, we should have pushed that we were able to spend most of the Conditional Grants that come from national government.

We also looked at the issue of enhancing the Information Communication Technology (ICT) revolution in the province as much as possible so that we spend as little money as possible on things that we could save on such as meetings, workshops, conferences, and training sessions. We can use ICT to hold meetings, workshops,

training sessions and conferences and save money on accommodation, travelling, claims, S&T, etc. By so doing we shall be able to spend as much money as possible on what we need to do if we continue to enhance the use of ICT in the province.

We also raised the issue of revenue enhancement strategies by departments and entities, so that the revenue that the province gathers is on an incremental path to help us as a province, where we are unable to get as much money as we want from national government. If we raise our own revenue in various areas where we do, we are able to raise revenue and enhance the revenue strategies that will help the province going forward. We will have a lot of money, which we would have raised ourselves as a province, from traffic fines and hospital admissions, and other categories of revenue.

We have also raised the issue of a clean audit campaign and said that as the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury we are generally happy with the provincial government's improvement on audit. The clean audit campaign will ensure that a number of other departments also get clean audits. Not just the Provincial Treasury and the Premier's Office, but other departments like the Department of Transport and LEDET should join in. We hope that other smaller departments, that are manageable, will also get clean audits going forward. The matter of clean audits is something that we must all put our hands on, whether it is the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, or the CFOs in the departments, or the audit committees that are auditing departments and entities, or the Auditor-General. This is a matter that must always be high on the agenda for all of us to ensure that we achieve clean audits ourselves, including the portfolio committees of the provincial Legislature that are exercising oversight over the various departments and entities. The improvements we notice in the departments are commendable; but this is work that must continue and improve going forward.

We have also raised the issue that the Provincial Treasury as a department itself is performing very well, internally. There are not many issues that we raised in relation to it, but we focused on the work that it is supposed to do externally in helping other departments and entities to improve as empowered by the legislation, including the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999), which gives it powers to have that exogenous power of helping other bodies external to it. It is performing very well, even on the adjustment that we are looking at now as a House. You will see that the Provincial Treasury is probably the only department that is receiving nothing and giving away nothing. It is surrendering nothing and is also receiving nothing.

The Budget of the Provincial Treasury remains as it was adopted by this Legislature in the main Budget at the beginning of the year, principally, because they are doing their best there to run their affairs well. We hope that through the various measures that they are taking, they will be able to extend and expand the good work that they are doing to other departments in the provincial government and entities, enabling them to perform better. In the next adjustment in 2022 and in November or December, we will see many departments giving nothing, receiving nothing, surrendering nothing and requesting nothing in the adjustment Budget. In that way, it will mean they are performing well. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable MEC, can you provide your response to the debate.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier and the august House. Once again, thank you for affording me this opportunity to respond to the issues raised by the portfolio committee responsible for the finances of this province in the House. Let me once again, thank the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Kgolane Phala, for the encouraging and kind words that he is sharing with us as the Provincial Treasury, and the entire government. Indeed, we have seen some form of improvements in terms of audit outcomes. We do take into account some of the issues that have been raised, particularly some suggestions in terms of improving on our revenue generation. We will ensure that we use it to augment the resources and allocations we are receiving from the national government. Indeed, it is very true, increasing our own revenue as a province should allow us flexibility in terms of the priorities of the province and ensuring that we are able to allocate resources where they are needed most.

I will not dwell much on the issues that Hon George Raphela has raised because they do not really belong to this debate. However, they expose Hon Raphela in terms of his own level of understanding of governance and how the finances of the province are run. When we first made the appropriation for the main budget, we explained what was happening in terms of the COVID-19 reserve fund. We had to cut budgets from various departments. This included cutting within the fiscal consolidation that related to the compensation of employees. I thought the explanation was enough for honourable Members to understand that most departments in the province did not have any flexibility in terms of how they are utilising resources. We are taking a lot of resources from those departments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This adjustment budget was to try and relook at some of those areas that might have been hurt by budget cuts. I thought Hon Raphela would understand that various departments are responsible for their own budgets, and not the Office of the Premier. In terms of understanding the surrendering of funds at the Conditional Grant level, which has got more bearing in terms of infrastructure, but for which the province does not have any authority to deal with except to request for rollovers and be able to differentiate it from the surrenders that are made back to the Provincial Revenue Fund, which are going to be reallocated in the following year. We do believe that there are certain priorities that are very important that need to be refunded with those resources.

We have got the areas that are meant to generate revenue, like the projects we have in the Department of Transport, which will definitely need to be reallocated those resources. They are surrendered not because they are not being utilised, but because at the moment they have not been fully utilised. They have been committed and they are still going to be taken back to those departments. The province does not necessarily lose those resources to other provinces, but to the revenue fund, so that we are then able to reallocate them.

One other issue that has been raised is the planning method that we have, especially that which relates to infrastructure. As a province we have learned that we should not allocate resources in areas where thorough planning has not taken place. By the time we allocate resources, implementation should be taking place; unlike when we allocate resources, when project preparation has not been undertaken. That would make sure that by the time we allocate resources, we are sure that implementation will be taking

place, and project preparation processes have already taken place and everyone is ready to implement.

We are going to be looking at the level of planning and make improvements where the resources are going back to the national coffers. This is what we as Provincial Treasury, the entire Executive, and the Premier have been raising in our executive meetings that no one should allow resources to be surrendered to national coffers, because we do need those resources and we do have those pressures as a province. As our planning improves, it will ensure that we avoid the surrender of the Conditional Grant that is supposed to augment the Equitable Share in the province. We are looking at ways and means of ensuring that they do not recur and are able to reduce the amounts surrendered to that level.

I do agree with the chairperson, Hon Phala, that we need to use ICT effectively to assist us save on unwarranted expenses and ensuring that we look at areas where we can reduce the COE (compensation of employees). The GITO is looking into those areas. The surrenders from the Office of the Premier are surrenders that were supposed to be looking at the effective use of ICT, and to make sure that we utilise the ICT in response to reducing the COE. The COE levels in the province are hurting a lot of resources as they are going to COE instead of capital projects, and catalytic projects that would be able to assist the province in growing the economy and creating more jobs. We are looking at those as led by the Office of the Premier and we believe that we would be able to find better ways and means of utilising ICT.

On the issue of clean audit, we do agree that there is a need for us to make sure that all departments achieve clean audits. The unfortunate thing is that most of the matters that have been raised by the A-G, are matters which various provincial departments are in a better position to deal with, and get them out of the way, to get a clean audit. The improvements that we have seen, particularly in bigger departments like the Department of Health and Department of Education, show that we are on the right track. We should be able to get out of the woods and celebrate good governance as a province.

With those few remarks, I would like to heartily thank the portfolio committee collective as led by Hon Phala for their guidance. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Executive Council for their cooperation and making sure that we were ultimately able to do the right thing at all times, ensuring that we improve in terms of good governance and not leaving out the guidance that we always get from the Hon Premier.

Where we do wrong sometimes it is actually the Premier who gets the blame. But in most instances, we are the ones who take decisions that ultimately lead us into these situations. I would like to thank the Hon Premier for continuously guiding us in ensuring that the resources of this province are utilised in a prudent manner that will improve the lives and the quality of services we are providing to the people of this province. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC, for responding to the debate.

7.2.3. Motion for the Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2021 [B04–2021]

I call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you once again, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of this august House. Hon Speaker, now that the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2021 [B04–2021] has gone through all the relevant stages of the legislative process of this House, I move that the Bill be read for the third time in terms of the provision of House Rule 170. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Mochadi, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the motion presented by the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mochadi.

7.2.4. Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2021 [B04–2021]

We are now going to adopt the Bill clause by clause and I do not know whether we will be able to shout. Those who agree will shout out “Aye”, and those who disagree with shout “Nay”. We will see how we manage it. If it does not work, we will then use the show of hands. Can we proceed?

Clause 1: Definitions. Those who agree with the definitions of the Bill.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Clause 2: Appropriation of adjusted amounts of money for requirements of the province.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Clause 3: Appropriation listed as per specifically and exclusively appropriated.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Clause 4: Short title.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We are now going to adopt the Bill vote by vote. Vote 1: Office of the Premier.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 2: Limpopo Legislature.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 3: Department of Education.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 4: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 5: Department of Provincial Treasury.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 6: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 7: Department of Health.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 8: Department of Transport and Community Safety.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 12: Department of Social Development.

MEMBERS

Aye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now call upon the Secretary to read the short title.

MR MAPHAHA [ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY]

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. This Act is called the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Act, 2021. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.3. Consideration and Adoption of the following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

I call upon the committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the third quarter performance of the department for the financial year 2020/21 be adopted as a report of this honourable House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any seconder? Hon Seono, you are recognised. Can we mute our mics please?

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I raise my hand to second the motion as presented by Hon Phala, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We move to item 7.3.2. Committee chairperson, over to you.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the fourth quarter performance of the Department of Provincial Treasury be adopted as a report of this honourable House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can we have a seconder? Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I raise my hand to second the motion as presented by the chairperson, Hon Phala, I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. First on the list is Hon Makhurupetje, and your seven minutes starts now.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker, Azwindini Jeremiah "Ambassador" Ndou; the Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stan Mathabatha; all Members of the Executive Council; the Chief Whip of the majority party; the Leader of the Opposition; honourable Members of this august House, good morning. Hon Speaker, today, 09 December, is called International Anti-Corruption Day under the theme, "Your right, Your role, say no to corruption." As the ANC, we believe that indeed, it is important that the rights and responsibilities of every individual stakeholder in tackling corruption are highlighted and implemented with the seriousness it deserves.

The Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury has a constitutional obligation to oversee the performance of the Provincial Treasury in the province. Guided by this obligation, the committee interacted with the Department of Provincial Treasury to consider the third quarter performance report for the 2021 financial year on 11 March 2021, and the fourth quarter performance report for the 2020/21 financial year on 02 September 2021. These reports provide an overview of the performance on the budget, expenditure, implementation, as well as the recommendations and resolutions by the committee to be adopted by this august House. The committee takes this opportunity to thank and commend Team Provincial Treasury for achieving all the targets as planned without deviation within the two quarters that we are dealing with.

On the item that deals with the Programme: Shared Services, the programme is to ensure sound financial management and financial accountability in the province through capacity-building, financial reporting, support of oversight structures and implementation, and provision of financial systems support in the provincial departments amongst others. It was found that targets set for the programme were fully achieved without any deviation, as I have already indicated. Provincial Treasury has been previously advised by the committee to ensure that the filling of posts should strictly be guided by the approved structure, availability of funding and serious cognisance on the current national pressures on the fiscus. For that we want to commend the good working relations by both Provincial Treasury and Office of the

Premier because they do work very well with all other departments. For that we say well done, as it helps to curb overspending on compensation of employees.

During the reporting on the 2021 first quarter performance of Provincial Treasury, the committee raised a concern about financial performance at municipalities. Upon deliberation regarding such financial performance status, Bela-Bela, Mogalakwena, Modimolle-Mookgophong, Fetakgomo-Tubatse municipalities were requested and duly submitted for perusal by the committee. The committee was furnished with a detailed analysis of operating revenue, operating expenditure, source of capital and capital expenditure, among others. While the information was highly commendable, the committee recommended that the Provincial Treasury should provide details on the impact on section 79 intervention in municipalities working together with the Department of CoGHSTA.

During the reporting in 2021 third quarter performance regarding consequence management, it was reported that all 27 municipalities were advised to establish disciplinary boards and submit terms of reference to the Provincial Treasury for assessment in line with the regulations. The committee was informed about efforts by the Provincial Treasury to continuously monitor the functionality of municipal public accounts committees, to assist in oversight functions against financial mismanagement in municipalities and to deal with issues pertaining to unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

The committee will continuously monitor to ensure that sufficient reasons are provided pertaining to action taken against officials who were involved in collapsing municipalities. Implementation of consequence management; as the committee we said Treasury must continue to monitor that. Institutions procure services without proper market research. Where the price index was already provided by the National Treasury, local content and production prescripts were not followed when procuring PPEs and no reports were submitted for verification to the Department of Trade and Industry in the quarter by the institutions.

COVID-19 delayed processes of consolidation and submission of annual financial statements. Underspending in Financial Governance Programme was attributed to liquidation of mixed tax advisory combined system responsible for implementation of RIFD in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. The committee also recommend that consequence management be implemented on cases of financial mismanagement in municipalities, negligence on procurement services must be avoided, and departments and entities should strictly adhere to guidelines within the Supply Chain Management Framework. To avoid unnecessary irregular expenditure that might arise from noncompliance, progress should be reported on consolidated and annual financial statements. Service providers should be monitored to avoid inconveniences in the implementation of projects. Status reports therefore should be provided by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Hon Deputy Speaker, once more as the committee, we take this opportunity to congratulate the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, for your sterling leadership. We are indeed proud that the number of clean audits is increasing year by year in Limpopo province. Hon Sekoati and your team, keep up the good work. We are proud of the good work you are doing in supporting other departments and working with municipalities. As the committee, after considering the

2021 third and fourth quarter reports, we hereby move that these reports be adopted as reports of this august House. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Grace Makhurupetje. Can we have Hon George Raphela? Your five minutes starts now.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I am not sure if again, this debate will be regarded as a lack of understanding of government processes. While the MEC, Hon Sekoati, spends most of his time trying to answer what we have raised in our input, in addition to that, these other ones also raise issues but in another form. We start to wonder who does not understand government processes and that becomes a danger to the wellbeing of our people, and worse, the custodian of the resources of the province. We start to ask ourselves questions.

We will continue to raise issues. What is the relationship between the 23% in the third quarter on the achievement of all targets whilst there has been underspending? And what is the impact of this scenario on the budget or future possible budget cuts? The unfortunate reality is that in this august House, those who contributed to the collapse of VBS and municipalities are expected to debate and approve reports. It is a fact hidden by the ANC from the public through their deployment strategy, which instead of punishing, they promote comrades for illegal deeds. This House must be given a detailed report on actions taken against those who participated in the looting of municipal funds, including those who invested illegally in VBS. The fact is that none of the investments were innocent. All those who invested received commissions and none should be left unattended.

It would be a punishable offense not to support or procure local content. The province will never be industrialised without the support of local content or goods. The EFF government will desperately pursue a strategy of economic decentralisation by promoting, protecting, and supporting industrial activities, particularly manufacturing activities in areas that currently do not have significant industrial and manufacturing capacity and activities. How does COVID-19 impact on the completion of annual financial statements (AFS)? We are dealing with incompetent people who are abusing public resources and given an opportunity they will use COVID-19 as an excuse for non-performance.

In the previous quarter it was indicated that they are unable to compile AFS and do reconciliations. The department continues to disregard SCM practices and manipulates bidding requirements to favour their friends who falsify information and disclosure on information and past bidding processes. What created the liquidation of the RFID project in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and at what cost will the new service provider be appointed? The department has no obligation in keeping people who are unable to perform their work while there are millions of qualifying graduates looking for jobs.

Service delivery will never be realised as most of the departments and municipalities fail in utilising their budgets as per the approved plans, as it was mentioned before

and acknowledged by the honourable MEC that they have got challenges of planning. That is why they do not spend, instead they surrender. When this is raised, we are told that we do not understand government processes.

Non-cooperation with Treasury by municipalities and departments is also deliberate as they seek to hide non-compliance and disregard of PFMA, MFMA and other policies. There should not be condonation of any wrongdoing, be it by the section 100 administration, politicians and administration of municipalities which looted VBS.

Consequence management must apply to all the transgressors without any fear or favour. You need to nip the tendency in the bud. If they carry on, some of them will end up being deployed. Risk must compile a report on all projects which were awarded disregarding original tender requirements and in compliance with tax and non-advertisement of bids. Some of them get here just to disturb us.

Another challenge in this province is that risk and legal units in the provincial government do not have capacity. It is for this reason that the departments find themselves sitting with huge litigation, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and unauthorised expenditure. Over and above, there is a general incapacity in government accompanied by poor leadership resulting in poor governance.

The EFF will build government and state capacity which will lead to the abolishment of tenders. After achieving this, the EFF will abolish consultants so that government can perform its own functions and build its capacity to continue providing services to our people. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Raphela. I call upon Hon Maharaj, your three minutes start now.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury is constitutionally mandated to oversee the performance of the Provincial Treasury department in the province. Following the Shared Internal Audit Services, it was found that there were insufficient reasons provided as to why action was not taken against officials who were involved in collapsing municipalities. This has been a historical challenge for the department, instituting consequence management and must be urgently addressed. The implications of collapsing a municipality without recourse is concerning considering the impact this has on service delivery to the communities. In addition to this, there were findings of institutions that procured services without proper market research, despite the price index provided by the National Treasury. This is just plain negligence and a failure to comply with laid down procedures and policies. There should be no excuse as to why action or consequence management has not been taken against these individuals. It is very clear what their intentions are for doing this and pretending or turning our heads the other way makes us equally complicit.

Despite the issue of PPE procurement being exposed, largely for non-adherence to policies and procedures, we once again find that local content and production prescripts were not followed for PPE procurement and no reports were submitted for verification to the Department of Trade and Industry in the quarter by institutions. It is

also concerning and very intriguing that to date COVID-19 delayed the processes of consolidation and submission of annual financial statements. The question is why is this so?

Once again, the committee recommended that consequence management must be implemented on cases of financial mismanagement in municipalities as indicated and advised in the previous quarter. However, there is neither political will nor any sort of management on this. In addition to this failure, is the failure of consequence management on individuals who have negligently procured services in contravention of the policies and procedures and where the strict guidelines of the SCM framework have been blatantly ignored. Irregular expenditure because of this noncompliance must be addressed and individuals must be held accountable. The committee must be updated on the progress on these outstanding financial statements. The irony here is that there was less expenditure during COVID-19. So why the delay in completing these financial statements?

The committee recommends that the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) project must urgently be implemented in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. This is now a long outstanding issue that requires leadership to conclude. There needs to be a progress report in the Budget forum strategy or plan on improving spending on conditional grants, infrastructure spending and revenue collection. The committee also requires a progress report on the performance by the department on RT27 of 2019 for debt management purposes. This must include the status of the remaining four departments which have not participated in the contract yet.

In conclusion, there must also be a report on the assistance offered to departments and entities with the continuous records of audit qualifications within the province. This cannot be a continuous trend, as these individuals have been appointed and should be qualified enough to ensure that they are able to fulfil their functions within the municipalities and departments, or the recruitment process must be improved to ensure that the best and most qualified individuals who are able to perform these roles are appointed. Thank you, Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maharaj. Hon Rudolph Phala, your seven minutes starts now.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, for allowing me an opportunity to debate on the third and fourth quarter performance reports of the Department of Provincial Treasury in our province. I think other issues that are being raised that are not relevant to these quarters, the MEC, Hon Seaparo Sekoati, will adequately respond to when he gets an opportunity to respond to the debate.

For my part, I should thank Hon Makhurupetje, who just like Hon Lekganyane earlier, debated very well and covered most of the issues that we raised when we interacted with the department on those two quarters, which are the two final quarters for the financial year, 2020/21. They were covering that entire financial year – those two final quarters.

As we always say, without any fear of contradiction, that there is not much work in overseeing this department as confirmed by Hon Maharaj, as this Department of Provincial Treasury in Limpopo is the best performing department in the provincial government, and it is one of the best performing Provincial Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. We say that without any equivocation, without fear of contradiction, because that is the reality and that is why there are no matters internally.

Most of the matters concern other portfolios, other departments, and entities, including municipalities, and we essentially raise these matters with the Provincial Treasury as part of its function in terms of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 to also look into those and ensure that they are able to dot their 's' and cross their t's and do their work well in terms of legislation, to also perform better. This department, without any contradiction, without any equivocation is doing very well internally and externally in carrying out its functions in terms of legislation. That is why it is the best department in the province, and one of the best performing provincial treasuries nationally throughout the Republic of South Africa.

Some of the issues that we raise are external to it, and I think Hon Maharaj and Hon Makhurupetje touched on some of them. We were, in these quarters, focusing on the various categories of investigative reports that had taken place in the province, either by Provincial Treasury itself or by the Special Investigation Unit, or other categories of people who did investigations in the form of forensic audits and so on. We were following up on those, because most of them took place a year or so ago. Some people tried to forget about them, without taking action to remedy the situation that led to that calamity. It is a matter that is still on our agenda, we will continue to follow it up, so that moneys that were lost to the people of the province, through irregular expenditure and fruitless and wasteful expenditure and other categories of misdemeanours come back to the coffers of the province of Limpopo and serves the people of this province.

One matter that we were following up is the matter of consequence management, where officials and office bearers were found to have transgressed at one time or another in this area or another in this form or another. Those office bearers and officials, action must be taken against them. We raised that matter sharply in relation to finances because it is part of the job description of the Provincial Treasury. We follow that up to see how far consequence management has been done, because once consequence management is not done, that matter may occur again. We have seen that in the province, in various areas, matters occurring again in a similar fashion or form and no action. No strong consequence management action has been taken. It is something that is also on the agenda in these quarters of the financial year, 2021/22. We will continue to follow up on those matters until action is taken, so that there is progress in that regard. To that extent, Hon Speaker, I wish to thank you for the opportunity given to me to debate these two quarters.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, chairperson.

7.4. Consideration and Adoption on the following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

I call upon the committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I take this opportunity to table the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the First Quarter Performance Report of the department for the financial year, 2021/22. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much. Honourable Members of the House and Members of the Executive Council, Hon Premier, the Chief Whip of the majority party, I, Monama Rodgers, stand to second the chairperson of the Provincial Treasury on his presentation of the first quarter report. Thank you

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much. We then move to item 7.4.2 and call upon the committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, on behalf of and in the name of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, hereby move that the report of the portfolio committee for the Second Quarter Performance of the Provincial Treasury be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, chairperson. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first on the Speakers' List ... [INTERJECTION]

ADV PHALA

There must be a seconder first, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

[LAUGHTER] Thanks very much, Hon Phala. Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise to second the presentation by the chairperson of the portfolio committee on the second quarter report. Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Monama. Can we then move to the Speakers' List and first on the list is Hon Lebea. Your seven minutes starts now.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Speaker. "Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value. We must consult our means rather than our wishes." Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of this august House, blessed morning. The Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury has a constitutional obligation to oversee performance of the Provincial Treasury in the province. Steered by this obligation, the committee interacted with the Department of Provincial Treasury to consider the first and second quarter performance reports of 2021/22 financial year.

Having taken into consideration, allow me to deliberate on the overview of programme performances, budget performances, and the implementation of committee resolutions. We, amongst other programmes, took keen interest in Corporate Management Services, which is programme two. The purpose of the programme is to provide effective and efficient strategic management, administrative support, and sound financial management to the department. The programme was allocated R160,27 million, the expenditure for the quarter amounted to R34,82 million or 22% of the programme allocation and R38,698 million or 24% in the second quarter.

The committee found that all targets in the programme were achieved. We noticed recurring payments on invoices within a 30-day period, and systems put in place to ensure efficiency in that regard. Provincial Treasury had implemented a central collection point for all invoices sent or delivered to the department where receipt of all invoices was registered. During the quarter under review, it was found that 304 suppliers were paid an amount of R11,7 million within 30 days. The committee further took into cognisance that all targets were achieved as planned.

Under the Sustainable Resource Management Programme, it was found that one infrastructure assessment was conducted on support to local government to optimise the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) performance. The committee raised a concern about underspending on Conditional Grants and enquired about MIG performance in all municipalities. It was found that from a total MIG allocation of R2,952 billion in the 2020/21 financial year, R2,78 billion or 94% was spent on MIG, resulting in an underexpenditure of R171,3 million. Further, those nine municipalities applied for a rollover of funds with a view to secure remaining funds that were not spent in the 2020/21 financial year.

The committee further raised a concern about underspending on Conditional Grants as previously reported and found that the province was likely to surrender unspent grants during the adjustment period. It was reported that at the end of September 2021, the overall expenditure was low at R4,2 billion or 40,6% of the total budget of R10,5 billion. (inaudible) affecting conditional grants performance were compounded by the lack of capacity to plan, procedure and failure to manage the lack of processes and systems including capacity limitation to the supply chain and human resources division of the department.

In an endeavour to offer support as expected, the Provincial Treasury convened a workshop for Conditional Grant Task Team members for various departments with an

objective of improving spending on Conditional Grants. It is worth noting that non-spending on these Conditional Grants may attract unnecessary budget cuts in future if not addressed adequately, as the failure to spend on these national priorities in the province means that we are depriving our people of necessary and deserved services.

In our election manifesto, as the ANC, we committed that in the next five years, all ANC-led municipalities will invest in the upgrading and integration of informal settlements to further improve the quality of life as enshrined in the Freedom Charter; and furthermore, that we will mobilise funding for the rehabilitation, refurbishment, and replacement of aging infrastructure. Those sentiments were further echoed by the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, when he said: "We continue to honour the commitment to restore the dignity of our people by providing them with safer, well-located and decent housing. This will go a long way in improving the quality of life for our people, particularly the poor."

The ANC is concerned about the continued non-payment of rates and taxes by the departments to municipalities, which continues to affect the revenue support base in municipalities, as this affects the municipalities' ability to provide the much-needed services to the people of Limpopo. As the ANC, we have observed with great concern the non-compliance and lack of dedication by some officials in this department, which remains a challenge that negatively affects the smooth running of government. We call for strong action against those who continue to affect the smooth running of the department.

Lack of consequence management in the provincial government continues to foster a culture of non-compliance despite availability of relevant prescripts to curb it. As the ANC, we implore the MEC, Hon Sekoati, to ensure that there is adherence to relevant prescripts and further that there is consequence management. This is a clear illustration of one Communist philosopher, Karl Marx that: "History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce."

There was slow progress on financial recoveries made on the implementation of recommendations in forensic and other investigative reports, including slow progress on cases opened to that effect, is very worrying. The province is still faced with challenges pertaining to irregular, wasteful and unauthorised expenditures, which continue to deny our people of adequate and efficient service delivery.

After scrutinising both the first and second reports of the department for the period under review, the ANC welcomes both reports with the recommendation that the Provincial Treasury's Municipal Support Unit should intervene and assist in reconciliation of debts owed to municipalities by departments. Measures should be put in place to curb weak administrative systems, therefore internal control policy procedures should be strictly implemented and monitored to strengthen administrative systems. Consequence management must be effected and duly reported quarterly on the implementation of resolutions on forensic and investigative reports, including financial recoveries made and disciplinary actions taken against involved officials.

As we depart from this virtual august House today, let me borrow from the great mind of Karl Marx: "If we have chosen the position in life in which we can most of all work for mankind, no burdens can bow us down, because they are sacrifices for the benefit of all; then we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness will

belong to millions, our deeds will live on quietly but perpetually at work, and over our ashes will be shed the hot tears of noble people.”

As we prepare ourselves for the festive season, let us not forget the enemy that is still roaming the streets, COVID-19. Let us adhere to all regulations to protect ourselves and others. To those who will be traveling, journey mercies and may the good Lord bless and keep our families and loved ones. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. Hon Raphela, over to you. Your five minutes starts now.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks, Hon Speaker, mine is being monitored.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You are out of order, because I am monitoring everyone.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Some of the issues that we are raising have already been raised, even by previous speakers. We will just touch on them as well for this quarter. We are saying that 25% this quarter note a target in terms of the budget, and management details are required to show how they reported 22% translated to meetings. All targets including the compensation of employees are affected. Do the 304 suppliers represent all suppliers who were supposed to be paid in the period of 30 days? The House must act against those municipalities which failed to spend the MIG as raised when people are still waiting for the services. This incompetence permitted by this ruling class policies created a permanent situation of budget rollovers that we have been raising and failure to use funds as raised by the speaker before as well.

The non-payment of rates will soon become the order of the day in most townships as the billing system of municipalities, in particular Polokwane Municipality, that is headed by that one, is dominated by errors and overbilling as expected. That is an area in which he excels; overbilling and money going into pockets. This disorganisation discourages the community from continuing to pay for services. The above reality affects the ratepayers and does not include departments, which also failed to pay their municipal rates. We stress as well, like how the previous speaker stressed that consequence management must be effected on people who have the responsibility to undertake this task of paying these rates, but they do not. There must be consequence management. That is a challenge, and we are hoping that this will be taken into consideration by the department.

We also submit that all forensic and disciplinary cases which are being attended to at a snail's pace be submitted to this august House for us to monitor the implementation of such decisions with clear timelines. Inasmuch as it is debated in the committee, there is a permanent debate on issues that have been debated on in the committee without being resolved. The officials are comfortably flouting and undermining legal prescripts governing SCM. This is caused by failures of this government to tame their

deployees who continue to loot, milk and suck on the public purse through different means. Over 27 years, and we still have a situation where there was no contract monitoring, market research is not done purposefully, non-compliance to local production and content records, bids were received but not registered and not published, there were no central supplier database reports, no tax compliance on bids awarded, the three-quotation system was not used, outdated and standard billing forms were utilised, contracts were running without signed service level agreements.

We say it is in Limpopo where bidders receive false information or incomplete declarations on small business development agencies. Unfair disqualification is the order of the day as proven by the court cases and public outcry. Bids are awarded but not published. Service providers are awarded bids without the approval of accounting authorities, code of conduct was not signed by the bidding evaluation committee, and further, quarter procurement plan reports were not submitted to the Provincial Treasury as expected. Given the irregularities in most departments, it will be nearly impossible for them to be submitted to the Provincial Treasury as expected. All procurement of goods which were over R500 000, which were done through quotations instead of a tender, must be submitted to this House at some point for scrutiny in the manner in which things are done.

Lack of consequence management creates continuous multiple problems for the system which authorises the prepayment of assets which have not been delivered. All assets must be accounted for before the state loses some of the valuable assets to criminal syndicates disguised as ANC deployees. The EFF in Limpopo submits that all debts of employees must be reconciled, and repayment must commence with immediate effect. This will eliminate a scheme where thuggery is flourishing through various means including ignoring debts of employees until all the employees in the department have resigned. It is only a month after the departure that the department debts are reconciled.

A lack of dedicated departmental management staff in districts is also identified as a serious challenge. The large inequalities which are shown through the budget spending patterns does not inspire hope to a black child neither does it conform to the targets in addressing past imbalances and the employment of women, youth and people living with disabilities.

The EFF government, including state-owned enterprises, will abolish tenders, insource all security guards, cleaners, gardeners, drivers, and all general workers. Treasury must find means within the law to force maximum compliance as a matter of urgency. Failure to employ qualified personnel results in government being unable to update an appropriate statement. Adjusting the appropriation on economic justification did not correspond with the second adjustment budget. Instead, the average number of employees were not disclosed. Detailing of authorised expenditure were not disclosed, voted funds to be surrendered to the revenue fund were wrongly captured and captured liabilities were not correctly captured. The continuous disregard of PFMA and MFMA and findings being ignored serves as a means to collapse good accountable governance.

We submit, as we did previously, that section 100 expenditure be reported on, including condonations which were done to curb irregular expenditure which occurred

under section 100 previously. We demand that such a report be presented. The EFF has made accounting fashionable because it was never heard of before.

We wish you well, Hon Deputy Speaker, in your holidays and I thank you for the opportunity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Stop being defiant. I call upon Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. It is concerning that following the Shared Internal Audit findings, concerns have been raised with regard to the non-payment of rates and taxes by various departments to municipalities. This has a major impact on the revenue support base and cashflow within the municipalities to perform optimally in rendering services to the community. There are still far too many departments with staffing issues, but non-compliance and lack of dedication and accountability negatively impacts the smooth operation of government.

We call on the various HR departments to instil a culture of discipline, a culture of accountability and consequence management. This lack of consequence management is further embedded in a culture of noncompliance with the necessary prescripts to curb its recurrence. However, there appears to be a lack of political and management will. We need to create a culture of serving and accountability. One way we get back to basics is understanding that our various roles are to serve the people of our province with humility, respect, urgency, integrity, and trust. This culture must be embedded down into the various departments. We must ensure that there is a culture of consequence management where employees did not display values and services to the communities. The slow rate of progress on financial recoveries with regard to the implementation of recommendations in forensic reports, as well as other investigative reports including the slow progress on cases opened in respect of these is very concerning.

It is a further concern that whilst we have a shrinking budget, certain departments fail on the spending of the Conditional Grants. This requires intervention and a detailed explanation. The impact of not spending on these Conditional Grants may attract unnecessary Budget cuts in future if not adequately and urgently addressed. The negative impact it will have in the province on the service delivery aspect goes without saying. We seem to be failing with the arresting and addressing of the issue and challenges of unwanted expenditure. The impact of this, once again, is the denial of service delivery and efficiency in financial governance.

Whilst we welcome the Provincial Treasury's Municipal Support Unit, which will assist in intervening in the reconciliation of debts owed to municipalities by the various departments, it should be a concern that these municipalities do also have financial departments and finance managers at a huge expense to the taxpayers, who it now appears are not qualified to perform these functions, and now rely on the province to perform their roles. This can be argued as wasteful expenditure and speaks to the incapacity of the relevant individuals. We have seen this happen historically, where consultants were appointed to perform the functions of employees appointed in those

roles. We hope that during this exercise there will be a transfer of knowledge and skills so that we avoid this in the future and that employees are managed in accordance with their key performance indicators. There must urgently be measures and systems in place that curb the weak administrative systems. The internal policies should be strictly implemented and monitored to strengthen the administrative processes. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. I call upon Hon Phala, your seven minutes starts now.

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank you for giving me time to debate the first and second quarter performance reports of the Department of Provincial Treasury in our province of Limpopo. As we said, in relation to the other financial years and in relation to the third and fourth quarters of the year before this, the department has been doing very well for a number of years. Even in these quarters, their performance internally, as a department that has been running their own affairs, has been very good. That is why this department has been receiving clean audit after clean audit from the Auditor General who audits the books of government.

It is not by chance, by occurrence, by witchcraft, by flying on a broom, or by flying on a winnowing basket, it is precisely because of the work they do as a department in dotting the i's and crossing their t's, ensuring that they do their work to the best of their ability, committed to serving the people of our province. We have said a mouthful about that, precisely because it is not many times that the department does very well. That is why we spend time, and on many occasions, we lash at departments, particularly in the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and elsewhere because they do not do well. We spend time lashing at them, ensuring that they improve their affairs in running their funds and moneys. When a department is doing very well, it is for celebration by everyone, and we are very excited about that

Hon Lebea has debated very well and she raised the issues that we have raised in these quarters. She spoke very well in her concise speech as part of this debate. She raised the issues around follow ups we are making in relation to forensic and investigative reports. She raised issues about financial recoveries that we are following up that need to be done and the moneys that must come to serve the people of the province. She has raised key matters around consequence management, because once there are transgressions of the Public Finance Management Act and other legislation, what follows must be consequence management. Without that we will not be able to move forward, otherwise the issues that we raise may occur again. She has raised them very adequately and represented the portfolio committee very well, because those are the issues that were raised when we met with the department in the first and second quarter, to get a look at their performance report in the 2021/22 financial year.

For my part, as part of this debate and because this is the last Sitting, and the last debate generally for this financial year and this calendar year, 2021, in my name, and on my own behalf, I want to wish all Members of the Provincial Legislature and staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. They must drive safely and arrive alive. Follow

all the COVID-19 precautions so that we meet again in the new year during the State of the Province Address and at the work that we do – that of oversight and serving the people of Limpopo to the best of our ability.

Hon Deputy Speaker, to you the leadership of the Legislature, the leadership of the provincial government, Hon Premier, all the MECs, all chairpersons of portfolio committees, the Chief Whip, and the Whippers and all Members of the Legislature and staff, I say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson of the committee on Provincial Treasury for that message. Can we have the MEC for Treasury responding to the debate?

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, for giving me this platform. My fellow colleagues in the Executive Council and the august House, let me once again thank you for this opportunity to debate the third and fourth quarter reports. Once again, let me just say that we appreciate the leadership and the support we are getting from the portfolio committee in terms of guiding the work we are undertaking as the Provincial Treasury.

We want to thank the committee for having, over the years and over these quarters under review, been able to make sure that indeed, we were able to follow up in all those areas that have been raised. We also just say that, because most of the areas have been raised before, we do take counsel, and we will make sure that the issues of consequence management are followed up to the latter. We will make sure that those that are not doing well, get the reward that's due to them. We must also make sure that the municipal support that we are providing as Provincial Treasury, as expected by the Constitution, is undertaken to make sure that our municipalities comply and improve on good governance. We are also looking at strengthening the team that is looking at the issues of finance in municipalities to make sure that they are capacitated to do things on their own, and that wherever they are not doing well, they get the necessary support. However, with the partnership and in cooperation with CoGHSTA, we believe that we should see an improvement, as we are already seeing in most municipalities, particularly in terms of the audit outcomes. We must make sure that not only the audit outcomes, but also the allocations that are given to municipalities are impacting positively on the lives of our communities. We must be able to build better communities.

We have taken into account most of the issues raised by Hon Lebea, Hon Makhurpetje, and Hon Maharaj. As stated by Hon Kgolane Phala, the chairperson, they have been ably representing the committee and the issues they are raising are very pertinent to the work we are doing. However, it would be important to also say to Hon Raphela that as we are responding to some of the issues that you are raising, it is not because we take them to be of importance, it is because we are considerate of the fact that we need to close the knowledge gap and afford you the opportunity to learn. In future you will be able to raise matters within proper context, and in a manner related to the subject at hand. It would be important to create that platform for you to learn and be on par with the rest of the Members in the House.

With those remarks, Hon Deputy Speaker, I would also like to wish all Members a Merry Christmas. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC, for the response.

8. END OF YEAR CLOSING REMARKS

The closing remarks will be done party by party, and after that we will have remarks from the Premier on behalf of the Executive. We will start with Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of the opposition parties, honourable Members, and guests in the House, we are coming to the end of day 2021. Although we still have a lot of challenges with departments in the province, we will face these challenges in 2022. With the Omicron variant at this stage, only 8% of hospitalised patients get admitted to ICU. We are hopeful that this variant is much milder than the Delta variant. People should practise social distancing and be mindful of the season that we are in; of the pandemic and not be reckless.

Our roads are going to be getting busier and we plead with the people of Limpopo not to drink and drive. To the Health Department, emergency services and the traffic department, thanks for your assistance. During this festive time it is going to be extremely busy. We will keep you in our daily prayers. To the Hon Premier, Hon Speaker and honourable Members and the whole staff of the Legislature, best wishes for the festive season and best wishes for 2022. To the people of Limpopo, stay strong, we are here for you, and we are praying for you for a very good Christmas time as well. May the God Almighty be with us in this season and may we never forget the real meaning of Christmas time. I thank you. Baie dankie.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Wena le mang? Why do you say we are here for you? Wena le mang?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Baie dankie. Can we then have Hon Smalle?

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The year 2021 was a year of great challenges and personal sacrifices. COVID-19 has not made it easy for us as legislators to function and operate. Some of us in this House were directly and indirectly affected by COVID-19 and had to fight the virus or have lost family members, friends, or colleagues to this virus. As we have accepted to work to fight this virus, we continue to be vigilant by wearing our masks and getting ourselves vaccinated. We must thank our support staff in the Legislature, like committees who through their dedication, always made sure that

Members were able to continuously play their oversight role and also received administrative reports on time.

I also want to thank the hospital staff who do not have it always easy to assist our people and look professional by playing their supportive role. May all the staff, wherever you are, have a wonderful festive season, and may you find time to rejuvenate yourself for a challenging 2022 year ahead. The Democratic Alliance still calls on the Executive to hold themselves accountable to the high standards set by this august House, that they implement portfolio committee recommendations and further that they answer the questions Members have put to them through the rules that guide these proceedings.

My thanks also go out to all MECs and HODs that pick up their phones when we reach out to them. It has been a pleasure working alongside each one of you. We must improve the type of reports we debate on and caution that it does not become a tick-box exercise. To all 49 Members, I want to congratulate each one of you who took the effort to enrol or complete your studies. It is a clear indication that you want to serve the people of Limpopo to the best of your abilities.

Take the necessary precautions against the COVID-19 virus for you and your family wherever you will be traveling to and staying during your break. Have a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. To all the officials that will be safeguarding our province during this festive season, thank you for giving your time and your efforts to the people of Limpopo and thank you for putting Limpopo always first. Thank you and may God bless you all.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I call upon Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. We are closing and going into January 2022. Those who collapsed GAAL have not faced any consequences to date. More than R100 million has been paid for work not done, even before work could be done in Marapong. To date the project is incomplete and getting vandalised. We have people in this House being pointed out by the Public Protector as corrupt and having used public funds irregularly, yet no consequence management has been taken. RDP houses are incomplete and those contractors who did shoddy work continue to receive extra projects from CoGHSTA. The pensions of the employees of Great North Transport have been squandered. The workers from Great North Transport buried their loved ones with literally nothing after having saved for so long. Denied themselves nice things with the hope that what they are saving will send off all their loved ones with dignity. To date no consequence management has been taken against those who committed such despicable acts.

RAL has irregularly used more than R500 million not allocated to certain functions. To date, there is no consequence management. More young people in Limpopo are without jobs, painfully, including graduates. Those trying business are closed out. The once economically vibrant province is now the dullest province. We have nothing to show and be proud of as this House, as leaders of the people of Limpopo. SAPS in

Mogalakwena works with big businesses such as mines, and those developing sites in the area of Mogalakwena, and when the people of Mogalakwena complain, they continue to be harassed by the authorities. SAPS in that part of the province is in the pockets of mines, Anglo Platinum and Ivanplats. The leadership of government is aware of this and is doing nothing.

Money is surrendered. Today it is raining. Members of the House are sitting comfortably in our houses. There are people sharing rain with robots and corners of shops. We are told today some people came here and want to be clever with English and justify returning money. Some of them claiming to be communists. Money allocated must be used, you cannot under no circumstances justify returning money. People have no houses. We have seen the Chief Whip on a very comfortable couch. There are people, women, and children on the streets in this very brutal weather. Yet money is being returned and some people want to play English with that, and no one is being taken to task about that. We are here defending one another, because of the organisation we belong to. We are quiet now, here. There is the X5 that was driven by the Deputy Speaker, which got into an accident and the House is not taken into confidence as to what has happened? Now, R70 million for agriculture has been allocated to Neotech without proper consultation, and nothing is said about it. It is about to be swept under the carpet.

On the issue of Talana, no one is being taken to task about that. Consequence management and action against those who are doing wrong continue to use decorative concepts to speeches of Members of this House. These amongst others tell us that we are not in charge of providing service delivery to our people and we do not care. Ours is to come here and pull stunts on our experience in the revolution and our experience in the organisations without using such experience to empower and better the lives of our people.

The EFF will, in 2022, deal extensively with these issues like it has been doing before, and this time, we will go an extra mile. We call on the Premier to use this time to reflect on what needs to change in this House so that everyone becomes accountable and our people grow hope in us again.

We wish all the people of South Africa in particular Limpopo, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We call on fighter Douglas Ngobeni of Cosas to action what he said, when he said that these people must ambush those places where ANC leaders will be splashing money, drinking expensive alcohol at the expense of volunteers, who continue to work tirelessly for this country to safeguard democracy. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I call upon Hon Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Buthane; honourable Members of the House, let us take this opportunity to greet you once again. We had a whole year of deliberations in this House and one wasn't expecting that at least for once, we would be wishing Merry Christmas and Happy New Year without (inaudible 2:54:28)

However, we understand that it will be harder to find more, especially from the Leader of the Opposition. As we have indicated, receive our revolutionary greetings, as we are officially concluding what has been another year of grievous sorrow. A year of economic stagnation, but most importantly, a year that has continued to teach us about the importance of brotherly love towards each other.

We started the 2021 calendar year on a painful note, as the COVID-19 pandemic entered its second wave, which continued to flush the human race from the face of the earth. However, amid all this, we continue to thank God for sparing those of us who are still here and the ANC-led government for doing all it could to save the lives of the citizenry. In these difficult times, we must consciously visit the words of Martin Luther Jnr., when he said: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" As the House rests today for the festive period, let us continue to do good and brighten the little corners that we occupy and assure the people we represent in this House that tomorrow will be much better than today.

It was a fairly quiet year on many fronts as a consequence of the various lockdown levels as necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic altered the way we interact as people and how we deliver services to the people. It has affected the business of this House and had somehow rendered it less effective. However, we remain grateful for the commitment and compassion that government continues to display in its quest to keep its commitment of providing diligent and flawless services to the people of South Africa. We have waged a fierce battle against this pandemic, and we are appealing for the indulgence of the people of South Africa, and Limpopo in particular, to take heed of our call and vaccinate to contain the eruption of this virus.

As we are heading into the festive season, let us remain exemplary in conduct and behaviour and discourage social gatherings and other activities which could become super-spreaders and accessories to this pandemic. As we dispatch to our respective homes, holiday adventures and various destinations, we must continue to carry with us the spirit of resilience, as espoused by Cde Oliver Tambo, the fierceness of Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, and the determination of Mama Charlotte Manna-Maxeke, as we chart the wayforward to up the fight against this pandemic.

We owe it to our people to preside over a clean government that must give them decent services to restore their dignity. Our developmental agenda must continue, whether this House continues with Sittings or not. As lawmakers, our people have pinned their hopes and aspirations on this collective to continue to serve them diligently. We dare not fail them in that regard.

We, therefore, want to wish you a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year including the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Joseph Buthane. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you for that moving message. We will now move to the next item which is the remarks by the Premier on behalf of the government to the people of Limpopo. I call upon the Hon Premier.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, please allow me not to use my camera because this gadget does not allow me to do both at the same time. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip of the majority party, Deputy Chief Whip and all the whips, leaders of the opposition political parties, honourable Members, we are today closing a curtain on what has been a difficult, punishing, and unpredictable year. Indeed, the year 2021 was a difficult year. One that was difficult for most of us, if not all of us. Without a doubt, 2021 was a difficult year for individuals, households, business and for government itself.

The implementation of most of the government's work was to a greater extent impacted upon by the ravaging Coronavirus pandemic. Every sector of our society has taken a knock or a pinch from the effects of COVID-19. At some point, it appeared that the war against this invisible enemy was being won, until the Omicron variant emerged lately. The pain and disruptions caused by this virus is unimaginable. However, we can all accept that government has put its best foot forward in attempting to mitigate the effects of this virus. Our Vaccine Rollout Programme has been our best mitigating mechanism against the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this case, I want to thank the leadership of our President, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, for leading the charge in ensuring vaccine availability in this country.

South Africa is counted amongst the very few countries in the world, particularly in Africa, where vaccine availability is beyond satisfactory. We also want to thank our people, the residents of Limpopo, who have availed themselves for their jab. It is indeed a scientific fact that vaccines save lives and prevent severe illness from the virus. The other truth is that whereas COVID-19 is a pandemic, it has become more of a pandemic to be unvaccinated also. Available data shows that most of the people who are hospitalised from this virus are those who have not yet been vaccinated, or who have refused to be vaccinated. As leaders in this House, we must continue to urge our people to vaccinate. We should be at the forefront in dispelling the myths and misinformation about vaccines.

The year 2021 was also an election year. Just over a month ago, the people of this province and the people of our country voted in yet another edition of the local government elections. On behalf of our government, I want to take this opportunity to commend the IEC in the province for having conducted a free, fair, and credible election. This was a very difficult election for the IEC to organise. The IEC literally had under 45 days to organise these elections. In addition, this was also the first election which was organised under the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, once again I want to say to the IEC that you have delivered and you have done well. There is no doubt that the IEC has delivered on its legislative and constitutional mandates. Indeed, managing and delivering a free and credible election is a strategic ingredient for peace and political stability of every nation.

It would be a grave injustice if I do not commend the people of Limpopo for having gone out to cast their votes. Participating in elections is a lifeblood for a living democracy everywhere in the world. I want to salute all the residents of Limpopo who voted. I also want to take this opportunity to commend all political parties and independent candidates who participated in this election. Your participation is important for the growth of our democracy. We congratulate those who have won some seats and all PMTs which have been duly elected. I particularly want to

congratulate the ANC for receiving such a resounding mandate from the people of this province. As you all know, the ANC has received the majority of votes in all municipalities in this province.

To all elected councillors, I want to repeat what I had said before. The people who elected you do not expect you to go to council and start serving a party-political agenda, or a personal agenda. Councillors are elected to ensure that the people have clean drinking water. Councillors are elected to ensure that municipal finances are managed properly and accounted for. Councillors are elected to ensure that there is regular refuse removal in your communities. Our councillors are elected to ensure that our municipalities stimulate local economic growth so that jobs and other opportunities can be created. None of the councillors are elected to serve friends, family, and relatives. As the provincial government, we will continue to offer support to councillors and to all our municipalities, irrespective of whether it's a hung municipality or not.

This Legislature therefore rises as the socioeconomic devastation caused by the Coronavirus is unfolding. Most of our people are facing a bleak festive season, because of the consequences of this virus. This will be a festive season where most of our people have lost jobs. It will be a festive season, where most of those who work have had to have their working hours and salaries reduced. It will be a festive season, where most of those who are self-employed are finding it very hard to make ends meet. It will be a festive season, preceded by the shutting down of so many doors of small and medium-sized businesses. Our people are generally finding it hard to survive in these conditions or under these conditions. This is a reality that we must confront as lawmakers in this House.

This reality imposes an obligation on all of us in this House to work together in order to navigate our province out of the devastating socioeconomic web caused by this virus, or this pandemic. The time for finger pointing exercises is not now. This is now the time to unite in action. Our people expect nothing less from all of us. They are looking upon this collective for solutions to all their day-to-day challenges and that is what we must exactly do.

Having gathered here today, we are elated and highly motivated by the recent audit outcomes our province received from the Auditor-General. During the recent briefing with the Premier, the A-G did not mince her words when she reported that Limpopo has excelled both qualitatively and quantitatively. I hereby congratulate the following departments and entities for receiving clean audit opinions: Office of the Premier; Treasury; Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; Transport and Community Safety; and the Gambling Board. The Legislature has since regressed from a clean audit to an unqualified audit opinion, followed by the Department of Health which has regressed from an unqualified audit opinion to a qualified opinion. Other departments and entities in the province have maintained their audit status. As we repeat, there are no disclaimer audit opinions in this province. Limpopo remains a disclaimer-free province. We are celebrating this outcome because a few years ago it was a pipedream to talk about quality audit opinions in Limpopo. Honourable Members will remember the times of section 100 and before. We have never enjoyed this kind of quality audit opinions from the Auditor-General. However, today we are here congratulating all those who worked hard to sustain their quality audit outcomes. Being political beings and administration, it is our generational mission moving forward to ensure that we sustain our clean audit opinion and improve from our unqualified and

qualified audit opinions. What all of this means is simply that the public purse here in Limpopo is in safe hands.

On this important note, I wish to put concrete expression into my belief, that quality audit opinions must at all times translate into delivery of quality basic services to our people. As and when I am saying this, I must also hasten to say that it is good for the opposition parties to do their job of opposing when the need arises; but it is also critical and important for our mandate and those who elected us, that opposition parties as and when they oppose us, they must not be economical with the truth.

I must state here and now that at Talana, for example, it cannot be correct to come here and parade in this House and say there were no consequences at Talana, when we know very well that there were criminal charges laid and people were arrested because of the Talana problem and are appearing in court. It cannot be correct. There are many of them that I can relate where we have been economical to the truth. But for the purposes of my mandate today and the time that you've given me, I prefer not to do that.

As the House takes a break, I wish all Members a restful break and I trust that you will come back in the next year with a renewed sense of commitment to serve your people as you always did. I also wish you a happy festive season and safety and responsibility on the roads as and when we traverse our roads. I also implore those of you who managed to save for the holidays, Hon Buthane, to consider spending your holidays and your money in the province. Once again, enjoy the break. We hope to see you in the new year, refreshed and ready to tackle the challenges of 2022.

Most importantly, we rely on you to continue the spread of the message for all people to vaccinate against COVID-19. Let us continue to remind our people that COVID-19 is still vicious and alive. Let us not tire from speaking about the significance of wearing a mask, social distancing and ensuring basic hygiene. Most importantly, let us go out there and lead by example. Be exemplary. Inkomu. Ro livhuwa. I ndlopfu ya hina. Re a leboga, Hon Speaker. I thank you. Baie dankie.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Premier, for that incisive message to all of us and I hope that we have internalised it. Honourable Members, on behalf of the Speaker and the Presiding Officers of the Legislature we would also want to thank you for your cooperation throughout the year and making us to be able to manage the work of the Legislature so efficiently and we hope that we will continue with that spirit as we enter the new year. We also want to express our wishes for the Christmas break, and we urge Members to continue staying safe and taking care of themselves so that they can come back in one piece. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We shall now call the Hon Chief Whip for item 9.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

9. RISING OF THE HOUSE

I want to move that when this House rises today it shall sit again at a time determined by the Hon Speaker and the Hon Premier. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I suppose there are no announcements. If there are any, please can we have them. Hon Che Selane, you are recognised.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members are currently notified that we have scheduled committee meetings for next week to adopt outstanding reports. The committee meetings will be concluded by Friday, 17 December 2021, and we urge all Members to attend those meetings whenever they are called to do so.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I thank you.

11. ADJOURNMENT

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

On that note, the Sitting is adjourned until further notice. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]