



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

ANNUAL HANSARD REPORT, 2022/23

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

OF THE

FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

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.

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.

This **Annual Hansard Report, 2022/23** is compiled and edited by **Hansard & Language Section** and published and distributed by the **Limpopo Legislature**:

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MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL [CABINET]

Office of the Premier	Mr C S Mathabatha [Premier]
Education	Ms M M Lerule-Ramakhanya
Health	Dr P C Ramathuba
Social Development	Ms N A Ndalane
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	Mr G R Monama
Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure	Ms C N Rakgoale
Transport and Community Safety	Ms F F Radzilani
Agriculture and Rural Development	Mr T A Mokone
CoGHSTA	Mr B R Makamu
Sport, Arts and Culture	Ms N G Kekana
Provincial Treasury	Mr S C Sekoati

OFFICE-BEARERS OF LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

The Speaker	Ms R R Molapo
The Deputy Speaker	Mr T B Matibe
The Chief Whip	Mr M E Mokgonyana
The Deputy Chief Whip	Dr S M Mochadi
The Chairperson of Committees	Ms N S Monyamane
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 Limpopo Legislature	Mr S Mothoa

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

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

1. Aphiri, Mokgadi Johanna	ANC
2. Boshielo, Shela Polly	ANC
3. Buthane, Modikane Joseph	EFF
4. Kekana, Nakedi Grace	ANC
5. Lebea, 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, Nkholo Victor	ANC
20. Mathabatha, Chupu Stanley	ANC
21. Mathe, Simon Matsobane	ANC
22. Mathye, Susani Violet	ANC
23. Matibe, Tshitereke Baldwin	ANC
24. Matlou, Leswafo Joshua	ANC
25. Mdaka, Falaza Philemon	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. Mamorobela, Tebogo Portia	ANC
3. Mathevula, Brenda Tirhani	EFF
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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Pasquale, C G (Ms)

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3. Daily Hansard, 2022 March 01
4. Daily Hansard, 2022 March 03
5. Daily Hansard, 2022 March 08
6. Daily Hansard, 2022 March 22
7. Daily Hansard, 2022 March 24
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28. Daily Hansard, 2022 November 17
29. Daily Hansard, 2022 November 22
30. Daily Hansard, 2022 December 24
31. Daily Hansard, 2022 December 29

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
VIRTUAL SPECIAL HOUSE SITTING
TUESDAY, 08 FEBRUARY 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

THE SPEAKER

Good morning, honourable Members. Can I have your attention, please! Honourable Members, I suggest that we start with our Sitting.

Good morning once more.

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

We shall now take this opportunity to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. Honourable Members, before we can proceed with our programme, I want to give a clarity about the purpose of this Sitting. This sitting is called in accordance with Rule 25 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature in order to process the special business affecting the operation of the Limpopo Legislature and the National Council of Provinces.

Firstly, we have to process the reconstitution of committees and their Members. This is entailed by the resignation of Hon Mitleni and the swearing in of Hon Matibe. Furthermore, the changes to committees that were brought up by the EFF necessitated the need for the reconstitution of committees and their Members.

Secondly, we have called this special Sitting to process the appointment of the NCOP Permanent Delegate, which was necessitated by the resignation of Hon Matibe as the NCOP Permanent Delegate.

According to Rule 225 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature, the House must appoint the Permanent Delegate; hence the urgent need for this special Sitting. Thank you. I wanted to clarify that before we proceed.

We can now proceed with our programme. Again, I wish to indicate that as per the resolution of the Programming Committee, based on the fact that this is a special Sitting, we will not have motions today.

[THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISPOSED OFF AS PER THE RESOLUTION OF THE PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE:

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE;
3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS;
4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS; AND
5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS]

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

There is none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Motion for the Reconstitution of Committees and their Members

I call upon the Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing us to move this motion. The motion is on the Report of the Rules Committee on the Reconstitution of Committees and their Members. The Rules Committee considered the reconstitution of committees and their Members in its meeting held on 25 January 2022.

These changes emanate from the resignation of Hon Mitileni as the Member of the Limpopo Legislature. Hon Matibe T B was sworn-in as the Member of Limpopo Legislature on 20 January 2022 to replace Hon Mitileni. Hon Matibe will serve in the committees that were assigned to Hon Monama G R, while Hon Monama will serve in committees that were assigned to Hon Mitileni W G. This implies that Hon Matibe will chair the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration. He will also serve in the following committees: Transport and Community Safety; Health; and Oversight Review Mechanism.

On the other hand, Hon Monama will chair the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. He will also serve in the following committees: Sport, Arts and Culture; Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; and Health.

Because the House was not in session, the appointment of Hon Matibe and Hon Monama to committees was made in accordance with Rule 37(4) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature.

Furthermore, the Rules Committee sat again in its meeting on 04 February 2022 to consider the reconstitution of committees and their Members. This was necessitated by the changes brought by the Economic Freedom Fighters.

Hon Raphela George will also serve as a member of the Rules Committee and Programming Committee forthwith. Hon Mohlala Charles will serve as a member of the Social Development Committee, while Hon Seshoka will also serve as a member of the Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Committee.

The Rules Committee hereby submits the attached reconstituted committees and their Members before this honourable House for consideration and adoption.

I, therefore, move for the adoption of the reconstituted committees and their Members by this honourable House.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Can we call for a seconder? I could only see a hand, and it is written number 37, but I can't see the name ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Madam Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, honourable Member.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

It is Hon Buthane.

THE SPEAKER

Okay, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I move for the adoption of the amendments of the committees.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.2 Motion for the Nomination and Appointment of the NCOP Permanent Delegate

Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good morning to honourable Members. Let me take this opportunity in this special Sitting to sincerely welcome Hon Baldwin Tshitereke Matibe in his first Sitting of the Limpopo Legislature.

Hon Speaker, Rule 225 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature provides that the House must appoint Permanent Delegates in accordance with section 2 of the National Council of the Provinces, which is Permanent Delegates Vacancies Act, 1997.

Accordingly, I, Mmanoko Essob Mokgonyana, move to nominate Ms Portia Tebogo Mamorobela with an ID number attached as our Permanent Delegate for the National Council of Provinces. The nomination of Ms Portia Tebogo Mamorobela was necessitated by the resignation of Hon Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin as the Member of NCOP.

I, therefore, move that this honourable House should adopt the nomination of the appointment of Ms Portia Tebogo Mamorobela as the Permanent Delegate to the NCOP.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Can we call for a seconder to the motion? Anyone whose hand is up is recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, hereby support the motion presented by the Chief Whip that Hon Tebogo Mamorobela be appointed as the Permanent Delegate representing the Limpopo Legislature in the NCOP.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje, for seconding the motion. This is our last item on the Order Paper. Are there any announcements? [INTERJECTION]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, the nominee must accept the nomination. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Thank you for the advice. Hon Mamorobela, can you accept or decline the nomination?

MS MAMOROBELA

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, Portia Tebogo Mamorobela, with an ID number written there, hereby accept the nomination and appointment as the Permanent Delegate to the National Council of Provinces representing the Limpopo Legislature. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mamorobela, for accepting the nomination. You are now a full Member.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? There is none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This Sitting is adjourned until further notice. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 11:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Whilst you are still standing, we shall call for the singing of the National Anthem.

[NATIONAL ANTHEM]

Thank you very much. You may all be seated. Honourable Members and guests, good morning. Let me take this opportunity to welcome honourable Members to the 2022 Limpopo State of the Province Address. I would also like to welcome our guests and the people of Limpopo and beyond, and those who are following the proceedings on radio and via social media platforms.

Honourable Members and guests, kindly note that precautionary measures have been put in place to ensure that we comply with the COVID-19 protocols. In addition to these measures, we further request all honourable Members and guests in the Chamber to sit at the designated areas and to always wear your masks and sanitise. Thank you.

Honourable Members and guests, this Sitting is convened in terms of Rule 13(1) and (2) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature in order to afford the Premier of the Limpopo province the opportunity to deliver the 2022 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 and the First Lady, Mrs Maggy Mathabatha. Members of the Executive Council present in the legislative chamber are most welcome.

I also wish to take this opportunity to welcome my partner, Mr Molapo; the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon Jerry Ndou and the Chief Whip of the House, Hon Mokgonyana; honourable Members of the Limpopo Legislature; Members of the National Council of Provinces and leaders of opposition parties. You are most welcome. Let me also acknowledge the presence of the Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoši Dikgale; the Kings and Queens present here; the Executive Mayors and Speakers of the district municipalities present here. I also acknowledge the presence of the heads of chapter 9 and chapter 10 institutions in Limpopo; the chairpersons and CEOs of state-owned entities; the provincial commissioner; the Directors General and the heads of department in Limpopo; the Secretary to the Legislature, Mr Mothoa; our guests who have connected via social media and various communication platforms; the media houses; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen; comrades and compatriots, you are all most welcome.

Today is a big day for the people of Limpopo and everyone in this province is eagerly waiting for the Premier's address. I wish to take this opportunity to invite the Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, to deliver the State of the Province Address. Mahlatji, the podium is yours. [APPLAUSE]

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY**2022 STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS (SOPA)**

(Address by Hon C S Mathabatha, Premier)

Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker of the Legislature; Members of the Executive Council; the leadership of the ruling party, the African National Congress; the leaders of opposition parties; Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoši Dikgale; the Bapedi Kingdom represented by mmago rena, Hlapogadi'a Phaahla; the Vhavenda Kingdom representatives; all our esteemed traditional leaders; former MPs and MPLs; Director General and heads of department, stalwarts and veterans of our liberation struggle; our Provincial Commissioner of Police; my special guest, General Rudzani Maphwanya; Chief of the South African National Defence Force; [APPLAUSE] heads of our chapter 9 and chapter 10 institutions; leadership of religious communities; members of the media; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, I greet you all. Allow me as I start with my speech to wish a very happy birthday to Mr Matjile Mamosebo from Marulaneng'a Hlagase GaMphahlele, who is today turning 105 years old. Re a go reta, morwa Koma. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, we are standing before an expiry of time. We have been through the worst, and we have seen the worst. We have seen and experienced a deadly pandemic devastating our economy and destroying our people's livelihoods. We have lived through various stages of a pandemic that has stalled progress and growth. A pandemic that has reversed the gains which have been accumulated over the years. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an unprecedented loss of human life. Many people, particularly those in the informal economy, lost their jobs and thousands were exposed to the risk of extreme poverty. We have seen a situation where breadwinners lost jobs, fell ill and died. This has left dependents exposed to poverty, the indignity of life without a household income and related hardships. While COVID-19 caught us off-guard, our collective response was swift and equal to the challenge at hand. Nevertheless, we can see a new direction which is being pointed out for us to embrace, and a new journey for us to embark upon.

Ancient Greek mythologists speak about a life of a bird called a phoenix. According to the tale, a phoenix obtains a new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor. Like a phoenix, Limpopo shall rise from the ashes of the devastation caused by the Coronavirus pandemic in order for it to embark on a fresh journey of economic growth, social development and prosperity for all the residents of this beautiful province.

It is in this context that we meet here today to chart a renewal path for our province. To achieve our aspired growth levels, to support employment creation and to fortify our fight against poverty and inequality, we need to promote growth-enhancing plans. We are steering our economy to a green, resilient and inclusive developmental path, in line with the National Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and the Limpopo Socio-economic and Recovery Plan. Central to these economic recovery efforts, is to position Limpopo as an investment destination of choice for both domestic and foreign investors. This will help to enhance the much-needed creation of employment, particularly for our young people. We are hard at work to strengthen the implementation of the provincial procurement strategy. The strategy promotes the production and

consumption of locally produced goods and services. It is through this strategy that we aim to reach the goals of economic empowerment of designated groups, which include women, youth and people living with disability. We believe that this approach will go a long way in stimulating local economy and creating jobs for our people.

Stimulating the growth of our economy is high on the agenda of this government. As part of our response to the devastation I have referred to earlier on, our provincial socio-economic recovery plan is anchored on the industrialisation of the province through mega projects in the manufacturing, tourism, and agricultural sectors. This plan will also pay special attention to various Fourth Industrial Revolution support programmes. The total investment and interventions by this economic recovery plan is projected at around R170 billion. This investment and intervention are projected to create over 48 000 jobs in the next five years.

In addition, the implementation of the Limpopo Industrial Master Plan has also received R208 billion in investment pledges from the recently held Limpopo Investment Conference. This will go a long way in helping to industrialise our province and thus creating the much-needed jobs for our people. Our approach is to make sure that these pledges or commitments are translated into tangible projects which would create value and impact to the provincial economy. From these commitments, already the Masingita Group had pledged R5,46 billion for the construction of the Nkuna Smart City in the Collins Chabane Local Municipality. In this regard, I am happy to report that construction of phase 1 of the Nkuna Smart City has already commenced. This project is anticipated to create 585 construction jobs and 325 permanent jobs.

Through an investment value of R1,2 billion, Sefateng Chrome Mine is rolling out underground mining infrastructure in Sekhukhune. The project is anticipated to create 350 construction jobs and 600 permanent jobs during full production. I am also happy to report that Ivanhoe Mines is also living up to its investment commitments. To date, the company has already spent R7 billion of the R9 billion commitment on mining infrastructure in the Waterberg Region. Here ladies and gentlemen and honourable Members, we are not just talking commitments. We are not just talking promises. We are not just talking about something that we are intending to do. We are talking about something that is already happening on the ground. We are talking about something that has got tangible evidence that you can see and point at on the ground.

With an investment value of R250 million, the construction of the Amazin Hotel in the Capricorn Region is expected to commence in September this year. This project will create a good number of jobs both during and post construction. The Shekinah Lion and Game Lodge has already spent R47 million of the R60 million commitment for this hospitality project in the Waterberg Region. Once in operation, the facility will create permanent jobs through hospitality services. ZZ2 had pledged R128 million for the construction of a packhouse in Mopani Region. So far, a total value of the R128 million commitment has already been spent. The packhouse is expected to be fully operational in April/May this year. This project is expected to create 250 jobs when fully operational. These are all the commitments that were made during the investment conference that we convened at the Ranch Hotel in Polokwane.

Through the national spaza shop relief fund, we were able to support 1 247 spaza shops across the province. This has helped to inject financial support and cushion small businesses in our rural areas and townships against the effects of COVID-19. One of the major investments we have had to make, as the provincial government, was setting aside R3,5 billion to mitigate against the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and the population at large. The larger proportion of this funding was allocated to the social cluster; that is, Health, Education and Social Development.

The future of modern economies is premised on accessible and reliable broadband infrastructure. This is about the deployment of high-speed internet access for private homes, businesses, commercial establishments, and public institutions such as schools and health facilities. It is against this background that we have been working on the deployment of broadband network infrastructure across the province. On the other hand, our national government has recently approved the roll-out of the second phase of the South Africa Connect project. The approved second phase will be rolled out using state-owned entities, that is; SITA, Broadband Infraco, Sentech and the Industry. This project forms part of government's commitment to bridge the digital divide, especially in rural communities and advance the digital economy.

The participation of the private sector will also address the transformation of the sector by involving all relevant role players in the electronic network sector. As a province, through the Limpopo Connexion, we have completed phase 1 of the broadband project, including the development of investment models and strategies for project bankability and sustainability. The investment partner will be on board during the 2022/23 financial year. The partner will assist the Limpopo Connexion in expanding the network footprint across all corners of our province. The total project investment is estimated at an amount of R1,7 billion.

As a province, we recognise that information and knowledge supported through state-of-the-art information and communication technology is critical to support service delivery and the achievement of the developmental goals. Our approved five-year Limpopo e-government strategy implementation plan lays a solid foundation for digital transformation in the provincial administration to enhance technical capacity. Our objective is to build a capable and ethical developmental state with the requisite capacity to serve the people diligently. This will help improve the delivery of government services to the people. Among other projects, the process to digitise files and records throughout the provincial administration has been rolled out. For instance, we have started in healthcare; e-learning in education and e-licencing service in transport.

Another key success is the migration from the analogue to digital television broadcasting signal. Limpopo is now one of the provinces in which the switch from analogue to digital broadcasting signal has been completed. The transition will not only make available access to multiple television channels at high audio and video quality but will also create new job opportunities. Already job opportunities have been created for local installers and technical support teams in the province.

After a long journey of pursuing the establishment of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, we are proud to announce that finally the project will be officially launched this year. This follows the granting of the environmental authorisation by the relevant authorities. This milestone will unlock the unlimited opportunities for the provincial economy. We have already set aside R600 million towards infrastructure rollout in the north site of the project, in Musina town. I think my friend, K C Kaunda, will be very happy to hear this.

The manufacturing, agro-processing and logistics hubs of the project are finally taking off the ground. We are well on track in turning the Musina-Makhado Corridor into a melting pot of industrial activity. In keeping with the global policy shift on energy generation and our commitment to sustainable development, our SEZ has embraced the net-zero carbon emission goal by introducing green solar power. In December 2021, the Musina-Makhado SEZ secured an investment commitment for the first phase of the energy generation project to install a multi-billion 1 000 megawatts solar power plant to support the metallurgical complex. In the same vein, we have made significant progress towards securing water resources for the SEZ. This includes engagements with Zimbabwe and other SADC member states. We are also excited about the

partnership with the Vhembe TVET College to build its Musina Satellite Campus inside the SEZ. The partnership will contribute significantly to empower the youth in technical and vocational training. We really need to retool our young people and prepare them for the needs of our economy. That is very critical, honourable Members.

Progress towards the designation of Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ is at an advanced stage. The completion of this designation will go a long way in contributing to our employment creation imperative. Already 21 companies with a potential to invest R45 billion and create over 8 000 jobs have shown interest in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. The first phase of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ, covering 316ha, will integrate the expansion of an already existing industrial hub focusing on building a mining-input-supplier precinct.

In an effort to strengthen our investment in the provincial industrial parks, we are working together with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition to industrialise our provincial economy. I am therefore proud to announce that both Seshego and Nkowankowa will host our digital hubs programme. This is designed to bolster digital training and create jobs within the broader national infrastructure development programme. The project will help to equip young people with skills and knowledge to prepare them for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The hubs will serve as training centres for community members, provide access to information and communication technology facilities, and enable incubation mainly for young entrepreneurs operating in the ICT sector. Central to the objectives of this digital hub initiative is to provide the youth and the unemployed access to information and communication technology. The business plan for Seshego digital hub has been finalised and Limpopo Connexion has been appointed as the operator of the hub. Modelling and layout plans have been finalised. The construction of the Seshego Digital Hub will commence in this financial year at a project cost of R23 million.

Madam Speaker, during the recent State of the Nation Address, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, emphasised that the digital economy will increasingly become a driver of growth and a creator of employment. In that context, as Limpopo, we have completed the rollout of a requisite infrastructure, comprising a data centre, a network operating control centre and a contact centre. A total of 52 sites have been connected to the networks using both fibre and satellite technologies. The establishment of the Limpopo Science and Technology Park, which is a visionary and catalytic project to transform our provincial economy is well underway. Once completed, it will be a major driver of the province's competitiveness.

Through the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), we managed to provide incubation support to over 100 SMMEs with over 60 per cent youth-owned enterprises. In the process we were able to create 279 employment opportunities benefitting youth, women and people living with disability. In addition, we were able to provide similar developmental support to 100 cooperatives and 32 of these cooperatives are youth owned. This tailored support to cooperatives assisted to sustain around 690 employment opportunities. Don't forget that last year we spoke about the youth master plan, and now we are putting flesh to that youth master plan. We are operationalising it. We are proud to announce that we have assisted around 77 youth-owned enterprises to access development finance. Development finance is a necessary start-up assistance that most emerging businesses need.

Mining is one of the strategic economic competitive edges of our province. It is in this context that through a partnership between Corridor Mining Resources and Sefateng Chrome Mine, the mine is now expanding and growing underground. Once fully operational, this mining project will contribute to the economic development and empowerment of the surrounding communities and the province at large. When it reaches full operational stage, the mine will be able to produce 30 000 tons of chrome-ore a month, creating around 500 direct jobs. Through Corridor Mining

Resources, we are also in the process of finalising the second phase of public participation that will help towards the finalisation of the application of the mining rights for Tshepong Chrome Mine. In this regard, we have completed a bankable feasibility study and the results are positive. This means that there is enough chrome-ore that can be mined for a period of at least six to seven years, through the underground mine system. I think these are good news for the people of Limpopo.

Madam Speaker, ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Premier, just a second. Hon Buthane, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am sorry, Hon Premier. Madam Speaker, we are on duty here. We can't have Hon Mokone and Hon Mdaka sleeping. They are affecting us. We are on duty here. Why do they come and sleep on duty? We are working here. Please, can they wake up. Hon Mdaka and Hon Mokone, wake up. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members. Hon Premier, please continue.

THE PREMIER

Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Hon Buthane has got a new look. [LAUGHTER] Re a go lebogiša mošemane wa gešo.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you.

THE PREMIER

Hon Speaker, during our recently convened mining and energy conference, a resolution was adopted that all the mines that were placed under care and maintenance of our province, should be reopened for production. Following the conference in December 2021, the joint venture partners in Bokoni Platinum Mine, Atlatza Resources and Anglo-American Platinum, announced that they have entered into a sales agreement with African Rainbow Minerals. This transaction is still subject to regulatory approval. We expect the process to be completed this year, creating around 3 000 jobs. Dilokong Mine already has new owners who have commissioned an independent study towards opening production very soon. We hope to see the mine reopened and operating to full capacity, creating the much-needed jobs. De Beers continues to invest in the province and because of this investment the life of its mining operations in Musina is extended to the year 2046. That is 24 years from now.

As part of our strategy to ignite the broiler production and processing industry in Limpopo, we are now finalising signing a lease agreement to operate the Lebowakgomo chicken abattoir. I can confirm that this state-of-the-art abattoir will finally start operating around June this year. This facility will open doors for aspirant and existing broiler producers in the province. It is expected

that the operation of this abattoir will create around 500 jobs through the entire value chain. The facility will itself create 150 permanent jobs.

With regard to Tshivhase Mukumbani Tea Estates, we are looking into the possibility of replacing tea with a more viable and profitable commodity that will sustain the project and restore jobs for that local community. It is very clear to us honourable Members that tea is no longer that kind of commodity that can create a demand that will pull the required supply that we have currently in that area. That concept of the supply following the demand and not vice versa is being emphasised here. You must have a situation where you create for a particular market. Where you produce for a particular market. You don't just produce and say I will see whom I will sell to. You produce because you know that there is demand for your product. That is why we are saying we need to change to diversify that project and produce something else that can create its own demand.

We have previously spoken about the resilience that we witnessed in the tourism industry in the past two years. Tourism in Limpopo contributed to economic growth and employment. As we are aware, COVID-19 impacted negatively on the tourism sector. The Tourism Sector Recovery Plan, which is incorporated into the Limpopo Socio-economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, has facilitated implementation of key projects aimed at achieving recovery in the tourism sector. We are looking forward to the sector benefitting from the easing of COVID-19 restriction and reaching population immunity through mass vaccination. The Limpopo Tourism Agency will continue leveraging on major events and partnerships such as the international golf event, Limpopo Championship and the DStv Premiership. These events have in the past, and even now continue to profile Limpopo as a great tourism and sporting destination. In the same breath, we are also calling upon our municipalities, and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture; Hon Moraka, to ensure that Sekhukhune United is back in the province. [APPLAUSE] That is because it is currently playing elsewhere in Gauteng due to the fact that we don't have facilities in Sekhukhune. The club must come back. So, we need to sit down and see to it that we have got a facility that can make them come back.

Madam Speaker, about three months ago, our people participated in a democratic exercise to elect new municipal councillors. As always, our elections were incident-free and credible. In this regard, I want to thank all the stakeholders, including the Independent Electoral Commission, Ms Mateta in the province, the police, traditional leaders and school governing bodies for their contribution. I also want to take this opportunity to commend all the political parties and independent candidates who participated in this election. Your participation is important for the growth of our democracy. I have already reminded our newly elected councillors that their election to different councils is not a party-political achievement or a personal achievement, but an invitation to serve the people of Limpopo first, and nothing less.

Our councillors have been elected to ensure that the people have clean drinking water. They have been elected to ensure that municipal finances are managed prudently and are accounted for. They have been elected to ensure that there is regular refuse removal in our communities. The mandate of our councillors is also to ensure that our municipalities stimulate local economic growth so that jobs and other opportunities are created in that space of our governance. As the provincial government, we are working closely with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) to implement the municipal Back to Basics approach.

In line with this approach, we expect municipalities to:

- Put people and their concerns first and ensure constant contact with communities through effective public participation platforms;

- Create conditions for decent living by consistently delivering municipal services of the right quality and standard;
- Be well governed and demonstrate good governance, cut wastage, spend public funds prudently, hire competent staff – very important, ensure transparency and accountability; and
- Ensure sound financial management and accounting, and prudently manage resources.

Our municipalities are also expected to play a leading role in executing the District Development Model, which is being championed by our own President, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa. We are saying this because every single development that takes place in our country, does so on a municipal space. There is no development that can happen outside a municipal space.

Madam Speaker, municipal infrastructure development is a key driver for growth and development and a critical enabler of economic growth. The development of infrastructure, particularly infrastructure at a municipal level, contributes significantly to human development, poverty reduction, and the attainment of the development goals as captured in the Limpopo Development Plan and the National Development Plan. Our municipalities are expected to invest more in the development and maintenance of water, sanitation, electricity, and road infrastructure. That is why through Roads Agency Limpopo, as the provincial government, we have managed to fix the roads in Mahwelereng Township, in Mogalakwena because we feel, and we believe that government is one; and governments must complement and supplement each other where there is no capacity. [APPLAUSE] It is for this reason that we continue to support and monitor how our municipalities perform on their spending of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). As you know, the MIG aims to eradicate municipal infrastructure backlogs in poor communities in order to ensure the provision of basic services. In the past years, our municipalities have been performing above expectations with regard to their MIG spending. However, since the advent of COVID-19, MIG spending has been negatively impacted. By December of 2021, our municipalities had spent just over 41% of their MIG allocation. This was against a mid-year target of 54%. Despite this, it is however worth noting that there are municipalities which have performed well with regard to their MIG spending. These municipalities are: Capricorn District Municipality at 55,1%; Elias Motsoaledi Municipality at 56,1%; Blouberg Local Municipality at 63,1%; Maruleng Local Municipality at 63,8%; Makhado Local Municipality at 66,5%; Collins Chabane Local Municipality is one of the stars, at 92,1%; and only after, Greater Tzaneen at 94,1%. [APPLAUSE]

We cannot overemphasise the significance of spending on infrastructure grant as this is directly linked to service delivery, particularly the delivery of basic services such as water, electricity and sanitation.

One of our standing commitments, has been to ensure that our municipalities are well governed and that finances are properly accounted for. We continue to work with our municipalities to ensure good corporate governance in that important sphere of our government. The recent municipal audit outcomes show that the governance and the financial management of our municipalities are improving. We have come a long way since the days of adverse and disclaimer audit opinions. The latest audit results by the Auditor-General show an improved picture.

For the past two to three years Limpopo has proved to be a disclaimer-free province. [APPLAUSE] Out of the 19 municipalities whose audits have been completed 14 have received unqualified audit opinions, with only four being qualified, and one clean audit. In this regard, I would like to congratulate the Waterberg District Municipality for achieving a clean audit for the 2020/21 financial year. [APPLAUSE] The audit process is still going on for Mopani District Municipality,

Sekhukhune District Municipality, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, Greater Giyani Local Municipality, Mogalakwena Local Municipality, Lephalale Local Municipality, Bela-Bela Local Municipality and Polokwane Local Municipality.

Honourable Members, as a province we pride ourselves in the institution of traditional leadership with which we continue to work together; and enjoy a cordial relationship and guidance. In the past two years, the institution of traditional leadership has had to make unprecedented but important decision to suspend the annual programme of initiation schools because of the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic. This contribution has helped us to protect the health of our people and to save lives. In the same vein, I am happy to announce that the province has finalised the establishment of the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC). We have established this in line with the dictates of the Customary Initiation Act of 2021. This will assist us with the coordination of all initiation schools, practices, and activities. We are finalising the amendment to the Limpopo Traditional Leadership and Institutions Act to align it to the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act. We are also working on a plan to establish traditional councils in line with the provisions of the new act.

We also continue to provide infrastructure support to traditional leaders. To that effect, I am pleased to report that the construction work of the traditional council offices is proceeding very well. Recently, we completed the construction of Masia, Mphaphuli and Ditlou Machidi traditional council offices. The completion of Mogashoa traditional office is underway following the termination of the previous contractor due to poor performance. The new contractor is already on site and work is progressing well. Re thakgola masolo, Gobetse. [LAUGHTER] In the next financial year, we will commence with the construction work for the following traditional council offices: Bakone ba Matlala in Capricorn; Majeje and Ramphahlelo in Mopani; Bakwena ba Matsepe and Manoke in Sekhukhune; Davhana in Vhembe; and Bakone Traditional Council in Waterberg.

There is no doubt that we are well on track in ensuring that we help this important institution of traditional leadership to carry out its work as custodians of our culture and tradition. In the same vein, we are concerned about the challenges that continue to characterise the institution of traditional leadership, especially the three kingdoms and other traditional councils across the province. As we have always said, the vacuum created by these leadership uncertainties continues to cause governance and leadership instability in the affected traditional communities. Once more, it is our call that we resolve these problems. Mathata a mošate a swanetše go lokišwa ke bamošate. Rena balata, rena bahlanka, rena setšhaba re kgone go ba šala morago. Bapedi ba re ge ba bolela ba re; ge mošate o tšwile sekaku balata kamoka re a šanka.

Education is the backbone of economic growth, development and prosperity. It is in this context that as government, our task is to ensure that access to education, particularly basic education, is not unnecessarily impeded. We do this by monitoring the implementation of policies that support the opening of doors of learning. These policies include the no-fee school policy, the school nutrition programme and the scholar transport policy. In addition, we are working to ensure that those who enter our education system are assisted to succeed. We do this by availing supportive schooling infrastructure, ensuring that schools have well-trained and qualified teachers, and by ensuring that learners are supplied with relevant learner-teacher-support material, among other measures.

The 2021 Grade 12 results have given us a cause for concern. This has also given us an urgent assignment to focus our attention on education. We are worried that the overall pass percentage has dropped to 66,7%. Nevertheless, the quality of our results remains resilient. It is no surprise that Limpopo has featured in the top 5 provinces which have produced the most bachelor passes.

Even more notable from our results is that for the first time in many years, there is not even a single public school that has produced a 0% pass rate.

Madam Speaker, as I have alluded to earlier on, this drop in Grade 12 results must be arrested. To that effect, I am convening a Provincial Education Lekgotla next month to help us find long-lasting solutions to this challenge. The work has already begun, with my office having convened technical committee workshops, with experts and stakeholders in education last week. The envisaged Provincial Education Lekgotla should, amongst others, focus on:

- Holding accountability sessions with the district and circuit managers on performance of their respective districts and circuits;
- Intervention strategies to improve learner performance across the system;
- Holding those responsible, more especially the principals accountable for underperformance in accordance with the provisions of the law;
- Providing support to schools in implementing promotion and progression policies, and;
- Implementing focussed intervention strategy to improve learning outcomes across the system, in particular, provide support to progressed learners and other learners at risk.

In the past few years, we have given focussed attention to some key infrastructure projects across the province. These include the construction of the Limpopo Academic Hospital, the construction of the provincial theatre, the delivery of housing units for the poor, the relocation of Sekhukhune district offices from Capricorn to Sekhukhune District, school sanitation programme, eradication of pit latrines in our schools and the construction of traditional council offices. We are making visible progress regarding all of these infrastructure projects. With regard to the construction of the academic hospital, we are grateful to the Polokwane Local Municipality for a piece of land they have since donated which will be our construction site for this state-of-the-art facility. This will be a site for a 488-bed hospital constructed with associated clinical support. Over R4 billion has been budgeted for the construction of this facility. I am also in the process of interacting with the national government to expedite the implementation of this project.

In the same vein, the youth of our province and the artistic community at large have been waiting for too long for a visible and meaningful progress with regard to the construction of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre. I am able to report here today that the Polokwane Local Municipality is at an advanced stage with the process of this establishment at Bakone Malapa which is earmarked as the site for this project. A total of R123 million has been set aside for the construction of this project. The construction is earmarked to commence in the second quarter of the 2022/23 financial year. [APPLAUSE]

Regarding school sanitation infrastructure, for the period under review, we have managed to complete sanitation infrastructure at 135 schools across the province. Construction of similar infrastructure is still underway at about 27 more schools. We have re-advertised for the construction of additional 47 new school sanitation infrastructure for the year ahead. These school sanitation projects are being implemented with a budget of R455 million. In addition, our partnership with Mvula Trust is implementing sanitation projects at around 203 more schools across the province. This project is implemented at a value of R162 million.

The delivery of housing infrastructure is part of our government's agenda to restore the dignity of our people, particularly the poor. For the period under review, I am able to report that we have

delivered 3 108 houses to the poor and the needy. This means that over 12 000 more people now have a roof over their heads. In addition to this we have delivered around 1 948 fully serviced sites for those who are able to build houses for themselves.

The envisaged relocation of the Sekhukhune District offices from Lebowakgomo to Jane Furse in Sekhukhune is at an advanced stage. Following the delays in the securing of community resolution, I have appointed high level task team of three MECs to lead this project. I am happy to report that they have since found each other with the traditional leadership and are finalising the necessary community resolution for this project to commence in earnest. It has been very difficult I must say, honourable Members; to reach this particular stage.

Quality road infrastructure is an important enabler for growth and development. It is in this context that building new roads and maintaining our existing road infrastructure is a priority for this government. Through our Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) we continue to build quality roads that make lives of our communities better whilst raising admiration from the rest of the country. On 8 February 2022, we hosted the President of South Africa, His Excellency Matamela Ramaphosa, who witnessed the state-of-the-art road constructed using labour-intensive methods. During his recent State of the Nation Address two weeks ago, President Ramaphosa expressed delight at the manner in which the road was constructed. In his words, the President said: "This road was constructed using block paving and other materials, which is a method that enables us to build durable roads faster and more cost-effectively."

Accordingly, I can proudly report the following progress on some of the road infrastructure projects we committed in the previous State of the Province Address:

- The rehabilitation of D1589 from GaKgobokanang to GaMakgato and De-vrede in the Capricorn District is at 98% completion;
- The rehabilitation of road D2537 in Penge in the Sekhukhune District is at 51% completion;
- The rehabilitation of road D4150 in Praktiseer in the Sekhukhune District is at 65% completion;
- The rehabilitation of road D11 from GaMamaila Kolobetona connecting the R81 in the Mopani District is at 58% completion; and
- The rehabilitation of 27 km road D3840 from Giyani to Phalaborwa in the Mopani District is at 67% completion.

I am also happy to announce progress with regard to:

- The construction of a new bridge on road D2219 in Steelpoort which is in the preliminary design stage;
- The construction of the bridge 6116 in Makuleke is at 99% practical completion;
- The rehabilitation of road D3200 from Lebaka to Mohlabaneng is at 56% completion;
- The rehabilitation of road D4 from Elim to Malamulele is at 59% completion;
- The rehabilitation of flood damaged road D4240 in Maseven in Sekhukhune is at 49% completion;
- The rehabilitation of 40km road, D1483 from Musina to Pondrift in Vhembe is at 40% completion;
- The upgrading of roads D2922, D2919 from Keerom to Tshikanosi is at 99% practical completion;
- The upgrading of roads D3727, D879, D1356 from Mashamba to Tshitale to Morebeng is 100% completed;
- The upgrading of road D3688 from Khubvi to Tshidzivhe in Vhembe is 100% completed;
- The upgrading of road D4253 in GaMasemola in Sekhukhune is 100% completed;

- The upgrading of roads D3187 and D3843 from Mageva to Makhuva, Mopani District is 100% completed;
- The upgrading of road D3200 from Mokwakwaila to Mawa, Mopani District is 100% completed;
- The upgrading of road D3377 from Limburg to Matlala, Capricorn District is at 98% completion;
- The upgrading of roads D3232, D15 and D3150 from Morebeng to Sekgosese is at 93% completion;

During the 2022/23 financial year and the 2023/24 financial year, we will commence construction work on some of the following roads:

- D4180 Atok Mine, from GaSelepe to Modimolle in Sekhukhune;
- D4109 from Mamatonya to D885 in the Capricorn District;
- D3278 from Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek in Capricorn;
- D3561 Segole 1 and Segole 2, from Masebe Nature Reserve to N11 Waterval in Waterberg;
- D4260 from Malope to Phokwane in Sekhukhune;
- D3669 Mavhunga access road in Vhembe;
- D3734 Tshatshama road in Mopani;
- D4090, D4093, D4094, D4096 Malimate roads in Capricorn;
- D4199 from Apel to GaNkoana to D4190 in Sekhukhune;
- D3436, D3428, D5007 in GaRamoshwane, GaRammetlwane, and GaRamotlwana in Capricorn;
- D3248 Thapane access to N'wamitwa in Mopani;
- D4283 from Glen Cowie to Malaka in Sekhukhune; and
- D3671 from Musekwa to Maranikwe in Vhembe.

The complementary relationship between quality road infrastructure and reliable public transport system cannot be overemphasised. It is with this in mind that we are continuing with the implementation of the Great North Transport's turnaround strategy. This strategy is aimed at repositioning GNT as the most reliable, affordable and sustainable public transport entity for the people of Limpopo. This strategy is expected to assist a vast majority of the people of Limpopo because the vast majority of the people in Limpopo depend on GNT buses to commute daily to various destinations and for various reasons. During the year under review, we have approved additional recapitalisation amount of R216,5 million to support GNT's financial and operational recovery. Here we are not just throwing money to GNT, we are funding a plan, a strategy, a recovery plan, a turnaround strategy which will be quantifiable. Once you call it a plan, it means it has got time frames. So, the question, for how many years, becomes very irrelevant.

The relationship between quality outcomes and a supportive schooling environment is inseparable. It is for this reason that we are proceeding to deliver on our commitment to build high quality school infrastructure. In this regard I am able to report that:

- Construction work is progressing well at the Alldays Primary School in Blouberg. The progress on the project is at 54% completion stage;
- Construction work is at 55% for Leduma Mahume Primary School in Phokwane;
- Progress on the construction of Marude Primary School in Thulamela Municipality is at 30%; and
- Construction is also proceeding well at Gidela Primary School in Giyani, Naledi ya Meso Secondary school in Dikgalaopeng and Mahlagaume Primary School in Bothashoek.

All these projects are expected to be completed in the 2022/23 financial year.

For a rural province such as ours which is blessed with abundance of arable land, agriculture has to play a leading role in the growth and development of our economy and ultimately, in creating more jobs for our people. Our plan for the revitalisation of agriculture and agro-processing value chain is anchored on four objectives which include the task to:

- Increase production through revitalisation and expansion of key commodities;
- Ensure the transformation of the agricultural sector through the promotion and support of Black producers in key commodity industries;
- Increase the participation of black producers in the domestic and export markets; and
- Broaden and increase the participation of black producers in the agricultural value chain.

Last year, we spoke about the programme of the revitalisation of irrigation schemes as part of our task to increase agricultural production and improve food security. We have since made meaningful progress in this regard. The Mogalatjane Irrigation Scheme has planted over 80ha of cotton and 30ha of dry beans in the 2020/21 planting season. The 2020/21 production season created 50 seasonal jobs.

With regard to our commitment to develop value chains in respect of grain and cotton in Sekhukhune, vegetables in Mopani, red meat in Waterberg, and potatoes in Capricorn, I am able to report that:

- Red meat farmers on Tweefontein communal land under Mogalakwena red meat cluster were assisted with livestock infrastructure which include fencing, animal handling facilities and water source development;
- Immerpan farmers under Modimolle-Mookgopong red meat cluster, operating on a total of 5 415ha received support to address the water problem on the farms. The support included water abstraction system and reservoirs, reticulation lines across the farms, and a multi-purpose facility for the storage of animal production inputs;
- The Witpoort farmer production support unit is expected to expand the support for these red meat farmers. The farmer production support unit will provide a cluster of services which include livestock auction facilities, mechanisation services and training centre for the farmers;
- We have completed phases 4 and 5 of infrastructure support for vegetable farmers in the Gravelotte, Selwane and Prisca cluster under the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality;
- Masalal farmer production support unit is currently at 90% completion, and it is expected to provide services to the farmers in this cluster and surrounding areas. The services relate to production inputs, mechanisation, value adding, training, marketing and technical advice; and
- In the Capricorn District, we have provided support to four potato farming projects to support agricultural production and job creation.

Madam Speaker, with regard to the revitalisation of the Zebediela Citrus Estate, we have since concluded a partnership agreement between Bjatladi CPA and Humansdorp Cooperative for the revitalisation of the citrus orchards. I hope it is not going to collapse again. We are working in partnership with the impact catalyst to develop a master plan for the sustainable development of the Zebediela Estate. It is envisaged that the master plan will be completed in the new financial year to support several enterprises with various private investors. As part of our programme to

introduce and support young people into the agricultural sector, we have placed 120 young unemployed agriculture graduates on commercial farms to equip them with practical experience.

There can be no denial of the fact that there is a close relationship between the health of our people and the attainment of social and economic goals. A healthy nation is a progressing nation. Our government is therefore committed to the task of health promotion, prevention of diseases and providing rehabilitative services to those who are ill.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has presented itself as the biggest public health threat of our time. Defeating COVID-19 is therefore a task at the apex of our priority list. Currently, vaccination is our most effective weapon to fight against this killer pandemic. We are simply not spoiled for choice when it comes to weapons against COVID-19 pandemic. Our province has done fairly well when it comes to the assignment of rolling out lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines. As things stand, Limpopo has managed to administer 2,9 million COVID-19 doses. This represents an adult first dose coverage of 52%. The more pleasing news is that with regard to the age population of 60 and above, we have managed to fully vaccinate 68% of that vulnerable group. [APPLAUSE]

I need to commend the municipalities of Thabazimbi, Molemole and Letaba who have done extremely well with regard to the task of vaccination. Letaba has recorded 68% full vaccination; Molemole has recorded 75 % full vaccination and Thabazimbi leading at 81%. [APPLAUSE] Except for the three, all other municipalities have equally performed well, averaging from 50% to 67%. The worst performers are Collins Chabane at 36%, Fetakgomo-Tubatse at 39% and Ephraim Mogale at 41%. Bapedi ba ba gešo ba tšhaba tšhwana. I want to challenge leaders in these municipalities from political leaders, religious leaders, traditional leaders and business leaders, to work together in driving the vaccination message.

There is no better defence against COVID-19 other than being fully vaccinated. We have since expanded our vaccination programme to the primary healthcare centres. In this regard we have 200 primary healthcare centres which are offering COVID-19 vaccination on daily basis. It is because of our aggressive vaccination campaign led by our one and only MEC, Dr Phophi Ramathuba and her team that we have managed to reduce COVID-19 mortality rate and admissions in our facilities. This has helped us to lessen the impact of COVID-19 in our facilities and on our provincial economy. I call on those who are not yet vaccinated to go out and take their jabs. Evidence has proven that vaccines save lives.

Madam Speaker and honourable Members, when this government was inaugurated, I promised the people of Limpopo that we were to embark on an important journey of building a capable, ethical and developmental state. In this regard, we committed to fight against corruption in government, wastage and mismanagement of public resources. We also committed to fight against inefficiencies and red tapes in the system. We believe that a capable, ethical and developmental state will enable us to realise the developmental objectives contained in the Limpopo Development Plan. When we are called upon to act against corruption, maladministration and mismanagement, we do so without fear or favour. We do so without regard to a person's social standing or status in government or in society.

Recently, the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), has released a report relating to the probe on the allegations of misuse of COVID-19 funds across all spheres of government including in our province. I must state here that that the SIU has also indicated that in the country, it is only Limpopo and the Western Cape that has got the least of irregularities. I also wish to commend all whistle blowers across our provincial government departments who sounded the alarm and provided information to the SIU investigators. We commend you for your patriotism.

I agree with President Ramaphosa when he said: “The submission of the final report is an important step in our fight against corruption in the public and private sectors, and against maladministration”. For our part as Limpopo provincial government, we are committing to the full implementation of the recommendation made in the SIU report. In fact, we have already started. We have already instructed that those whom they say we must charge, the process has already started. In this regard, we will work with the National Prosecuting Authority to support all envisaged prosecutions of wrongdoers. We will support the Asset Forfeiture Unit in their mandated task of recovering every single cent which was stolen from our government. We will ensure all recommended disciplinary proceedings take place swiftly and without undue delays. No one will be shielded from accountability and resultant consequences. The theft or misuse of public resources is a cancer that we are committed to uprooting. Like I always say, we are winning the fight against corruption, fraud and maladministration. Our fight against that toxic mix is serious, and we will never be deterred from fighting on.

Limpopo provincial government is committed to promoting better accountability, prudent and effective utilisation of public resources. We are committed to enhance the performance of government departments and institutions, for better and improved services for the residents of Limpopo. We made a vivid commitment to the people of Limpopo to continuously improve the financial performance of our provincial government. Evidence is showing that we are living up to this commitment. The financial performance of our government is improving for the better.

In her own words, the Auditor-General said this about some of our government departments and entities: “A culture of basic accounting disciplines embedded at the Provincial Treasury, the Office of the Premier, the provincial Department of Transport and Community Safety and the Limpopo Gambling Board enabled them to sustain their clean audit. We also commend the Provincial Treasury, which achieved a clean audit outcome for the fifth consecutive year.” [APPLAUSE] It is the Auditor-General who says that. It is against the abovementioned background that we have adopted special measures including the sharing of best practices, and targeted support to assist the Limpopo Economic Development Agency, the Department of Health, Department of Education and Gateway Airports Authority Limited to improve their audit outcomes. That is because out of all the 15 provincial entities, it is only those four that got qualified audit opinion. No disclaimer, no adverse audit opinions. The rest got unqualified and clean audit outcomes. [APPLAUSE]

I remember when we first landed in 2013, the instruction that the Premier got from the then President was: “Premier, Kuyanuka kubolile eLimpopo. Go and correct that situation. The only thing that I want out of you is to stabilise the finances of that province.” Today, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, I want to say to the people of Limpopo, we will never ever go back to 2013. [APPLAUSE] Our financials are stable; systems are in place and there is no reason that anybody who takes over after us can reverse the progress made.

We need to recognise the role played by military veterans in our struggle for freedom and democracy. In honouring their sacrifices, I have established an Inter-Ministerial Task Team ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Premier, may you please take your seat. Hon Buthane, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, I am just taking advantage of the Premier’ speech. Since they said: ‘Kuyanuka kubolile’ in 2013, because I can hear he is done on corruption, can he give us just half a person

that he has arrested for that. Just half a person, not a person, half a person. Because this thing of just speaking, it is just a perception. It is not helping us. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members. Honourable Members, I want to respond to Hon Buthane. He knows very well that he is not allowed to interject the Premier whilst he is on the platform. Hon Premier, can you proceed please.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ndo livhuwa nga maanda. Ha khensa. Ha khensa ngopfu. We have already had fruitful engagements with various organisations representing military veterans. The provincial government is finalising a plan aimed at programmes that would uplift and enhance the living conditions of our military veterans.

Limpopo is known and revered across the country and beyond for being a peaceful province. We are indeed a province of peace, stability and tranquillity. It is our goal as government that no one in this province should walk in fear of violence or any form of criminality. Working with the SAPS's General Hadebe and our community policing structures, we continue to make life unbearable for criminals. Our particular attention today is focussed on gender-based violence. Gender-based violence has reached unprecedented levels of brutality and barbarism. Perpetrators of this violence are becoming more vicious with each day that passes.

We have seen women being killed in their homes. Women are killed on the streets. Women are victimised at workplaces and women are even killed at police stations, for that matter, while reporting gender-based violence incidences. We simply cannot afford to fold our arms and watch as women of our country become endangered species. I am inviting all sectors of our society; from the religious community, traditional leadership, NGOs, political parties and everyone to join hands with government in confronting this vicious monster called gender-based violence. This is a fight we cannot afford to lose, ladies and gentlemen.

There is also a strong relationship between violence and substance abuse. The fight against the abuse of alcohol and drugs is also a fight for a peaceful and orderly society. This war will be taken to those who proliferate drugs in our communities. Working with the South African Police Service, we will continue to hunt those who manufacture and distribute these deadly substances to our children. We have seen what drugs such as "nyaope" have done to our children. We cannot continue to watch this episode unfold as if we are helpless. We will fight back, and we will fight hard.

Limpopo will continue to rise. We have started a journey of rebirth and renewal. We are emerging from the ashes of yesterday into the glorious days of tomorrow. Like a phoenix, Limpopo will rise again, rejuvenated, reenergised, and refocused. However, our rise will not be mythological, our rise shall be real and tangible. We will rise and arrive at a desired destination of a better life for all. Limpopo will rise to live up to the promise of our Constitution, the promise of equity and equality, the promise of social security, the promise of dignity, and indeed, the promise of prosperity. The signature mark of our rise shall be social development, economic growth, the creation of the much-needed jobs; and the reduction of unemployment, inequality and poverty.

The residents of Limpopo will feel this rise when they all have reliable access to water, when they all have access to decent sanitation facilities, when they are guaranteed food on the table every single day, when they go to sleep without a fear of crime or violent attacks; and they will feel this

rise when they all have a roof over their heads. Through our collective effort and hard work, we will make Limpopo to rise from a desert of hunger and want, to an oasis of abundance and prosperity. Let us continue the partnership to build the Limpopo we want, a reborn and a rejuvenated Limpopo, a Limpopo which will rise high to the promise of freedom. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Order Members! Thank you very much, Hon Premier, for delivering the 2022 State of the Province Address to the people of Limpopo. Re a leboga, Mahlatji. We shall now call upon the Hon Deputy Speaker to make announcements.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are only two announcements to make. Firstly, due to the COVID-19 regulations, we have arranged food packs for Members and the invited guests. Our protocol team will direct Members and invited guests to where they should get those food packs.

Secondly, I would like to let the honourable Members know that the debate on the State of the Province will be held on 01 March 2022, which is next week, and the Hon Premier will then respond on 03 March 2022. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

4. ADJOURNMENT

This Sitting is adjourned, as the Deputy Speaker has indicated, to Tuesday, 01 March 2022 at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 01 MARCH 2022
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.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No problem, Madam Speaker. I have a serious concern. You entered that door in silence. There is a ... [INTERJECTION] Wait, I am not talking to you, Hon Phala! You were the Speaker long time ago. They removed you.

Hon Speaker, you entered through that door silently, and it is unprecedented. I don't know whether Mr Ngobeni must go back and call out "Hon Speaker" or what must happen.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, it was announced.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Was it announced?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, unfortunately, you did not hear him.

ADV PHALA

[inaudible]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

They were making noise. Sorry, it was unprecedented. I thought it was a matter we needed to speak to. Former Speakers must not make you worry; they know their sins.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you for your concern, Hon Buthane.

Honourable Members, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. As agreed in the Programming Committee, we will discard motions and statements so that we can have enough time for the SOPA debate. However, we will go through all the items just for recording purposes.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? There is none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of House 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

We are now on the debate of the Premier's State of the Province Address. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Radzilani. [APPLAUSE]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Aowa, ga ke lwe le wena. I want to understand something. Hon Speaker, thank you very much. I am just saying, it is wrong to debate and respond to the Premier's address in his absence. He has started with his tactics tša go tšhaba mmereko. O a mmona?

THE SPEAKER

Okay.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

It is wrong. We can't be responding to the Premier in his absence. It is wrong. He can't do that.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, the Premier is on his way. For now, Hon Charlie Sekoati will represent the Hon Premier. Can you allow Hon Radzilani to proceed, honourable Members?

MS RADZILANI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Premier, Hon Chupu Stan Mathabatha who is still on the way; Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker of this august House, Hon Jerry Ndou; Members of the

Executive Council; Chief Whip of this House and the Deputy Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition; honourable Members of this august House and those in attendance, public members and government officials, blessed morning to all of you.

Hon Speaker, the State of the Province Address provides an opportunity for all of us as representatives of the people to express these views on their behalf to the leadership of government. Hon Premier, we should use this opportune moment to thoroughly engage with the programmes of government as presented by yourself in this past week and move away from grandstanding and hogging unnecessary attention to ourselves.

This moment should be about the people who voted for us to represent them in this House and must have little to do with ourselves pursuing our political agendas for selfish ends. Premier Mathabatha's State of the Province Address took place as the global community grapples with the ramifications brought about by the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has not only taken people out of work, but it has also altered how the world interact with each other. The crisis brought about by the eruption of the COVID-19 pandemic has been exacerbated by the current global development in Europe where Russia has launched an onslaught on Ukraine. It remains to be seen on how this geopolitical catastrophe will affect our economy. We are already feeling its pinch with the price of petrol and other commodities said to increase in the next few weeks.

We welcome the Premier's announcement about the work that the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) is undertaking to investigate corruption in the procurement of PPE while the rest of us were contending with the realities of COVID-19, its ramifications to the economy and how it closed families and got some people out of work. There are some rodents who saw an opportunity to pursue their wicked ways and stole from our people. Corruption persists in our society despite the proliferation of legal institutional and other measures that have been put in place to fight it. The cancer of corruption has, therefore, spread exponentially with devastating socioeconomic and governance consequences. Honourable Members, as you pounce on those that are found to have stolen from our people, Hon Premier, be assured of our unwavering support.

Premier Mathabatha's State of the Province Address to the people of Limpopo was infallible in so many ways and touched on all the basic societal necessities. His address was frank and honest. It was not concealing or sugarcoating the challenges facing our people. It reminds me of Ralph Waldo Emerson's sonnet called "Success" which reads as follows:

"What is Success?

.....

To earn the appreciation of honest critics
and endure the betrayal of false friends;

.....

To leave the world a bit better, whether by
a healthy child, a garden patch
or a redeemed social condition;

To know even one life has breathed
easier because you have lived;

This is to have succeeded."

Hon Premier, in your address to the people of Limpopo, you touched on pertinent aspects of the economy that seek to address the bread-and-butter issues and economic frustration that confronts our people daily. Honourable Members, even though we can say, the task of job creation lies with the private sector, but we must also understand that this means that we should all speak to the end of our bargain in an endeavour to create employment for the majority of our people. Government also has a task of relieving financial resources into the market as an economic propeller and an enabler of economic growth. The private sector's role should be complementary to the baseline that government should create.

Government also has a responsibility to build a solid foundation for the economy to thrive, i.e., by creating a safe environment and business-friendly policies that will help to harness economic growth. The Premier's address, honourable Members, was a clear demonstration that government has a huge role to play in the economy. From a policy point of view, the ANC-led government has created an environment that is conducive for growth and encouraging to investors to put their hard-earned money into our economy. This is attested by the numerous investment accomplishments that Premier Mathabatha's tenure has drawn into the economy of Limpopo province. The ANC-led government also continues to make sure that the country's political and legal framework are amenable to economic growth.

The SOPA spoke to tangible achievements that have been recorded in the past 12 months and how government intends to provide a cushion to the economic woes faced by our people. On the hallmarks of Premier Mathabatha's incumbency as a leader of this government, is the improvement of accountability and governance in financial management. We continue to see more government entities improving on how they manage public funds leading to better audit opinions.

About a week ago, the Auditor-General in an engagement with journalists here in Limpopo, made a clarion call to those who are appointed to run public institutions that they must be responsible and should introduce and maintain a culture where they are proactive doing the right thing without having to wait for pressure to be put on them by auditors who come once a year. There was a time when the Premier of this province would jokingly say, "If you get a disclaimer as an audit outcome, as a head of that institution, you must also disclaim yourself." Well, it looks like the Premier's words have fallen on fertile ground because there is a significant improvement in the areas of financial management by most government entities.

Hon Premier, if we are serious about making a dent to the economic frustrations that our people are faced with, we must consider increasing access to the funding mechanism, especially towards the youth. As the future of this country, we must make sure that all our programmes are biased towards them from accessing funds at the Limpopo Economic Development Agency to other initiatives such as the National Spaza Shop Relief Fund. The spaza shop industry is a sector that we had voluntarily relinquished to the hands of the foreign nationals. Government must do everything possible to ensure that our citizens who are seen actively participating in this sector are provided with the necessary support.

On behalf of the ANC, the party that has deployed you, Premier, as the leader of this government, I am certain that the plans that you have outlined in the past week, are a reflection of our policy aspirations in the form of our election manifesto. We must expand the rollout of broadband infrastructure to the rural parts of the province because urban settings in their majority have an assortment of free internet access. We have witnessed how lack of information knowledge facilities have disadvantaged the majority of learners in rural areas as compared to their counterparts in more developed parts of the province.

Honourable Members, maybe we must also have a frank and proper discussion around the mining industry in this province: How do these operations, in addition to creating employment for our people, enhance entrepreneurship in their localities and also adhere to their social labour plans. There is a report which was recently released by the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, Amnesty International and Sekhukhune Combined Mining-Affected Communities (SCMAC) which alleges that these mining companies operating in our province are not complying with the laws that compel them to uplift local communities.

In a region or district like Sekhukhune, where there are most mines, you still have unemployment at a staggering 47%. These companies are compelled by the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act which makes social labour plans a condition for the awarding and renewal of mining rights. The social labour plans must contain a number of measures to benefit communities and workers. They should also include basic services and infrastructure-type projects formulated in consultation with communities.

Hon Premier, as part of campaigning for the 2021 local government elections, some of us traversed the length and breadth of this province. We saw how the ANC-led government has developed our communities, and we were able to personally interface with our people and engage on their challenges. The main challenge besetting this province, in most of the places that we visited, is access to portable water. Water provision is a challenge even in places where there are reticulation pipes connected. I think in most instances, where most people cited serious lack of service delivery, it was in places where people do not have access to water provision. For many rural communities, water sources and infrastructure are available but not maintained. As a result, it becomes unusable, and thus nonoperational.

We cannot continue to have the same schools giving us the same bad results in the province every year, while other schools are performing better. Maybe, we must employ drastic measures to get principals of schools that are perpetually failing to give us results to perform well. We must monitor performance of schools' overtime and observe their performance over a third period of time. A school cannot consistently underperform continuously without government making drastic intervention. The muted provincial education lekgotla that you spoke about, Premier, should take stalk of all the challenges within the sector with the aim of rooting them out and implementing corrective measures where there are bottlenecks.

We also take comfort in the progress that government continues to make regarding the building of roads; the building of sanitation programmes for our schools; the building of world-class healthcare facilities; and most importantly, the financial injection that these projects bring to the economy at the time when unemployment levels are sky-high.

The agriculture sector still has colour, with nearly 30 years of democracy. It is our wish that this country must also have African dominant players within this sector. We have a duty as government to ensure that as we provide both financial and technical assistance to the established farmers, we must also lend a helping hand to the emerging ones who are demonstrating a hint to grow within the sector.

We want to thank the government for the support it provides to the institution of traditional leadership – one of the cardinal supports of this democratic state. The other reality that we must get used to is that we will be plagued with disputes of traditional leaders for some time to come. We must brace ourselves that these quarrels will stay with us for much longer than we thought. We must trust the wisdom of your office, Hon Premier, together with the House of Traditional Leaders. Mathata a bogoši a ka se fele, Hon Premier.

In conclusion, how countries are governed has a huge impact on the happiness of its citizens. Success in maintaining peace, the rule of law and the functioning democracy matter greatly. There is very strong evidence that this turned to correlate with well-being, and probably caused it. These are obvious reasons why the people of Limpopo province overwhelmingly voted for the ANC in the recent local government elections.

I want to thank you, Hon Premier, honourable Members and Hon Speaker. May the grace of the most High God be upon all of us! I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Radzilani. The next speaker on our list is Hon Buthane. [APPLAUSE]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the House. We are overjoyed that for the first time the ANC admits that it is in ashes. This is an honest truth and acceptance of defeat. Limpopo residents must rage like fire when they vote in 2024 and reject the corrupt ANC which continues to fail them. If indeed the Premier and the ANC-led government recognises that poverty and households without income causes shame and inhumane conditions, then the 2022 SOPA could have been dominated by practical job creation, initiatives and feedback in terms of previous commitment on job creation.

Lack of vision and your blaming techniques deserve an award-winning ceremony for the best excuser of our time. Your speech is a huge discouragement to the hopes and hopeless masses. The attempt to draw parallels with an ancient Greek mythology is misplaced, especially knowing that since the Premier came into office, there has not been any notable and tangible project which aggressively seeks to address the imbalances of the past. The continued misleading acts by the ANC and its deployees wherein often people lured to vote for the ANC with lots of failed promises which cannot be compared to a phoenix; rather, equate the behaviour of the corruption-infested ANC to that of a siren which in Greek mythology is known as a camouflage doing beautiful sounds to lure and kill sailors, causing wreckage to the ships.

You, Premier and your deployees, continue to sing melodies which mislead our masses while they continue to suffer in poverty. Unlike the phoenix, Limpopo will continue to be haunted by the condoned debt which was caused by the so-called administrators who came during the section 100 period, and to date we do not have a conclusive report on the work done by these section 100 administrators.

Hon Premier, many corrupt deals such as the scandalous PPE and manipulated school nutrition project bear testimony that nothing resembles the phoenix. Unlike the phoenix, Limpopo will never rise as your government loots state money to pay artists and service providers to render services to January 08 ANC event. There is no single person who has been arrested or dismissed despite Limpopo becoming the hub of corruption. This province will never rise from the ashes when GAAL cannot account for R40 million, and the airport is not contributing to the economy of the province due to instability and corruption which makes it impossible to even maintain the airport to prescribe acceptable standards by ACSA.

Limpopo problems require scientific diagnosis, not some mythological creatures; that's being superstitious. Soon you will be telling us about zombies. Aa, ebile le fihlile? Batho ba tla ba ba re re a loya. As a communist, you should know better. Limpopo, as you prefer to call it, "our beautiful

province” will not be beautiful until all potholes are repaired; until maintenance of both gravel and tar roads become an order of the day; and until the people of Moutse and Thohoyandou get clean water in their yards.

Residents of Giyani are suffering for many years after R4 billion of public funds was wasted through Lepelle Northern Water paid to Khato Civils which failed to deliver on the project, and no action was taken to recover the money. Lack of clear industrialisation plan shows that ANC is no longer believing in developmental state. You have delegated your responsibilities to the private sector. There is no governance plan to create jobs, hence you are over-reliant on external investors, some which are “fronts” like the ones you are passionate about – the Masingita Group.

The entire speech is full of praising and hoping on external investors, particularly white males who are dominating the economic system which prioritises profits over development and empowerment of our people. The central theme of your speech, Premier, is consistent with neoliberal hopelessness that private sector will be able to create jobs and have genuine solutions to the challenges facing the society. The Seshego, Nkowankowa and Lebowa kgomo industrial zones have been reduced to small office rentals with no major industrial development taking place. We can't have industrial parks turned into mini halls. Hon Premier, focus and restore the industrial parks to the former glory. Since 2019, you have mentioned investment figures on Musina-Makhado SEZ that 21 000 jobs will be created with an investment of R150 billion. How many jobs have been created to date? How many are permanent and how many are temporary? Furthermore, how many young people have been sent to China universities as announced in 2019.

Instead of the Premier reporting to this august House on progress made since 2019, he announces the job portal and empowerment of locals. We are told that there is a provincial procurement strategy which is being developed. We need numbers on the commitments which you made to this House when you announced a portal to register unemployed youth and graduates. Our people are being sent to the “slaughterhouses” and being exploited by companies such as ZZ2, Anglo Platinum Mine, Sefateng Chrome Mine and many other private companies that are your hope for changing the economic situation and poor people's experiences. The people of Mogalakwena and many villages continue to be harassed by mining companies, including exhuming their dead relatives and taking piece of their land used for subsistence farming. When they protest, through your collusion with the mining houses, they set police brutality on them. The same companies that the Premier praises in his speech are failing to meet their social labour plans and various commitments. The situation is exaggerated by the failures by the Department of Labour and LEDA to enforce compliance with SLPs.

Premier, you have deceitfully changed on your 2019 commitment included to creation of more jobs and sustainable livelihood for inclusive growth and to fight crime and corruption. All has changed and we are now told of “rising from the ashes”. You no longer do the “Thuma Mina”. This playing with words and misuse of concepts will not fill our people's stomachs and give them shelter over their heads.

In 2019, during SOPA, you announced an investment of R4,5 billion by Iron Ore Mine which will create 25 000 jobs by 2024. Shockingly, two years before 2024, you announce a detour from R4,5 billion to R9 billion which despite being a larger amount, the initial 2019 figure jobs are being reduced to 1 000. We demand answers as to what happened to the promised 25 000 jobs at Iron Ore Mine. Hon Premier, tell us, how many Fourth Industrial Revolution programmes do you have as per your speech and how many investments are directed to purported 4IR? How many young people have been trained on the 4IR as you promised in 2019?

Since the Limpopo Master Plan received R208 billion investment pledges from the Limpopo Investment Conference, how much has been practically invested to date? The answer will indicate to this House if there is any progress on the reported initiatives or we will be subjected to some terminologies that seek to replace failed projects without accountability.

On 29 July 2021, the EFF presented to this House a motion relating to alleged interference by the Premier and LEDA board when the Sefateng Chrome Mine deals were concluded. To date, we have not received any clarity on the matter. Did the Premier interfere to benefit himself or any of his close relatives or associates? Did all board directors of executive do a full disclosure when dealing with this project? Did the Premier and the MEC avail minutes of the board which was disbanded whilst attempting to block the Sefateng deal and the Bolepu community court documents? Therefore, it is a lie that the Sefateng or Tshephong mining initiatives are good news to the Limpopo people. These initiatives will only benefit politically connected individuals. Worse we have most mining companies failing to reach their CSR goals, and they can't be punished because they have got politically connected individuals who enjoy eating on behalf of the poverty-stricken communities. Since Sefateng Chrome Mine was an open cast mine, did you consult communities about going underground? Will that restore the jobs terminated?

The ZZ2 pledge reminds us of the disregard of human rights and employees' rights by ZZ2. It also reminds us that your government, Premier, has invested millions of rands on a tomato processing plant which never worked. The agro-processing potential of this province will never be realised due to the ANC-led government dodgy corrupt transactions such as the Norjax Tomato Paste Plant in which the A-G confirmed that over R100 million was used wrongly. Today, the project remains a white elephant, while some white males pocketed millions of rands which could have created thousands of jobs in Mopani where this government invested in a project which is located on a privately owned land, and they can't even access the facility, as the landlord has locked the gate to date.

This House must reject any notion that speaks to close Tshivhase Tea Project. Originally, tea from this farm was sold in London and Egypt, amongst others. Over R160 million was invested in this tea development and plantation. Experts advised previously that funding models should be adjusted, including marketing, which were ignored. The Premier wants to close this tea plantation whilst he does not even know which crops can be planted at the tea farm. The EFF demands that the tea plantation be revived and supported with specialists and research of latest technologies. This has a potential of creating more than 10 000 jobs. Why can't hospitals, prisons and government procure from these initiatives if indeed we want it to succeed? The detour is just an irrational and irresponsible abundance of millions of moneys and resources we don't have as a province.

Is the Premier aware of the obstacles which have been delaying completion and the compliance of Nkuna's Smart City in Vhembe, Collins Chabane Municipality? If so, why did the Premier not impress on this House such challenges, some of which involve your department? It is evident that you can't be a phoenix. Last year, your speech indicated that 350 jobs were created with the revitalisation process of Zebediela Citrus Project. This year, during SOPA, you opted to omit the 350 jobs. O kalatšane. How did you come to conclude that there will be 350 jobs when you don't even have a master plan? We doubt if you have concrete plans in the Limburg Citrus in Waterberg and the establishment of 200 ha of macadamia orchards at Tshivhase and Tshakhuma as we are sitting here in 2022. You went on mute on this project which has potential of creating a combined 22 000 jobs.

The Premier reported about rollout projects of broadband which are aimed at giving free WiFi access to communities and government institutions by 2030. However, this House will note that

since 2018, the same Limpopo Connexion which is being used as a vehicle to deliver broadband networks has been clouded with scandals including inability to account for over 500 million of public money and the suspension of the whistle blower who was later reinstated by the order of the court.

Can the Premier assure this House if SETA, which is so statutory government-IT provider, has been consulted on or is involved in the project development including the established vehicle which will be implementing agents? The digitised e-filing system must be prioritised as it will eliminate loopholes when it comes to accountability, especially relating to tracking how public moneys are spent by government and no records can be presented for auditing purposes, just like RAL which is unable to present paper trail of over of R1,1 billion, claiming documents are lost. The other priority area must be in the safe keeping of medical ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Please conclude. You have one minute left.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

During 2021 SOPA, you mentioned building of Musina Dam instead of giving progress on the dam plans. You now introduce the plans to secure and source water from Zimbabwe and other SADC countries. Does this mean plans on the Musina Dam has failed or collapsed? The Premier's speech is full of open-ended statements. It is typical of him. He lacks commitment and clear timelines.

During his speech, he alluded to the establishment of Limpopo Science and Technology Park; however, to date, its underway means nothing to the people of Limpopo. We want timelines which will enable us to track progress. There are over 3,1 million people in Limpopo living below the poverty lines with Sekhukhune District which is rich with minerals and mining houses topping the list of areas where most people live below poverty lines. As your government refuses to adopt nationalisation of mines and beneficiation strategies, our people will continue to suffer under the ANC-led government.

In conclusion, the Kgatla Commission outcomes cannot be accepted in most communities as the Premier and the MEC for CoGHSTA have manipulated processes, costing this government millions of rands.

The communities of Giyani, GaSekgopo, Letaba and many more other communities continue to be divided by the Kgatla report due to your interference, wena le Basikopo yo wa gago. You must apologise to this House and the people of Limpopo, and further allow the true reflection to prevail in the communities.

The EFF government will ensure maximum implementation of the seven non-negotiable cardinal pillars. I so thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Buthane. The next speaker is Hon Maseko. [APPLAUSE]

MR MASEKO

Hon Speaker; Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council; fellow colleagues in this august House, I took some time and went through the SONA, Hon Premier, as you presented it. I am convinced that you were spot-on.

Madam Speaker, ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, I would like to remind my friend Hon “Mojerreza” that the Premier doesn’t present SONA. He presents SOPA.

THE SPEAKER

May you proceed, Hon Maseko?

MR MASEKO

Thanks, Chair. It is fine; it’s SOPA, Hon Buthane.

Ka Sepedi re re, le le botse ga le fetolwe. I am going to rely on this idiom to use this occasion of my debate to align myself with the Premier’s address in his engagement with the people of Limpopo, the past, Thursday. Mahlatji’a Hlabirwa, we welcome the inclusivity of your address which embraces the current circumstances and confines that we find ourselves within. The truth here is that our people see government as a parent that must shoulder all their problems. In some households, when parents fail in their parental obligations to discipline their offspring, they apportion the blame to the same government about their own personal failures because they see this government as their parent. Our situation was aggravated by the insurrection of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is going to be made worse by the resent economic turbulence caused by the war between Ukraine and Russia. The most visible economic effect is the rising of the cost of fuel with a litre of fuel costing more than R20, starting from tomorrow. All these are placing a huge strain on the majority of the poor, most of whom rely on social grant and other forms of government interventions to make ends meet. It is for this reason that most of our people see the government as an omnipotent being in their lives.

Hon Premier, as you were articulating government’ plans, those of us with a worker’s background were ticking the boxes that were addressing the plight of the poor and the marginalised. As a representative of these people, honourable Members, we all have a civic duty to make sure that this government remains central on the needs of our people and is able to address the socioeconomic conditions. It is for this reason, Mahlatji’a Hlabirwa, that we welcome all the endeavours which are propelling economic growth in order to create the much-needed jobs for our people.

In your speech on Thursday, the word “jobs” appeared a record 30 times, and it is our wish that demonstrate the same amount of zeal in translating this into tangible economic programmes for our people. Honourable Members, this government is faced with two rhetoric choices of either growing the economy for its people or remaining being a social grant state with a stagnant economy.

The African continent has handled the COVID-19 pandemic with such precision to the bemusement of the western pessimists who only see us as a dark continent, thus only suitable for resources that are meant to grow their economies. Hon Premier, our relentless war against this monstrous COVID-19 should not be orchestrated to a self-enrichment ticket for some individuals who are always on the lookout for disaster like this to steal from the people.

Honourable Members, in addition to cooperating with police investigations into PPE graft, we must also isolate the culprits who are found to be on the wrong side of the law. It is our fierce attitude and how we shun corruption that brought us to this point where none of our entities received a disclaimer as an opinion by the Auditor-General. We come from a period where a few years ago, the Auditor-General was not anticipating any positive results on how we handle public moneys and governance. That time has long past, and we salute the astute leadership of the Premier and his Cabinet for turning the tide and regaining our people's confidence which was largely demonstrated by how we fared in November 2021 local government elections.

As Members of this House, care should also be accorded to the various portfolio committees that we preside over because an improved audit opinion is an outcome of a functional oversight mechanism. The ANC-led government continues to undo itself to lessen economic hardships faced by the people of this province. This is evident with the many government intervention mechanisms which are instituted for the sole purpose of creating employment opportunities for our people.

Hon Premier, a few years ago, you led a big government delegation and trekked to China on an investment attraction expedition that has today brought to the Limpopo province what is known as Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. It is also pleasing to learn that we will be building a TVET college within Musina-Makhado SEZ precinct which will create easier collaboration in the field of learning and research within a specific catchment area. This and many other initiatives, have brought us closer to our dream of creating the much-sought employment opportunities for the people of this province. Our resolve to create jobs stems from the many policy pieces and election manifestos that we have formulated over the years. We continue to work with our social partners in pursuance of the objectives of the Freedom Charter and to reduce deep poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Honourable Members, it is no secret that the majority of our youth do not have access to funds, largely because they don't have the requisite information about how to access such. While we are encouraged by the number of youth-owned enterprises that had access to finance in the past year, we are also of the view that the number could have been more and must be representative of the demographics of the province. Our wish, Hon Premier, is that together with the Executive, you must continue to put the hand behind the wheel and bring to this province a myriad of initiatives similar to the Limpopo Investment Conference that will be catalytic to this province's economic growth.

It is also pleasing, Hon Speaker, that government has in the past year been able to make inroads in the informal sector which is also referred to as the second economy. Initiatives as the National Spaza Shop Relief Fund must give our local spaza shop operators a competitive edge in the market that has been the backbone of our people for many decades and has since been lost to our neighbours.

Hon Premier, one of the objectives of a democratic state has always been to break barriers between the rich and the poor and to level the playing field between citizens of rural areas and urban areas. I am certain that I am talking on behalf of everyone in this House, including Buthane, when I say we welcome efforts of rolling out our broadband infrastructure to the rural areas.

Internet accessibility cannot be exclusivity to people who reside in urban areas only. The same way that we have rolled out the government services like water, road networks and electricity to our masses in the far-flung rural areas in our province, we must also supply them with broadband infrastructure.

Honourable Members, let us agree that the 2021 matric results were a reflection of a collective challenge for all of us. We should not be seen as a failure on the part of certain individuals. It is very much important that all of us must take responsibility in terms of how we are going to improve them. We must all rally behind the sector and ensure that Limpopo should reclaim its position of competing against the best despite our infrastructure challenges. We agree that we all take pride in the quality of matric passes that were produced in the past year, but in order for us to improve our standings in comparison to other provinces, we must all join hands with other organs of civil society and our children.

Honourable Members, if we know of a school or schools in our respective constituencies where we live which are not effective, let it be our responsibility to confront them and to engage those stakeholders. If we have tavern owners within the jurisdiction of certain schools in our localities who allow children of school-going age as patrons and play loud music even during exams, we have a duty to confront such situations. By so doing, we will be adding value in the challenges that are characterising our education system.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, the electoral results of the November 2021 local government elections are a reflection of how the people of this province feel about government services across the spectrum. Here in Limpopo, our people still have confidence in us, as the ANC, and we need not disappoint them. There was a time in history when the ANC-led government in this province had electrified in excess of 90% of households. The ratio has since decreased due to the sprouting informal settlement areas in most parts of the province. We are confident, honourable Members, that this government that prioritises the needs of its people will do everything possible to ensure that its people get their deserved services. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Smalle, it is your turn.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning to the Members of this House and the Members of the Executive as well as the Hon Premier. The triple threat of poverty, inequality and unemployment is threatening the stability of our province. During July 2021, we watched with horror the riots that occurred in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. Although it is widely believed that the riots were initiated by political motivation, it was hunger and poverty that maintained the looting and ultimate loss of lives. In the words of President Cyril Ramaphosa and out of the policy handbook of the Democratic Alliance, the government is not the creator of jobs, but is the enabler of opportunities.

A recent report by the Commission on Sustainable Development indicated that poor countries with improved access to clean water and sanitation enjoyed an annual average growth of 3,7% in contrast with poor countries without improved access to water and sanitation which had a GDP growth of about 0,01%. Economic development cannot grow in isolation if water provision and related services are not addressed in our province. The international turmoil will have an effect on South Africa and more so in Limpopo. We should prepare our economy against high inflation as well as the rising fuel costs that will come with it. In July 2020 the A-G expressed concerns of the growing trend of water shortages in Limpopo.

The AG further noted poor management of water distribution. Limpopo province reported water losses amounting to R341 million during the year under review, an increase of R140 million from the previous year. What are we doing to curb this waste? What strategies have been implemented to ensure that water authorities manage our water resources responsibly? There are indications that 27% of our boreholes in Limpopo have water quality that is marginal or poor for domestic use. Water quality, especially along the Levubu River in the Makhado Municipality shows parameters such as COD (chemical oxygen demand), ammonia, turbidity, and E. coli consistently exceeds SANS 241 limits all due to the fact that 30% of our people do not have access to provisions of clean drinking water. Towns such as Louis Trichardt in Giyani goes for weeks without a drop of water.

Hon Radzilani, the maintenance of water infrastructure lies solely at the hands of our local authorities and the district municipalities. It is those institutions that are currently failing our communities. Similarly, road infrastructure plays a critical role in our economic growth. RAL's consistent gross mismanagement and poor financial management resulted in a R901 million irregular expenditure in the 2021 financial year. There was a further R4 billion of irregular expenditure awaiting condonement largely due to the failure to follow supply chain management processes, payments on expired contracts and spending funds on projects that were not budgeted for.

The entity also underspent its Budget by R473 million during the previous financial year. RAL's current significant uncertainties stand at R133 million, agreeing to settle claims last year of motorists amounting to R10 million at the expense of poor road maintenance. Hon Premier, you have announced investments in the Musina-Makhado SEZ, but without efficient water infrastructure, proper sanitation and a well-maintained road network in the Vhembe District, these investments will amount to nothing. Let me make it clear, Hon Premier, the Democratic Alliance fully supports the two SEZs. What is needed is a decisive and committed bulk infrastructure to deal with bulk, maintenance infrastructure as well as the lack of professional engineers that has left government services, with clear timeframes from government. The Nandoni Dam and the De Hoop Dam were both completed in 2005, and 15 years downstream, 72 communities are still waiting for water to reach them. These same projects timelines have been moved year in, year out. There was a commitment to finish this year, and it is not going to be reached this year.

Corruption acts as an inefficient tax on business, ultimately raising production costs and reducing the profitability of investments and reducing the quality of service delivery. For years we have heard the chanted songs that this government is strong on corruption. Let me remind the Hon Premier, during the 2015 financial year when the previous MEC stopped the so-called Tubatse land deal of R116 million. This was done only to be replaced by someone else who passed the sale of that land. The issue of Marapong housing units in Lephalale with upfront payments of R33 million was not condoned by the MEC at that time. When an instruction was given to recoup those funds that MEC was replaced.

Hon Premier, you speak elegantly about implementing SIU reports, but when Scopa requests those reports, they do not come to the fore. In actual fact none of the internal and external SIU forensic reports should be requested by portfolio committees in this House. They should be tabled and be given without any requests by the chairpersons and by the members who want to hold those entities accountable. You stood in this House boldly and proclaimed that there were no PPE irregularities only to find out that there were. There are talks about lack of transparency within government institutions and people that openly defy your office's request for information.

Hon Premier, my request is that if you are honest and transparent and want to be transparent about the financial affairs of this province, make those forensic reports available so that we can see that those recommendations that you so surely want to implement are implemented so that we can monitor and evaluate the progress, and it goes downstream to every other department. I heard Members at this podium talking about the progress at our state-owned entities and their subsidiaries in this province. None of them were ready at Scopa. None of them were able to account for those issues that relate to outstanding matters. Those entities were all sent back because of their ill-preparedness. All of them are in dire need of a turnaround strategy in order to turn around the economic situation in our province.

Hon Premier, we talk about the fact that there has been improvement in building our infrastructure in our province. Our road infrastructure, our water infrastructure and our education infrastructure sit at R20 billion ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Your time is up, Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

... each. That cannot be fast-tracked into a space where we can say that they are and that they do meet those standards. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. You may take the floor Hon Makamu. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Hon Deputy Speaker; honourable Members of the Legislature; Members of the Executive Council; leadership of the ruling party, the African National Congress; Chief Whip of the Legislature; leaders of the opposition parties; our Director-General and heads of department; members of the media; ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Madam Speaker, let me start with a quote from the Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa on the State of the Province Address delivered before this august House on Thursday, 24 February 2022: "The local government's sphere continues to play a central role in advancing local economic development and delivering basic services to our communities. The task of building strong, resilient and effective municipalities is directly linked to urgency of taking services to our people." These profound words will find concrete and detailed expression in the Budget Votes and Annual Performance Plans. Premier, we will leave the rhetoric to the opposition benches as you heard this morning in this august House. Ours is the Budget of the living up to the core principles of the Freedom Charter that underpin the ethos of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The people shall govern, Hon Buthane.

Indeed, the people govern. On 01 November 2021, the people of South Africa went to the polls to usher in the fifth administration of the local government democratic dispensation. As it is the characteristics of the elections in this province, voters once more handed the ruling African National Congress another massive vote of confidence. This is a gesture that we do not take for granted. This past election, we saw seamless transition from the fourth to the fifth local government administration enabled by handover reports and general support from various units

of the department: SALGA, Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury, and that makes our municipalities sustainable.

We timeously and properly constituted all municipal councils and their committees in the province, but the hiccups were easily cleared in two hung municipalities. In preparation for the 2022/23 financial year, municipalities went to the strategic planning session. It is now all systems go in all our municipalities. Hon Speaker, as captured in the SOPA, the municipal audit outcomes since the 2019/20 financial year to the 2020/21 financial year show that governance and financial management in our municipalities is improving.

The status quo of the municipal audit outcomes is an indicator that the days of adverse and disclaimer audit outcomes are resending into the background. With the 2020/21 audit outcome nearing finality, we look forward to another good story of improved municipal audit outcomes in the final audit report for municipalities in this province. The clause in the Freedom Charter, there shall be houses, security and comfort for all, is not an empty slogan, but a clarion call and invocation to meet commitments made by the Premier to the people of the province on the occasion of the State of the Province Address. As the Premier stated here on Thursday, the delivery of housing infrastructure is part of government's agenda to restore the dignity of our people, particularly the poor and vulnerable.

Through the Human Settlements programme, our mandate is clear. It is to ensure the provision of housing development, access to adequate accommodation, access to basic services, access to social infrastructure and economic opportunities. The Human Settlements as one of the cornerstones of spatial integration, focus has been on consolidating all efforts in this agenda, including addressing the needs of the GAP market, formalising townships and informal settlements to enable provision of basic services, construction of houses on previously acquired land and rezoning acquired land for provision of various human settlements programmes.

The Municipal Infrastructure Grant continues to be a main infrastructure fund for the provision of basic services and municipal infrastructure, particularly in poor communities. Over the past four years, municipalities prioritised water and roads in their allocation of resources until the deceptions of the COVID-19 pandemic which reigned for the past two years. Municipalities spend their mid-term allocation adequately with much improvement in the delivery of basic services.

With the return of the country to full economic activity, we expect much improved spending on MIG and enhanced service delivery. Municipalities have also appointed project management units with necessary qualification to expedite spending on the MIG and improved infrastructure delivery. It is significant for municipalities to spend adequately on their grants to ease the backlogs in their delivery of basic services. Added to the internal arrangement to improve MIG spending, the department and the national CoGTA continuously monitors municipalities in order to make timely interventions where shortfalls occur. Furthermore, there is a myriad of interventions in support of the municipalities to spend adequately in the MIG funding. Underperforming municipalities are to develop turnaround strategies to enhance their spending and improve service delivery of basic services.

Madam Speaker, the traditional leaders continue to play a major role in the development and growth of communities in our province. Based on the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and other legislative prescripts, the democratic government is obligated to support the institution of traditional leadership. Support in the institution of traditional leadership manifests, among others, in the construction and the renewal of offices, staffing in traditional councils, communication, transport and salaries to senior traditional leadership. In the ensuing financial year, the department plans to build and refurbish a number of traditional council offices as well as

provide furniture to those lacking. We also contribute to the inauguration of senior traditional leadership as we implement objectively the Kgatla Commission as recommended by the team. The mammoth task confronting us in the current financial year is the constitution and reconstitution of the traditional councils in compliance with the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Act with the specific period of two years ending 2023.

Madam Speaker, I would like to conclude with the words of wisdom from Premier Mathabatha's SOPA when he said: "Let us continue the partnership to build the Limpopo we want, a reborn and rejuvenated Limpopo, a Limpopo which will rise high to the promise of the freedom." Hon Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to debate the 2022 SOPA. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Makamu. The next speaker is Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Good morning, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; honourable MECs; honourable members of opposition parties and Members of the House. I am standing here today as the FF Plus MPL and a very disappointed Member of the Legislature. It is true that COVID-19 had a great impact on all communities as acknowledged by the Premier during his speech, which the FF Plus appreciates, but that is where our appreciation ends.

The Hon Premier pays diligent lip service to expected billions in the form of investment pledges to industrialise the province and the promise of jobs. The FF Plus views this as futuristic, far-fetched and pie-in-the-sky talk. How is it possible that so many billions are pledged to be invested in pipe dreams, but across the province communities continue to have a lack of basic service delivery?

The Hon Premier stated that councillors have been elected to:

- ensure that the people have clean drinking water;
- ensure that there is regular refuse removal in our communities; and
- ensure that our municipalities stimulate local economic growth so that jobs and other opportunities are created.

I can assure you that there are many capable councillors in the municipalities. However, the problem arises when municipal government is subject to cadre deployment, corruption and the looting of taxpayers' money. This makes the job of a councillor who wants to serve the people of Limpopo impossible. Economic development and growth will not materialise as long as infrastructure and basic service delivery is in a state of decay. Whether the Hon Premier has the necessary political will to bring an end to cadre deployment and the looting of taxpayers' money in municipalities, is doubtful. This is evident considering the number of municipalities that managed to obtain clean audit report outcomes.

While we support the Premier's view that education is the backbone of economic growth, development, and prosperity, the poor matric results in 2021 is the direct ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, may you please sit down. Hon Buthane you may take the floor.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, can she tell us on that speech: when are they going to give us our land for free, with no compensation?

MS MARITZ

I would love to answer, Hon Buthane. The day the bank approves his loan for the farm, you can get it back. Thank you. When the bank approves your loan, then you can get the farm back, not mahala.

While we support the Premier's view that education is the backbone of economic growth, development, and prosperity ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, can you allow Hon Maritz to present her speech?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

We just want what is ours.

MS MARITZ

You will have to wait.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, can you proceed?

MS MARITZ

The poor results ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Allow her to proceed, please.

MR MARITZ

Hon Buthane, I did not interrupt you, please be honourable now ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, allow Hon Maritz to finish her speech.

MS MARITZ

Be honourable, I am a lady, be honourable. I respect you ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, can you proceed with your speech?

MS MARITZ

Thank you. You can have the land if you can pay for the land. The fact is Limpopo is the worst-performing province in the country with 60,7% pass rate.

The FF Plus welcomes the fact that the Premier announced that he was proud of the progress that was made on the road infrastructure projects. The FF Plus would like to add to the Premier's list of roads the following that require urgent construction work; I would like you to take note, Hon Premier; it is a long outstanding issue: Marken- Baltimore – Maasstroom R561; Tomburke-Swartwater – Alldays R572; Northam – Koedoeskop DI 235 ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, let us try to be audible.

MS MARITZ

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Try to be audible.

MS MARITZ

Can't you hear me? Is it better now?

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

MS MARITZ

The FF Plus wants to bring it to the attention of the Premier and the House that these roads have a major impact on tourism, agriculture, and thus, the economic growth in the province. Tourism and agriculture are some of the largest income generator sectors in Limpopo and if not given urgent attention, the condition of these roads will continue to have a negative impact on the economy in the province.

Lastly, the Premier only focuses on future agriculture projects, and it is a pity that the Premier did not make use of the opportunity to state what he will do to ensure a stable environment for all existing commercial agriculture farmers in the province who already contribute to sustainable economic growth and job opportunities.

It is actually very sad, Hon Premier, that we only want to talk about the future, but there are a lot of farmers in the past who helped the province to put food on the table. We need to address that very seriously ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Which farmers are you talking about?

MS MARITZ

Those who stole the land according to you. Only with the abolition of the ANC's failed policy of affirmative action ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Between black and white farmers, it's only white farmers.

MS MARITZ

There were black farmers.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, Hon Buthane! No one is allowed to interrupt while a Member is on the platform. You know that very well. Can we allow Hon Maritz to proceed with her speech, please?

MS MARITZ

Thank you. Only with the abolition of the ANC's failed policy of affirmative action and black economic empowerment will Limpopo be able to develop to its full potential. Equal opportunities must apply for all. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. MEC, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; my colleagues, MECs; chairpersons of committees; Chief Whip of the Legislature; Members of the House; members of the media present and those that are watching, ndi matsheloni.

Madam Speaker, it feels good this morning as we start with our debate for the SOPA that was delivered by our Hon Premier last Thursday. It feels good to be a resident of our beautiful province of Limpopo. This debate of SOPA will be met with different reactions. It is critical for all of us to understand that the contradictions still exist in our society. The contradictions that were caused by inequality and discrimination. Our democracy, which is the government which is led by the ANC, has created a space for all views to be heard. It is proper that this morning, we can have contradictions when we debate.

I continue to confirm that under the leadership of our Premier in this province, our province will continue to be a province that aspires the best for its citizens. The province that inspires hope for its children. The province that has so much to offer to better the lives to all who reside in it. All this is unfolding under the leadership and the tutelage of our hardworking Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha. Indeed, tomorrow will be better than today.

Like the Premier indicated on Thursday during his State of the Province Address, the devastation we suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic will not derail us from delivering what we committed

to our people. Limpopo will indeed rise from the ashes and regain its position, and indeed let us rise and build the province. I will share the speech with Hon Buthane as he would want ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

My hand is up.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

As alluded to by the Hon Premier ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Order, Hon Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

Please, take your seat, honourable MEC. Hon Buthane, you may take the floor

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I don't want the speech to be shared. I want her to remove "hard" from the word "hardworking" from that part of the Premier. There is no hardworking there, she must just remove that "hard". Stop misleading the people of our province. Just remove that "hard". We are fine.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Madam Speaker for the confidence that Hon Buthane gives me the position of starting to argue my speech. I am not yet the Premier. You can only amend what was delivered by the SOPA. Let me continue. Thank you, Hon Speaker. Thank you for the confidence.

As alluded to by the Hon Premier, we are pinning our hopes on the National Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and the Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan to speed up the much-needed services and jobs of our people. The efforts to make sure that we resuscitate all sectors that were seriously affected by the pandemic are well articulated and it is clear for everyone to see. The commitment by the private sector is evidence enough that this government is determined to change the status quo. It is through your efforts Hon Premier and your Executive that pushed investors to aspire to invest in our beautiful province.

It is no doubt, Madam Speaker, that the call for consumption for locally produced goods and services will quickly make sure that the much-anticipated recovery plan does become realised. The people of this province are capable and all they need is our support. The support that the State of the Province Address clearly articulated that it will be afforded to all the strategic sectors of our economy. We have no doubt that the allocation of resources to manufacturing, tourism and agricultural sectors are highlighted and will be a step in the right direction for the Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan.

We are delighted by the commitment of the creation of 48 000 jobs in the next five years. We know, Hon Premier, that your administration will set targets that are too ambitious to achieve. With the current pledges by the key stakeholders, there is no doubt that our people, especially graduates, will be absorbed in the job market. It is encouraging to hear that this government will

pull all stops to stimulate growth of our economy and in an endeavour to change the lives of our people. Indeed, Hon Premier, Limpopo will rise from the ashes to be great again.

Kofi Annan, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations said: “We need to keep hope alive and strive to do better.” The new normal and the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution will work in our favour to speed up services without compelling people to gather in large numbers or to abandon their responsibilities. The e-licencing in the transportation sector is one of the highlights that we pride ourselves in. You would know by now that the official launch of the online services was done by the Minister two weeks ago. Limpopo is amongst the provinces that are already offering the online payment services. We are already seeing reduction of queues at our licencing stations. People will now have time to attend to other productive engagements and save time.

A lot has been said about the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. We are happy that the commencement of the project will align to the jobs that the Hon Premier has alluded to. Over and above what was announced, the project will also be a huge boost to the transportation sector. Our provincial airport will be a hive of activities with the expectation of a cargo line and increased number of flights in the province. It will also be prudent for the government to utilise the rail services currently available between the two towns which is Musina and Makhado.

The road freight companies will also benefit from the Musina-Makhado corridor, manufacturing of goods, agro-processing and logistic industries will be the biggest beneficiaries. All these goods will need to be transported to the different destinations. It needs us as a department to have played our role to make sure that proper policies allow the new role players in the field, and this should be able to happen as the Premier has said in his speech.

The commitment by our municipalities in improving the lives of our people affirms the commitment of the partnership for implementing the integrated transport plan within the municipalities. We believe that better planning can give us confidence that will be able to deliver services for a longer time, and indeed better services.

Stability is very key for us for the realisation of all the promises and adherence to the timelines of what the Premier has outlined as our priorities for the financial year. Indeed, our former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, said: “Accordingly we will not enjoy development without security, will not enjoy security without development, and will not enjoy either without respect for human rights.” Our crime prevention strategy that I presented at the NCOP last week is very clear on how the province is planning to ensure that there is stability.

The Premier in his address last week committed to work very closely with the South African Police Service and community policing structures. It is reassuring for the Hon Premier to note that the safety of our people is a priority. The said structures have been very instrumental in assisting police to rid drugs of our streets to apprehend deadly criminals and to ensure that our people live together in harmony. The work will continue, and we will continue to intensify protection and security for our community members.

We are dealing with another pandemic of violence and femicide perpetuated against the vulnerable groups in our communities. The commitment and efforts to fight the scourge are well documented. The people of this province will be at peace knowing that the Premier and his Executive are working tirelessly to defeat this societal ill. We often wake up to disturbing news of girls and women who are victims of rape and murder committed by people they love and trust. We owe it to the province and all residents to continuously spread positive messages that aid in eradicating the scourge.

We have witness how deeply concerned the Premier was in the previous financial year about gender-based violence and femicide. He did not just instruct the responsible department to convene stakeholders, but he led from the front. Hon Premier led the GBV dialogues during very difficult times and we saw a decline of such cases. Once again, we have no doubt that the commitment that you have always shown and even last Thursday, last week, will not be lip service, but genuine concern that the government that you are leading, Hon Premier, will pursue to the end.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, let me remind the doubting Thomases and those that always carry the negative minds, the individuals that have never believed in anything in their lives, those that will continue to want to confuse the masses of our province and those that want to continue to say the SOPA that was delivered will not mean anything to anyone, that Limpopo will indeed rise from the ashes. I also want to call on all those that believe in the vision this administration to continue with their support so that we can realise our dream of building a better province.

We want to call upon everyone to say give your service selflessly to our people and be able to comfort and support many of those that believe in the government of the African National Congress that it is still ready to fight poverty, to fight discrimination and to fight inequality. I thank you. Ndo livhuwa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The next speaker is Hon Managa. [APPLAUSE]

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to you, Hon Premier; our Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon Jossey Buthane; all MECs present; chairpersons of different portfolio committees; all whips and all Members present in this august House today.

Just like the previous years, the Limpopo benefitted nothing from the Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha's State of the Province Address. The EFF will take these few minutes to present the real state of the province to the people of Limpopo. We are so disappointed, but equally not shocked that the Premier did not live up to the expectations of the people of Limpopo. The Premier is a master of "hallucination", which skill he has perfected over the years. He is famous for blowing out hot air every time he gets an opportunity ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Managa, may you please be seated?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Madam Speaker, I just want to check, is it parliamentary to refer to a person as hallucinating?

THE SPEAKER

Can you speak louder, honourable MEC? Honourable Members, honourable Members! Hon Managa, can you refrain from using unparliamentary language?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No, no, no!

MS MANAGA

Madam Speaker, ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No, no, no! Madam Speaker, what is unparliamentary about “hallucination”? No, you cannot say she must refrain; because when you say she must refrain, you are confirming what that one who knows nothing further.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, no, you did not allow me to finish what I was going to say.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Okay.

THE SPEAKER

I said if Hon Managa indeed said so, can she refrain from doing that? It is what I am saying.

MS MANAGA

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. The very same word “hallucination” in this august House the other day. Truth be told, Premier Mathabatha has not made any new commitments to the people. Neither has his progress report on so-called commitments made last year come to pass. Your government is not a government of timelines because you do not want to be held accountable.

Instead of addressing real challenges affecting our people, you chose to be general in approach. Actually, our score card on the performance of the Limpopo Provincial Government under your leadership will place you at 2 out of 10, Premier. The fact that you are still the Premier today is testimony that the ANC embraces and worships mediocrity. Merit and quality are not part of the vocabulary. Real cogent and concrete commitments will have timeframes and achievable milestones which are people-orientated and people-centred, which is not the case with your speech.

The majority of the so-called commitments in the speech lack substance and logic. They are merely disguising as service delivery commitments when in fact we know they are not. Your speech was just an empty rhetoric which does not fit the description of what the terms commitment ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Managa, can you please try to address me not the Premier?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Order! No, no! Hon Speaker, order!

THE SPEAKER

Hon Managa, can you please refrain from using the term “your” and address me, please?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No, no! Hon Speaker, no, order on you! It can never be, she is responding to SOPA. She says, Hon Premier, “your”. She cannot address you; you have not presented the SOPA ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No, the speech of the Premier. I am saying she must address me, not the Premier.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No, even members of the ANC said that. No, no, it cannot be, it is wrong. Stop wanting to teach us how we must speak in this House. We are not children, we are not in a crèche here.

THE SPEAKER

It is not wrong, Hon Buthane. I think Hon Managa will do what I am saying. I am saying she must address me, not the Premier. Hon Premier, the floor is yours.

THE PREMIER

Hon Speaker, it can't be correct for you not to make a ruling on the word “hallucination”. The speaker on the podium has been called to order for using unparliamentary language, “hallucination”. Madam Speaker, “hallucination” is a mental disorder, go ra gore o a gafa. It is a mental disorder to say ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Yo o emeletše ka eng gabotsebotse? Ke gona a e kwa gore re tla kae? Ke kgale re fetile moo. O swerwe ke papalase. Ke kgale re fetile moo. We are done.

THE SPEAKER

We did not pass, Hon Buthane. Hon Buthane, can I respond? Hon Premier, what I have said on that one is that I will go and check the *Hansard* report and then I will come and respond on that one. I am still going to check the *Hansard* report and I will come and respond on that one.

MS MANAGA

In fact, to put it bluntly, Limpopo SOPA was a complete waste of airtime which government paid through taxpayers' money. It was a fruitless and wasteful expenditure which could have been prevented by dealing with real issues affecting our people.

When it comes to education, under the Premier Stanley Mathabatha, the state of education is in shambles. In your address, Hon Premier, you expressed concerns over poor 2021 matric results, 66,7% in 2021 compared to the 68,2% in the 2020 matric results. Your lamentation on this matter

is tantamount to crocodile tears. We put it to you, Premier, that your concern is not genuine because if you were genuine, the first step would be to fire the MEC for Education, Hon Polly Boshielo.

Hon Maseko, it cannot be true that each one of us must be accountable for the decline in matric pass rate for the class of 2021. The honourable MEC must account. The MEC spent most of her time in courts defending corruption relating to the feeding scheme when her department should to be dealing with all challenges they are experiencing. If it is not her defending corruption in courts, it is the decline in matric results. She is not fit for the purpose.

Hon Speaker, the Premier decided to put the interests of his party first at the expense of the interests of the people of Limpopo. Furthermore, we need clear timelines on the creation of e-learning in our schools. If these was in place, we could have averted lots of inconveniences caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. All schools must be equipped with high-speed WiFi network.

Hon Speaker, the ANC has a tendency of deploying party loyalists in key strategic positions in government in an attempt to compromise merit, skill, competency and quality. These ultimately impact negatively on the delivery of services to our people in the province engulfed by huge service delivery backlog. Early this year, the EFF had to embark on protests with the parents at the Department of Education head office due to lack of space for their children. Every parent and the children have to queue in their hundreds at the head office in search for space. Those who are fortunate enough to be placed in schools, are only placed in February when the teaching and learning have already progressed, which means that they would have lost on curriculum deliveries.

Mulangavundu, ho no fhela miṁwaha minzhi muvhuso wa vundu la Limpopo u tshi khou ri feilisa. Hu kha ḡi shumiswa mabunga a madindi zwikoloni zwashu. Hu kha ḡi vha na zwikolo zwo fhaṭwaho nga madaka na ṁamusi. Zwi tshi swika kha zwifhaṭo zwa u gudela zwi khou bala lwa u fhedza. Kana ndi uri a vha khou dzhiela nṯha na u pfesesa ndeme ya pfunzo wee. Kha vha ye Tshiendeulu Primary School vha ḡi vhonele nga avho maṭo.

Hon Speaker, the ANC-led government has completely neglected the Early Childhood Development. The EFF advocates that all crèches must be free because this is the foundation of education. We need to get it right from the beginning. ECD teachers must be well paid just like teachers in the mainstream schooling. They must enjoy the same rights and benefits like housing and medical aids just like their peers in the mainstream.

When it comes to health, Hon Speaker, it appears like the construction of an academic hospital for the people of Limpopo is a far-fetched dream. This project gets mentioned every year in the department's report, and yet no real progress has been recorded to date. This is a classic example of government's lack of capacity to deliver on infrastructure projects. One of the EFF's seven non-negotiable cardinal pillars is building state and government capacity, which will lead to the abolishment of tenders here in South Africa. The ANC-led government and failures are synonymous to each other. They coexist and are inseparable. The majority of clinics and health centres in Limpopo do not operate 24 hours.

These clinics operate during business hours instead of providing people with health services 24 hours around the clock. Hon Speaker, the much-talked about Limpopo provincial theatre which should be creating a platform for young people to showcase and harness their artistic talents, has become a weapon to create false hope to unsuspecting Limpopians.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, according to Stats SA, Limpopo has the highest percentage of adults living below the upper-bound poverty line. We do not know which state of the province you were addressing, maybe you have created the tenth province in your own mind. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

The next speaker on our list is Hon Lebea. [APPLAUSE] Order, honourable Members! Honourable Members, can we allow Hon Lebea to proceed?

MS LEBEA

An immortal bird regenerates or is otherwise born again. It is associated with the sun and it obtains new life by rising from the ashes of its predecessors. Hon Speaker; Hon Premier, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of this august House; distinguished guests and members of the media fraternity logged on to different live streaming channels, a very blessed morning to you.

Hon Premier, our ears hearken to unfortunate distorted and spurious statements all in a quest to disparage the good work the ANC-led government has done for the people of Limpopo. To our friend on the left, Hon Managa, we fully understand the wise words of Vladimir Lenin when he said, "There are no morals in politics; there is only expedience. A scoundrel may be of use to us just because he is a scoundrel." We give you 10 out of 10, Hon Premier. [APPLAUSE]

Until Hon Managa's party ascends to government, they will deploy to task, but for now they will have to wait until Hon Managa's party ascends to government. They will deploy to task. [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

May I respond, Hon Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The reason is that we can see that you are not defending us. When Hon Managa was there saying "Hon Premier", you said: "Do not address the Hon Premier, address me." This one with the shoes of our colour ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Don't say, "this one".

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

When Hon Lebea comes here and refers directly to Hon Managa, you don't come in and defend Hon Managa because she is not of your party. So, we take upon ourselves in this House because she is addressing her directly, and you are not coming in. When Hon Managa was addressing not

only the Premier but his speech, you came in quickly. That is why you see us doing what we are doing. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, can I respond? Hon Managa has just started with her speech. I am surprised why you are making a lot of noise.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Ga se la mo kwa?

THE SPEAKER

Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We have been raising hands thinking that you will point at us so that we could try to put this House in order. This House has got 49 Members, it does not only have Hon Buthane as a Member. There are 49 Members in here. We have been raising hands, Hon Speaker, firstly, to indicate that the Premier was attacked as a person. He had a right to stand up and defend himself because when you hallucinate, it means you are either mentally disturbed, or you take drugs. That is what the definition of "hallucination" is. You did not defend him along those lines; that is the first issue.

You were right, Hon Speaker, when saying that indeed all Members who are debating on the podium must address everybody in this House through you. They must not address you, but address everybody that they would like to address through yourself. You were right, and that must be corrected.

Lastly, Hon Speaker, when we raise hands, please recognise us because we have been raising hands when we wanted to deal with some of the issues in here, but because they have passed, we will allow you to proceed. We will wait for your ruling on that *Hansard* report, but you must allow Members who are personally attacked to raise those particular points. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Honourable Members, on the issue of "hallucination", I have ruled on that matter, and I said, can you allow me to go and check the *Hansard* report and I will come up with the ruling on the next session. Can we leave that matter as it is, honourable Members because I am still going to check the explanation and the *Hansard* report, so can we leave that one to the Speaker? I will come with the ruling in the next session. Hon Mokone, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Hon Speaker, I was standing on a point of order when Hon Jossey was addressing Hon Lebea. It is unpalatable for a Member to refer to another as "this one", because when Hon Lebea was on the podium, Hon Buthane showed disrespect to her, and I would like you to call the honourable Member to order and allow Hon Lebea to continue presenting her speech. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, on that one I did also raise it, and I did exactly what was supposed to be done. He referred to Hon Lebea as Hon Lebea; I did raise that. Hon Lebea, can you proceed please?

MS LEBEA

Hon Speaker, until the party of the honourable Member on my left-hand side ascends to government, they will deploy to task, but for now they will have to wait, and they will wait forever because waiting for the so-called government in waiting will be like waiting for the rain in a drought – fruitless and disappointing.

Madam Speaker, the upsurge in the novel coronavirus pandemic in March 2020 found an already susceptible South African economy. In fact, at the time the pandemic reached our shores, the South African economy had experienced two consecutive quarters of a recession and the COVID-19 pandemic deepened the economic calamity. The threat of the coronavirus for South Africa is far from over as it has audaciously, rapaciously and catastrophically left devastating perennial scars to many, but the leaders have realised they need to get the economy back on its feet. Yes, it is now understood that business as usual is a thing of the past.

Hon Premier, in his State of the Nation Address, the President, the Commander-in-Chief of all armed forces, His Excellency Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa talked about commitment to “strengthen democracy and reaffirm our commitment to the Constitution that protects us all”, and further pledged a new social compact within 100 days, “working together to revitalise our economy”, and “an end to inequality and injustice” that has impeded the country’s progress. No one, and absolutely no one, Hon Premier, will be left behind.

Madam Speaker, South Africa has high on its neck the consistent and glaring complications of the triple challenges: that of unemployment, poverty and inequality. The main reason why as the country and the province we must move and ensure we attain a classless society, a society where the children of the working class, the proletariats, the peasants in their majority will enjoy the fruits of this freedom is that, it was not achieved through a bed of roses nor over a glass of holy water with over a million bubbles, but the blood and sweat of the brave and selfless cadres who gave up their lives for this freedom we are enjoying today. They lived up to the words of Mama Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke when she said, “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.” They lived up to these words both in deeds and in actions.

Hon Speaker, Samora Machel was right when he said, “Our country’s liberation struggle arose as a consequence of the contradiction between colonised and colonisers, between exploited and exploiters. Reformist patterns of nationalist pressure were precluded by the very nature of colonial-fascism.”

Hon Premier, as young people of this country, we are reiterating that the minerals, the wealth and the economy of the country is still walloping in the hands of the minority. As a generation, we would have betrayed ourselves and the ones to come if we don’t change the status quo. Jobs have become the centre piece of any conversation of the South African economy while South Africans have witnessed a record of high level of unemployment. We really appreciate your efforts and your team of men and women that you deployed in different government departments as part of your response to the devastation of our economy.

The provincial socioeconomic recovery plan is anchored on the industrialisation of the province through mega projects in the manufacturing, tourism and agricultural sector. Plans that will see ordinary Benedict Chere from the dusty road of Seshego opening and creating job opportunities through his Babalas Achar, or a goal-driven Israel Fortunate Mokgehle with her intriguing tourism packages like Explore Tzaneen, turning into a household name, or an ever self-driven Thabiso Tlou, Limpopo's very own farm boy tapping the opportunity of his thriving agricultural dream becoming a cornerstone down from the R521 Dendron road straight to the JSE.

Hon Premier, baswa ba hloka mešomo. We can't help but really send words of appreciation to over thousands of different job opportunities that our young people will acquire through a number of investment projects you have put in place. These are projects like the Masingita Group that pledged R5,46 billion for the construction of the Nkuna Smart City in the Collins Chabane Local Municipality. In that vein, let's move to the opening of the Lebowakgomo Abattoir as it has a great potential to create employment opportunities, and we will turn the fortunes of the dilapidated poultry infrastructure throughout the province. It is a soft target because of the availability of the infrastructure.

For close to two years now, this country and the entire world went through many difficulties. While we cannot change the past like the scars of apartheid, but there is a lot we can do in the present and the future to give our province a different and positive direction.

Hon Premier, it is widely accepted that investments in infrastructure can lead to direct and indirect jobs and usually have spill-over effects into the economic opportunities. In this regard, we are so elated, and this clearly reaffirms that Limpopo province is ahead with aggressive infrastructure investments and employment-oriented strategies. Clearly, this government is working for our people; however, we still have a considerable task in ensuring that the fundamental human rights enshrined in our Constitution become a reality enjoyed by all.

Madam Speaker, schools being the second home, serve a number of purposes in a child's life, from boosting their confidence to making them learn the importance of teamwork and socialisation. Schools do it all. As the province, we welcome the proper infrastructure and basic services to Mhlaletsi community. It was in the year 2015 when the Mashiane Primary School in Sekhukhune blew the whistle regarding the lack of infrastructure which was reported by Mhlaletse village in Sekhukhune District on 18 August 2021.

It was quite disturbing knowing very well that away from home, schools become a place where our children spend their maximum time. Honourable Members, though we cannot praise a fish for swimming, but credits must be given to the Office of the Premier and the Department of Education on a steady job well done. We are proud that this is a government of deeds and can attest that the school has been built with proper sanitary facilities. There are many other schools that have this unpalatable challenge over a period of years now. Re a leboga, Mahlako.

We welcome and acknowledge the convening of a provincial Education Lekgotla, which will help in finding a long-lasting solution towards the NSC results in the province. We further commend that in this lekgotla go tla lla mogwane, where districts and circuit managers will be held accountable for the performance of their respective areas of jurisdictions and principal alike in accordance with the law.

Hon Premier, you promised the people of Limpopo that you will embark on a vital journey of building a capable state, ethical and developmental state. For us to build a developmental state, we need a well-defined capacity of the state. In this regard, we welcome the commitment in

combating a demon of corruption in government, wastage and mismanagement of public resources, not only public, Hon Speaker, but limited and scarce too.

Hon Premier, you gave a commitment of working with the National Prosecuting Authority to support envisaged prosecutions of wrongdoers. You offered your unwavering support to the Asset Forfeiture Unit in their mandated task to recover every single cent which was stolen from our government. You further assured the people of Limpopo that fight against the toxic mix is serious. We applaud the stand and that all recommendations will be implemented to the latter. We must be careful that our behaviours and attitudes toward entities like GNT should not be treated like rich parents towards wealthy kids, where we are going to throw money at every problem and even risk providing money in situations which require other forms of intervention.

With a vivid commitment to the people of Limpopo to continuously improve the financial performance of our provincial government, we will build the developmental state with utmost earnest. While we are on the matter of wellbeing of the finances of the province, my memory takes me back to the veterans of our province, the war heroes and heroines, the struggle icons that are still walking on the face of this earth. We thank you, for putting up an interministerial task team that is dealing with the plight of military veterans during government of the ANC. Re a leboga, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa.

Government must intensify the fight against GBV and the killing of our children. We must seek an audience with the judiciary and check what should be done to ensure that perpetrators of heinous acts meet the full might of the law. Hon Premier, some of our loudest friends in here are trying so hard to obliterate the fact that this government was not won through a toss of a coin, but a clear confidence duly entrusted by the people of Limpopo and the country in particular. Believe me, Hon Premier when I say, Limpopo is sailing in the right direction. Yes, it will not be an easy and smooth sailing notwithstanding the stormy, bumpy and catastrophic waves brought by our friends both in blue and in red. We will safely reach the shore. The shore full of a better life for the masses as enshrined in the Freedom Charter.

Just like the phoenix, Hon Premier, our province shall and definitely will rise from the ashes of the devastation caused by the coronavirus pandemic to embark on a fresh journey of economic growth, social development and prosperity of all the residents of our beautiful province.

In conclusion, Hon Premier, let me borrow from the brilliant work of Amílcar Cabral when he said, "We must practice revolutionary democracy in every aspect of our Party life. Every responsible member must have the courage of his responsibilities, exacting from others a proper respect for his work and properly respecting the work of others. Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories ..." Re a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We are now going to call upon the last speaker on our list who is going to close the debate, Hon Masemola.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Buthane o rata ditshele. Marega a tla fihla, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa. Marega a tla fihla re banna. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier; Deputy Speaker of our Legislature; honourable MECs, my colleagues in the Executive Council; Hon Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition;

honourable Members; Director-General and heads of department, a very good afternoon to all of you.

We are meeting here today, Hon Speaker, to debate the State of the Province Address that was profoundly presented and elucidated by the Hon Premier, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa' a Moraswi'a Molea. It was indeed a prodigious talk to the people of the province and exactly it spoke to matters that our people wanted to hear and continue to want to hear from their leaders in government as you correctly articulated.

The ANC has through your office articulated a policy statement that continues to point a trajectory and give a comprehensive package of our resolve this year going forward in our commitment to fundamentally alter the patterns of social system, and therefore, relentlessly demonstrate our endeavours to ensure better life for our people in the province.

In doing so, we remained steadfast with tenacity, passion and pertinacity, and we remain emboldened by the giant steps in the nature of political development unleashed by our glorious organisation, the ANC, in its advance of the national democratic revolution and to ensure the actual implementation and realisation of the Freedom Charter in full.

Hon Speaker, as Nelson Mandela on 18 August 1994 in his 100 days in office to Parliament said, "We have a government that has brought together bitter enemies into a constructive relationship; our parliament and cabinet have properly focused on the task of reconstruction and development; and we have a government that is in control and whose programmes are on course."

Undoubtedly therefore and unambiguously, we are in control and government programmes are on course as articulated in the State of the Province Address, despite the impact of COVID-19 as a global pandemic on the socioeconomic conditions of our people, its effects on the economy and the extent to which it has brought misery and difficulties in our people. However, Hon Speaker, we are synonymous to phoenix as it was articulated by the Premier that as a province we are rising. We are rejuvenated. We are reenergised. We are refocused, and without any failure, indeed, going forward this province will never be the same.

As soldiers of humanity and change agents for a revolutionary course our hearts are warmed by the strategic zeal of freeing productive forces and completely occasion them on the path of recovery and job creation. We have resolved that it is only the superior form of social organisation that should confront the socioeconomic challenges facing our people and negate the intransigent threat of our democracy being unemployment, poverty and inequality. These challenges have become a milling stone around the necks of our people slowing down our forward march to development and prosperity.

Hon Speaker, the political consciousness and maturity of those who are bitter, particularly enemies and adversaries of our constructive programmes of national purpose, is not surprising because that endeavour and that posture gets characterised by their level of political understanding and articulation as well as maturity. Since this talk this morning, those who most probably stand in that space, their reverberation attempted to heap slander on us as the ANC and the leader of this government. Therefore, their inputs invariably lack verbiage and sound melancholic and despondent; they lack content and clarity and, therefore, not surprising. Ka Sepedi nka re ga ke aketše ge nkare di nkga muši, pshiedi ge e se go gapa leswiswi ka sefepi.

Hon Speaker, the provincial economic recovery plan is under implementation and is focusing on catalytic projects of economic significance. We are rolling out the special economic zone in Musina-Makhado and the responsible officials in that space led by CEO Lehlogonolo and his

board are doing a wonderful job. These projects will be launched this year while the Tubatse one is receiving attention. We are very much certain as the ANC that the anticipated jobs will be realised for the benefits of our people once this process hits the ground running.

Hon Speaker, the state-owned enterprises focus on supporting townships and village economies can make a meaningful contribution in the industrialisation efforts of the province. Thousands of entrepreneurs, as it was indicated in the speech, are being assisted, and therefore, LEDA has been positioned as an instrument of planning implementation and support to the majority of our people in the province. We are continuing through the leadership of the Premier, as articulated in his policy speech and other policy documents to roll out massive infrastructure in the province with regard to roads and quite honestly the list of those roads which we will be doing in this coming financial year going forward, and other areas of work, road maintenance and many other activities are being well articulated.

We are building many schools in the province both as a department as well as the implementing agents, the DPSA, Mvula Trust and the IDT. The number of schools all over the province are under implementation. We are working very hard to implement libraries throughout the province; health facilities are under implementation throughout the province; the broadband as well as offices of the traditional leaders throughout the province are under implementation. This package of infrastructure delivery in the province is a clear demonstration of the good work that is being done in this province led by Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa.

It is the extent of the good work brought by our President to our province to come and assess the work done, for example, on road D3232 through differentiated construction methods massively by intensive features will continue as we move forward characterise our projects implementation without any failure so that the people of this province can be in a better position to get opportunities and enjoy the fruits of their freedom as we roll out these infrastructure delivery. It is very unfortunate, Hon Speaker, that our colleagues were trying to articulate a situation here that paints the situation as if it is gloomy in the space where I am placed.

Roads Agency Limpopo for the past five years has been able to record unqualified audit opinion, which clearly indicates that financially that institution has been able to stabilise notwithstanding the need for us to continue to perfect the internal systems and make sure that we move towards a clean audit. Going forward, it might be very important to explain for instance what does impairment means so that we don't articulate and relate moneys to something that could be well clarified and well explained differently. Be that as it may, I'm quite certain that at various levels of engagement through oversight committees, we will continue to have this academic political oversight engagement marked by more clarity, and deepening of understanding will be shared amongst ourselves.

Hon Speaker, from what the Premier said, it is very clear that we are continuing to interweave multiple perspectives and actions that integrate student voices and knowledge and primary stakeholders into the processes of teaching and learning. Equally, the application of pedagogical content is essential for quality classroom practice based on concrete didactical methods. The performance of schools, therefore, become very important for us to produce centres of excellence as we build better education in our province.

It is very unfortunate to have heard what Hon Managa was saying. I suppose it might want us to continue to have a conversation continuously on what constitutes the understanding of pedagogical and cognitive development of a child based on didactical essence of the system of higher education moving forward. There is no way this province can be unable to account given the quality of the results produced and the numbers we contribute to institutions of higher learning

throughout the whole country notwithstanding areas of need where there are challenges. We have got to deal with these matters, hence, the indaba which is being spoken about occasions that we come and deal with matters of curriculum transformation. Team education in this province is hard at work and I'm quite certain that going forward we are going to be able to realise those particular matters. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, please take your seat.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, can Hon Masemola come down on the level of English because we want to leave here understanding? His playing with words is very dangerous and misleading.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, you may continue.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I'm very happy that Hon Buthane does acknowledge that there is a difference between his members and those of the African National Congress. Thank you so much. Your Honour Hon Buthane, thank you so much.

Hon Speaker, given the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, our collective response as it was led by the Premier and the Department of Health and its expected devastations were mitigated. It is, indeed, very proper for us at this point in time to say to the MEC for Health and her team, thank you for the job well done. Millions of lives were saved, though some were lost. This situation does demand on us as a collective going forward to redouble our efforts as we deal with problems relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are hard at work to provide quality healthcare services in these healthcare centres throughout the province. This endeavour makes us quite well placed in society, in every village and every township because of the existence of those various centres of service excellence.

Hon Speaker, the consolidation of public service and administration is on track evidenced by quality improvement on the financials and positive audit outcomes of departments. Basic values of Batho Pele have been infused in the daily functioning of our administrative systems. These achievements should be sustained into the future because they give an account of the maturity of the systems and the capabilities of the administrative leadership of the province. In fighting malfeasance, sleaze and malversation, the Premier was very eloquent and very clear that we are going to be unapologetic in dealing with these matters of malversation as well as malfeasance. Seo se ra gore, ge re eya pele re gata ka borofa, re momile molomo wa ka fase, Hlabirwa'a Hlabirwa go lwa le bosegamelakaganong le bomahutšwetšammogo, re tlo tšwela pele le go lwa le bosegamelakaganong le bosehutšwetšammogo. Ke lesolokgoparara le re tlo go le thakgola ngwaga wo, re matlafatša go tšwela pele ka tsela yeo go nyakegago ka gona.

We are very much resolved in our commitment to fight this situation because it does divert resources that are supposed to be bringing development to the people of the province, and therefore, bring them into something else. We remain committed, through the Department of Agriculture and through the policy speech of the Premier, to embark on a very intensive revitalisation process of many irrigation schemes in the province for food production as well as

subsistence farming so that the people of this province can be able to survive, gore ka morago ga lebatl motumpane o se ke wa hlokega, dikgopana di ngwathe, bophelo bo tšwele pele. That is what we are going to be doing without any failure through the Department of Agriculture. Many farmers are being supported in various ways, of course, communities as well do receive this attention without any failure.

Hon Speaker, the Premier of the province, as he said in his policy speech without any ambiguity, had put together an interministerial committee which was charged with the very serious task of concluding the decision that was much awaited for the past 34 years. This process, from the historical records that we were able to learn from, points that it started in 1988, which means that 34 years down the line, we were unable to find a solution to what could be a probable relocation of offices of Sekhukhune District from Lebowakgomo to Jane Furse around Maroteng.

I want to report to this House as the Premier has said that this committee was able to find a lasting solution. A tribal resolution has been issued going forward in the next processes of the Department of Public Works, Treasury as well as CoGHSTA. We are going to announce how we are going to Maroteng to start the real project of relocating the offices from Lebowakgomo to Jane Furse. This will happen in our lifetime. It will happen during this term of office under the leadership of Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa.

Having said all what I have said, I want to take this opportunity to thank Members of the Executive Council and all of us and invite all of you to a mind gymnasium of national importance and purpose as we repackage the intentions of this government going forward informed by our manifesto and informed by the Freedom Charter, of course, because of the love and care of the people of this province and of our country. Ka go realo ke re molete sekuba! [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Dr Masemola. Hon Buthane, can you give us time? Hon Buthane, you are not allowed to speak. We shall now move to Item 8: Are there any announcements? Do you have an announcement?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Yes, Hon Speaker. I am announcing that the Premier has left when Hon Masemola was on the podium.

THE SPEAKER

You are out of order, Hon Buthane! Hon Buthane is out of order, that is not an announcement. We shall now move to Item 9. Can we proceed with our programme honourable Members? This House is adjourned until Thursday, 03 March 2022 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 08 MARCH 2022
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 Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Chair of Chairs, the Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members of the august House, and members of staff, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of the EFF... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Raphela, you are not audible enough. Can you just come to the podium?

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks, Hon Speaker.

**THE DEPRIVATION OF BASIC SERVICES FOR MOUTSE COMMUNITY AND
SURROUNDING VILLAGES IN SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes that Moutse community and the surrounding villages within the Sekhukhune District Municipality continue to be deprived basic services which are fundamental for the survival of human beings. Despite R143 million which was pledged by the then Human Settlements Minister, Lindiwe Sisulu, in 2020 to resolve water problems in the Moutse, there is no sign of hope.

Over R100 million has been utilised to date, but there is no drop of water in the village. The project smells all footprints of corruption; the municipality spent R43 million on 20 jojo water tanks ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Raphela, make sure that you are audible enough.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

I thank you. Am I audible?

THE SPEAKER

Just speak louder.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

It is shocking how so much money can buy 20 jojo water tanks. Even if you were to include maintenance, it is impossible to reach that figure. This unexplainable figure is an addition to other water projects which have been stalled without explanation including the R700 million bulk water project.

The EFF government will get rid of tenders and build capacity of the state to deliver on its obligations.

The collusion of politicians, municipal officials and businesspeople is draining the little resources meant for services. The same Sekhukhune District used R18 million to refurbish nine boreholes which have not made any impact on the livelihood of the residents.

We need immediate solution to the water challenges facing the people of Moutse and the entire Limpopo province.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Managa Lilian, rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to second the motion presented by Hon George Raphela. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MONAMA

Objection!

THE SPEAKER

Just wait, Hon Phala. Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. As the ANC, we do not necessarily have a problem with the challenge confronting our people in Sekhukhune in relation to the water ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Monama, can you release the mic.

MR MONAMA

The problem that we have is the assertion that the honourable Member is making about the corruption and other things. On the basis of that, we rise to object to that motion.

THE SPEAKER

There is an objection to the motion. Is there any seconder to the objection of the motion? Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the objection as raised correctly by Hon Monama.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. The motion is objected to and therefore falls off. Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE INCREASING CRIME STATISTICS IN LIMPOPO DUE TO LACK OF RESOURCES IN
POLICE STATIONS**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the DA that this House notes that Limpopo is the only province that showed an increase in crime for the period of 01 October 2021 to 31 December 2021. The overall crime in Limpopo was on the increase while the national average indicated a decline in crime of 2,5%.

This House must be concerned about the sharp increases in murder which spiked with 22,4% and attempted murder which showed an increase of 38,2%.

This House must note that during an oversight visit to Dzumeri Satellite Police Station on 16 February 2022, the DA found that the station has no single vehicle at its disposal – a satellite that is expected to combat and prevent crime in 28 villages over a vast distance without a vehicle.

It is no surprise that there was a downward trend of crimes detected as a result of police action. The SAPS in Limpopo made only 3 428 arrests through police action in the quarter under review, which is 4 192 decrease in the same period last year. Without increased resources, the SAPS in Limpopo cannot expect a turnaround in crime statistics, and our communities will remain unsafe.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as read by Hon Phala. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE STUDENT
ORGANISATION'S WIN ON SRC ELECTIONS AT MAVHOI CAMPUS**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the DA that this House notes that the Democratic Alliance Student Organisation (DASO) won most seats, yet again, during the SRC election held at Mavhoi Campus, Vhembe TVET in Makhado on 21 February 2022.

DASO contested nine positions and won seven out of nine seats during this SRC election. It must be noted that DASO has an excellent track record on the Mavhoi campus having occupied five seats last year.

This success indicates the confidence our students have in the DA to implement real change and create a new prosperous beginning that will provide hope and opportunities for our youth.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby rise to second the motion as read by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice? 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 Rule 200? I recognise Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE FAILURE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE LEPHALALA PRIMARY SCHOOL
WITH SCHOOL FOOD NUTRITION**
(Members' Statement)

The Democratic Alliance takes note that Lephalala Primary School outside Sekgosese in the Molemole Local Municipality has not received any food deliveries under the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) for the whole of February 2022, and only sporadically during 2021. That the learners who rely on school feeding schemes were left destitute and hungry and that this led to a situation where hungry and desperate learners bullied younger learners by taking their food they brought from home. Due to this untenable situation, the principal decided to shorten the school hours to three and half hours only (i.e. from 07:30 to 11:00) when all children could go home.

The unreliability of the service provider was reported to the circuit office and to the provincial department since last year without any success. Only after the Democratic Alliance exposed the matter in the media and to the department, there was a reaction.

Can the honourable MEC for Education explain the following:

- Why was there no response to the school's written pleas for assistance?
- How often does the department monitor the deliveries of food supplies from the NSNP programme?
- What were the reasons for the sporadic deliveries from the service providers for almost a year in that specific case?
- What has the department done since then to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future? and
- How will the department assist the school to make up for the time lost?

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Are there any other Members' Statements in terms of Rule 200? Hon Raphela, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

DYSFUNCTIONAL STEEL WATER SUPPLY TANK IN MANKWENG
(Members' Statement)

The Polokwane Municipality in Capricorn District built a steel water supply tank last year to the tune of R400 million in Mankweng that never supplied a single drop of water to the community – I am not sure if this one is also said to be a lie. The tank was erected between Mantshana village in ward 7 and Magoa village in ward 27, Mankweng. This was meant to address chronic water shortage in the two villages, but the objective was never achieved because the infrastructure is not functional. Since the tank was erected, it has not been useful to the intended beneficiaries or

communities already mentioned. Their fundamental right for access to clean water is being violated and infringed upon whilst their hopes diminish every day as the tank remains a white elephant.

It is the culture of the ANC-led government to build infrastructure and abandon it, leaving it lying in ruins without even ensuring that it benefits communities. Most of the infrastructure in communities is vandalised because it is not serving the people. Thugs usually take advantage of white elephant infrastructures by stealing whatever they come across. The government simply puts up infrastructure and walk away without making it accessible to communities.

The EFF will not be surprised if the steel water tank gets stolen or vandalised. This will amount to fruitless and wasteful expenditure, which the ANC-led government is famous for.

The EFF calls upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter immediately to ensure that the tank provides water to the communities of Mantshana and Magoa within the next two weeks, failure which the EFF will approach the Human Rights Commission on the matter, and further organise a protest march in this regard – that is why le sa re tšweletše thelebišeneng ka gore ga le nyake re bolela nnete.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you for the statement. Are there any responses from Members of the Executive? Can you be seated honourable MEC?

Are we still having Members' Statements? Are there any further Members' Statements in terms of Rule 200?

MS MANAGA

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Can you come forward?

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE BAD CONDITION OF R25 ROAD (Members' Statement)

The incapacity of the government is evident even on small things that can be fixed with a twinkle of an eye. If they cannot fix small things like potholes, how will they provide solutions to huge infrastructure projects like roads and bulk water supply? And if they cannot provide solutions to the many challenges confronting society, why should the people of Limpopo believe in them?

The R25 road passes through Elandsdoring and Uitspanning villages through to Groblersdal which is about 32 km. The problem starts from where Mpumalanga ends and where Limpopo starts as the road is infested with serious unevenness and dangerous potholes. This puts the lives of motorists in danger, and it will also increase the number of uncertainties and contingent liabilities which keep on escalating every day on the part of the provincial government. The money

spent on contingent liabilities could go a long way in addressing the service delivery backlog in the province.

Motorists lodge complaints against RAL on a daily basis because of the bad condition of roads in the province. Cars get damaged by potholes and subsequently people lose their lives unnecessarily. All these can be avoided by eradicating potholes and constructing new decent roads through Roads Agency Limpopo.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to the people of Moutse East.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any response? MEC, Hon Boshielo, you are on the platform.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker and good morning to the Premier, my fellow MECs and Members. Honourable Members, I wish to bring to your attention that as the ANC-led government, we started these programmes of feeding scheme or school nutrition and scholar transport because we know the challenges that are there in the rural schools, because most of us are from there.

In terms of the school that Hon Smalle is talking about, he knows the matter was fixed a long time ago. I do not know why he is bringing it here, because he knows that we have fixed it. You should be aware that when we deal with service providers, it is the principals and the SMTs that receive the food. They must check whether the food is in good condition and suitable for consumption by the learners.

After receiving the complaint from the DA – actually it was Hon Smit – I phoned the principal. I wanted to charge him, because he is the CEO of the school. If something was not right, he should have taken a decision. If a service provider is not providing a service, there are mechanisms that we use in the department to deal with the matter. One of them is the termination of the service and appointing a new one.

I am not sure why this matter is here, but he knows we have dealt with that problem. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. MEC Makamu, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. My response to the issue raised by Hon Raphela about water challenges faced by the community of Mantshana in the Polokwane Local Municipality, I think following the SOPA delivered by the Premier of the province, he elaborated a lot about implementing programmes to deal with the challenges of water in the province. He even went to an extent of mentioning the visit by Minister Mchunu to the province to deal with the challenge of water more than three times since his appointment. We will be able to look specifically on the challenge.

You will also note that the Polokwane Municipality was engaged in a massive project in trying to revive all the old pipes to make sure that there is provision of water. The steel water tank you are referring to, I am going to look at it. I understand that we are trying to make infrastructure available to provide water. We will specifically go and check and support the municipality.

I am not so sure, Hon Managa, that when you mentioned R25 road, what you meant because for the fact that it is called R-road it means that is a regional road, which means the provincial government is responsible for such. The municipalities and CoGHSTA give support for the streets within villages and towns. You cannot refer this item to CoGHSTA. Instead, we do have a capable MEC for D-roads and R-roads in the province in the name of Dr N D Masemola. In future, you should refer to him should know exactly which one is meant for which portfolio. For this one, I don't think it belongs to us. There is a need for the EFF to find time to check which road are they referring to and which portfolio is responsible. We will deal with it next time when it is redirected to the appropriate portfolio. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC, for the response.

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? We shall call upon Hon Deputy Speaker to table the reports of the Public Service Commission. Hon Deputy Speaker, the floor is yours.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Ndou A J D, hereby table the investigation reports by the Public Service Commission for the financial year 2020/21 as they appear in the ATC as follows:

- Report of the National Assembly in terms of section 196(4)(e) of the Constitution, read with section 196(6) – 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021;
- Overview Report on Complaints Reported to the Public Service Commission during the 2020/21 financial year – October 2021;
- Overview Report on Financial Misconduct for the 2020/21 Financial Year –September 2021;
- Overview Report on the Implementation of the Financial Disclosure Framework for 2020/21 Financial Year – September 2021; and
- A review of the body of work conducted by the PSC in the Department of Health, and key issues identified – November 2021;

These reports are tabled in terms of section 196(4)(e) of the Constitution for consideration by this House.

I move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, for the tabling of the reports of the Public Service Commission. 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 First Reading of the Limpopo Third Adjustment Appropriation Bill 2022 [B02-2022] by MEC for Provincial Treasury. Hon Sekoati, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for being given this opportunity to come and present the amendment to the Appropriation Bill 2021/22. I request the House to consider a proposal to amend the 2021/22 Adjustment Budget in compliance with section 18 of the Division of Revenue Act 2021 (Act No 9 of 2021) as amended. The Minister of Finance has published *Gazette No 45992* which gives effect to the following:

- The national Department of Human Settlements stopped the transfer of funds to Gauteng which is R20 million; Free State, R20 million; and Limpopo, R20 million, for the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant following the revised allocation by the national Department of Human Settlements;
- The national Department of Human Settlements reallocates funds to Northern Cape, which is an amount of R60 million for the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant following the revised allocations by the national Department of Human Settlements.

The following amendments were made by National Treasury to the rollovers of the provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development by the national transferring departments as follows:

- The national Department of Transport, in addition to the rollover already approved, has rolled over an additional amount of R294,001 million to the provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure; and
- The national Department of Agriculture has reduced the land care rollover to the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development by R496 000.

Having received the above amendments, the Provincial Treasury in terms of section 31 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999) as amended, must table the Second Adjustment Budget to effect these changes to the provincial Budget.

I, therefore, table the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill to effect these adjustments, and the provincial Budget will increase by R273,5 million from R75,372 billion to R75,646 billion.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

7.2. First Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B01-2022]

I call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury. Hon Sekoati, the podium is yours.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE PROVINCIAL TREASURY

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

Thank you once again, Madam Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Jeremiah Azwindini Dingaane Ndou; Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha – Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa; Members of the Executive Council, my colleagues; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, the Director-General of the province and all Heads of Department present; CEOs of various entities present, ladies and gentlemen.

The 2022/23 provincial Budget is presented on the International Women's Day, a day which is dedicated to celebrating women's achievements in the social, economic, cultural and political spheres. The day, collectively founded by women, also brings attention to gender parity and women's rights. As we join in the celebrations, we choose to continue to challenge the stereotypes, fight bias, broaden perceptions, improve situations, and celebrate women's achievements because it is our belief that each one of us can help create a gender-equal world, push back the frontiers of poverty, and create equal opportunities for all.

This Budget is also presented amid the Russian-Ukraine conflict which sets back the global economic recovery from the effects of COVID-19, amongst others, and ratcheting up energy prices. The oil price has increased past \$100 a barrel for the first time since 2014, while European natural gas has jumped by as much as 62%. In South Africa, the conflict has, and will continue to push the fuel price higher as is evidenced from the recent increase by R1,48 pushing the fuel price to all time high, above R21,00 per litre, which will have a knock-on effect for transport costs, food items and other essential products, which will be resulting in further inflation risk.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which is accompanied by the new waves of infections and the recent emergence of the new Omicron variant, as well as the prospects of the fifth wave in the fast-approaching winter, will continue to force government to act in a context of great uncertainty and under heavy economic, fiscal and social pressures, with both national and provincial governments trying to limit the impact of the crisis on the already ailing economy.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also recently revised South Africa's GDP outlook from 5% to 4,6%, but the country is unlikely to sustain the pace of recovery beyond 2021 with growth expected to slow to 1,9% in 2022.

In Limpopo, the provincial economy is expected to realise a rebound from the 2020 negative growth, stimulated by the international demand for minerals. Therefore, as the provincial government we must reposition ourselves as an investment destination of choice for both domestic and foreign investors, as this will assist in achieving the desired economic growth levels to support job creation and to strengthen the fight against poverty and inequality in our province. In line with the National Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, the Limpopo Socio-

Economic Recovery Plan and the Limpopo Development Plan, the provincial economic recovery will need to be motivated by a green, resilient and inclusive developmental path.

In the State of the Province Address (SOPA), Hon Premier of the province used the parable of a phoenix as a way of inspiring the people of Limpopo to strive beyond our socioeconomic ashes and rise to greatness once more. He said: “Like a phoenix, Limpopo shall rise from the ashes of the devastation caused by the coronavirus pandemic to embark on a fresh journey of economic growth, social development and prosperity for all the residents of our beautiful province.” It is, therefore, the intention of the Provincial Treasury, through the 2022/23 provincial Budget, to give effect to this assertion and create an enabling environment for pioneering spirit of Limpopo to reignite the phoenix and refocus our intended goals for a better life for all.

Central to breathing new life to our socioeconomic recovery, Hon Premier identified infrastructure development as a key driver to Limpopo’s economic reconstruction and recovery. Indeed, reliable roads and other economic infrastructure will assist in effectively connecting various supply chains, and thereby ensuring the efficient supply of goods and services within and across our provincial borders. The improved road infrastructure will ensure connection of households across rural and urban areas, and thereby facilitating access to better quality employment opportunities, healthcare and education, hence, our determination to support the delivery of infrastructure at a faster rate to foster economic growth and create opportunities for the citizens of Limpopo.

Our Provincial Infrastructure Planning Framework for 2022/23 Medium-Term Expenditure (MTEF) has built on the experience gained during the planning and delivery of infrastructure over the previous financial years, and we are pleased to report that despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, the delivery of our provincial infrastructure continues to improve gradually. To this end, the province conducted an Infrastructure Planning and Delivery Workshop in the third quarter of 2021/22 financial year to plan for the 2022/23 MTEF period, with the purpose of enhancing plans of departments and implementing agents, including key projects and programmes, so that we get them ready for implementation in the 2022/23 financial year and through to our multi-year horizon.

Coming from this exercise, we have finalised the Provincial Infrastructure Planning and Readiness Report for 2022/23 financial year, and it has been endorsed by all infrastructure governance structures. The final infrastructure plan for 2022 has been used as an input in the finalisation of the 2022/23 infrastructure budget. In the 2022/23 financial year, we have allocated an amount of R6,837 billion across departments for infrastructure development as follows:

- Department of Education : R1,518 billion;
- Department of Health : R760 million
- Department of Transport and Community Safety : R57,2 million;
- Department of LEDET : R27,0 million;
- Department of CoGHSTA : R1,176 billion;
- Department of Public works, Roads and Infrastructure : R3,007 billion;
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development : R180 million;
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture : R90 million; and
- Department of Social Development : R20,7 million.

This Budget is also spread and allocated across various infrastructure investment categories. A budget of R664,5 million is allocated towards new infrastructure mainly for construction of new clinics, libraries, schools, centres for places of safety, nature reserves, housing development and upgrades of gravel roads to tar. The estimated budget allocation for rehabilitation and

refurbishment will be R317 million of 5%. The upgrading and additions of existing facilities will be R1,001 billion; the capital transfers will be R2,7 billion; and R1,1 billion is allocated for maintenance. The other part of the infrastructure budget goes to leases which is R46,6 million, and an additional R980,5 million is allocated for machinery and equipment; project administrations; professional fees; business plans; management fees and project planning in various departments.

The Provincial Treasury has worked with all departments, including conducting refresher workshops on the capturing of project lists and budgets into the web-based Infrastructure Reporting Model (IRM) which will be used to monitor and report expenditure performance. This will enable sector departments to report on the progress and performance of their infrastructure on a monthly basis to both the Provincial and National Treasury, including the provincial infrastructure governance structures.

This budget has been objectively planned by identifying key projects in the sector departments so that we address challenges and therefore attract investments, drive economic growth, create jobs and ensure development impact. The technical committee will continue to review the implementation of 2022/23 financial year projects and identify blockages and come up with interventions. Formal engagements will also continue to take shape on a monthly basis through the approved provincial infrastructure governance structures so that implementation happens at an acceptable rate, expenditure is realised and there is value for money.

Madam Speaker, Hon Premier, as mandated by section 18(1)(a) and (b) of the Public Finance Management Act, Provincial Treasury is compelled to strengthen the oversight role it has over provincial departments and provincial public entities through close monitoring of their financial performance. We will continue to monitor spending and revenue collection through support forums such as the Revenue Enhancement Bilaterals, Budget and Revenue Forums and Quarterly MEC Bilaterals with departments and public entities. This is done in order to provide support to departments with a view to avoid under-collection of the targeted revenue, unauthorised expenditure and underspending in departments and public entities, which has a negative impact on future allocations especially in conditional grants by national departments.

The province derives its receipts from equitable share, conditional grants, provincial own revenue and reserves. The equitable share allocation of the province is R64,056 billion for 2022/23, R62,073 billion for 2023/24, and will be R64,127 billion in 2024/25 financial years respectively. The conditional grant allocation for the 2022/23 financial year is R10,741 billion, R10,546 billion in 2023/24 and R10,980 billion in the 2024/25 financial year. Supported by our provincial revenue enhancement strategies, our province is doing its best to maximise own revenue collection, despite the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with our provincial own revenue projected to increase from R1,458 billion in 2021/22 to R1,481 billion in 2022/23; R1,552 billion in 2023/24; and R1,627 billion in 2024/25 financial years.

The Provincial Equitable Share accounts for approximately 84,0% of the provincial available resources. The province is allocated R64,056 billion in 2022/23, R62,073 billion in 2023/24 and R64,127 billion in 2024/25 financial year. Included in the equitable share allocation for the province are the following allocations:

- R1,579 billion for non-pensionable compensation of employees' allowances as per 2021 wage agreement;
- R882,381 million in 2022/23 and R884,669 million in 2023/24 for the implementation of the Presidential Youth Employment Initiatives in the Department of Education;

- R884,101 million in 2022/23, R389,117 million in 2023/24 and R540,523 million in 2024/25 to support the Department of Health to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and to reduce the impact of budget reductions on essential medical goods and services;
- R1 billion in 2022/23, R867,6 million in 2023/24 and R540 million in 2024/25 to fund shortfalls on compensation of employees in the Department of Education as we support teachers who are making sure that our kids are receiving knowledge in our schools; and
- R23,175 million in 2022/23, R40,8 million in 2023/24 and R48,619 million in 2024/25 to support existing welfare and non-governmental organisations in the Department of Social Development.

The province has ring-fenced an amount of R1 billion in the Department of Health for the 2022/23 financial year to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Conditional grant allocations give effect to national priorities and are designed to achieve specific objectives with conditions that each recipient department must adhere to. The purpose of conditional grants is to address inter-governmental policy matters in all provinces and the spending is governed by the Division of Revenue Act. The provincial conditional grants allocation amount to R32,267 billion over the 2022 MTEF with R10,741 billion allocated in 2022/23, R10,5 billion in 2023/24 and R10,9 billion in 2024/25 financial years. These allocations increased by 2,1% in 2022/23, then decrease by 1,8% in 2023/24, and increase again by 4,1% in the 2024/25 financial year.

The province is faced with a constrained fiscal position of reduced national equitable share as a result of low economic activities in the country which are exacerbated by the existence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The poor financial position leaves the provincial government with limited resources to address the socio-socioeconomic needs of its citizenry. In order to address the fiscal challenges, the province developed a Provincial Revenue Enhancement Strategy to maximise own revenue and augment the provincial fiscus. The Provincial Treasury, in collaboration with various departments, has identified revenue enhancement projects which will be implemented over the MTEF period to increase our provincial revenue base. The province is continuously investing in revenue enhancement projects which include, amongst others,,,; infrastructure improvement in Limpopo Wildlife Life Resorts; extension of the motor vehicle registration and licensing authorities in all five districts to improve access to services that are already being rendered by municipalities on behalf of the Department of Transport; extension of K53 learners and driver's license function, piloting with Vhembe and Capricorn District and demarcation of additional parking bays in the Department of Health's facilities. That means all of us who might be owing traffic fines, must make sure that we pay and register as well as registering our vehicles in the province, because it. It is important for us to raise revenue. Those of us that are registering outside of this province, we must know that we are denying our province the revenue we need for the development of the province.

As at 31 January 2022, the province has managed to collect own revenue amounting to R1,166 billion or 83,6% of the revised target of R1,395 billion and anticipates collecting the own revenue target as at 31 March 2022. The provincial own revenue target for 2022/23 has increased to R1,481 billion from the 2021/22 target of R1,458 billion and a further increase to R1,551 billion and R1,627 billion in 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively. Provincial departments and public entities that generate revenue above their own credible set targets, receive incentives in line with the Provincial Revenue Enhancement and Retention Strategy. This is to make sure that everyone is able to raise more revenue, and they are in a better position to receive better incentives.

Madam Speaker, the Office of the Premier; Legislature; Provincial Treasury; and Public Works provide support to departments in terms of general public services and ensure that the required legislation and policies are available and implemented by departments. Furthermore, these departments provide support and training to other departments in order to implement the plans effectively as adopted by this august House. Therefore, these departments are allocated a total budget of R5,815 billion, R5,755 billion and R5,967 billion in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years respectively.

The Provincial Secretariat of Police Services Programme under the Department of Transport and Community Safety is responsible for public order and safety in the province. The programme is allocated R62,316 million in 2022/23 financial year. The economic affairs and environmental protection remain the responsibility of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. They are therefore allocated R5,573 billion in 2022/23, R5,457 billion in 2023/24 and R5,532 billion in 2024/25 financial years respectively. The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs is allocated R1,288 billion, R1,343 billion and R1,399 billion in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years respectively for housing development. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is responsible for recreation, culture and various programmes in the province and is allocated R533,293 million in 2022/23, R559,417 million in 2023/24 and R640,1 million financial years respectively. I see the MEC is raising her hand; she is not happy. When there is more money, we will make sure that we allocate more money in the recreation site.

In terms of the Constitution of Republic of South Africa, the departments of Health; Education; and Social Development are tasked with the responsibility of providing healthcare, basic education and social services to the public. An amount of R60,958 billion or 82,1% of the provincial budget is allocated to the three departments. You can make the calculation. The rest will be shared among the remaining departments. The other functional areas payments are allocated in line with the services to be rendered and the mandates for the policy areas.

The allocation for current payments is R62,054 billion in 2022/23, R62,614 billion in 2023/24 and R63,853 billion in 2024/25 financial years and represents 83,6% of the total allocation. These payments include payments for compensation of employees and goods and services. Compensation of Employees allocation which represents 68,6% of the total budget is allocated R50,757 billion in the 2022/23, R50,690 billion in 2023/24 and R51,453 billion in 2024/25 financial years. That tells you, we have got very little that is left for us to be able to provide services in this province. Therefore, we need to continuously look for innovative ways of dealing with this challenge.

The Compensation of Employees is reduced in 2023/24 due to the once off allocation for salary increases, non-pensionable cash allowance in the 2022/23 financial year. Goods and Services represents 15,2% of the total allocation and is allocated R11,296 billion in the 2022/23, R11,922 billion in 2023/24, and R12,398 billion in 2024/25 financial years. The allocation for Transfers and Subsidies is R9,509 billion or 12% of the total budget in 2022/23; this is increased minimally to R9,581 billion in 2023/24 and then reduced to R9,033 billion in 2024/25 financial years. The allocation is intended for transfers to the departmental agencies and public entities; schools funded NPOs; service providers for construction of human settlement houses under Human Settlement Grant and for Payments of Leave Gratuity to staff exiting the public service. Payments for Capital Assets reduce from R2,880 billion to R2,667 billion in the 2022/23 financial year. The allocation is for construction of fixed structures such as roads and buildings, machinery and equipment, biological assets and software and intangible assets. The allocation is for construction of fixed structures such as roads and buildings, machinery and equipment, biological assets and

software and intangible assets. The allocation is for construction of fixed structures such as roads and buildings, machinery and equipment, biological assets and software and intangible assets.

Amount of R2,169 billion or 81,3% of the payments for Capital Assets' budget is allocated to buildings and other fixed structures which is infrastructure investment and should assist in job creation in the construction industry. The provincial expenditure budget declines from the adjusted budget of R75,666 billion in the 2021/22 to R74,230 billion in 2022/23 and then grows to R74,416 billion in 2023/24 and further increases to R75,227 billion in 2024/25 financial years respectively. The allocations for departments are as follows:

- Vote 1: Office of the Premier is allocated R417 million in 2022/23, R403 million in 2023/24 and R413 million in 2024/25 financial years. Included in the allocation is R33,6 million earmarked for funding to implement ICT-related projects in the province, COVID-19 Communication, IT GIS Project, Foreign Missions, and ICT Equipment.
- Vote 2: Provincial Legislature receives an allocated budget of R386 million in 2022/23, R391,7 million in 2023/24 and R399,4 million in 2024/25 financial years.
- Vote 3: Department of Education receives the highest share of 49,1% of the provincial budget. The department is allocated R36,445 billion in 2022/23, R36,771 billion in 2023/24 and R36,599 billion in 2024/25 financial years respectively. The 2022/23 allocation includes R882 million for Presidential Youth Employment Initiatives, R35 million for Sanitary Dignity Towels, R100 million for E-Education, R200 million for Storm Damaged Schools, R320 million additional Compensation of Employees for Educators, R3,2 billion for Conditional Grants, and R696 million from own revenue. The allocation also includes R316 million equitable share for Early Childhood Development (ECD) function shift from Social Development and R184 million for Early Childhood Development Grant.
- Vote 4: Agriculture and Rural Development is allocated a budget of R1,657 billion in 2022/23, R1,650 billion in 2023/24 and R1,698 billion in 2024/25 financial years respectively. The allocation includes R336,8 million in 2022/23 financial year for Conditional Grants. Included in the departmental allocation is an amount of R27,9 million for Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agro-Processing Value Chain (RAAVC) Projects.
- Vote 5: Provincial Treasury receives a budget allocation of R409,9 million in 2022/23, R422 million in 2023/24 and R433 million in the 2024/25 financial years. Included in the departmental allocation over the MTEF is an amount of R10 million for Municipal Support, R6 million for the implementation of the LOGIS asset management model in provincial departments and R25 million for improved transversal monitoring and support programmes. You can see there is not enough money in the Provincial Treasury.
- Vote 6: Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is allocated a budget of R1,612 billion in 2022/23, R1,4 billion in 2023/24 and R1,475 billion in the 2024/25 financial years. Included in the allocation is R2,1 million for EPWP Conditional Grant and R749 million for transfers to public entities. The public entities transfer amounts include R275 million for Musina-Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zones, R54 million for the turnaround of Great North Transport to be transferred to Limpopo Economic Development Agency, and R21,8 million for Tourism Marketing to be transferred to the Limpopo Tourism Agency. The department is responsible for economic development in the province and included in the allocation also is an amount of R4 million for the implementation of the Limpopo Liquor Act, R32 million for the state resort refurbishment, R7 million for reserve commercialisation and R5 million for the implementation of a resort central reservation

system, and R28 million to pay debts due to its public entities. LEDET will be paying this R28 million as owed to the public entities so that they are able to have sufficient resources to implement their mandate.

- Vote 7: The Department of Health receives the second highest allocation of the provincial budget at 30,6%% after the Department of Education. The total allocation to the department is R22,726 billion in the 2022/23, R22,647 billion in 2023/24 and R23,1 billion in the 2024/25 financial years. Included in the 2022/23 allocation is R115 million for placement of medical graduates, R185 million for employment of doctors, R20 million for Emergency Medical Services Communication Centres, and R5 million for construction of parking bays for revenue enhancement. The allocation also includes R4,1 billion for conditional grants and R609 million from own revenue. Included in the equitable share allocation is ring-fenced allocation of R1 billion for COVID-19 response and vaccine rollout programmes.
- Vote 8: Department of Transport and Community Safety is allocated R2,366 billion in the 2022/23, R2,4 billion in 2023/24 and R2,435 billion in 2024/25 financial years respectively. The 2022/23 allocation includes R424 million for conditional grants, R67 million for transfer to Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL), R57 million for provincial priorities including K53 projects, R26 million for the revitalisation of the traffic training college, R6,7 million for the revitalisation of traffic stations, and R6 million for the finalisation of the Thohoyandou intermodal facility.
- Vote 9: The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure receives a budget allocation of R3,471 billion in the 2022/23, R3,409 billion in 2023/24 and R3,5 billion in the 2024/25 financial years. Included in the allocation is R150 million for municipal rates and taxes, R1,2 billion for conditional grants, part of which will be allocated to Roads Agency Limpopo as part of RAL allocation of R1,540 billion for roads maintenance and upgrading, partnerships and other operational costs. As you can see, Madam Speaker, as a provincial government, we are paying rates and taxes to municipalities, so that municipalities can continue providing services to residents of the province. However, we would also like to make a call to the residents of our province to make sure that they equally pay for the services as rendered by our municipalities, so that our municipalities become viable and are sustainable. We make that commitment as a provincial government that we will continue to pay what is owed to these municipalities.
- Vote 10: The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture receives an allocation of R533,3 million in the 2022/23, R559,4 million in 2023/24 and R640 million in the 2024/25 financial years. The allocation for 2022/23 includes conditional grant allocations amounting to R219 million. Included in the departmental allocation is an amount of R33 million for the provincial theatre and R8,5 million for refurbishment and improvement of the Schoemansdal Museum.
- Vote 11: The Department Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs is allocated a budget of R2,419 billion in the 2022/23, R2,472 billion in 2023/24 and R2,553 billion in the 2024/25 financial year. Included in the allocation is the conditional grant allocation of R1,176 billion for Human Settlement Development Grant and the Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant of R269,5 million. The allocation for 2022/23 financial year also includes R57 million for construction and maintenance of traditional council offices and R5 million for furnishing of the said traditional council offices.

- Vote 12: The Department of Social Development will receive R1,788 billion in the 2022/23, R1,810 billion in 2023/24 and R1,850 billion during the 2024/25 financial year. The 2022/23 equitable share and conditional grant allocation has been reduced due to the Early Childhood Development function transfer to Limpopo Department of Education. Included in the allocations for 2022/23 is the conditional grant allocation of R10,4 million for Expanded Public Works Programme, funds conversion of Social Work Grant to Equitable Share, funds for Food Relief function shift and funds for Gender-Based Violence, and. And an additional R23,2 million for the payment of existing NGOs.

Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, despite the terrible losses, the adversity and suffering of the 2020/21 calendar years, much innovation, strength and resilience were also born. Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, despite the terrible losses, the adversity and suffering of the 2020/21 calendar years, much innovation, strength and resilience were also born. Therefore, collectively, we must henceforth strive to make Limpopo a better place. This starts with small changes every day and be more mindful of the impact of our choices and decisions on the current and future generations. The story that gets written from here remains very much in our hands.

In conclusion, Hon Premier, allow me to express words of gratitude for your continued patience, guidance and visionary leadership in ensuring that the public fiscus does really and tangibly change the lives of people of Limpopo for the better.

Hon Rudolph Phala, the chairperson, and other members of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, and all colleagues in the Executive Council, your continued oversight and support is appreciated at all times, and I sincerely thank you.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank my wife, Mahlaku, and our children for their never-ending patience and support. Your prayers and best wishes renew my strength every time. [LAUGHTER] Ke Hunadi, ke Mahlaku'a Hlabirwa. HOD, Gavin Pratt, and Team Treasury, your continued enthusiasm and commitment to the government and the people of Limpopo is appreciated. Yet again, we have surely managed to develop and distribute an equitable Budget that will be the basis for Limpopo's economic recovery and growth.

Madam Speaker, Hon Premier, and Members of this august House, I therefore table herewith:

- The Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022;
- The Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2022;
- Overview of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2022;
- Socio-Economic Review and Outlook 2022; and
- Supporting gazettes.

Ke a leboga. Inkomu. Ndo livhuha. Baie dankie. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC for Provincial Treasury. Re a go leboga, Hlabirwa. The Budget Speech together with its supporting documents are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? There are none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned to Thursday, 17 March 2022 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now take this opportunity to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you, you may all be seated. Honourable Members and 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 Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

WISHING THE RETIRING LT COL NGOEPE WELL DURING RETIREMENT
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the DA that this House notes the retirement of Lt Col Moatshe Ngoepe, born and bred in GaTaeatswala, a village next to Steiloo. Ngoepe joined the police service in 1985. Through his dedication and hard work, he got promoted through the ranks until he became an officer in 1990 with the rank of lieutenant.

He has since had 37 years of interrupted service in SAPS, and for the last 27 years, he has worked as a media liaison officer in SAPS. Lt Col Ngoepe is a trained detective and communication practitioner. He was the officer of the law who never shied away, be it from individuals or the media fraternity seeking comments from SAPS. He communicated SAPS stance in a respectful and dignified manner. Not once did his communications in the media receive backlash or bring SAPS into disrepute.

Lt Col Moatshe Ngoepe is retiring from the SAPS effectively on 31 March 2022. That will be the last day Ngoepe reports for duty.

May this House wish him well in the next chapter of his life?

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I rise to second the motion as read out by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? Is it Hon Mahasela? I can't see. Yes, honourable Member, raise your hand. I can't see very well. Yes, you are noted. It is Hon Mokaba-Phukwana? Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, you are recognised.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE SADDENING NEWS ABOUT THE FATAL SHOOTING OF A WOMAN BY HER
BOYFRIEND AT DITHABANENG, SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT**
(Motion without Notice)

Honourable Members, Hon Speaker and everyone, good morning. Hon Speaker, we just learnt with dismay about the gender-based violence incident in Dithabaneng, Bothashoek, within Sekhukhune District, where a 19-year-old woman was fatally shot by her boyfriend, who went on to commit suicide.

What makes this incident sadder, Hon Speaker, is that the government is doing all it can to heighten the fight against the scourge of GBV and even offering its counselling services to people who could be facing problems of a psychological nature.

We have received a report that the government has dispatched teams of social workers to provide counselling to the affected family members. Hon Speaker, we cannot have a society where every time there is a quarrel between couples, someone must die. This cannot be, or else, very soon, we will all die in the hands of our people whom we love.

The fact that this incident coincides with Human Right Month also undermines the significance of this programme and many others that are initiated by the government to mitigate against the abuse of women and children.

It remains our call, Hon Speaker, that members of the public must use the various government services available at their disposal when faced with an assortment of health and personal challenges, or otherwise, this scourge of GBV will finish all of us.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to second the motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other motion without notice in terms of Rule 145? Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO MORULENG HIGH SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING A
KITCHEN FACILITY DONATED BY THE EFF**
(Motion without Notice)

I, Managa Lilian, rise on behalf of the EFF with the motion congratulating the Moruleng High School for receiving a kitchen donated by the EFF.

The EFF has donated a kitchen to the Moruleng School in Seshego, Limpopo. The Commander-in-Chief was joined by Commissar Mbuyiseni Ndlozi, the convener of Limpopo deployees, who responded to the plight of students and teachers who were using a shack to prepare meals.

This noble contribution confirms that the Economic Freedom Fighters is the only party which has the interests of the poor as the core influencer to the daily drive of changing the unjust conditions of our people.

Hon Speaker, the school will be able to prepare meals regardless of the weather conditions, and food will be stored in a safer and healthy environment, eliminating any intoxication of food.

Congratulations to Moruleng High School, and we salute you, Commander-in-Chief, President Julius Malema. Your contribution will not go unnoticed.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Can we call for a seconder to the motion? Hon Raphela, you are recognised.

MR RAPHELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. My name is Hon George Raphela, and I stand to second the motion presented by Hon Lilian Managa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other motion without notice in terms of House Rule 145? There is none. Hon Buthane, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Ke be ke emetše ge le fetša ditšhišinyo tše tša lena. Hon Speaker, I am just waiting for you to finish with your motions.

THE SPEAKER

I am not done, Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Are you not done?

THE SPEAKER

Yes ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

But just ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

We are not done. Can you wait until we finish, as you are indicating?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Gape le tla be la bitša dipaonsara, nka se ngange.

THE SPEAKER

Can we proceed to Item 3?

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

Good morning to the Members of the Executive and Members present.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE FAILURE BY THE EXECUTIVE TO ENFORCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LOOTING OF THE VBS BANK (Notice of Motion)

I hereby rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move that this House debates at its next Sitting the implications of the failure by the executive to enforce the implementations of the Public Protector's recommendations on the VBS Bank looting.

The Public Protector recently expressed the concern by stating, "In addition, provincial CoGHSTA MECs had to submit regular reports to the director-general ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, we are on item 3: Notices of Motions in terms of House Rule 146. What you are supposed to do is to give a notice and present the motion to the Speaker.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Chairperson; with reference to what I have already said, the Democratic Alliance then calls on this House to debate the issues around the Public Protector's recommendations on the VBS Mutual Bank looting in this House.

Thank you, Chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, and then you present the motion. Let us move to Item 4.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MS MPHAHLELE

Honourable Members; Leaders of the Opposition, Hon Jossey, good morning.

**THE FAILURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY TO
ISSUE OPERATING LICENCES AND PERMITS TO LETSWATLA TAXI ASSOCIATION**
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF will never get weary about raising service delivery failures by the ANC-led government because, indeed, our people continue to suffer. The Department of Transport and Community Safety has not issued Letswatla Taxi Association the taxi operating permits since 2012, which impacts negatively on the taxi industry and the livelihood of taxi operating in general. This also affects the taxi operation across the province. Letswatla Taxi Association is just one example of many similar cases we have.

The taxi operators continue to drive on our roads without operating permits because the department is not issuing them. This matter has been raised several times with the department by the taxi association themselves, but nothing happening.

The department sends traffic officials to impound the taxis for not having permits, but how will they have permits when the department does not issue them? The department also fines taxi operators R6 500 for illegally driving on the roads. It is our view that our people are only trying to make a living, and it is the duty of the department to issue them with operating licences.

The EFF notes the intention by the heartless government to suffocate the taxi industry and further deepen employment and poverty. We condemn in the strongest terms this evil intention, and we say you will not succeed under our watch.

We call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to our people.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any other Members' Statements? Hon Mhlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Leader of the Official of the Opposition, colleagues and staff.

**THE FAILURE OF THE GREATER TZANEEN MUNICIPALITY TO PROVIDE WATER TO
NKOWANKOWA SECTION B RESIDENTS**

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF did an oversight visit in Nkowankowa Section B on 14 March 2022 after receiving calls from the residents. The calls were about a complaint on a shortage of water in the area. Sometimes the residents can go for longer than five days without water, and they are unable to use the toilets due to lack of water.

The houses are smelly because the kids use the toilet while there is no water to flush. The residents tried to raise the issue with Mr Neville Ndlala who is the spokesperson in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, unfortunately, he failed to help them. They even called the current Mayor, Mr Gerson Molapisane, about this issue, and his response was that he is only three months in office, so he can't help everyone. Neville said to one of the residents that she must go and buy a Jojo Tank. The ANC-led government is simply telling our people that they must deliver the services by themselves.

The government does not care about their constitutional mandate and the rights of the people for access to basic services like water, electricity and housing. This is what the ANC-government has become: uncaring and heartless.

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality says the pipes are being hijacked by section D, Mbambamencisi residents. That is why they do not have water in their area, while section D gets water every day.

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality and Mopane District Municipality must stop giving excuses and deliver water to our people. We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to the people of Nkowankowa. Failure to do so, the EFF will mobilise the community to protest against the municipality and further report the matter to the Human Rights Commission and the Public Protector.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mhlala. Are there any other Members' Statements? There is none. Are there any responses from the Executive to the Members' Statements? MEC, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to all the honourable Members in the House, greetings to my colleagues in the Executive, and greetings to all who are in attendance.

Hon Speaker, on the issue of the taxi association industry and the taxi operators, I should be able to indicate that the taxi owners that are actually operating know that there is a process that they should undergo. What we are experiencing currently as the department is that when people want to break away from the current taxi association they belong to, they will start to want to address as if they have existed since they were in that taxi association. When a team or a new taxi driver or people come together to want to apply for a certificate or a taxi operating licence, they need to state that they started to exist from the day they broke away from other taxi association, not vice versa because if they start to calculate from the years when they were existing from another taxi association, it's malicious and misleading to the public. That is the first issue, Hon Speaker.

The second issue is that they know that they have to apply, and the process will then also include us as the department going to the municipality which is affected to confirm if the route they are applying for is, indeed, in existence. After we have verified it, there will be the process of advertisement so that any other operators that are operating in that line can also have an opinion. That is the legislated policy that we have from this Legislature. It is the process that we need to go through, and I think it will not be correct; it will be evil intentions to mislead the public about this process that is not happening.

Secondly, the reason why as the department we put in traffic officers to make sure that taxis are impounded is because we do not want someone to wake up today, buy a taxi and say, "I am an association, and I am applying" before they finish the process and go on the road.

We need to make sure that our roads are safe because if we cannot account for all the taxis that are on the road, and the crime happens with the taxis, we would not be able to know who has done that. That is why anyone without a taxi operating licence will be arrested.

The second question from the honourable Member on the shortage of water was directed to CoGHSTA, and I think we are acknowledging the motion as presented. I can also assure you that the District Development Model that is being championed from the provincial level and is also being championed with the Executive of Mayors of all the districts is to make sure that we are addressing the shortage of service delivery because if you talk about Tzaneen under Mopani, we will be able to say at that level of District Development Model, when a municipality is not able to attend to long-lasting problems of services how the district and also we as a provincial government go in and assist. We are champions at that level when we are giving support to the municipalities and honourable Mayors in that regard.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

You may come in now, Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

May I come in now?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, you may come in now, Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks, Madam Speaker. On a very serious note, Madam Speaker, I am raising my disappointments on us in this House that on Friday, none of us was there to receive the body of an old man, Veteran Pharephare. It was wrong, and it was bad. At least one leader from this House should have been there representing us – the Speaker of the Deputy Speaker.

I do not want to speak about the ANC which should have been there representing itself, or someone should senior. It does not matter if we attend the memorial service or the funeral. Those are chasing clout; that is fashion parade, we know. The last honour that you can give to one of your own is to receive such a person on his last journey.

I must raise that disappointment that there is some moral decay, and we need to reconstruct such. I do not care who says what here and what says what, but that needs to happen. Veteran Pharephare raised all of us, and all of us here are going to die at some point. We can't take care of each other when we are alive and even after death, then we do not deserve to be called human beings.

The old man took care of all of us; that is why the Leader of the Opposition and the Commander-in-Chief were there at the funeral, and we expected at least to receive the old man on Friday, and none of you were there except Joshua ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

It is noted, Hon Buthane ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Your concern is noted, but you know you should have raised it through the motion. I was just giving you this opportunity. Let's move on, honourable Members. Let's proceed with our programme.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

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

6.1 Tabling of the Departmental/Institutional Annual Performance Plans for the 2022/23 Financial Year

Are there any tablings of the departmental/institutional Annual Performance Plan for the 2022/23 financial year? Leader of Government Business, MEC, Hon Sekoati, you may take the podium.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Madam Speaker. August House, Members of the Executive Council present in this House and the official opposition, I greet you all.

**TABLING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL/INSTITUTIONAL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN
FOR THE 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR**

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

- Office of the Premier;
- Limpopo Provincial Legislature;
- Department of Education;
- Department of Provincial Treasury;
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities as follows: Limpopo Tourism Agency; Limpopo Gambling Board; and Limpopo Development Agency;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Transport and Community Safety and its entity Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL);
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and its entity Roads Agency Limpopo;
- Department of CoGHSTA;
- Department of Social Development; and
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Ke a go leboga, Mospikara.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Leader of Government Business, MEC, Hon Sekoati. The Annual Performance Plans are referred to the relevant portfolio committees for consideration and report back to the House.

6.2 Tabling of the Provincial Legislature's Annual Performance Plan for the 2022/23 Financial Year

Hon Chief Whip of the House, Hon Mokgonyana, you may take the podium.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**TABLING OF THE LEGISLATURE'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR THE 2022/23
FINANCIAL YEAR**

I, Mokgonyana, rise to table the 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan for the Limpopo 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, which states: “The Executive Authority must table the annual performance plan in Parliament.”

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. The Annual Performance Plan is referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and report back to the House.

Thank you very much. Let us proceed to the Orders of the Day.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Portfolio Committee Report on the Limpopo Third Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B02-2022]

7.1.1 Second Reading Debate on the Limpopo Third Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B02-2022]

Committee chairperson, you may take the podium.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

I move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Third Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B02-2022] be adopted as the report of this honourable House.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Can we call for a seconder to the motion? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, second the motion as presented by the committee chairperson.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Makoma Makhurupetje. Hon Makhurupetje, you may take the podium.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I am just concerned that Hon Phala is not clapping his hands; I don't know why.

ADV PHALA

Hon Speaker, why is she concerned about one Member in the House who has been clapping loudly?

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Madam Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker in absentia; Hon Premier in absentia; all Members of the Executive Council present today; Leader of the Opposition; Chief Whip of the Majority Party and honourable Members of this august House, good morning.

Madam Speaker, the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill [B02-2022] was introduced in this House in terms of House Rule 164 by the MEC for Provincial Treasury on 08 March 2022 and was referred to the Portfolio Committee on Treasury for consideration and scrutiny and to report to this House in terms of House Rule 165(1).

The Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill is a Money Bill that seeks to amend the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Act of 2021 and schedule thereof which appropriated and adjusted amount of money from the Provincial Revenue Fund for the requirements of the province in respect of the financial year ending 31 March 2022 and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

Madam Speaker, the committee met with the Provincial Treasury on 11 March 2022 for a briefing on the principal provisions of the Bill. It was found that the National Treasury gazetted to stop the transfer of R20 million to Limpopo province; R20 million to Gauteng Province; and R20 million to Free State province for the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant and to relocate such funds, a total of R60 million, to Northern Cape province as per the revisions made by the national Department of Human Settlements.

It was also found that the following amendments were made by the National Treasury for the rollover to the provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and for the reduction of the budget of the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development by the national transferring department as follows:

- The national Department of Transport, in addition to the rollover, already approved a rollover and an additional amount of R294 million to the provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.
- The department of Agriculture has reduced the LandCare rollover to the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development by R496 million.

The aforementioned adjustments increased the provincial Budget from R75,3 billion to R75,6 billion for the financial year ending 31 March 2022.

The committee was very much concerned about the capacity of our departments not to spend and even to plan on time so that the expenditure can be able to be implemented on time as well to speed up the issues of service delivery.

Therefore, the committee was just recommending that such allocations should be consumed. We are, therefore, happy that at least the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and

RAL have put necessary steps in place to ensure that money will be spent within time as being reallocated.

Madam Speaker, these additional allocations and reductions made, were approved by the committee as scheduled in the Bill. It is, therefore, recommended that the Provincial Treasury be allowed to proceed with the Bill, and the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, therefore, moves that this report be adopted as the report of this august House and that the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B02-2022] should proceed to the next stage of the legislation.

I thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Yes, Phala o betha matsogo bjale.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje. Hon George Raphela, you may take the podium.

MR RAPHELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Members of the House and Leader of the Official Opposition, I greet you. Hon Speaker, as the EFF we believe in the creation of a massive industrial development to create millions of jobs, including the introduction of a minimum wage in order to close the wage gap between the rich and the poor, close the apartheid wage gap and promote a rapid career path for applicants in the workplace.

Therefore, the adjustment as reported makes no real changes in the living conditions of our masses. Poverty and corruption are still high, wherein a lack of accountability is the foundation of all ills affecting the government. In 2014, over R1,3 billion was forfeited to the National Treasury, and the biggest contributor was the Department of CoGHSTA. Again in 2018, the same department forfeited almost R150 million to the National Treasury due to the lack of building houses, and the honourable Member who came here before knows about this very well.

Hon Speaker, a detailed explanation is being sought with regard to the forfeited amount of R20 million which was allocated to the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant. We have many informal settlements in Limpopo that lack services, yet millions of rands are forfeited.

This money could have changed the living conditions of Juju Valley residents or many other informal settlements where there are no ablution of facilities, water and access roads.

The province must assign a team to work on applying for the Municipality Infrastructure Grant (MIG) and ensuring that there is maximum appropriate usage of such grant. More attention must be on road maintenance, EPWP, Agriculture and Land Reform Grant.

The budget adjustment was mainly due to RAL, which has failed over many years to implement its projects just in time and to commit to continue to manage its affairs just like GAAL. We need assurance that the rollover amount will be used appropriately for the allocated projects going forward.

Madam Speaker, knowing how the same entity, RAL, misused public resources, does the Treasury have a mechanism to immediately stop any possibility of abusing virement which may not be in line with PFMA?

Hon Speaker, we need the status of all affected projects before we can endure or condone any adjustment. Furthermore, a report must indicate what caused the delay, if any, of the actual rollover against the actual project's plan.

This honourable House must closely monitor how the said R270 million will be spent by RAL, and no advance payment must be made like any Marapong deserted project. Hon Speaker, if RAL fails to spend this rollover, what will the impact of such failure be on the budget. The RAL rollover confirms our conviction that the state must build its own capacity to deliver on its core mandate, instead of overreliance on tenders.

The state's capacity can unleash multiple skills and empower millions of people who are hopeless. Rural Development deserves more funds; any reduction reverses the possibility of helping the poor communities. We emphasised that the department must apply for more MIG grants, which will literally change the living conditions of the dejected masses. Therefore, R496 million reduction must be unpacked and its impact on the department's plan.

The low level of industrialisation and lack of mass beneficiation negatively impact the capacity of the province to raise its revenue allocation. The industrial parks in Seshego, Nkowankowa and Thohoyandou do not enjoy a 100% occupancy rate. Many of them remain white elephants, and thus deny our people job opportunities. Many jobseekers would be absorbed in these industrial parks if all of them were operating.

The province requires a dedicated team that will be assigned to apply for MIG projects assisting the departments, municipalities and so forth. Such a dedicated team must ensure that the grants are used solely for the proposed purpose in line with the PFMA prescripts. The province must ensure maximum usage of the Provincial Emergency Housing Grant. The province must further dissociate itself from partnership or using HDA services which is prone to corrupt activities as we have witnessed in all HDA projects.

We can cite examples like Marapong, Talane and many more where there are stats of corrupt activities. The EFF calls for eradication of tenders, and government must build state-owned capacity to provide services instead of relying on tenders. Tenders are a vehicle for politicians and they render service providers to steal from the state. In most cases, service providers simply just cash in money and leave without completing their work.

The EFF does not support the adjustments as they serve no purpose in alleviating the poor people's unbearable conditions. The budget will not reduce unemployment or lead to the creation of new jobs, neither will it be meaningful fruits or part of investment. This budget is not radical and progressive enough to address challenges our people are faced with on a daily basis. Simply put, it is just a drop in the ocean. This budget as presented will not address the problem of rising standard of living, increasing food prices and petrol, etc.

Our people are overwhelmed and there is nothing in the budget which indicates any belief. What are we doing to put more money in people's pockets in order to afford the rising inflation? The EFF calls on the government to reduce rates and levies, including massive investments in school feeding schemes. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Raphela. Hon Maharaj, it is your turn.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill, [B02-2022] was introduced in this House in terms of the House Rule 164 by the honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury on 08 March 2022.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maharaj, can you please wait for a moment? I recognise Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, I just want to know, who is the tailor of Mr Maharaj?

BACKGROUND

[LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Can you proceed, Mr Maharaj?

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I take that on a positive note. The total adjusted allocations increased the provincial Budget from R75,3 billion to R75,6 billion for the financial year ending 31 March 2022. It was noted that National Treasury gazetted the stoppage of transfer of R20 million to the Limpopo province; R20 million to the Gauteng province and R20 million to the Free State province for the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant and reallocated these funds to the tune of R60 million to the Northern Cape province as per revisions made by the national Department of Human Settlements.

The National Treasury had also approved the amended rollovers for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to the amount of R273 million. Whilst this might appear that Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure received an additional rollover of R294 million, the Department of CoGHSTA and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development incurred reductions of R20 million and R496 000 respectively. It is concerning that given the timeframe within which these allocations should be utilised, the committee was informed that funds would be reutilised for the payment of RAL suppliers.

The way departments manage their budgets and programmes within various timeframes is a concern and it has been a concern for quite some time now. The history of RAL's poor financial management leaves very little comfort and assurance that these additional funds will indeed be spent in accordance with the prescribed legislation. Whilst the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure receives this grant, serious questions are still raised on how the department is managed. Lease agreements have been signed that raise concerns and must be investigated.

One such case in point is the lease agreement that was signed for 43 Church Street on 01 December 2019 until 30 October 2029 at a lease amount of R3 850 200 per month. As per agreement, per annum this equates to R46 202 400. Over the nine-year period this would equate to R415,821 million. Surely, something is amiss here and it must be investigated. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Selamolela, the floor is yours.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker; Members of the Executive Council responsible for our Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati; Members of the Provincial Executive Council present here today; colleagues and fellow Members of the august House; compatriots; friends and countrymen. Allow me once more to thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the debate on the Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill which was tabled almost three weeks ago in this hallowed House by Hon Sekoati.

The Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill presented here sought to amend the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Act of 2021 and schedules thereof which appropriated and adjusted an amount of money from the Provincial Revenue Fund for the requirements of the province in respect of the financial year ending 31 March 2022 and also to provide for matters incidental thereto. As we all know, this debate is taking place just a day after our country celebrated and commemorated the Human Rights Day, Human Rights Day in this country is not just another public holiday of general public with no significance. This day is umbilically linked to the triple episodes of 21 March 1960 where a criminal and blood-thirsty regime massacred innocent people in Sharpeville, Soweto, and other parts of our country such as Nyanga and Langa in the Western Cape. On that day, at least 69 people were killed by the apartheid police and hundreds were wounded. The Sharpeville Massacre happened because some sections of our society sought to defend the indefensible.

The truth that should be told and never forgotten is that apartheid and its own beneficiaries, the majority of the minority who benefited from this evil system, still struggle to accept that apartheid was wrong, immoral and ungodly. It is for this reason that...

BACKGROUND

[inaudible]

MR SELAMOLELA

Am I protected, Hon Speaker? Maybe to repeat, Hon Speaker, we are saying the majority of the minority that benefited from the evil system of apartheid still struggle to accept even today that apartheid was wrong, that apartheid was immoral and that apartheid, Hon Phala, was ungodly. As a matter of fact, the apartheid system succeeded to dehumanise the majority of those that it benefitted. Even with a Bible in their hands, going to church every Sunday, the majority of apartheid beneficiaries still refuse to accept the biblical injunction that God made us all of his own image.

It is for this reason that the biasness and unequal distribution of national resources in as far as adjustments and budgets allocation continues to be justified. Those who supported apartheid believe that it was justified to invest less in the education of a black child whilst investing

exceedingly more in the education of a white child of equal and same age. It was not outside of the norm for black schools to be staffed with unqualified teachers and for black schools to be without necessary learner-teacher support material.

It was not outside the norm for black people to endure the indignity of living without a roof over their heads – something that the government of today is working tirelessly to correct. Crime in black communities was accepted and promoted by law as part of the unavoidable culture of people living in townships and our village communities; hence, there was no investment in the security of our people in those areas. The only job opportunities available for the black majority of this country were those that supported the idea of making life more comfortable for a white person, particularly white males.

All these evils were supported by legislation and the national budget policy. Today our budget and all these adjustments we are discussing today are about correcting many wrongs of our shameful past. The pre-1994 budget allocation was meant to serve and service less than 15% of our national population. Today's budget and all these adjustments are designed to serve the people of South Africa and the majority of our people in this province.

As a committee, and also as Hon Makhurupetje has alluded to, we have met with the Provincial Treasury to get a brief on the principles and provisions of this Bill, and accordingly we were briefed about the National Treasury's transfers of an amount of R20 million. The committee also welcomes the brief that National Treasury approved the amendment rollovers for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to the amount of R273,505 million, which meant that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure received an additional rollover of R294 million, whereas CoGHSTA and Agriculture incurred R20 million which forms a reduction of R20,496 million respectively.

The afore-mentioned adjustments increased the provincial Budget from R75,372 billion to R75,646 billion for the financial year ending 31 March 2022. When dealing with this, as Hon Makhurupetje has said, our concern as a committee was the ability and the capacity to spend additional allocations given timeframes within which such allocations should be consumed. We, however, led by the chair of the portfolio committee Hon Phala, took comfort in their assurance that the allocation was mainly meant for the payment of the suppliers, particularly in the Roads Agency Limpopo.

We strongly believe that this will go a long way to ensure that road infrastructure gaps and challenges faced by our people are addressed. As a committee, we believe that this will have a long effect in unlocking economic potential of our province. We understand, as many of us should, including Hon Raphela, that these adjustments do not in any way represent a new allocation altogether but are rather amends to the Budget already passed in this august House. It is with this understanding that we support these adjustments, as Hon Makhurupetje noted that, indeed, this House must approve this Bill. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela.

7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Portfolio Committee Report on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B01-2022]

7.2.1 Second Reading Debate on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B02-2022]

Over to you, committee chair.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B01-2022] for the 2022/23 financial year be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Monama Rodgers, as a Member of this august House, rise to support and second Adv Kgolane Rudolph Phala for his submission. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. Our first speaker on the Speakers' List is Hon Maria Lekganyane.

MS LEKGANYANE

My apologies, I'm still connecting my tablet. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members and Hon Buthane, can we allow Hon Lekganyane to proceed?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

We want ... [inaudible]

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Buthane. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Deputy Speaker; our Premier; Leader of Government Business; Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; all our honourable MECs; honourable chairpersons of different portfolio committees and all honourable Members of the House, good morning, kgotso ya Modimo a e be le rena.

I, Naledi Maria Lekganyane, rise to debate on the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B01-2022] for consideration and adoption by this august House. We are gathered here today, 22 March 2022, a day after Human Rights Day commemoration under the theme, "The Year of Unity and Renewal: Protecting and Preserving our Human Rights Gains". The Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B01-2022] was introduced in this honourable House in terms of House Rule 164(1) by the MEC for Provincial Treasury on 08 March 2022.

The Bill was upon tabling, referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration, scrutiny and to report back to the House in terms of House Rule 165(1). The Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury considered the Bill and would like to report as follows:

The Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B01-2022] is a monetary Bill that seeks to provide for the appropriation of money from the Provincial Revenue Fund for the requirements of the province for the 2022/23 financial year to prescribe conditions for spending funds withdrawn for the 2023/24 financial year before the commencement of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill.

The equitable share allocation for the province is R64,56 billion for the 2022/23 financial year, the provincial conditional grants for the 2022/23 financial year amount to R10,7 billion and the provincial own revenue amounts to R1,4 billion, thus bringing the total amount to R74,2 billion.

This provincial expenditure budget declined from the adjusted budget of R25,6 billion in the 2021/22 financial year to R74,2 billion in the 2022/23 financial year. On economical classification, it was found that the transfers and subsidies received an allocation of R9,5 billion, R11,2 billion for goods and services and R2,6 billion was for payments of capital assets. The committee noted the allocations for new infrastructure development projects, mainly for the construction of new clinics, libraries, schools, upgrades of gravel roads to tar, centres for place of safety, nature reserves and housing, amongst others. Provincial public entities were allocated R2,5 billion.

Hon Speaker, the allocations per department are mentioned hereunder:

- The Office of the Premier received an allocation of R417,5 million;
- The Provincial Legislature received an allocation of R386 million to cater for oversight of all institutions in the province and other mandates;
- The Department of Education received an allocation of R36,4 billion in the 2022/2023 financial year;
- The allocation includes R882,4 million for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative;
- R35,5 million for Sanitary Dignity Project;
- R100 million for e-Education;
- R200 million for storm-damaged schools;
- R320 million for additional compensation for educators' employees;
- R3,2 billion for conditional grants;
- R696,4 million from own revenue;
- The allocations also include R316,8 million equitable share for Early Childhood Development functions – a shift from the Department of Social Development from R184,9 million for Early Childhood Development Grant.

The committee raised a concern on mass retirement of educators in the province and nonavailability of teachers' colleges in the province. The concern was particularly on the remedial plan upon retirement of those educators. According to the Provincial Treasury, most young people were trained as educators through the Presidential Youth Initiative to assist in the process.

- Agriculture and Rural Development received an allocation of R1,6 billion in the 2022/23 financial year. The allocation includes R336,8 million for conditional grants and R27,9 million for revitalisation of agriculture and agroprocessing value chain projects;
- The Provincial Treasury received an amount of R409,9 million in the 2022/23 financial year;
- The Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism received a budget of R1,6 billion in the 2022/23 financial year;
- The Department of Health received R22,7 billion in the 2022/23 financial year;
- Transport and Community Safety received an allocation of R2,3 billion in the 2022/23 financial year;
- Public Works received an allocation of R3,471 billion in the 2022/23 financial year.

- Sport, Arts and Culture also received an allocation of R533,3 million in the 2022/23 financial year;
- CoGHSTA received an allocation of R2,4 119 billion in the 2022/23 financial year; and
- Social Development received an allocation of R1,788 billion in the 2022/23 financial year.

The committee found that the overall Budget of the province is amounting to R72,230 billion. This Budget consists of equitable share to the amount of R64,560 billion, own revenue to the amount of R1,4 billion and conditional grants to the amount of R10,7 billion.

Spending on conditional grants remains a challenge in the province. For example, Maths and Science Grant continues to suffer underspending despite its dire necessity in the province. Nonavailability of teachers' training colleges in the province considering mass retirement of educators might sharply affect learning. Most nurses could not be hired or employed in the province upon the completion of their studies. Contingent liability remains a challenge in the Department of Health.

GAAL continues to receive a bailout from the provincial fiscus despite its continuous underperformance. Revenue enhancement strategies were not adequately explored and that has a negative impact on local economic development. For example, the building of weighbridges in Sekhukhune District, considering its mining sector, might generate revenue. Compensation of employees' budget was still consuming much of the equitable share allocations. Infrastructure delivery is key to economic growth in the province.

However, no sufficient progress was reported on the functionality of the provincial theatre and the development of the Musina-Makhado SEZ despite continued funding of such projects. The municipalities continue to underperform despite the collaboration efforts by the Provincial Treasury and CoGHSTA. Payments of rates and taxes to municipalities seems to be getting necessary attention. The committee recommended that the amount reflected on the schedules of the Bill should be appropriated to departments accordingly and the principles of the Bills should be accepted by this august House.

Measures must be put in place to enhance spending on conditional grants. A remedial plan should be put in place to ensure that mass retirement of educators doesn't affect learning at all.

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion, Hon Maria Lekganyane.

MS LEKGANYANE

In conclusion, the committee encourages the Provincial Treasury to continuously enhance its fiscal oversight to departmental entities and municipalities. Accounting officers must ensure that appropriate actions are taken against officials who contravene the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act and regulations pertaining to financial management in the province. The Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury welcomed the principles of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B01-2022] and move for the adoption of this report as the report of this august House and that the Bill should proceed to the next stage of legislation.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Motšwagabo ga a laele. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Hon Raphela, the floor is yours.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. You must indicate, Hon Speaker, to this House that the tabling of Limpopo Appropriation Bill by MEC Sekoati was just for malicious compliance. There is nothing intentional, radical and developmental about the Bill itself. The question that we will continue to ask ourselves in this House is, how is the Bill going to improve the lives of the people? The situation continues to be the same for African people, but those people who benefitted continue to benefit, Hon Selamolela, as you correctly came here and said we are trying to correct what has happened, but that has not happened.

The very same people who continue to benefit are the ones who are benefiting under this government. In all this Appropriation Bill that we are debating here today, they are the ones who are going to benefit, and they love this government. So, nothing has changed. In fact, they are doing it correctly because as Africans we continue to represent them and they advance their interests. Bona ba dutše kua morago under the leadership of their ruling party.

The debate must centre around this pertinent question rather than raising other issues that have nothing to do with improving the lives, the living conditions and general wellbeing of the people. The Bill is completely uninspiring and it is not people-orientated, and we will take time in this debate to demonstrate these facts so that we are not accused of sounding ambitious. Like we said, confidence was very low as well when it was presented; it was unable to hold the vision. We are unable to hold the vision of that Bill.

As it was reflected, it was just like a tunnel of transfer of funds by this department without any vision. This is the nature of the system; it is a capitalist regime because it thrives on ignorance. By the way, capitalists are the most useless uneducated constituency because they don't go to school but inherit their parents' wealth. Imagine getting guidance from such people and being advised by them – you are bound to be in a crisis, but le ba tšea seriously lena akere. That's why you will continue to be in a crisis, because ba no hwetša dilo, ga ba ye le sekolong. Eupša o tla botšwa ke motho a se a ya sekolong gore what to do.

It is our view that any developmental state should put people at the centre of development which is not the case in this Bill. The notion of government of the people by the people and for the people must be seen playing out in all developmental endeavours of this government. We must also indicate upfront that the bulk of money allocated goes to irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and all forms of corruption and physical dumping. For example, we continue to raise the issue of GAAL which had irregular expenditure of R5 billion in the last financial year.

It's only R2 billion of this money that was investigated and the remaining difference was not investigated. We don't have reports of that. We are not shocked because it is a norm in the current administration to conceal corruption; hence, we continue to see these anomalies happening under their leadership. Furthermore, it is shocking that the same entity lost its documents to the value of R1,1 billion as raised before. Now, the question is, what information is the department trying to conceal? It is our view that the documents were stolen or smuggled out to deny law-enforcement authority access to corruption or footprint in the long run.

While they did not build any roads for the past two years, and yet a conditional grant was allocated, the question is, what happened to all its allocations, including conditional grants for the past two years? We call upon the law-enforcement authorities, including the SIU, to make a follow-up on

this mysterious loss of documents and bring perpetrators to book. I wonder if it will happen here in Limpopo. This is the reality that must never make any of us comfortable.

The EFF is committed to continue with its business of exposing wastage of public funds, including corruption in all its forms. Underspensing with regard to conditional grants in Limpopo province has reached alarming proportions to the disadvantage of the majority of citizens in the province. Underspensing is the order of the day and has become a norm and fashionable for this government.

Maths, Science and Technology Grant also suffered underspensing; hence, poor matric results will continue unless there is a drastic shift of mindset on political will. We are always number last in this province in terms of matric results and it needs not be accepted that we are number last as Limpopo province during matric results announcement, but nothing will happen anyway.

We just raise it. That's why people are comfortable in those seats. Funds get returned to the National Treasury almost every year, and no consequence management implemented to hold officials accountable. Most nurses could not be absorbed by the province, and they are leaving for job opportunities in other provinces and even overseas. Does this mean that we do not have a shortage of nurses in the province? We have funded the training of these nurses. It is the Department of Health's responsibility to absorb them. Why don't they employ them because definitely we are training them to address the shortage of nurses?

The continual bailout that we continue to raise about GAAL on its malfunctioning is disturbing, as it has been raised by the previous speaker. Public entities are supposed to be self-sufficient by generating profits of job creation, but it does not happen like that. In fact, they are sabotaged internally, and the very same people who are in those departments are the ones who, when we privatise or outsource the responsibilities, catch the very same services outside there.

We can mention many of them. That's why even the GNT is in crisis; it's because of the very same notion because all those people who are sitting on those boards have got bus companies. That's why it will not function well because they make sure that they destroy it from within so that they benefit from outside when they front other people. What we are requesting is that you should provide qualifications for the board members and senior management in the entity; maybe that can bring change.

An amount of R33 million allocated for the provincial theatre already tells us that the theatre is going to be a small structure which will not serve all the interests of our people. Why do you think that the people of Limpopo deserve such a small theatre and not a big structure that will accommodate their interests? Where is this mentality of a small theatre coming from? We don't know as yet. The squandering of more than R300 million as you have raised from GNT government entity remains unresolved, yet no one has been held accountable on this matter.

The dangers of this matter are that when they are going to privatise, there is going to be more violence and killing of people. Part of being an effective government entity will also solve such things because those people just need money and this will bring us a lot of violence in our province when it is privatised. In Marapong, as we have noted, the Lephalale contract received an amount of R33 million to build housing units, but the construction site was deserted, leaving housing units incomplete, and nothing has been done.

The Limpopo Provincial Legislature was allocated an amount of R386 million for oversight and other mandates, and yet for the past three to four years, the IT services in this institution are always down, jeopardising the important mandate of making laws and doing oversight. The

situation is so bad that even the cameras in the House are not working. Le ditulo di a wa mo. We don't know where this money goes to. Last year the government did not take the Early Childhood Development sector seriously, and the Department of Education conducted workshops just to avoid underexpenditure and for the purpose of physical dumping and not to empower the sector itself in terms of challenges it is faced with, which are permanent.

They are not being resolved or addressed. Year in year out, the very same issues are being raised and there will not be any change. We are raising it now and it's March. I'm telling you, by next year January, we are going to have a crisis of the shortage of the allocation of learners at schools. We are going to have those challenges together with school infrastructure challenges. We are raising them here now. By January next year, we will be sitting next to the department.

The consequence management does not apply in the current administration because the majority of offenders are comrades. The consequence management committee, as we speak, will not be appointed because the majority of comrades are friends and the ruling elite. People do as they please because they know that nothing will happen to them. What is the role of us in this Department of Treasury as a coordinating department in making sure that these shenanigans relating to financial management are minimised? All these challenges speak to governance and leadership which we do not have in the provincial government.

That is why even now those who were implicated in the VBS looting are still in leadership. Worst of all, they even contest positions in the ruling party. It is because there is no consequence management and there is no leadership. This is because you are not taking criminals to where they are supposed to belong. They steal money of the poor people, but they are still here. We can't come back to an institution that does not know its own direction. The absence of the leadership in good governance in Limpopo is... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Raphela, your time is up.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

That is why there will continue to be crime. It is because those who are doing crime are being encouraged to do that. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maharaj, it is not yet your turn. You will come after Hon Lebea. Hon Lebea, you may take the floor.

MS LEBEA

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; honourable Members of this august House; esteemed guests connected on all virtual platforms, a very blessed morning to you.

It gives us great pleasure that despite the concerns of economic pressures brought about by the eruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, government is still able to provide decent services to our people. Honourable Members, while we all agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our livelihoods and shifted how we do business, we must also applaud the ANC-led government that it has waged a fierce battle against this vicious pandemic. The tabling of the budget takes place

during what we have termed as the Human Rights Month, which is a period that we must use to heighten and emphasise the rights of our people.

This debate, the Second Reading debate on Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B01-2022], takes place a day after the commemoration of the Sharpeville Massacre, another milestone that has changed the political landscape and has also amplified protests against the ferocious apartheid system. Today's debate takes place in a democratic state after many years of subjugation by a minority government that only served the interests of the few elites. The difference between the ANC-led government and the nationalist government is that apartheid was designed to cater for the selected few citizens while the democratic state is preoccupied with distributing the resources of the state in an equal and proportionate manner. The difference is quite significant; as we distribute these resources, we care less about racial demographics, which is something that could not be said under apartheid rule.

The 2022/23 budget presentation took place in the middle of the invasion of the Ukraine by Russia. A geopolitical economic development that is taking place 10 000 miles away from us, but will affect us like it is taking place on our own doorstep. This is the result of the world being an interwoven global community where daily trading of goods and services is affected by numerous developments. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia, and I'm deliberately not calling it war, will affect the prices of food, oil and other commodities, oil that we have felt to date in the rise of diesel and petrol for our own daily lives.

Now this will affect how a certain Magdalene Mampeule, somewhere on the far-flung rural area in Tsantsabela spends her meagre financial resources. This will compel the taxi industry to increase their prices and put more holes in the pockets of most of our people. The ramifications are quite far-reaching. Hon Speaker, we welcome a number of interventions that the ANC-led government continues to make to fend off poverty and make a dent on the unemployment statistics. I am going to use the occasion of my debate to reiterate on two of the cardinal pillars that were outlined by President Cyril Ramaphosa, the real Commander-in-Chief of all armed forces, about the country's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan when addressing a joint Sitting in Parliament.

This was during the most perplexing periods of the national disaster at the beginning of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before I continue, Hon Sekoati, when they judge you, you yawn. When they misunderstand you; you smile. When they underestimate you, you quietly laugh. When they condemn you, you ignore. When they envy you, you rejoice. When they oppose you, you surely prevail.

The President spoke about the creation of jobs primarily through aggressive infrastructure investment and mass employment programmes. The State of the Province Address by Premier Mathabatha and the subsequent Budget Speech by MEC Sekoati, are in tandem with the President's vision of creating jobs for the majority of our people. This is a great fact, and it is our wish and hope that similar programmes should be initiated in other sectors of the economy to continue to fight the pain of unemployment. We will continue to remind administrators as the level of government to desist from using the employment programme for their nefarious aims like employing their relatives and friends to the detriment of the other citizens.

The President also spoke about reindustrialising our economy and growing small businesses. We are all sitting here today, witnessing a colossal programme called the special economic zone under the stewardship of Premier Mathabatha taking place. The SEZs are a demonstration of how a determined government can turn around the fortunes of its nation. This concept should

honestly be sold to other nations beyond our borders as the way of building sustainable economies.

We draw our strength from the words of Henry Peter Brougham, a British statesman in the 1700 who said the following: “Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave.”

The ANC-led government has always maintained that an educated and skilled nation is fundamental to building a sustainable economy. Our hospitals continue to attend to the sickly and are a home to multiple of patients with an assortment of ailments and conditions. In some instances, some of these patients are accommodated in our healthcare facilities without paying a single cent while others continue to receive their medications through many of our healthcare facilities at no costs. We have not only increased our footprint in the number of primary healthcare outlets in the province, but we have also made sure that all facilities are adequately equipped with world-class facilities to ensure that patients who go to hospitals are those who must be admitted.

Hon Speaker, the immense work of rolling out infrastructural projects will not only develop their host communities, but they will also provide the much-needed jobs in the ailing economy. It remains our wish that we must finish off all the bermuda roads, a project that has been close to Premier Mathabatha’s heart and also start with the building of new roads to connect our communities to service the economy. With this Appropriation Bill, we are sure we will get there.

Honourable Members, as the eyes and ears of the people we represent, we all have a duty to ensure that these funds are spent in the most appropriate and transparent ways. Our duty to exercise oversight must be done with the intention of entrenching openness, as an intrinsic value in a democratic society. It must not be done for political expediency and scoring cheap political points. We must ramp up our efforts as the Legislature to ensure that public funds are spent expeditiously and prudently. We welcome the seamless transition of the Early Childhood Development sector to the Department of Education in the province.

Hon Speaker, we all agree that the closure of the Gateway International Airport was an international embarrassment of unmatched proportions to both the province and the aviation sector. However, we welcome the timeous intervention and the restoration of services to that facility, which is playing a pivotal role within the province’s transport and the tourism sector. In that vein, we congratulate South Africa for being awarded the *Kofi Annan Road Safety Award* in Accra, Ghana.

Hon Speaker, one of the great minds to have walked this side of heaven, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, once said, “In my country of South Africa, we struggled for years against the evil system of apartheid that divided human beings, children of the same God, by racial classification and then denied many of them fundamental human rights.”

Hon Speaker, I will not be doing justice to the masses of the country if I am to step down without condemning in the strongest possible terms a barbarous effort by the owners of all economic activities in the country, a regrettable and demonic effort of dragging the country in the dark days of severe and catastrophic segregation – that of apartheid, an effort to draw the country back in a hideous period in our country camouflaged as unconstitutionality of the PPPFA (Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act) regulations. As the African National Congress, we condemn this barbaric move by the Afro-pessimists as it is a severe and regrettable effort of reversing the gains of democracy.

In conclusion, a clear and stern message to the owners of the means of production, the ones who wants to reverse the gains of freedom that was worn through blood and sweat of the brave heroes and heroines, a wise message from Karl Marx when he said, "Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communistic revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains." I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. Hon Maharaj, now is your turn.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Budget Speech read out here last week was that of the MEC for Provincial Treasury trying to plug as many holes as possible on a sinking ship. The attempt to plug all the holes is a futile exercise because there is simply not enough to go around in fully addressing our issues as the province. It is the result of the culmination of years of poor financial management, weak internal controls and excessive amounts of irregular, unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure by provincial government departments and entities.

The Department of Education (R36,4 billion) and the Department of Health (R22,7 billion) in the province will receive 79,7% of the total budget. Due to years of neglect and mismanagement, close to 80% of our budget must now go to the Department of Education and the Department of Health to keep them from collapsing as well as to try to address years of backlog in providing sanitation equipment, infrastructure development and maintenance as well as Emergency Medical Services. This coupled with the large amounts spent on the compensation of employees leaves little to no resources for skills development, work opportunities, attracting investment and promoting increased economic activities to new and existing markets.

Hon Speaker, the compensation of employees at 68,6% of the total budget remains unacceptably high. While we understand that certain services that must be rendered to the people of Limpopo are labour-intensive, we cannot have a situation where almost 70% of the budget is paying salaries. This is despite large numbers of vacancies still in the health and education sector as well as the failure to absorb social workers in the province. It leaves precious little to provide the actual services, invest new equipment and infrastructure as well as creating opportunities for those who are unemployed in the province. The budget also failed to address plans and strategies to address the ongoing issues of litigation claims against government departments.

The Department of Health alone has medical-legal claims amounting to R14 billion and the MEC did not make mention of any budgeted funds should this department lose by any of these claims. Hon Speaker, the performance of our entities remains a grave concern. Most of them are failed entities and are unsustainable without constant government funding. We cannot continue to bail out failing entities. The committee noted the allocation of R2,3 billion to provincial public entities in the 2022/23 financial year. We employed the MEC and the Provincial Treasury to keep a close eye on these funds, ensure sound monitoring and consequence management measures where wrongdoing has been established.

The DA's consistent calls have been heeded by the MEC's commitment to monitor spending and revenue collection and strengthen the oversight over our provincial departments and provincial public entities, and we thank you for that, honourable MEC. The committee recommended important interventions such as:

- Measures to enhance spending on conditional grants;

- A plan to ensure that mass retirement of educators does not affect learning at all;
- That nurses are adequately employed in the province; and
- Treasury and CoGHSTA to revisit their plans on how best they can aid financially distressed municipalities.

The province also needs to explore innovative ways to enhance revenue collection, economic recovery and job creation within the province. Hon Speaker, the truth is while this Appropriation Bill makes attempts to plug holes that are a result of years of mismanagements and incapable governance, it does not inspire hope. Until the provincial government manages to root out the causes of poor governance, mismanagement and corruption in provincial departments, entities and municipalities while enforcing consequence management, there will be no meaningful economic development opportunities and job creation in this province. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. We shall now call upon the chairperson of the committee, Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

I take this opportunity to thank you, Hon Speaker, for this opportunity to debate the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B01-2022] which is the budget of the entire provincial government for the 2022/23 financial year. We dedicate the debate of this Appropriation Bill to that hero of heroes, outstanding freedom fighter and patriot Mothebe Richard “Pharephare” Mothupi, who was laid to rest in his village of GaMamaila Kolobetona over the weekend. He spent a decade serving the people of Limpopo in this provincial Legislature. Therefore, it is opportune that we talk about him as one of those former honourable Members of this provincial Legislature.

Hon “Pharephare” served the people of South Africa for more than 60 years, starting in the 1950s as an anti-pass activist in Pretoria to now in the recent period when he was contributing to the building of a nonracial, nonsexist, united, democratic and a prosperous South Africa in his old age. We, therefore, thank him for his contribution that even the people of South Africa have thanked him while he was still alive by the Presidency giving him the Chief Luthuli Award for outstanding contribution to the struggle for national liberation and the building of a new South Africa. So, we say, farewell Mr “Pharephare”. Rest in peace, son of the soil! Rest in peace, outstanding freedom fighter and patriot! [APPLAUSE]

What we are debating today is the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B01-2022]. It is the Budget of the entire provincial government which is R75 billion. We are not debating the details of the Bill as some honourable Members go into the details mistakenly because of lack of understanding or utter misunderstanding of what we are doing and utter ignorance of how this Legislature runs. We are debating the principles of the Bill.

We are going to get into the details of the Bill probably this coming Thursday when honourable MECs for various departments come here to table their Budget Speeches, Annual Performance Plans and strategic plans of the various departments. We are going to go into detail when honourable members of the portfolio committees come here to debate the various departmental Annual Performance Plans and budgets in the coming few weeks. That is the detail – when we go into what and which money goes where, which amount goes where and which must not go where. Now we are not yet there.

We are debating the principles of the Bill, and the principles of the Bill is to look at it in its totality and how we take the debate forward to those other stages of the Second Reading of the Bill. The

Bill is R75 billion, of which R36 billion goes to the Department of Education and R22 billion goes to the Department of Health, correctly so. I heard Hon Maharaj saying those moneys go there because of years of mismanagement, and I don't know where he got that.

If he has been following this government, he will know that education is a priority number 1 and health is priority number 2. They are not priorities just by naming, they are priorities also because we spend a lot of money on them. They are priorities because they affect the lives of our people on a daily basis. They are priorities because our people depend on them. They are priorities because that is where we spend a lot of our budget, and we are not doing that during this year in 2022; we have been doing that since 1994 as ANC-led government.

We don't know what happened in the Western Cape, but in the entire Republic of South Africa education is priority number 1, health is priority number 2. We spend a lot of money on those because they are huge priorities that affect the lives of our people on a day-to-day basis. Some of the things that we raise when we debate the principles of the bill are some of the long-term issues that affect the province, and we raise them in the report in black and white such as, the provincial theatre, the funding of the SEZ, the funding of the entities in the province, the building of Sekhukhune offices in Sekhukhune land in Jane Furse and the future of this Legislature.

Honourable Members of course know that there have been announcements made by 8 of the 11 MECs for Public Works in this province that this Legislature is going to Polokwane. I think one or two of the MECs who made them may be here in another portfolio. The reality is that we are here in Lebowakgomo even now. We need to know what the future of this Parliament is, whether we are going to remain here forever and we must relax, or whether at one time in the future there will be money available that will take this provincial Legislature of Limpopo to the capital city of Limpopo which is Polokwane not Lebowakgomo if you get the logic right. It is something that needs to be looked at in the budget.

One of the issues that Hon Lebea and Hon Lekganyane have correctly raised, and Hon Maharaj passed on it correctly so, is the spending on conditional grants; the provincial government must focus on them. Those conditional grants are grants that comes from the national government and they are grants that come with conditions, and because of that, we say that the provincial government must fast heighten and enhance its capacity to spend all manner of conditional grants that come to the province. In fact, we are raising this because we have seen some conditional grants that the provincial government has not spent well. Like in the Department of Education, for instance, there is a grant called Maths and Science Grant wherein one financial year this provincial government spends only 12%.

Hon Sekoati, how do you spend 12% of a Maths and Science conditional grant in this Limpopo province. How do you do that? How do you do it? How do you do that in a province like Limpopo? How does it happen? How do you do it, spending only 12% of a Maths and Science Grant that has come to help the people of this province in schools, and you spend only 12% of it? How do you do it? That is why we raise it as a portfolio committee, and we say the provincial government must focus on spending on conditional grants so that all those grants that come with conditions from national government are spent because when you don't spend them, they will go to other provinces which are spending them better.

One of the issues that we said attention must be paid to, is the issue of the compensation of employees which this province was in the recent past spending more on. I think it is no longer now, but we are still very high. Money must be spent on delivering services to the people in the form of roads, bridges, schools, clinics, medicines, textbooks and all other categories of services that need to be delivered to the people of our province instead of paying salaries and

compensation of employees. For Hon Raphela to understand, it means payment of salaries, pensions and medical aids for the people who are employed in the state. It means that. Therefore, we want focus to be on spending more money on infrastructure and delivering services to the people of our province, Limpopo, so that no huge amount of budget goes to salaries and such categories of payments to officials and office bearers that are in offices, but it goes out there to the service of the people of the province.

One of the things that we raised sharply there is the intergovernmental fiscal relations – the provincial government being able to pay municipalities the rates and taxes. Municipalities say they are owed by the provincial government in the form of various infrastructure that is there in municipalities. We must be able to pay that so that our municipalities are able to get the additional funds and that they are able to deliver services to the people because municipalities in this province don't have huge and huge amounts of money that come in their direction.

Therefore, if there is money available in the form of those rates and taxes that the provincial department and provincial government through Public Works must pay, we must be able to pay so that municipalities are able to survive in the province and see another day. That is the long and short of the principle. We are not debating the details. We are going to go into the detail in the coming few weeks when honourable MECs come to put their Budget Speeches and APPs and when honourable Members come to debate those as part of the Second Reading. Today is the principle of the Bill, and I take this opportunity to thank you, Hon Speaker, for debating the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B01-2022]. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala.

7.2.2 Response by the MEC for Provincial Treasury

We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury to respond to the debates. Hon Sekoati, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and once again thank you, for affording me this opportunity to come and speak on this occasion of the debate on the principles of the Bill [B022-2022] for this provincial government and to deal with those issues that have been raised on the amendment Bill so that we are able to clarify some of the areas.

First and foremost, Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to thank the leader of the portfolio committee, Hon Phala together with the members of his committee, for continuously providing counsel to this department. I also want to say to the chairperson of the portfolio committee that he has been able to assist, particularly in terms of the issues of principles. I have realised that Members were already moving ahead putting the cart before the horse as we are going to be dealing with departmental budgets in the following weeks. [INTERJECTION] I am looking to this side because you are the ones who have been raising that, but it is not specifically you, Hon Buthane, but it is some of your colleagues.

Firstly, as we deal with the amendment Bill, I think it would be necessary to clarify the issue of the amounts, particularly in terms of the LandCare, that it was not the R496 million, but R496 000 because those figures are very much important and R496 million is a lot of money, so it is thousands.

Secondly, Madam Chair, I think it will be important to understand that the national Department of Transport realised the capacity that is there in Roads Agency Limpopo for it to transfer this rollover of R294 million to this provincial entity. I think we are the ones as the provincial Legislature to applaud RAL for having turned the corner. Previously, we had difficulties with RAL not because they had misused the funds, but because RAL had overcommitted the province. The reason for RAL to overcommit the province was the pressures that RAL was getting from various communities in terms of upgrading of roads and equally in terms of RAL utilising the resources that were meant for maintenance to upgrade a new infrastructure which was not supposed to be done in that fashion.

Now that we have been able to deal with the issues of overcommitment, RAL is in a better position to ensure that we are able to develop infrastructure in the province. Equally, because of that capacity, we are even looking at RAL making sure that it does assist the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure in this province so that we are able to continue to make sure that maintenance of roads is part of the priority that is being looked at or considered within that department. We are also looking at the possibility of RAL assisting our municipalities because we have already looked at the road infrastructure within the municipalities.

We are saying that we need to find a way for RAL to assist those municipalities because it is a provincial entity or agency that must be able to assist those municipalities that might be found wanting in terms of dealing with their infrastructure in those municipalities. We believe that it should assist the province in dealing with maintenance and not really with new infrastructure or upgrading of new infrastructure in those municipalities. This is because maintenance has remained a bigger problem in this province, particularly within municipalities. In terms of the main Appropriation Bill for 2022/23, I think a lot has been said, particularly in terms of ...
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, just a moment. Hon Smalle, your hand is up.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Would the MEC be willing to take questions around RAL? I will put my question forward as part of the rules.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, you may respond.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Madam Speaker, I think when we are going to be debating departmental budgets, Members will have that full opportunity to interact with various departments and entities. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

The honourable MEC has answered your question. He is not prepared.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, if the honourable MEC is not willing to do that, then I am very concerned about that information regarding RAL that has been put forward here ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No, Hon Smalle, you can't raise that question because you asked if the MEC is ready to respond to your question.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, I was being very polite because the information regarding RAL is incorrect. There is R5 billion of irregular expenditure ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, you can't proceed with your question because the MEC is not ready to respond to your question. Can you please sit down? No, you can't proceed.

MR SMALLE

If the information is incorrect, should we just accept it, Hon Speaker? I don't accept that, Hon Chair. It is R5 billion of irregular expenditure in that SOE, Hon Chair.

THE SPEAKER

You are out of order, Hon Smalle! Sit down! Hon Selamolela, can you allow the MEC to proceed please? Hon Selamolela, you are making noise. Can we allow the MEC to proceed? [CROSS TALK] Honourable MEC, you may proceed.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

May I proceed Chair? I think, when we debate various departmental budgets, we will have that opportunity. To clarify that, when I spoke about unwanted expenditure from the transferring department to the department and to RAL on the issue of overcommitment, I thought I had already dealt with that issue. I am not sure as to what the Member is looking for. There is no lesson here. When it comes to conditional grants, we are all concerned about the nonspending of conditional grants, which is the problem for this province, and it has become perennial. We are saying that all departments are going to be taking accountability in terms of spending the conditional grants and make sure that the departments start to spend the conditional grants.

There should not be any equitable share that is allocated for any function that is receiving conditional grant for a particular department. We must ensure that those conditional grants are spent because they are meant to augment the equitable share that we are getting as provinces. Hence, if we do not spend them, because of their conditionality, they either get reduced or stopped from being allocated to provinces. If we are able to spend and spend well, the National Treasury can make sure that those conditional grants become an integral part of the equitable share that we are receiving as provinces, which allows for sustainability and the development in the province. I think that it is what we are looking at.

We have put some measures in place as the Provincial Treasury to make sure that we are going to work together with these departments to ensure that conditional grants are spent properly. This is because we are aware that we are losing a lot of money or forfeiting a lot of money if we are

not able to utilise those conditional grants. I agree with the Members in terms of unwanted expenditures and also the issues of dealing with the processes of those unwanted expenditures. We have already reported to EXCO in terms of how far departments are in dealing with that, in terms of prevention measures as to what the departments are going to be doing to ensure that we do not incur this unwanted expenditure moving into the future and to make sure that there is consequence management that is taking place. For us to be able to deal with that, we have created a number of fora where these issues are being dealt with at the level of HODs and also at the level of EXCO so that we are able to get reported as to what is taking place within various departments in terms of taking measures and ensuring that there is consequence management that is related to this unwanted expenditure. We believe it has to some extent been able to start impacting on that because the unwanted expenditure is reducing. We believe that with these new financial allocations that we are seeing, there should be improvement from departments in terms of those areas. What we need to obviously emphasise is the issue of consequence management, which we have seen that leaving it to departments, nothing has been done and hence, we have created those fora for us to be able to deal with those areas.

With those a few words, I would like to thank the portfolio committee, but also recommit ourselves to this House that the allocations that are made to various departments we will ensure that they are effectively and efficiently utilised to ensure that they prioritise the development of the province and none of those becomes part of irregular expenditure or part of the unwanted expenditures in the province. Once again, we thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC for Provincial Treasury. Honourable Members, sometimes your conduct does not assist with the proceedings of this House. You cannot keep on talking while the MEC is on the platform. Let us make sure that we respect other Members while they are on the platform. Sometimes you are interfering with the proceedings of this House, because I cannot just keep on saying order and order and you keep on talking. I do not think this House is interested in the behaviour that you are displaying. Let us proceed, honourable Members, to Item 8: Snap Debate on Human Rights Day. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List, and the first speaker is Hon Maseko F J. [APPLAUSE]

8. SNAP DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

MR MASEKO

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker in absentia, Hon Premier in absentia, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the majority party, Members of the Legislature, ladies and gentlemen, we duly celebrate Human Rights Day understanding that our rights are based on the blood of many who gave their lives for the freedom that we enjoy today. On this day, we take time to reflect on and appreciate the rights that we have as citizens of the country. We should never take for granted the lives lost in the Sharpeville Massacre, where unarmed people were mowed down by a cruel and repressive state merely for demanding the right to be treated as human beings.

On this day, we remember the 69 people who were murdered by the apartheid state, many of them shot at the back while fleeing. Of the 69 who died, 8 were women and 10 were children. We also remember the Mayibuye Massacre in Galeshewe township in Kimberley in 1952, the Soweto student uprising in 1976, the Langa Massacre in 1985, the Bisho and Boipatong Massacres, amongst many others. We also remember the many heroes and heroines of our struggle who paid the ultimate price for the freedom we enjoy today. Many remain unnamed. We cannot serve the memory of the deceased well if we do not fully respect human rights that must be enjoyed by

all South Africans. We cannot fully enjoy human rights when our people are not free from the yoke of poverty, unemployment and inequality. It remains our duty as legislators to play our oversight role and engage robustly with the Executive to ensure that we deliver what is due to the masses of our people.

Poverty and unemployment undermine human rights. Poverty continues to strip our people of their dignity and their simple ability to afford a decent living for themselves and their children. Limpopo remains one of the poorest provinces in South Africa with a high unemployment rate, more so amongst the young people. A country unable to take care of its youth is a country that has got no tomorrow and therefore it has got no future. We appreciate the initiatives taken by government to ease the plight of our people. We remain a country that provides free education to our children, as well as free access to healthcare services. We know that often the standard is not as expected, but we are guaranteed a fact that no one is refused basic healthcare services just because they cannot afford. We remain proud that the higher education remains accessible to children whose economic status would have otherwise denied them that opportunity.

In Africa and the developing world at large, democracy, freedom and equality remain a hollow word if they are not matched by realities on the ground. There can be no real freedom if people still have poor access to health and healthcare services. There can be no real freedom if access to quality education is determined by the depth of their pockets. When you go through the report of Stats SA, it indicates that approximately half, which is 49,2%, of the adult population were living below the upper-bound poverty line, i.e., more than 17 million people in South Africa and are vulnerable to hunger and adverse living conditions. Adult females experienced higher level of poverty when compared to their male counterparts. Regardless of the poverty line used, female-headed households mostly felt the experience of poverty. The poverty gap and severity of poverty measures were larger for female-headed households compared to the households headed by males. That is according to Stats SA. The free fall in the economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a serious blow to these households. This is an important point to emphasise, more so as we should be truly concerned about the gendered nature of inequality. There can be no real and meaningful talk of human rights if women remain trapped in perpetual poverty.

We remain concerned as the representative of the people on the high unemployment rates in the country. The frustrations and hopelessness that this situation breeds are evident in the emergence of Afrophobic sentiments such as the so-called Operation Dudula movement. While we fully understand the frustrations that our people face, we will never support any violence against fellow Africans as a viable solution. We need to encourage our people to use legitimate means to express their grievances. We thus do not condone any citizen or politician who abuses the plight of our people to gain cheap political points. In the same breath, we urge the Executive to do more to ease the plight of poverty, inequality, and unemployment that continues to bedevil our people.

In conclusion, we call on our people to deepen the human rights agenda. As clearly articulated by the ruling party, the African National Congress, we continue to fight against racism, we continue to fight against sexism, we will continue to fight against xenophobia, homophobia and gender-based violence. We encourage our people to use avenues available to them in government to access and fully utilise their rights. It was the first president of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who said, "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." Our rights were not free, let us cherish them and live in a way that enhances the rights of others. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko. The next Member is Hon Manganye. [APPLAUSE]

MS MANGANYE

Ndza khensa nkarhi lowu Manana Xipikara. Eka Murhangeri wa Vandla ro Kaneta Ximfumo, Tatana Buthane, eka Vaendlikulorhi va Milawu laha Endlwini yo endla Milawu xakan'we na vaendzi va hina hikuya hi tindzawulo ta vona hi ku hambanahambana ka tona, ndza milosa. Hon Speaker, truth be told, there are no human rights in South Africa, and therefore, there is really nothing to celebrate. Only the ANC whose conscience has escaped will see the need to celebrate Human Rights Day. They celebrate the violation of the Constitution and human rights which people should be enjoying. It will be naive of us to celebrate human rights when the majority of Africans continue to be landless, and poor. It will be insensitive and ignorant of reality when South Africa remains one of the most unequal societies in the world, even when the country is endowed with so many minerals. More than 27 years into democratic dispensation, racism continues to raise its ugly head and black people continue to be on the receiving end of it.

The history of Sharpeville day must not be erased, it is a history of the PAC and Robert Sobukwe leading the liberation of our people from the front. This tells us that we owe our freedom not only to the ANC, but also to the PAC and many other formations. The 21 March was about pass laws, which were part of the suppression of black people's freedom of movement. Through pass laws, Blacks were treated like foreigners in the land of their birth. Until the land is restored to black people, aspirations of Sharpeville day have not been realised. The provincial administration of Premier Stanley Mathabatha is engaged in serious human rights violations as well, as we will demonstrate this in the next minute. There will be no human rights when the people of Musina, in particular Nancefield, Matswale Extension 14, Campbell, Hapha, Mshongoville and Skoonplaas, do not have water.

There will never be human rights when our people in Fetakgomo-Tubatse at Rostock village, Ward 32, continue to drink water with animals. There will never be human rights as long as the still water supply tank that was installed between Manchana village in Ward 7 and GaMagowa village in Ward 27 in Mankweng remains a white elephant. There will be no human rights as long as all clinics in Limpopo do not operate 24 hours. As it stands, out of 457 clinics and 22 health centres, only 124 operate 24 hours as if our people only get sick during the day. There will be no human rights as long as the Villa Nora Police Station, in Lephalale at Shongoane does not have resources like police vans, and adequate water. There will be no human rights as long as the tar road from GaMashabela to Matshatsha in Makhuduthamaga is not completed. The completion must also involve or include fixing the poor workmanship evident on the road. There will be no human rights as long as dilapidated infrastructure overcrowding at Tshilidzini Hospital in Thulamela Municipality is not addressed. There will be no human rights as long as women are arrested for stupid things like adultery. This happened in Jane Furse Police Station in Makhuduthamaga where Mrs Anna Thoketane was arrested and charged for adultery. We are yet to see men being arrested for adultery.

Xana hi na timfanelo tihi loko hina vamanana ha ha mpfinyiwa swi tlhela swi nga yi helo? Xana hi na timfanelo tihi loko hi dlawa hi varhandziwa va hina lava ku nga vona a va fanele va hi sirhelela? Xana hi na timfanelo tihi loko Xikolo xa le Henhla xa Nhlaluko laha vana va kona va ha tirhisa swihambukelo swa magoji? Laha hambu tinyoka ti nga va luma hala ndzhaku. Xana hi na timfanelo ti hi loko vana va Xikolo xale Hasi xa Ntwananani va ha dyondzela eka xikolo lexi akiweke hi switina swa vumba? Lexi nga akiwa hi lembe ra 1965, vana lava va nga weriwa nkarhi wihi na wihi. Xana hi tona timfanelo ke? Xana hi na timfanelo hina loko vana va Xikolo Lexitsongo xa Nombelani lexi kumekaka eka Malamulele etikweni ra Nombelani, va ri karhi vadyondzela ehansi ka misinya hikwalaho ka ku va xikolo xa vona xihahluriwile hi moya tsevu wa malimbe lawa ya

nga hundza na namutlha na sweswi a xi si lunghisiwa? Kambe mi ri hi tona timfanelo ta hina xana? Ri nga ri ri na mbofholowo naa musi vhana vha Tshiendeulu vha tshi khou dzhena kha tshikolo tsho fhatiwaho nga zwidina zwa mavu naa? I hone mbofholowo naa musi vhana vha Tshiendeulu vha tshi khou shumisa mabunga a madindi naa?

Hon Speaker, there is no human right, but human rights violation and abuse, and shame on the heartless ANC-led government. Ndza khensa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Manganye. I recognise Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I do not think we would be fair to allow the DA and the Freedom Front Plus to speak on this matter. I do not think it will be fair. What are they going to tell our people? What are they going to tell us? Here we talk to our people, unless they want to remind us of the painful past. I do not think they have a right to speak on this matter in particular, both of them, the DA and the Freedom Front Plus. Let them sit; we acknowledge they are here. I am persuading the House; let us look into this properly, Selamolela.

THE SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members! Hon Buthane, I want to respond to what you have said. You should have raised this in the Programming Committee. As the presiding officer, I am only following the programme as it is. What you are raising you should have raised it in the Programming Committee and then agreed on that one because I am following the programme now. In terms of my programme, the DA is on the Speakers' List. [INTERJECTION] I think I have ruled on this one.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am trying to avoid a dialogue; I do not have a problem, Madam Speaker, but remember, the Programming Committee met the week before last, and for this item it was not there when the DA and the Freedom Front Plus were slotted in the programme. But the point of the matter is that these ones who took us through this pain, these ones who killed us, these ones who took us through this horrific past, want to come here and talk, and say what? They must even without you requesting them not to talk on their own just sit down.

THE SPEAKER

No, Hon Buthane!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

They must just sit down.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, can you all allow ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

What is the DA going to say about the Sharpeville Massacre? The problem is this anglicisation of this thing: it is not Human Rights Day; it is actually Sharpeville Massacre. What is the DA going to say about the Sharpeville Massacre? What is the Freedom Front Plus going to say about Sharpeville Massacre? What are they going to say?

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, you are now addressing the House. You are no longer raising a point of order, and I have made a ruling on that matter. I am saying Hon Maharaj will proceed.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Shame on them and their crocodile smile.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On Human Rights Day, our nation commemorates the Sharpeville Massacre of 21 March 1960. When police opened fire on a peaceful protest, killing 69 people and wounding 180 under the oppressive apartheid regime. It is a day on which we remember the importance of human life and dignity, and the responsibility we have to protect these basic rights. Hon Selamolela, we talk about basic human rights such as clean water, hence the DA has laid charges at the South African Human Rights Commission on the continued failure to fix the dysfunctional wastewater works in Musina Municipality, as residents of Mshongoville, Matswale, Nancefield villages and Musina town near Eric Louw High School are subjected to daily sewerage leaks.

Sewerage pipes are either blocked or leaking, drains are overflowing, and in some instances, the raw sewage flows into dams and streams, and the contaminated water poses serious risks to people who drink the water. The raw sewage runs further through residential areas where children play and the stench is unbearable.

We should commemorate Human Rights Day with a provincial government that respects the Constitution, Hon Selamolela, shielding and defending human rights of its citizens; however, it is the people of this province who still do not have access to clean water. This is a violation of basic human rights, which the Democratic Alliance could not stand for, and that is why the DA is the only party that decided to approach the South African Human Rights Commission and lay charges against this government, which saw the commission having water hearings in that district.

Basic human rights such as safety should be government's responsibility to ensure that abandoned Mankweng Police Station ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Just for a moment, Hon Maharaj. Honourable Members, can we please show respect to Hon Maharaj? Allow him to finish his speech; allow Hon Maharaj to finish his speech. Hon Maharaj proceed.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Basic human rights such as safety should be the government's responsibility to ensure that the abandoned Mankweng Police Station project awarded by the Department of Public Works during the 2014/15 financial year is completed as a matter of

urgency. That is a basic human right. It is very concerning that there are currently no victim empowerment facilities at the police station, despite the fact that Mankweng frequently features in the top 30 stations for sexual offences. This is against the rights of victims, not affording them a decent VEC.

John F Kennedy once said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." Government should not only utter words of appreciation and celebration, but also live and implement those words on a daily basis. 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, untrained and under-resourced to adequately address this detestable crime against humanity. According to the crime statistics for the third quarter of 2021, as released by the Minister of Police, Bheki Cele, on 18 November 2021, overall crime in Limpopo was on the increase, while the national average indicated a decline of 2,5 percentage points. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. The next speaker is Hon Maritz. Proceed, Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; esteemed Members of the Executive Council and leaders of the opposition parties, also you Hon Buthane ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No, no, she must withdraw! She cannot say that she is here for me. She must withdraw.

MS MARITZ

I am saying hello to you as well.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Today I do not want your greetings.

MS MARITZ

Okay, no problem.

The government is very selective in dealing with human rights issues in South Africa, as minorities feel like mere spectators when Human Rights Day is celebrated in their own country. Human rights must be inclusive to accommodate all groups and nations. If that is not the case, as in South Africa, it is just an empty, false gesture. The Freedom Front Plus feels strong about mother tongue education in South Africa for all, freedom of association, better life, privacy, equality, human dignity, freedom of expression, youth to have jobs on merit and not BEE and affirmative action only appointments.

There can be no realisation of human rights when one group keeps trying to oppress another. We all have rights to clean water, clean healthcare centres, and hospitals. A serious human rights violation health risk is sewerage spills in most of the streets in the municipalities which are a danger to the rivers as they contaminate the rivers. Hon Speaker, I think you should protect me.

THE SPEAKER

You are protected honourable Member.

MS MARITZ

I cannot speak like this!

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, no!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

We also needed protection. We needed protection, why did you not protect us? She was not there; you were there, why did you not protect us?

MS MARITZ

I can protect myself.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, can you allow Hon Maritz to proceed?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Why did you not protect us?

MS MARITZ

Because that is the House rule. The Freedom Front Plus has already opened a few cases at the Human Rights Commission in Limpopo; we await the final step of the criminal charges which were also laid. That is [Inaudible] where you make noise. And still, it is getting worse by the day. Children should be safe and free to walk around and not be raped and killed and should be protected against human trafficking. We should as leaders in Limpopo stand up for the rights of the people of the province and set an example. Die jeug is ons toekoms, en daar moet geleenthede wees vir almal vir 'n beter toekoms. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

It is her right to read in any a language; it is her right. Thank you, Hon Maritz. Can we proceed to our last speaker, Dr Ramathuba?

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker in absentia; honourable Premier in absentia; Members of Executive Council; Chief Whip of the Majority Party; honourable Members of the House; leaders of political parties who are here; our HODs and other senior government officials; and our guests. Hon Speaker, let me thank you very much for allowing us and giving us this opportunity to participate in a debate that speaks to the fundamental rights of our people. As the

ANC-led government, we commemorate Human Rights Day. We have never said to anybody we are celebrating this day. So those honourable Members who came here before me and said we are celebrating, what is it that we are celebrating? We have never celebrated Human Rights Day; we have always commemorated it because we use this day to remember all those who perished under the brutal regime at that time, and will also use this day as the ANC-led government to take stock of how far we are in addressing the human rights of our people. We are the first to accept and agree that there can never be human rights celebration until such time as all our people have access to basic services.

Almost 74 years ago, the United Nations defined 30 articles of human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These human rights were pillared on the basis of humanity, freedom, justice and peace. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 provides for the basic human rights for all. Those indivisible rights are espoused in Chapter 2: Bill of Rights. We pride ourselves as a nation in the Bill of Rights, which remains a cornerstone of our inclusive representative and constitutional democracy. In South Africa, the Human Rights Day draws its historic existence from the painful episode that transpired 62 years ago in Sharpeville where 69 people, our people, died and 180 of them were severely wounded when the senseless police opened fire on a peaceful crowd that gathered in protest against the dehumanising pass laws.

So yes, it's true, we still demand an apology for those who have caused that pain. On that fateful day, the people displayed high levels of unity and demonstrated their opposition to the unjust and unlawful treatment experienced under the repugnant regime of apartheid. These people were propelled by the basic human urge to be free, just to be free, and to live freely, just to live freely, also driven by the spirit of freedom, justice, democracy and equality. Yesterday as we gathered to commemorate the painful events of the Sharpeville Massacre, we equally at the same time, wanted to celebrate the lives of that generation of men and women who took a resolution never to allow apartheid oppression, nor to ever allow the lives of the future generation to be subject to racial oppression state. So indeed, we celebrate their lives, but we commemorate this day. The gallant contribution made by all the people from all walks of life brought us the democracy that we live under today: that we can stand here and speak freely. The episode of the 62 years ago, confronted the apartheid monster so that from its spills and ruins, they could lay the foundation upon which a new nation would rise.

We are so privileged as a nation to share the same motherland with such a reverent and admired generation of gallant men and women. The preservation of human rights accords us a solid foundation upon which we can and should build a South Africa that we all want. This is a South Africa which will be free of hunger, poverty, joblessness, and inequality. Until such time that we have a South Africa that is free of hunger, poverty, joblessness and inequality, we can never say we have a free South Africa.

Human rights means access to free healthcare services, and the availability of medication to our facilities. The right to have access to healthcare services is a basic human right, I agree, and it is guaranteed by the Constitution. Section 27 of the Constitution provides that everyone has the right to have access to healthcare services, including reproductive healthcare services, and no one may be refused emergency medical treatment. In essence, this simply means that if you are involved in a car accident, you should be able to be taken to a nearest facility, whether it is private or public. You should be able to receive care. No one must deny you. But is it happening, and who is defending this unconstitutional act by private facilities? When as the ANC-led government respond by bringing the National Health Insurance, who is blocking it from happening? So let us not be hypocrites and come here and say South Africans must have access to quality healthcare when we know in our own political parties, we are rejecting a vehicle that the government wants to use so that everybody can have access to healthcare. It should not be dependent on the size

of your pocket. At the same time, we also need to be uncompromising even when it comes to our foreign nationals, because the reality of the matter is, our facility must provide quality healthcare to the foreign nationals or anybody in terms of the Constitution. That means when you are not an emergency, I am not bound to provide you access to healthcare. The reality of the matter is when human rights are trumped in our neighbouring countries, the country must make it its problem and try to assist neighbouring countries to deal with these challenges. The problem is that they cross the borders and come and access quality healthcare in our country, which is making it difficult.

As we speak, the country has embarked on collecting population statistics through census, and the outcomes are going to be shared with important stakeholders, including our Treasury, which will use these collated statistics to inform the budget allocation. Part of the challenges confronting our basic services delivery includes the water you are talking about and the houses you are talking about. The budget for Limpopo will be informed by the population of Limpopo, but unfortunately, when people cross into our country and get access to measles vaccine, that has an impact on South African citizens because we procure measles vaccine based on the statistics of South Africans that are here. Hence, as the ANC-led government, we must support what the Minister of Home Affairs is currently doing so that we avoid populists who will come up with their own organisation that will go and use violence to fight our own African brothers and sisters. For us to win this, let us support Minister Motsoaledi on that work that he is currently doing. [APPLAUSE]

Human rights means access to free education, and the ANC-led government has been hard at work to make sure that our children have got access to free education. We do not only stop with education itself because teaching and learning cannot happen on an empty stomach. That is why it is this ANC-led government that has come up with the school feeding scheme so that our children are able to study because they will have glucose due to the food that we are giving them. It means the right to job creation. Hence, if you listen to even our Budget Speech, if you listen to our State of the Province Address, and State of the Nation Address, they focus mainly on job creation. Human rights means availability of economic opportunities. Human rights means eradication of poverty and eradication of apartheid spatial planning, and women and children abuse. This is what the ANC-led government is doing. Human rights should be enjoyed by every citizen of the Republic. It is in our hands to build this South Africa for the sake of our children and future generations.

Human rights means that it is possible for us as a people to unite and defeat poverty and unemployment. The poverty and inequality experienced in South Africa, emanates from this specially designed past policies of exclusion and discrimination. This system was designed to empower the minority and impoverish the aboriginal majority. For us to fully liquidate the legacy of apartheid and entrench the culture of human rights, we need to give the people of South Africa all that is espoused in the Bill of Rights. We continue to frown at those who demoted our people to poverty through the enacting of various discriminating acts and pieces of legislation. The people of South Africa were rendered destitute. We denounce the Land Act of 1913, which empowered the apartheid system to seize arable land from the African majority and bequeath it to the undeserving minority. Our education system still needs to transform if we are to fully comprehend and enjoy the fruits of human rights. We need to undermine the efforts of those who still want to set us back, those who engage in acts of corruption and malfeasance, those who take away the rights of our people to live harmoniously and in an environment of peace and tranquility. The trail of corruption undermines the objectives of human rights as entrenched in our Constitution.

Let me conclude by saying South Africa, like the rest of the world, has been in the grips of a pandemic that has claimed so many innocent lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has closed families, destroyed lives and livelihoods. Through the caring ANC-led government, vaccines have since been procured to lessen the severity and the impact of the virus on our lives in our economy.

Therefore, all South African citizens, irrespective of the colour of your skin, because this government is a caring one, have a right to get the COVID-19 vaccine. We also have the right to get a booster shot. We also have a right to protect ourselves. We have the right to protect our family and our friends from COVID-19, severe illness, hospitalisation and death. We need the participation of everyone if we are to enjoy the fruits of our constitutional provision. Human rights are fundamental if we are to drive economic progress and build a better South Africa for all. Ndza khensa. Inkomu. Ndo livhuwa. Baie dankie. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. [INTERJECTION] No, I have allowed you. You were also given a chance to finish your speech. No, you cannot do that, honourable Members! Thank you very much, honourable Members. I have allowed everyone, Hon Managa. I have given everyone an opportunity to finish his or her speech. It is not only Dr Ramathuba. Can we proceed, honourable Members? It looks like we have covered all our items for today's Sitting.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Is there anyone with announcements? There are none.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Sitting is adjourned to Thursday, 24 March 2022 at 10:00 here at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

THE SPEAKER

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

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 this august House and members of staff, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Mohlala, you may take the floor.

MR MOHLALA

Morning Speaker, morning colleagues and the Leader of the Official Opposition.

**APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE SEKHULA FAMILY WHO LOST EVERYTHING WHEN
THEIR HOUSE CAUGHT FIRE**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes that the EFF notes with sadness the passing on of two members of the Sekhula family in Kgaphamadi section of Bolobedu. It is reported that the two members died when their house caught fire.

We call upon the Department of CoGHSTA and the municipality to investigate the cause of the fire.

We further call on the Department of Social Development to provide food, assist with the burial of the two family members and provide counselling for the surviving family members.

The Department of CoGHSTA must also provide immediate shelter to the family. The shelter should be habitable with acceptable standards while the cause of the fire is being investigated. The investigation must also include if the fire department responded promptly to extinguish the fire.

The EFF conveys its heartfelt condolences to the Sekhula family and wish a speedy recovery to those who survived the fire.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Is there any seconder? Hon Manganye, you may take the floor.

MS MANGANYE

Mina Tinyiko Manganye, ndzi yima hi ku seketela kungu leri andlariweke hi Tatana Mohlala. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Are there any further motions? Hon Maharaj, you may take the floor.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SIGNING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION
(Motion without Notice)

I hereby move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes and welcomes the long overdue signing of the Presidential Proclamation R55 of 2022 that will allow the Special Investigating Unit to investigate the allegations of corruption and maladministration in the affairs of the Limpopo Department of Health and recover any financial losses suffered by the state or by the department for civil litigation.

The House should further note that such investigations are as a result of an incapable Executive authority, department, and senior management that have dropped the ball on good governance, financial controls and compliance with supply chain management legislation.

Although this type of investigation should have occurred earlier, we welcome the opportunity for SIU to uncover possible issues that have affected one of the most critical provincial departments in terms of providing services to the people of Limpopo.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Is there any seconder? Hon Smalle, you may take the floor.

MR SMALLE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Mphahlele, you may take the floor.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable MECs present; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Jossey Buthane; colleagues, greetings this morning.

CONCERNS OVER RISING INCIDENTS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN LIMPOPO

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the House notes that the EFF in Limpopo is concerned about the rising incidents of GBV in the province.

The recent case of Tumiso Magabane who is alleged to have shot his girlfriend multiple times and turned the gun on himself is an unacceptable incident which should be discouraged at all costs. GBV is destroying our society and families which are supposed to be the nucleus of societal values and development. As a generation we ought to rise and unite by getting involved through open dialogues and other means which aim to eliminate the highest rate of GBV in our communities.

The highest percentage suffering from GBV are women and young children, including the aged. Therefore, men must unite and act against any transgressors on matters of GBV. We must stop being judgmental on those who speak out against the perpetrators of GBV.

The EFF in Limpopo calls upon law enforcement agencies to act swiftly on matters of GBV, precisely because any delay to report to the police may cause a loss of life. We have a duty to create a crime-free Limpopo wherein peace reigns in our homes, streets, workplaces and all over, as transgressors are either partners, non-partners or known and unknown to individuals.

The government should pull up its socks in confronting any act of committing GBV.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mphahlele. Is there any seconder? Hon Managa, you may take the floor.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, honourable Chairperson. I, Managa Lillian, deployed in this House by the Economic Freedom Fighters, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mphahlele Regina Selaelo. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, it's over to you.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, honourable Chair. My hand was up before the motion was adopted. I wanted to object to the motion, because the same motion was presented by Hon Mokaba-Phukwana during Tuesday's Sitting, unless if I am wrong. If my memory serves me well, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana presented the same motion, and it was seconded. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. There is an objection to the motion. Hon Buthane, you may take the floor.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I do not think that the Chief Whip was objecting. I think he was seeking clarity if the motion was read last week by Hon Manama. I think we can look into the *Hansard* for that. But for fast clarity, I think it was a different one. You can look into the *Hansard* about that. I do not think that he was objecting. We are fine.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, the Chief Whip was objecting to the motion and then if you want to ... Can I finish? If you want the Speaker to check the *Hansard*, we will do that after the processes of objection. The Chief Whip objected to the motion; so I am going to run it ...

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Did he object to it?

THE SPEAKER

Yes. If you want the Speaker to check the *Hansard*, I will do that after the objection.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Aowa, o ka re ga re mo kwe gabotse. O ka re ga a ganetše mothaka yola.

THE SPEAKER

The Chief Whip objected to the motion ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Are you objecting?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Yes, I am objecting [inaudible]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Alright.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I just need clarity. How do you object to something that has been seconded? If there was any objection, it was supposed to have been done before it was seconded. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

It should be done like that. I should be. Can I clarify? If a Member raises a motion then there will be a seconder and thereafter if someone wants to object, he/she will object. That is the process. The motion is objected to. I am going to check with Members who agree. Can I proceed, Hon Buthane?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Chair, if the motion was indeed read, the Rules say you cannot do it again. If the motion was indeed read it is okay. There is no need for an objection. We accept that the motion was read, and the issues might have fallen into the cracks. There is no need for the motion. Let us follow the Rules. If the Rules say we cannot do it again, we are fine.

THE SPEAKER

If you are fine, then it means that we can proceed? The motion is objected to. Let us proceed. Are there any further motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? We are done. I would suggest that we all rise and observe a moment of silence for 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 is none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements in terms of Rule 200? Hon Smalle, you may take the floor.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. My Members' Statement is to the MEC, Hon Ndalane.

CONCERN AROUND THE RECENT OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (Members' Statement)

The Democratic Alliance is concerned about the recent outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease in the Collins Chabane Local Municipality area.

According to the national Department of Agriculture, there are two or more possible outbreaks in this area. One outbreak is in a previously FMD-free zone where cattle were infected in a communal grazing area. The other confirmed infected location is in the disease management area which was declared in January 2019. Other locations in the area with clinical signs are currently being investigated by the department.

Can the honourable MEC please clarify the House on the following: Firstly, what are the assurances that will not see a repeat of the 2019 outbreak across the province which caused an international ban on our red meat products? Secondly, is the Collins Chabane area quarantined and is the outbreak contained? Thirdly, have the auctioneers and other key role players been

informed of the outbreak? Fourthly, have vaccination efforts been increased to prevent the disease from spreading to other areas?

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Are there any further Members' Statements? Hon Raphela, you may take the floor.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

WATER SHORTAGE IN MOGALAKWENA, MOKOPANE AREA
(Members' Statement)

We rise to raise the plight of the people of Waterberg, Mogalakwena, who, like many other communities in Limpopo, do not have water and human rights at all. The so-called "New Dawn" and "Thuma Mina", "have not brought them anything new as their lives still remain the same. Their basic fundamental rights are being violated on a daily basis.

The communities of Rebone, Ward 3, Mahwelereng Zone 2, Ward 12, Zone 1 Wards 26, 27 and Ward 12 and Extension 17 near Mokopane town do not have water, permanently so. We do not know why these people are being punished, because the last time we checked they had not done anything wrong to the current government. They too, like white people who have never had any issues with service delivery, have rights which must be respected. The continued violation of fundamental rights of black people by the current government is extremely unacceptable and cannot go unchallenged.

Water is life, and once people are denied access to this important resource it means they are denied of life and the aim is to suffocate them. The hatred of black people by the government is well known and they continue to unashamedly display it, especially towards the poor.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and provide a long-lasting solution to the people of Mogalakwena not, thentara ya meetse ao a tlišwago ka ditheraka.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further Members' Statements? Hon Seshoka, you may take the floor.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We pass our greetings to the Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon Jossey Buthane; all the MECs present here, Members of this august House, officials from various departments and staff members of the Legislature.

LACK OF ELECTRICITY IN RIVERCROSS, FETAKGOMO-TUBATSE LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY
(Members' Statement)

The ANC-led government is far from transitioning into a developmental state and there is scientific proof to this sense. Despite the fact that we are now more than 27 years into the democratic dispensation, many communities still do not have access to basic services like water, electricity and housing.

The people of Ward 5 River Cross, that is Mandela East and West section under the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality have never had electricity in their entire lives. These are old communities which existed even prior to 1994. These communities do not know what democracy feels and tastes like. The service provider who was awarded the contract to electrify these communities cashed in the money and disappeared. This happens all the time in the Limpopo province, where service providers upon being appointed, they simply take the money and abandon the sites without completing the work.

The Marapong Housing Project in Lephalale is a typical recent example attesting to this level of looting and thuggery. But, Hon Speaker, these are not just ordinary contractors. Some of them are ANC comrades and some are families and friends of politicians in government. Instead of backlisting and opening cases against these thugs, the ANC-led government rewards them with other projects in a different department or municipality.

There is no political will to deliver quality services and root out corruption in Premier Mathabatha's administration.

The EFF calls upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and find a lasting solution for the people of River Cross in Fetakgomo-Tubatse.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Hon Smalle, you may take the floor.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

PROTESTS DUE TO LACK OF SERVICE DELIVERY IN MOGWADI (Members' Statement)

Once again, the residents of Molemole Local Municipality are standing up and protesting for their basic rights as contained in the Constitution.

This time, for water services and grievances against the municipality for billing them for services not rendered. Desperate and frustrated protesters blocked the Mogwadi area with burning tyres this week. The situation remains volatile and tense, while the municipality closed their offices, feeling unsafe due to their own inability to deliver basic services to the residents. They are not the only citizens of Limpopo who have no access to water.

Of the 306 979 indigent households identified by the municipalities, only 143 544 have access to water. Honourable MEC, what are your immediate plans for towns across Limpopo to have access to water on a daily basis? When will the issues to poor water management as mentioned by the

A-G be addressed, especially in areas of water leakages, deteriorating infrastructure, unauthorised water consumption and inadequate systems to verify water purchases?

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Are there any further Members' Statements? We are done. May I check from the Members of the Executive if they want to comment or respond to the statements. MEC, Hon Ndalane, you may take the floor. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity given to me to respond to the issues raised by honourable Members, in particular Hon Smalle. The foot-and-mouth disease is a major problem in the province. This started in KwaZulu-Natal. It did not start here.

As a department, we have taken extra measures to contain the disease. The following measures are in place:

- Vaccination sites have been activated. We started with vaccination from 15 March.
- We are busy surveying around the neighbouring villages. As for now, cattle movement has been prohibited.
- We are currently constructing and repairing the old animal handling facilities.
- The auctioneers and communities have been informed.

Other issues will be investigated.

Hon Smalle and the House will be updated in due course. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC for the response. Hon Moraka, you may take the floor. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. Greetings to the esteemed Members of this august House, including those who are seated on my immediate left.

Speaker, we want to appreciate the issues as raised by honourable Members. I think it is almost three honourable Members who have raised issues that are almost similar around the issue of water and the challenges thereof in our various communities. Let me also indicate that we really agree with the honourable Members that water is a basic source of life. This is indeed an issue that is occupying the agenda of the provincial government to make it a point that we work together with the Department of Water and Sanitation to make it a point that the issue of water challenges in the province is a thing of the past.

We have taken a resolution at the level of EXCO to make it a point that we invite DWS (Department of Water and Sanitation) which is the water service authority in certain areas and in other municipal areas. There is, for instance, the Sekhukhune District Municipality which is being mandated to service our communities with regards to water provision. We are going to make it a point that we take stock of all these challenges that the honourable Members have raised and

make sure, Speaker, that after those investigations on allegations that are being levelled against those municipalities, we then come back here through the Department of CoGHSTA and give an update with regards to the findings in those parts of the province.

The issue of the Tubatse service provider for electricity is also an issue that we are hearing for the first time. We will make sure that we investigate the matter and bring a comprehensive report on that particular issue. I want to plead with honourable Members to say let us utilise this platform in this Parliament to make sure that we come up with solutions that are going to help us to change the lives of our people. We do not just have to come here and speak on baseless allegations. Where there are allegations of corruption, I think honourable Members know very well what to do. We have a Premier's Hotline where we can report these kinds of incidents. We have a Hotline that is available 24 hours for honourable Members and including our community members to make sure that we report any act of corruption where we see it, Hon Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

BACKGROUND

Order! Order!

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, could you please take your seat. Hon Raphela, I knew it.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, the MEC is out of order, because Members in this House have a right to raise whatever issue they want to raise. They do so, knowing very well about the Presidential Hotline and the Premier's Hotline. They also have a duty in this House to raise any other issue they so deem fit to raise and not being that Hon Moraka stands here and says it is unfortunate of them to come and raise issues in this House. She must speak to the issues she stood up to address, focus on them and leave these other issues to ourselves as Members. We know why we are here. We have a mandate to be here, and we shall carry that mandate out. She must refrain from such statements.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, no. Hon Buthane and Hon Raphela, you cannot say the honourable MEC is out of order. The honourable MEC is answering. She is responding to the matters that you have raised. Whether the response is satisfactory or not, it is something else. You know the rules. If you are not satisfied with the response, you know how to go about.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

No!

THE SPEAKER

No, Hon Raphela, you cannot say no. I am clarifying the rules of this House. I am saying the honourable MEC is trying to respond to your issues. Whether you are satisfied or not, you know what to do. You cannot raise your hand now. If you are not satisfied you know what you should do, Hon Raphela. Honourable MEC, could you proceed.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No, you cannot challenge the rules. Honourable MEC, just a moment. Can I clarify further? [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Madam Speaker, I do not think that you are getting my point. I agree that the MEC can respond in any manner she wants to, but in her response, let her not ridicule Members and say they cannot raise issues here. That is my point. We must raise, and she must respond. Whether we raise issues that she is comfortable with or not comfortable with, it is not an issue. That we must do. She must answer. Whether we are comfortable with her answer or not, we are fine. She must not come here and mislead the House. When she speaks here and people are watching, they might not understand that even if there is a Presidential Hotline and a Premier's Hotline, Members still have a right to raise issues in this House. That is my point. On other issues, I do not have a problem. She can do that. We are fine with that. There is nothing that we are not expecting from her. There's nothing new that we are expecting from her. Nothing at all. The only issue we are on is that she must not pose some element that Members are wrong to raise issues in this House. That is my point.

THE SPEAKER

I am agreeing with the first part, Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Then we are fine.

THE SPEAKER

That is why I was saying also yourself, are out of order to say the MEC is out of order. I am agreeing with the first part. Can you proceed honourable MEC? You are correct, everyone has a right to raise whatever he or she feels like raising, as long as that person or that Member is within the rules.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

If we are agreeing, Hon Speaker, then it is ... [inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Proceed honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for that maximum protection. I want to really plead with honourable Members that as we respond here as in other areas as people mandated by the Constitution to deal with issues at the level of the Executive Council, allow us to assist you so that we can find amicable solutions to the challenges that you are raising.

I acknowledge here, Hon Speaker, that the issues of water are at the centre of the agenda of the Executive Council that is led by the Hon Premier. Speaker. We know that there are challenges of water in the areas of Modimolle-Mookgophong and the Mogalakwena Local Municipality as raised here by honourable Members. These are the issues, Speaker, that I am saying that the Department of CoGHSTA together with the Department Water and Sanitation will have to come back to this House, after they have looked at all these issues as raised by the Members to try and resolve them, and maybe put the fears of the Members to rest so that they would then understand where the provincial government is at towards addressing the issue of water challenges in the province of Limpopo.

On the issue of the service provider for electricity I have already touched on it, Speaker. The allegations are going to be investigated. Where we find that the service provider indeed, has conducted himself or herself in that manner that is not appropriate, we will have to take action and make sure that whoever has been found on the wrong side of the law, would have to be brought to book without failure or without any prejudice. Thank you, Speaker for the opportunity. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Leader of Government Business, you may take the floor.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I think it is going to be important that we respond and acknowledge some of the challenges. We also note that allegations have been raised from Tubatse. We must be able to separate facts from chaff. The allegations, Hon Speaker, that the service providers are actually from the African National Congress are wild at best. They are unfounded. They are unsubstantiated, and they are not scientific. Until such time that the Member has facts in terms of those allegations, the Member must desist from subjecting this movement of the people to such as if it is an inherently and naturally corrupt movement. This is not a fact. It is wild allegations, and I think we must separate it from what we are trying to deal with. Thanks, Madam Speaker. [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Madam Speaker! Madam Speaker! No, do not go.

BACKGROUND

[LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

He is done. [LAUGHTER]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Madam Speaker! Madam Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

It was in this House where the EFF said and put a motion that the ANC is corrupt. Such a motion was never challenged. For as long as that motion was never challenged it became the reality in this House. You cannot say we must prove you otherwise. You will remember in this very House we said that the ANC is corrupt and none of you objected to that motion. None of you. Re tlogeleng! We are going to raise it until something else happens, but for now on record ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

... by not objecting you have accepted that you are corrupt.

THE SPEAKER

No! Hon Buthane! Hon Buthane!

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

No! Hon Buthane! Can I respond honourable Members? Hon Raphela, I want to respond to Hon Buthane to say the MEC is correct. Hon Raphela, the MEC is correct. Can I finish. In terms of the rules ... can I finish? In terms of the rules, no Member is allowed to cast any aspersions on anyone without a substantive motion. That is why I am saying the MEC is correct.

BACKGROUND

No!

THE SPEAKER

As long you do not present a substantive motion. No! Can we move on? [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mamohla gona o galefile. Hon Speaker! Hon Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

Those are the Rules.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Cde Jetrick, it is me on the podium. It is me on the podium.

THE SPEAKER

Mohlomphegi Seshoka, le ka se emelele ka moka.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

George! Comrades, it is me on the podium. Alright, Comrades, it is me on the podium. George! Jetrick! Jetrick, it is me now on the podium.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, we are not speaking about – aowa, le wena! I am not disputing that rule. What I am saying is that we did not cast it on anyone in particular. We said the ANC. That is why I am standing to say that the motion that was not objected to and by not being objected to, it means that we are accepting as the House that the ANC is corrupt. We are not speaking to a name, we are saying the ANC, right. That is why I am even taking the matter further that for as long as that motion has not been challenged, the status quo remains. We are not saying Charlie Sekoati, we are not mentioning any name.

You are right, Madam Speaker, to say we cannot mention a particular Member, this time around we are mentioning a particular Member. Hon Sekoati says the glorious movement is inherently corrupt, it cannot be inherently corrupt. Wena, o tlo mpolediša kudu. O a rasa, ke a bolela. Ke a bolela, o a bolela. O tlo mpolediša kudu ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Please protect me, Hon Speaker. When I respond, you will say that I am out of order.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane! Hon Buthane!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am concluding.

THE SPEAKER

Can I clarify you? You are taking me back again, Hon Buthane. After the MEC has responded, you are not allowed, Hon Buthane, to raise issues on the response of the MEC. I have indicated that during MEC Moraka's response. You are not allowed, Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Alright. There is no problem, Madam Speaker, I agree with you.

BACKGROUND

No, you are wrong.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

That motion, that the ANC is corrupt stands and was never objected to, and for that reason, the status quo remains – that the ANC is corrupt. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

I do not know which motion you are talking about.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

It was here. Look into the Hansard.

THE SPEAKER

Can we proceed? I do not know.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

O a o gopola akere!

THE SPEAKER

I do not know.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Yo o a o gopola. Ba ba a o gopola. Re o boletše ka mo.

THE SPEAKER

Can we proceed?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Le paisitše ra feta, mola le paisitše ra feta.

THE SPEAKER

Can we proceed, honourable Members?

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?

6.1. Tabling of the 2020/21 Annual Report for Gateway Airport Authority Limited

Tabling of the 2020/21 Annual Report for Gateway Airport Authority Limited together with the written explanation for non-submission on time. MEC for Transport and Community Safety, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Ndi matsheloni. Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me also take this opportunity to acknowledge and greet all the Members in the House, my colleagues; honourable MECs, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Members of the opposition, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety and all committee members.

Hon Speaker, I hereby table the 2020/21 Annual Report for Gateway Airport Authority Limited which is abbreviated as GAAL together with the explanation for non-submission on time.

On behalf of GAAL, we acknowledge and apologise to the House for the late submission of the report. We have already submitted a written explanation to the Office of the Speaker. Let me also add that due to the Auditor-General's process which impacted negatively on us as an institution and due to the COVID-19 outbreak that we had at the institution and the rotational work of the members at the institution, our process to finalise the report was delayed.

This delay was also created by the challenges of us as the shareholder reviewing the process of the board of directors and making sure that we put in the correct process and correct information as submitted in the report. Both these issues posed a challenge on us as GAAL. However, this morning I stand here to submit that we want to acknowledge that the delay that has happened will never be repeated. We stand firm to say all our reports on behalf of GAAL will be submitted on time as we have already apologised to the House.

I hereby submit the report. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya. The Annual Report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety and Scopa for consideration and to report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Motion for Third Reading of the Limpopo Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B02-2022]

I call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Now that the Limpopo Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B02-2022] 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, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Mdaka, you may take the floor.

MR MDAKA

I rise to second the motion as read by the honourable MEC. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We are now going to adopt the Bill schedule by schedule. Those who agree will say "Aye" and those who disagree with the Bill will say "Nay".

Clause 1: Appropriation of adjusted amounts of money?

BACKGROUND

"Aye".

THE SPEAKER

Clause 2: Amendment of schedule?

BACKGROUND

"Aye".

THE SPEAKER

Clause 3: We are now going to adopt the Bill vote by vote. Vote 1?

BACKGROUND

"Aye".

THE SPEAKER

Vote 2?

BACKGROUND

“Aye”

THE SPEAKER

Vote 3?

BACKGROUND

“Aye”.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 4?

BACKGROUND

“Aye”..

THE SPEAKER

Vote 5?

BACKGROUND

“Aye”.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 6?

BACKGROUND

“Aye”.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 7?

BACKGROUND

“Aye”.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 8?

BACKGROUND

“Aye”.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 9?

BACKGROUND

“Aye”.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 10?

BACKGROUND

“Aye”.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 11?

BACKGROUND

“Aye”.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 12?

BACKGROUND

“Aye”.

THE SPEAKER

We shall now call upon the Secretary to read the short title.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Madam Speaker, o ra gore batho ba mmušo o ba patelela go dira tšona dilo tše.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, thank you.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Bolela ke swaragane monna wa gešo. Ke busy too much.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, thank you. Honourable Members, we shall now call upon the Secretary to read the short title.

MR MAPHAHA [ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY]

Hon Speaker, this Act is called the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Act, 2022. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Can you be audible please?

MR MAPHAHA [ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY]

Hon Speaker, this Act is called the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Act, 2022. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

We move to the Second Reading of Budget Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B01-2022]. We shall now call upon the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Ndalane, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 4. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(Address by Ms Ndalane N A, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development)

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Hon Deputy Speaker in absentia, honourable colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, honourable Members of the provincial Legislature, leadership of the ruling party and of other political parties present here today, Leader of the Opposition, chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee, members of the media, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning to you all.

I believe I know this as a matter of fact that the great masses of our people look up to us and particularly to the African National Congress for a better life. This legitimate expectation from our people is a constant reminder that we remain nothing, but the servants of our people. We have been given the responsibility of leading this big project whose objective is to eradicate poverty, provide employment opportunities, eliminate inequality, and maintain food security amongst others.

These important responsibilities clearly indicate the enormity of the work at our disposal, and we dare not fail. Failure to deliver on these objectives will be catastrophic in the lives of our communities. Failure on the other hand will also mean a betrayal of trust that has been bestowed on us by our people. Having said that, we commit to this august House that we shall never fail. Delivery on these objectives is non-negotiable.

We appreciate that we are currently operating under difficult conditions of uncertainty brought about by amongst others COVID-19 pandemic and a subdued economy. While these are realities of our current circumstances, we draw wisdom from the wise words of former President Mbeki who said: “Those who complete the course will do so only because they do not, as fatigue sets in, convince themselves that the road ahead is still too long, the incline too steep, the loneliness impossible to bear and the prize itself of doubtful value.”

Madam Speaker, we once again appreciate the opportunity to table the Budget and policy priorities for the department for the 2022/23 financial year to this august House.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the important role that agriculture plays in producing food. It also shone the light on the crucial role that the agricultural sector plays and will continue to play in the economic recovery of the Limpopo province and South Africa. Statistical reports indicate that the agricultural sector, one of the critical drivers of the country's economy, registered positive growth in most quarters during the COVID-19 pandemic. The positive economic growth in the agricultural sector was attributed to, among others, an increase in field crops, horticultural and animal products.

Overall, the latest report released by Statistics South Africa shows better economic growth in the fourth quarter of 2021. The sectors that recorded positive economic growth are agriculture, trade, manufacturing, and personal services. Agriculture expanded by 12,2% quarter on quarter, retail trade sales by 2,9%, manufacturing by 2,8%, and personal services by 2,7%. The growth of agriculture is attributed mainly to a rise in the production of animal products. The export of vegetables also contributed to an increase in total value exports of goods and services which grew by 8,5%. However, the sporadic electricity, water cut-offs, and rising prices of fertilisers and fuel continue to threaten the production output, and in turn, growth in the agriculture sector.

As a country and province, we are still struggling to grow the economy to the level as required by the National Development Plan, to attain economic growth of 5% for the creation of meaningful sustainable jobs by 2030. During the devastating effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan has prioritised interventions to restore the economy and build a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive economy. At the provincial level, the Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan was developed. The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is one of the departments responsible for leading and contributing towards the actualising these recovery plans. During 2021/22, the department finalised the Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agro-processing Value Chain Plan (RAAVC). The plan is aligned to the national Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan.

In the State of the Province Address, the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, has clearly outlined what the RAAVC seeks to achieve when he said: “Our plan for the revitalisation of agriculture and agro-processing value chain is anchored on four objectives which include the task to:

- Increase production through revitalisation and expansion of key commodities;
- Ensuring the transformation of the agricultural sector through the promotion and support of black producers in key commodity industries;
- Increasing the participation of black producers in the domestic and export markets, and
- Broadening and increasing the participation of black producers in the agricultural value chain.”

Hon Speaker, we are therefore confident that with the allocation of R27 million for the RAAVC Plan, we are on course towards meeting these objectives. The implementation of the RAAVC Plan is centred around catalytic megaprojects which aim to increase primary agricultural production that is linked to agro-processing and value-adding and contribute to job creation and improved rural livelihoods and food security. The implementation follows and is guided by the District Development Model.

Over and above several interventions that sought to actualise the RAAVC Plan, focused attention in the 2021/22 financial year was also on the commencement of some of the megaprojects. These projects included the Makgoba Fruit Development under the subtropical fruit cluster, revitalisation of the Zebediela Citrus Estate and Limburg Citrus Estate as part of the citrus cluster and GaMoleele Potato Development under the potato cluster in the Capricorn. Progress on these projects was not as expected due to several factors which caused delays in the implementation. Factors ranged from a court judgment in relation to the Makgoba Project, slow progress in finding solutions for the community disputes at Limburg Citrus, and the procurement challenges in relation to Zebediela and GaMoleele. The project plans will continue in the 2022/23 financial year. Further to that is the Majeje Citrus in Ba-Phalaborwa, the Tafelkop Farmers Association in the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, and the Tshilwavhusiku Cooperative in Makhado, both under the vegetable cluster which would also be implemented in the 2022/23 financial year from the ringfenced RAAVC allocation.

The Tafelkop Farmers Association and the Tshilwavhusiku Cooperative will be supported with irrigation infrastructure and on-farm pack-sheds. Implementation of the citrus cluster is in partnership with the private sector, which includes the Impact Catalyst for the Zebediela and Limburg projects and the Komati Group for Majeje Citrus as Co-Funders. The department has also partnered with the Agricultural Research Council on the Livestock Improvement Programme.

This programme will contribute to the red meat cluster development in Waterberg. Other partnerships are with the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) and the Agricultural Development Agency. The partnership with the PPECB is to address the challenges of market access, particularly by the previously excluded producers by providing support to enable them to meet the market requirements and obtain the necessary certification in general agricultural practices.

The partnership with the Agricultural Development Agency is on the mobilisation of resources, financial and technical skills needed for the broader implementation of the RAAVC Plan. As it is outlined in the RAAVC Plan, these partnerships are very critical and will go a long way in meeting the broader objective of accelerating inclusive economic growth, market access by previously excluded producers, expanding skills base, increasing the sector's potential to create more jobs, and contributing to food security for all.

It is expected that through this development, 2 144 job opportunities would be created. A total of 232 current permanent jobs at Zebediela Citrus Estate would be sustained as well as 800 seasonal jobs.

Hon Speaker, in 2021 the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and provincial Department of Agriculture embarked on a very important programme of developing a comprehensive national register of producers or farmers. The register was developed through a national survey, with special emphasis on smallholder producers or farmers nationwide. This programme was prompted by challenges confronting the sector in terms of the

lack of consistent, reliable, and accurate data of the smallholder category of farmers or producers across all nine provinces.

This challenge often makes it difficult to properly streamline the resources that are needed for an effective farmer or producer support. As stated by the Minister for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza during the release of the Producer/Farmer Register, who said: “The survey aimed to get data that will tell us where the smallholders are in the outreach, their demographics, production as well as their contribution to employment.” Minister Didiza further noted: “This tool is important because it will enable us as the government in terms of support as well as monitoring the performance by government and farmers themselves.” The Producer/Farmer Register Report indicates that at the time of the survey, 12 482 smallholder producers, or 13,1% are in Limpopo. The largest number is in Mopani, at 4 082, followed by Capricorn at 3 616. Of these numbers, 5 597 are women, constituting 48,8%. The number of youth farmers is very low at 811 or 6,5%.

Farmers in the age category of 36 – 60 years are 4 885 or 39% and 60 years and above is 54 %. The survey has further shown that only 7% of our smallholder farmers are having access to formal markets. This data is very critical and will continue to inform our decision-making on support interventions across all the categories of farmers.

It is worth noting that this Producer/Farmer Register will be a living document, which will continuously be updated and new entrants into the sector are encouraged to register at our local agricultural offices. The Budget allocated to Vote 4: Agriculture and Rural Development for 2022/23 is R1,657,274 billion. The equitable share allocation constitutes 79,7% of the Budget and conditional grants amount to 20,3 %.

Allow me to elaborate on the Budget allocation to the seven programmes of the department for service delivery during 2022/23 to support the vision of the department being, “A united, prosperous and productive agricultural sector for sustainable rural communities,” and the supporting mission which is, “To promote food security and economic growth through sustainable agricultural development.”

Programme 1: Administration has been allocated R326,164 million to provide for administrative costs, centralised payments on contractual obligations and the provision of a stable information communication technology network. An amount of R10 million has been allocated to fund the implementation of COVID-19 health and safety protocols to ensure that departmental staff stay safe and protected. An amount of R3 million is for the procurement of personal protective equipment and R7 million for the appointment of Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) workers within programme 2.

During 2021/22 the department concluded the review of the organisational structure, following extensive consultations. The organisational structure was approved in June 2021. The review took a rigorous approach towards a strategic human resource planning process, which involved analysis of cost drivers, maximising the utilisation of current staff capabilities, and reinforcing the integration of expertise across the department. This culminated in a business case towards human resource efficiency and reduction in the cost of employee’s compensation.

The commodity approach system was used to identify Agricultural Development Zones, which have been adopted as service delivery points. An amount of R1,047 billion will be used to fully fund the compensation of employees and the implementation of the structure from 01 April 2022.

Madam Speaker, Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Use and Management has been allocated R69,369 million to provide agricultural support services to farmers to ensure that there is sustainable agricultural development and management of natural agricultural resources. This budget includes the allocation for the land care, conditional grant and EPWP incentive grant. Land care has been allocated R13,303 million and EPWP is allocated R10,361 million.

The allocated budget will enable the establishment of 48 agricultural infrastructures to support farmers in both crop and livestock production. The department will continue to ensure that potential arable land is returned to production. This includes among others the revitalisation of irrigation schemes. Although notable progress has been made in this regard, progress at the Tswelopele Irrigation Scheme has been slowed down by the community land claims that are still under investigation by the Regional Land Claims Commission. Only three out of four claims have been successfully investigated. In order to limit conflicts between the land occupants and claimants, it is prudent to allow the Regional Land Claims Commission time to complete the investigations. About 255 ha will be equipped with an infield irrigation system, inclusive of the Mogalatsane Irrigation Scheme where the installation of the system will cover 120 ha of land.

For our producers to thrive in these unfavourable climate conditions it has become necessary for agriculture as a sector, and the responsible department, to continue with awareness-raising regarding climate change and the implementation of climate-smart technologies. As a result, 22 efficient water use systems will be developed, and 12 environmentally controlled production structures constructed. In line with the departmental priority of reducing vulnerability and risks associated with climate change, 1 300 ha will be rehabilitated, 500 ha cultivated under conservation agriculture practices and 1 600 ha cleared of alien invasive plants.

Furthermore, 1 000 farmers will be assisted through disaster relief schemes and five surveys on the uptake of early warning information conducted. These are mechanisms and strategies to assist producers in being resilient, prepared, and able to mitigate and recover from any form of agricultural disaster within their farming environment. Assisting in these activities will be the EPWP workers, with the target of creating 2 600 jobs.

Programme 3: Agricultural Producer Support and Development, has been allocated R902,603 million. This allocation includes the Comprehensive Agriculture Support and Letsema conditional grants. Letsema and CASP grants have been allocated R75,333 million and R237,816 million, respectively. During 2021/22 progress has been made on actualising the purpose of this programme, being to increase food production through producer support and development initiatives. Producers in the cotton commodity in the Sekhukhune District planted 270 ha of cotton, with a harvest of 428 tons, involving 127 smallholder farmers. Producers in the red meat commodity in the Waterberg District have been supported with, amongst others, border fencing, stock water systems, animal handling facilities and a multipurpose facility that will also serve as a training facility for the farmers.

The vegetable cluster in Mopani District was supported through the completion of infrastructure targeting 70 vegetable farmers in the Gravelotte, Selwane and Prisca areas, inclusive of shade nets, ablution facilities and on-farm pack sheds. The ablution facilities are very critical as part of enabling the farmers to comply with requirements for food safety. The farmers in the potato belt in Capricorn District were supported with irrigation infrastructure and provision of production inputs.

During 2022/23, in creating an enabling environment for producers at various scales of production, the department will provide production stock of a total of 17 000 to farmers. The production stock will consist of 200 livestock and 15 000 animal breeding stock. The department

will increase the participation of producers in the integrated value chain through support to 5 729 producers across different commodity groups, including vegetables and subtropical fruits.

The province currently has Farmer Production Support Units (FPSUs) in three districts, at various levels of progress, namely: Masalal FPSU in the Mopani District, Vleischboom FPSU in the Sekhukhune District and Witpoort FPSU in the Waterberg District. The progress has not been at the expected rate due to various challenges, including the very slow progress on the electricity connection at Vleischboom. Construction of the Witpoort FPSU started in December 2021.

Hon Speaker, capacity-building of the farmers and producers in general remains central to their success in their operations. To this end, a total of 950 producers will be trained and 865 producers will be capacitated through demonstrations and facilitation of 237 Farmers' Days. Food security for all is a must, as glorified in our Bill of Rights. To contribute towards the fulfilment of this constitutional right, we will support 576 smallholder producers and 3 165 producers across the province.

As part of the sector transformation, and to contribute to the reduction of youth unemployment, the programme of placing unemployed agriculture graduates on commercial farms will continue. The 2021/22 cohort placed in August 2021 will continue with their two-year programme which is to end in 2023/24. Hon Speaker, we wish to highlight that this programme is really making a difference. We can report that from the first cohort of the graduates, 14 agricultural enterprises have been formed, owned by some of the graduates, and are successfully operating. They are receiving support from the department and the industry.

I would like to also to share with the House a success story of a young entrepreneur in the farming business. Frank Matsha, who is 26 years old is from Indermark in Bochum, Limpopo, where he was born and raised. He is the owner of Bohlale Farming Project. He started farming in September 2020 after the completion of his three-year Diploma in Farming Management at Vhembe College. The farming management course was divided into two parts; the first fifteen months were for theory, while the last fifteen months were for practicals which he performed well. Matsha cultivates a wide range of vegetables, including eggplant, chillies, and spinach on his two-hectare plot.

It is within a space of a year after he has started with his farming enterprise, yet he is already supplying some of the biggest retail stores in the area. He supplies spinach to Boxer and Spar SaveMor stores in Bochum and Vivo. Eggplants are sold at the Johannesburg market. He was also approached by the Galitos outlet in the area to supply them with his giant spinach.

The hard work of Frank Matsha has not gone unnoticed. He has been offered an opportunity by cultural exchange, work, and travel company to travel to the United States of America to ply his trade on a short-term contract. [APPLAUSE]

Madam Speaker, Programme 4: Veterinary Services has been allocated R115,963 million to render veterinary services. The resources for this programme have been augmented with both human and financial resources to manage the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). The persistent presence of the FMD in the province continues to be of serious concern, not just for Limpopo, but for South Africa at large. This is because of the economic impact the disease is having on the agricultural sector in terms of trade bans, as well as domestic markets that are affected by the restricted movement of cloven-hooved animals.

The efforts of the department are directed towards minimising the risks of future outbreaks. This includes, among others, effective surveillance programmes and other prevention measures such as adherence to regulatory animal inspections, vaccination schedules within the FMD control

zones and animal movement control. On ensuring the adherence to biosecurity regulations and policies, the department, together with the livestock industry and our communities, must strengthen measures for the control of animal diseases that are of economic impact.

Our province has become identical to FMD. The proximity we have with the Kruger National Park, which is the habitat of the buffalos, requires us to always be alert and to put requisite measures to prevent the infection. Once the infection is spotted it must be dealt with swiftly to prevent the spread, particularly into the free zone area.

We will, therefore, continue to solicit resources, financially, through our Provincial Treasury in order to be able to timeously carry out the critical control and prevention measures. These prevention measures are mainly vaccination sessions, conducting surveillance and blood sampling of the target areas, and construction of animal handling facilities at the affected inspection points. Awareness-raising through information sessions for our livestock farmers, especially in the red and yellow zones, is continuing. We are also working on improving our veterinary laboratories through infrastructure and equipment upgrading.

We have so far, within the resources at our disposal, managed to vaccinate 66 456 cattle in the Vhembe District and 30 678 in the Mopani District during the 2021 campaign. The campaign commenced in June and ended in October 2021.

We will be recruiting 3 state veterinary doctors for the Vhembe District, the Mopani District and the Mokopane Laboratory, 5 control animal health technicians and 7 animal health technicians. This will go a long way in improving the capacity of our Veterinary Services Unit. Furthermore, to ensure that the Limpopo public consume safe meat, 480 inspections will be conducted on the facilities producing meat, and 30 000 laboratory tests performed according to the approved standards.

Programme 5: Research and Technology Development Services has been allocated R54,511 million to render agricultural research services and development of information systems about agricultural and natural resource utilisation technologies. To enhance research and development 12 research projects will be implemented to improve agricultural production and technology transfer services will consist of 12 interventions.

Programme 6: Agricultural Economic Services has been allocated R48,533 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. Within the budget allocation of this programme is the funding of projects in line with the RAAVC Plan, totalling R27,930 million.

The department will periodically provide strategic performance analysis of different economic indicators and commodities and support one agro-processing initiative. Access to formal markets by smallholder farmers remains one of the critical success factors for their farming enterprises. The market standards certification programme to improve farmers' access to local and international markets will continue.

This support is assisting the farmers with measures to comply with general agricultural practices for purposes of GAP certification through PPECB. In 2021/22, 5 farms have been certified, 3 in Vhembe, 1 in Mopani and 1 in Capricorn. A total of 17 farms have been pre-audited and intervention plans have been developed for those who were found to be non-compliant. Interventions are in the form of requisite infrastructure and training on pre-and post-harvest handling of products. In 2022/23, 20 farms will be audited for compliance.

Madam Speaker, Programme 7: Agricultural Education and Training receives an allocation of R140,151 million to cater for the two colleges of agriculture in the province. About 80 students are targeted to graduate with an agricultural qualification and 400 producers will be trained in skills development programmes in the agricultural sector.

Agriculture as an economic sector has demonstrated admirable resilience having assisted in economic recovery following the depressing period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we are not out of the woods yet, we can confidently say this important sector needs our support, hard work, and dedication if we are going to fully realise an economic turnaround.

Many thanks to our farmers and farmworkers who, despite COVID-19 restrictions, steered the agriculture ship through turbulent waters. We remain confident that this sector will contribute immensely to the eventual economic recovery in our country and province.

Much appreciated guidance and support given to us by the head of the Executive, Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha. The Premier continued giving us hope when hope appeared to be fading when we were going through difficult times. We trust that through your wisdom our sector will continue thriving. Many thanks to my colleagues in the Executive Council for maintaining teamwork and support which continues to strengthen us in our daily endeavours. I would further like to express gratitude to members of the portfolio committee who consistently put us on our toes ensuring that we use public resources responsibly following all prescripts to the benefit of our people.

I would be making a cardinal mistake if I cannot applaud and thank members of Team Agriculture and Rural Development led by our capable hardworking Head of the Department, Ms Ramatsimele Jacqueline Maisela, for always going the extra mile and insisting on the highest standards possible in the service of our people. The results are there for everybody to see. We are forging ahead. We continue to be guided by the oath we have taken when we assumed these responsibilities.

Until we meet all our objectives as promised to the people, we shall not spare any effort, we shall strive within our means to eventually attain a better future for the masses of our people. I thank you. Inkomu. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you MEC, Hon Ndalane. The Budget Speech for Vote 4: 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. Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

8. TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MOTHELO RICHARD “PHAREPHARE” MOTHUPI

We shall now pay tribute in honour of the late Mothupi Richard Mothelo, commonly known as “Pharephare”, a former Member of the Legislature and member of the ANC. We shall now refer to the Speakers’ List and our first speaker on the list is Hon Monama.

Hon Leader of the Opposition, do you want to say something?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks, Hon Madam Speaker. I have one simple request. Since we will be speaking about a gallant fighter and not just an ordinary person, in his respect, let's just relax the rules on time. In his respect, maybe let's allow those who might want to chant slogans as that will be befitting for this proven freedom fighter of this country. That is my request.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Leader of the Opposition that is the responsibility of the Speaker. Your request is noted. Hon Monama you may continue.

MR MONAMA

Madam Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council and the Leader of Government Business, chairpersons of portfolio committees, fellow Members of this august House, the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you.

I'm here to render a eulogy in honour of the late "Pharephare" Mothupi, the former Limpopo Provincial Legislature Member and a member of the African National Congress. I stand here before you on behalf of the African National Congress with a profound sense of sadness and deepest sympathy on the unpalatable news of the passing on of one of our own, a truly impeccable human of individual excellence, Ntate Mothelo Richard "Pharephare" Mothupi, "Poo" whose priceless soul has entered the Almighty God's abode. The former honourable Member of this very august House for 11 solid years. Veteran Mothelo Richard Mothupi popularly known within the liberation movement circles as "Pharephare" was born on 10 March 1937 to Makwarela Jim Mothupi and Marupene Machete. Yet another great African heart ceased to beat on 08 March 2022 and his mortal remains were buried on Saturday, 19 March 2022 at GaMamaila, Kolobetona.

Sadly, we see that many people who have made our world better in big and small ways have vanished before we were ready to let them go. We so say because veteran "Pharephare" was a unique rarity and a fine specimen of human elegance who touched and inspired all of us. His unparalleled leadership qualities gave him unassailable credibility and unimpeachable integrity. It was indeed befitting for the ANC-led government to award veteran Cde Richard "Pharephare" Mothupi, the meritorious Order of Luthuli in Silver for his selfless role in the liberation struggle.

These are sad moments for South Africa and the African continent at large as a giant and a stalwart of the liberation movement has fallen. Undoubtedly, he was ranked amongst those outstanding revolutionaries figures whose leadership values and courage remain unmatched. We also want to seize this opportunity and extend our profound sense of unparalleled gratitude to the judicious leadership of the Hon Premier and the chairperson of the ANC in the province, Hon Chupu Stan Mathabatha for facilitating the official funeral service of this iconic legend of our revolutionary movement.

We also want to take and salute the relentless effort of branches of the ANC in Letaba sub-region and the province for having assisted the family throughout that moment. While we live, Madam Speaker, his humility, his self-effacing ways, his constant sense of humour, his loyalty to principle, his avoidance of self-serving theatrical flourish, his refusal to be defeated, the certainty he carried of the inevitability of the realisation of our hopes, brought light and joy to all our night of despair.

Hon Speaker, as public representatives, veteran "Pharephare" showed us by example that we need no high-sounding title to discharge our obligation faithfully to serve our people of Limpopo and the people of South Africa. In him, we have lost an iconic legend who epitomises integrity

and dedication in his public life. His impeccable service to the people will be remembered by generations to come.

Great leaders and icons like all human beings live and die, but what distinguishes them from the rest of us, is the immortality of their ideas, their teachings and the imprints of their footprint. His life has inspired many lives, especially those who were looking for his leadership and guidance. Surely those who were close to him had learned great lessons in his life which underpinned the following basic tenants of life and that's humility, peacefulness, honesty and above all respect for young and old, men and women and treating everyone as equal citizenry without regard to their achievements in life.

Hon Speaker, this world needs people like him who are principled and selfless. To the bereaved family, your loss is our loss too and we really commiserate as the ANC with the bereaved family, and we will always remember him with immense pride, deep affection and fondness. Veteran "Pharephare" was certainly a remarkable person who leaves the legacy of insight, generosity of spirit, deep wisdom and love. While he lived his self-effacing ways, his loyalty to the principle will always be there. His sense of humour was the best that in every situation he found reason to make us laugh. He was honest yet confrontational. He was not a conformist. He was fearless, courageous and very outspoken. He was a person of his conviction.

We have lost a true patriot who selflessly dedicated his entire life to our country in every sphere of life. He taught us dignity in the face of adversity; loyalty in tough times; perseverance so that determined goals are met. He showed us that boundless patriotism and self-sacrifice are not outdated concepts and cliches, but a building block of an extraordinary life. In our hour of sorrow and grief, our nation can be proud of producing such a leader of impeccable character who has left such an extraordinary legacy in the sands of time on this earth.

A combatant for life; a patriot to the end. Robala ka khutšo "Poo" Pharephare Mothupi, mogale wa bagale! Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Monama. Our next speaker is Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

[SONG]

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. We had to do that. These are not just songs. These are battle cries that "Poo, Pharephare" sang alongside many others when they fought for us to be where we are today. We had to do that, and it doesn't need you to wear particular regalia to sing such songs. It was demanding that we sang. Shame to those who looked at who is singing the song and could not join, for they do not know the true meaning of freedom and they do not know who "Pharephare" Mothupi was.

Nonetheless, thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for affording us that opportunity. You have indeed provided leadership. You might be fought for that because there is a problem today even when you do the right thing, you get fought because you did it when it was done by the EFF and that should not be the spirit.

Madam Speaker, good morning to you, Members of this House, the Whip of the Minority Party, receive our revolutionary greetings as the EFF. Go ba gaMothupi re sa boa re re homotšegang;

ebile re re le ge lehu le le bogale le kgaola tsiu tša rena, re kgopela go Modimo a re thuše gore re tsebe gore go lokile go lokile.

Today veteran “Pharephare” is no more. “Poo, Pharephare” who came face to face with the brutal regime has fallen. Tortured, arrested and dehumanised, “Pharephare” Mothupi never surrendered to the regime. He stood truthful to the course, dying today without a force number. Unlike many of you leading us today.

Even when the system literally bent him down, he still refused to sell his soul. Under excruciating pain, he still refused to donate Tito Manthata, Tlokwe Maserumule and many more. “Poo, Pharephare” carried with him the spirit of no retreat and no surrender, the spirit of freedom or death to the latter. He fought side by side with brave Umkhonto we Sizwe cadres for the expropriation of South African land without compensation; nationalisation of mines; banks and strategic sectors of the economy; building state and government capacity; free quality education; healthcare; houses and sanitation; massive protected industrial development; massive development of the African economy and open accountable and corrupt-free government and society without fear of victimisation by state agencies. “Poo, Pharephare” chose to be a weapon of mass destruction to the then regime and its plans. It is because of him and others that fell before him that apartheid is no more today.

We want to thank you as the Economic Freedom Fighters for the selfless role you played in the liberation struggle. Veteran as you left us to join Chris Hani, Oliver Tambo, Ike Maphoto, Peter Mokaba, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and many more others, we want to send a message through you. We respectfully ask you to tell them that what they fought for is being reversed by those leading South Africa today.

That which Solomon Mahlangu, Steve Biko and Robert Sobukwe died for, is being insulted and ridiculed by those in positions of power. The liberation movement has totally abandoned the Freedom Charter under the current leadership. Please tell them that 28 years after democracy, children are falling to death in school pit toilets like Michael Komape and RDP houses are given to boyfriends and girlfriends instead of deserving homeless poor masses. People are dying on our roads because of potholes. The road you used every day in Lemondokop, Senwamokgope, Wholesale, and GaMamaila is extremely bad, with potholes the size of a swimming pool and had to be artificially managed at your funeral because the so-called dignitaries or important people were to use it for your burial.

Food parcels are used to lobby comrades instead of being given to deserving hungry families. Fertile land is protected to continue serving white minorities, instead of being returned to its rightful owners. They continue to make empty noise and grandstanding about fighting corruption, yet they can't give us even if it's half a person that they have arrested in Limpopo for corruption. They only use SIU reports to silence their political opponents. Immoral as they have become, they even eat the pension monies of workers.

Please tell those that you meet on the other side that none of these leaders came to receive you on your last day on earth, yet you fought for them to be where they are today. Please tell them that the people you called your comrades in positions of power in government in the Legislature and the ANC could not receive you on your last day on earth. What will happen to Ntate Marule that you have left behind? What will happen to Mme Lydia Komape that you have left behind, Mme Maite Marutha and the few remaining?

The only thing they could do was to fight to be on your memorial service programme and funeral programme. Tell them to find peace that your family denied askaris such as Basikopo Makamu to

be on your programme. This leadership of the government and the ANC did not receive your body on your last day on earth. Please Ntate “Poo, Pharephare” tell them that these unscrupulous, morally decayed human things never bothered to visit you when you were still alive and sick, and such is also happening to the other few veterans that you left behind.

Please tell the veterans that they steal the money of the poor without impunity. Do not forget to tell them that they invited de Klerk to the democratic Parliament. If that was not enough, they allowed the DA and Freedom Front Plus to speak on our podium about the Sharpeville Massacre. Please tell them to find comfort that you have left the Economic Freedom Fighters to fight their battles and they must continue to give us strength to carry the spear fearlessly as they did in their time. They should find comfort that the EFF will deliver economic freedom in this lifetime.

Their families are left unattended too, and many who fought for this liberation today are hobos. Having spoken at their funerals and committed to take care of their loved ones, please tell them that, that was just grandstanding and just seeking popularity. By the way, we are talking about “Pharephare” Muthupi today, two weeks after he passed on and six days after he was buried. A loving and caring government and Legislature would have called a special Sitting to talk about the fallen hero, days before he got buried. Talking about it today is only cosmetic and guilty conscious clearing. Modimo a le swarele.

Veteran Marule, veteran Mam Lydia Komape, Cde Maite Marutha because you no longer have a vibrant militant youth in your organisation, the only young people remaining are those chasing fame, opulence, fighting for positions for self-enrichment at the expense of fighting for our people, turning themselves into barking puppies for those in positions of power for financial expediency. We, in the EFF, have availed ourselves to pick up the spear of Peter Mokaba, Ntate “Pharephare” Muthupi, T T Cholo, Ike Maphoto, Ephraim Mogale and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

We shall carry this spear vigilantly with a radical voice until the minority's face turns pink and we achieve economic freedom. To the family of the late “Poo, Pharephare” Muthupi, we thank you for giving this selfless freedom fighter. Re sa buša gape re re homotšegang. Thato ya Modimo e phethagetše. Ya gagwe tema o e kgathile. Porompeta ya legodimo ge e lla e tsoša bao ba hwilego, le yena ga e mo tsoše e se mo fete. Modimo ga a fe bana ba gagwe joko ye ba tla palelwago ke go e rwala. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

[SONG]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, your time is up.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Madam Speaker for the time. Re lebogile. Re tla keteka bophelo bja Ntate Pharephare. Dipelo tša lena di bohloko. Baloi!

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, that is unparliamentary.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Madam Speaker, re be re bolela ka mogale wa bagale; re opelela mogale wa bagale. Ba ba šomilego le yena ga se ba mo opelele. Ka segagešo ba re boloi ga se bja sehlare fela, le bja pelo boloi bo gona. Bjale, se nna ke be go ke se bolela ke gore naa batho ba ba šomilego le “Poo Pharephare”, monna wa Modimo e bile o hlokošetše; ba palelwa le ke go no mo opelela naa? [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, you are taking our time.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mohlomphegi Makoma, o ka se gane ge go opela nna ka gore koša ye ga se ya ka. Ke boloi bjo ke bolelago ka bjona.

THE SPEAKER

Please leave the podium.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Ke be ke bolela ka boloi bjo. [HE CONTINUES SPEAKING TO MEMBERS AWAY FROM THE MIC]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, can we proceed. Let's proceed honourable Members. Hon Buthane, please sit down.

BACKGROUND

[HON BUTHANE CONTINUES TALKING TO OTHER MEMBERS WITH HIS MIC OFF]

THE SPEAKER

Sit down, Hon Buthane. Hon Buthane, sit down. Honourable Members ...

MR MDAKA

Can we respect the late Hon “Pharephare” Mothupi, please. Let's have respect for the late.

THE SPEAKER

I don't have a problem, Hon Buthane. You disrespect the presiding officer, and I don't have a problem with that. Can we proceed, Hon Smalle it is now your time.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members and Members of the Executive, today we honour one of our own. One of the bench mates that sat in this Chamber for a period of 11 years. As some Members in this House, we might not know the late “Poo, Pharephare” and we might not have shared his credentials of being a veteran in his liberation movement. I met Hon Mothupi in

my years of being in this Legislature during 2009 and 2011 when he and Hon Maphoto used to sit there on the right-hand side. Like many other veteran leaders who took up their seats in this august House, I would remember him as a gentle soft-spoken man.

When he spoke, Members listened attentively. Hon Mothupi was very critical when things went wrong and when the departments were not able to hold accountable those who did wrong. He was a person who did not demand respect, he earned the respect of others through his actions in this House as well as in the portfolio committees where he served.

The history of our country needed brave young men and women to secure our democracy. Men like Hon “Poo, Pharephare” who was a unifier amongst cultural groups must be recognised and appreciated for their contribution to the military veterans, to our freedom and to nation-building. As a citizen and the son of Limpopo, it is my responsibility to remember the people who were prepared to sacrifice their lives to ensure that the democratic order we have in our country is installed. We ought to give them consideration and respect as well as ensure that we look after their well-being as much as we possibly can.

I would also like to take this opportunity to honour many other men and women who contributed to making it possible for us to stand here today in many aspects of their lives. Hon Speaker, on this day, the Democratic Alliance’s sincere condolences are with his extended family, the war veterans, the ANC and everyone who has crossed his path.

May his soul rest in peace! Hon Speaker, thank you for giving us this opportunity. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Hon Maritz, it is now your time.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, leaders of opposition parties, MECs and honourable Members of the House, I greet you. As the Freedom Front Plus, we would like to express our condolences to Richard Mothelo “Pharephare” Mothupi’s family and loved ones who mourn his passing. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family at this difficult time. May the happy memories with his family bring comfort to them at this sad time. Although I never knew the late “Pharephare”, he will be remembered for the work he has done for the Legislature. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. The last speaker on our list is the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana and the time is yours.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members present here. Hon Speaker, Hon Monama spoke very well for the ANC, and I do not want to cloud what he presented here. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I take this opportunity to inform this august House that the province will be hosting the Limpopo NCOP Permanent Delegates during the National Council of Provinces' Provincial Week scheduled for 29 March to 01 April 2022. The Legislature has appointed a delegation comprising a few honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature to participate in the programme.

As part of the programme, a joint team constituted by the NCOP delegation, and our Members of the Provincial Legislature shall undertake site visits in the Sekhukhune District to:

- make observations and interventions aimed at structural constraints, facing small scale farmers and SMMEs in the agricultural sector;
- assess water provision and challenges facing local communities; and
- assess the roads network and infrastructure. The Legislature pledges its support to the NCOP Provincial Week.

Hon Speaker, the second announcement – and I think we should have announced it before we started – is regarding lunch. Members will get lunch when they go out of here.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Before I can proceed, I also have a notice with me, all MPLs are requested to collect agricultural packs after this session in front of the Chamber.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Sitting is adjourned to Thursday, 24 March 2022 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

THE SECRETARY

Honourable Members, for today we do not have the luxury of having any of our Presiding Officers. If a situation like that presents itself in the House, the Standing Rules and Orders of this House state that the Secretary shall supervise the election of one of the Members of the Legislature to preside over the Sitting.

Accordingly, we would like to invoke Rule 17(3) from the Standing Rules and Orders of this House to afford Members of this Legislature an opportunity to elect one amongst its Members as the Speaker for the day. I would request the Members to be seated for now so that we proceed with the proceeding of electing the Presiding Officer.

I would right away call for the nomination of the person who will preside over this Sitting. Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Secretary. I, Mmanoko Mokgonyana, stand to nominate, Hon Rodgers Monama as the Acting Speaker for the day according to Rule 17(3). I so move.

THE SECRETARY

Thank you, for the nomination. Is there any seconder? I notice Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Secretary to the Legislature. I rise to second the nomination of Hon Gannye Rodgers Monama, to act as the Speaker of this Provincial Legislature of Limpopo today, 29 March 2022. Thanks very much.

THE SECRETARY

Thank you. Do we have any further nominations?

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Secretary. I just want to find out if we do not have to first check his availability before moving forward.

THE SECRETARY

We will do that. Thank you, for that. Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Secretary. I would like to nominate Hon Rudolph Phala as the Speaker for the day.

THE SECRETARY

Okay. Now we come to the point where we ask the nominees if they accept the nominations or not. The name of Hon Phala falls off and therefore, it means that we have only one nominee. [APPLAUSE]

May we have Mr Ngobeni escorting the Member to come and robe. [APPLAUSE]

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE ACTING SPEAKER [MR MONAMA]

Honourable Members. With all powers vested on me as the Speaker of this House, we shall now have the opportunity for a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

We can sit down. Thanks very much, honourable Members. Let me take this opportunity to welcome your good selves to this august House of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature for this Sitting on 29 March 2022.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of Rule 145 of the Standing Rules of this august House? Hon Mohlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable MECs, colleagues and staff.

CONCERN OVER THE NEGLECTED STATE OF POLOKWANE GAME RESERVE (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes that the EFF Limpopo is disappointed by the state of the Polokwane Game Reserve. The same components of game reserve have been neglected for decades. The game reserve has a pool of dedicated employees who are passionate about preserving the good state and history of the game reserve. This game reserve is regarded as one of the biggest game reserves to be owned by the municipality in South Africa.

It comprises game drives and overnight accommodation that is traumatic to sleep in with a 20 km hiking trail. The game reserve is home of 21 animal species as well as the rare white rhino, which has been relocated to Waterberg at an expense due to poachers entering the game reserve. Several species are facing extinction and game reserves are the cornerstones for preserving such species, thus creating a balanced in our ecosystem. The rangers are passionate about their jobs and have a great time with people on game drives. The only issue is lack of ranger's tools such as guns, binoculars and high rise stands overlooking the reserve as there is a serious problem of poachers who make their way into the reserve by damaging the surrounding fence.

The fixtures, fittings and furniture of the chalets are ancient. Flat and worn-out mattresses of prison cell standards are placed on shabby wooden legs with bedding oozing cigarette smells, no

one can withstand longer than 15 minutes. You will scream to see what an old cupboard has instore for you as a guest blanket from hell. I doubt guests would return to this place after paying so much for such a traumatic experience. The game reserve has serious economic potential to generate revenue for the City of Polokwane, only if renovations can be carried out on the cupboards, replacing the worn-out furniture of the chalets, not necessarily to give it a modern image as the look can be kept nostalgic or relevant to bush experience, but can be topped up with new clean furniture.

Therefore, the EFF calls for more structured support to be given to the Polokwane Game Reserve which will continue to serve as primary protection and corridor conservation of wildlife biodiversity.

I so move.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, honourable Member. Is there any seconder for the motion? Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Selaelo Mphahlele, stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Mohlala. Thank you.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Are there any other motions without notice? I notice Hon Phala. Hon Maseko, you will come after Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

WELCOMING OF THE PROTEA WOMEN'S CRICKET TEAM WHO WIN AGAINST INDIA (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the DA that this House notes and welcome the Proteas Women's Cricket Team's win against India on Sunday and their progression in the Cricket World Cup tournament. The women's team successfully chased down the second highest total in the history of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup to knock India out of the competition. The Proteas women have now qualified for the world cup semi-finals after a strong performance that saw them finish second in the group. With determination and plenty of applications the Proteas could face Australia in the next semi-final and go on to win the world tournament.

Hon Speaker, we need to acknowledge this impressive performance by these ladies and develop women's cricket here in Limpopo so that we contribute more to future women's cricket squads. I so move.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, honourable Member. Is there any seconder for the motion without notice? I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

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

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, the motion is seconded. Hon Maseko now is your turn.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, the Premier and Members of the Executive Council.

**SUPPORT TO THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS IN KEEPING SOUTH AFRICAN
BORDERS SAFE**

(Motion without Notice)

Honourable Members, I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to demonstrate our full support as the people of Limpopo to the endeavours by the *Minister*, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, in keeping our borders safe. It is true that the issue of illegal immigrants from foreign countries in South Africa is a cause for concern and the Minister of Home Affairs was charged with the task of ensuring that South Africa's borders are safe and protecting the identity and status of all citizens within our borders. Minister Motsoaledi is leading from the front on this aspect. He has in the process ruffled feathers with immigration thugs and hoodlums, who have turned our borders into their personal fiefdoms, and will want to fight anything that looks set to ensure compliance within the sector.

Hon Speaker, there are calls, we hear, made by certain quarters within the country that has made it their business to protest what the Minister and the department are doing. This is ridiculous, as those who are making this call are against the Minister's efforts to restore the function of border control and management. They enjoy making this country their playground. Hon Speaker, it is for this reason that we want to send our unequivocal support to the Minister and his team of dedicated officials, who want to redeem South Africa's sovereignty and make its borders work again.

As a province, we also have a role to play and effect laws and ordinances that will regulate the business sector and ensure compliance.

I so move.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Maseko. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as read by Hon Maseko.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Hon Maseko of the ANC has been seconded by Hon Phala of the DA. Thanks very much. I recognise Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO NAKEDI II MALAHLELA FOR WINNING THE FORTY UNDER
40 AFRICA AWARD IN THE SPORTS CATEGORY**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House to note and acknowledge the achievement of a young South African, named Nakedi II Malahlela, who was awarded the prestigious Forty under 40 Africa Award, in Accra, Ghana, over the past weekend.

Nakedi II Malahlela is a young entrepreneur from Mankweng in Polokwane, who is the president of the newly formed club called Turfloop FC. He was nominated in the sports category of the prestigious forty under 40 African Awards and become the winner after beating contestants from other parts of the continent.

We congratulate Mr Malahlela for this great feat, and we are calling upon the young people of this province to emulate such example like him, to become the inspiration and influence that society seeks.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party. Is there any seconder to the motion? I notice Hon Selelo Donald Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand to second the motion as read by the Chief Whip of the Legislature. Thank you.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Selamolela.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 147 of the Standing Rules of this august House? It seems as if there are none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements as per Rule 200? Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, the Hon Premier, honourable MECs present here today, good morning.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IS FUELLING VIOLENCE
IN THE TAXI INDUSTRY**

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the Department of Transport and Community Safety continues to fuel tensions and killings amongst taxi associations in the province. Instead of resolving challenges that taxi industry is faced with, they are part of the problem, and they enjoy the part they play in creating animosity amongst our people. In 2019, the High Court of South Africa, Limpopo Division in Polokwane heard the matter between the LTT-Musina Taxi Association and Beitbridge Taxi Association on the issue of routes and operating licenses.

The court order went in favour of the LTT-Musina Taxi Association. The court ruling and order on this matter, which we have in our possession was that the department must make sure that the decision of the court is implemented and complied with. The court order further indicated that the fourth respondent who is the Beitbridge Taxi Association is intimidating and harassing, threatening, and assaulting the applicant which is the LTT-Musina Taxi Association. Hon Speaker, as we speak the department has not implemented or followed through with the court order and our people continues to fight.

The department committed itself in many meetings held between themselves and the taxi associations, as reflected in the minutes at our disposal, that they will comply with the court order, but nothing happened. Officials like Peter Magwala, Jane Mulaudzi, Percy Ndlala and Koedijk Elmien decided to sit on the matter. Despite many commitments made to comply with the court order, but because of this laissez faire leadership style of the department, the former chairperson of LTT- Musina, Mr Samuel Tshifhango, was killed in an execution style.

The police have the number plate of the car of the killers, but to date no one has been arrested. The case number of this murder is 49/2/2020. The taxi industry is the most troubled and yet the department is doing nothing about it, especially in terms of providing lasting solutions, just like the recent incident that happened on the R81 road between Thornhill and Mall of the North.

We call upon the MEC for the Department of Transport and Community Safety to comply with the court order and further make sure that the case of Mr Samuel Tshifhango is finalised, and perpetrators are arrested. I thank you.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, honourable Member. Hon Phala, it is your turn.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

COMMUTERS LEFT STRANDED DURING SESHEGO AND MANKWENG TAXI STAND-OFF
(Members' Statement)

On Friday 25 March 2022 we saw the Mankweng Taxi Association blockade of Munnik Avenue, the R81 and R71 in retaliation to an operation blocked by the Seshego Taxi Association. Commuters and private transportation users were badly affected and the traffic flow in Polokwane was a nightmare. During the blockade and protest, two vehicles were burnt in Polokwane City and gunshots were fired, endangering lives, and traumatising the public. As a result, Polokwane Municipality suspended its Leeto Bus Services to date.

Hon Speaker, the department stated through their media liaison that the issue is a long-standing issue that they have tried to resolve in the past, which even led to the closure of the taxi rank.

Hon Speaker, the honourable MEC for Transport and Community Safety must please inform the House why this issue has not been resolved and what are the nature of the challenges experienced. What measures will be put in place to prevent future occurrences? The MEC must also take this House into confidence and ensure that the public disruption we saw last week will not occur in the future. Thank you.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Phala. Is there any other Members' Statement? I notice Hon Manganye.

MS MANGANYE

[MIC OFF] of the opposition, Hon Mohlala, and greetings to the honourable Members in the House.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE OF THE ELDERLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COGHSTA (Members' Statement)

The Department of CoGHSTA must stop the emotional abuse against the elderly. Hon Speaker, the EFF in Limpopo Province is disturbed by the continuation of the ANC-led government to disservice and embarrass our people especially senior citizens. Services by the government are selective and have eyes. Worse yet, those who deserve RDP houses are being overlooked in favour of friends and family members of ANC politicians.

Maake Molatelo Lillian aged sixty-five, staying in Sekgopo Village, ward 29 in the Greater Letaba Municipality under the Mopani District Municipality, suffered the humiliation after waiting for an RDP house for many years. Ms Maake, who stays in a two-roomed house with her three grandchildren, applied for an RDP house for many years.

In 2020 her happiness was short-lived when a contractor sent by the municipality delivered housing materials and dug a foundation. To her surprise, the contractor later came to collect all housing materials and only left the river sand and an open foundation without an explanation.

Only the heartless and non-caring government could do this to an old deserving woman, who put all her hopes in government to bring about her dignity. It is patently clear that the ANC-led government has lost its moral ground to lead society.

The unemployment rate amongst the youth is higher than before. Senior citizens RDP houses are being withdrawn without explanation. General service delivery has collapsed in Limpopo.

The EFF calls upon the MEC for CoGHSTA and the Mayor of the Greater Letaba Municipality to restore the dignity of Ms Maake by building her a proper house in commemoration of the Sharpeville Massacre. The EFF-led government shall through the state housing construction company improve the quality and size of low-cost houses rather than depending on money wasting scheme tendering. I thank you.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Manganye. Can we call upon the MEC responsible for Transport and Community Safety to respond to the Members' Statement, and the MEC who will stand in for the MEC for CoGHSTA.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Hon Premier, colleagues in the executive, our chairperson of the portfolio committee, the Chief Whip, and all honourable Members.

Hon Speaker, let me welcome the issues that have been raised and I think the honourable Member has said it correctly that there are individuals. It is just that in this instance, my colleague, the honourable Member pointed to the department, but I think she should have gone further to indicate that there are members in the community that are fuelling tensions.

We are aware, as the security cluster, that there are activities by different political parties who want to control the taxi industry, but we are not yet sure if those members of the political parties are owning taxis. Those ones that do not have licenses, it continues to be a matter of interest to us, with the state security investigating this. You will remember, the tension is not starting now. From the last time, we have discovered that members who are having interest are leaders of political parties.

I am taking you into confidence as requested by the Member, to say that in relation to the High Court of South Africa, on the matter between the LTT-Musina Taxi Association and Beitbridge Taxi Association as alluded to, I am happy because, my honourable Member, I can even quote the people that were facilitating those meetings, which is my office, the Acting HOD and the team. I can confirm that we also have a team from SAPS that works on that road and the national traffic police.

Hon Speaker, in relation to the High Court order, the LTT-Musina Taxi Association felt that the Department of Transport and Community Safety should have the traffic cops sitting at the taxi rank, which is not correct in terms of how we translated the court order. Our responsibility is to make sure that the correct people are operating in that taxi rank and that is being done every morning by the team. We have a dedicated team that works on that part of the road in Musina. This team comprises the police, the traffic officials and other team that are working on that issue. We had three meetings with the association itself to try and communicate about the court order in the correct way, because there is no way that the police and the traffic cops can sit at the taxi rank as they are needed to monitor the whole road.

Another issue that is giving the LTT-Musina Taxi Association a problem is when taxis go and start at the Beitbridge, and do not get into the taxi rank. When they find them on the road, then they say the taxi rank was not monitored. On their own level, there are those that would need to stop taxis, but also, it is in this House that sometimes when we stop every taxi on the road, we are told that we are battering businesspeople. You should start to understand as to why every taxi as you see it on the road, the traffic officials or the police would stop it. It is because we need to attend to issues like these. We are not battering the businesspeople.

On the second matter, I do not know, and I want to request the honourable Member and the people that live in that community who says Mr Samuel Tshifhango was killed because of the court order or the non-implementation, to let them go beyond what you have given us, because that is the work that we have done. We have a case number. Give us, in confidence or even to my office or the PCs office, more information that can assist the police, because what you have quoted honourable Member, is what we have given to the public. It is the work that we have done

as a department. We would want you to assist in terms of providing further information on this matter.

Hon Speaker, you will remember that the R81 and R71 dispute taxi violence is an ongoing thing as the honourable Member has indicated. As a department, while we had to revise our regulations, they were adopted, we now need to work on them to include the local municipality. The problem happened because the department would just go and give an operating licence without consultation with the local municipality.

In the new regulations, the town planning section of the local municipality would have to first confirm if the route is existing and if the route can be viable. This is because when the town started, some of the operating licences were given before that, and there were streets in Polokwane that were having two-way streets, which are now one-way streets. The route would have gone out, when Grobler Street was still a two-way street and that is why the municipality is busy revising it. They are busy with their town planning section, because the route should be determined by a person going forward and coming back.

Hon Phala, previously it was mentioned that a taxi association from Seshego would use one route when going to the Mall of the North, and the Mankweng would use a different route. When Polokwane took a decision to say they should become one street, it meant that all routes had to be revised, and that is in the process.

Hon Speaker, lastly, I need to indicate that the leadership of both taxi associations, Mankweng and Seshego, came out guns blazing, saying they that they are not part of that clip that has been going around and they are also concerned about what people are doing to use taxis.

You will remember that Seshego Taxi Rank had problems in Seshego until the taxi association itself came out and said it does not want a third force, and it did not stop. We want to congratulate and thank the leadership of the taxi industry that they are continuing to work with the department. Today there is a meeting between the department, law enforcement, the taxi leadership themselves both for Santaco and NTA, the taxi industry and the representatives of the municipality to try and check as to how best we can work together.

Hon Speaker, like I have indicated as to how far we have come, and the confidence that I can give to the Members of this House on how we are dealing with these issues. The taxi industry itself, the same question was asked in the last Sitting. I did indicate that there are people who would sell taxi certificates to other people and tell them to not to go to the taxi rank but always move on the road. That is why our traffic officials would always stop the taxi industry. An advert has been created to revise the route issue and to accommodate new people on the R81 and R71.

As the department responsible for transport, if the associations that have been given a taxi rank are not doing what is agreed upon, and on what they have signed for, the first thing we do would is close that taxi rank so that we can save the lives of the people. Even if we keep on saying people should need to use this taxi rank, but people are being killed or threatened, it does not work. I think I have tried to answer the questions that have been alluded to. I am not sure if my colleague would come and deal with the CoGHSTA issues. Thank you very much.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, honourable MEC for your response. We shall now call upon the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Thabo Mokone to the podium.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR COGHSTA]

Hon Speaker, the Hon Premier, my colleagues in the Executive Council and Members of this august House, I am going to deal with two issues. The first issue is about the game reserve in Polokwane. We want to take note of the issues raised. We will raise it with the relevant municipality and will also interact with them.

We do take into cognisance about the usefulness of the game reserve in Polokwane. If you can check in the province, you will find that it is the only town which has a game reserve next to the CBD. We are always weary if it is not working. Personally, I will also check because I always go there. I was not aware of the issues that you are raising because there are always picnics and people are enjoying themselves there. The only thing which was an issue was the rhinos, but I would be able to check what you are raising.

On the issue of CoGHSTA, let's agree that obviously when we deal with housing, there are scrupulous contractors that are given projects and they abandon these projects. If what you are saying about the old lady, Ms Maake, who was given an RDP house by the same ANC-led government that you are talking about, it goes to show you that the ANC-led government is caring. They have given that person a house and then somebody who does not care, who does not understand what the purpose is of what we are doing, decided to steal the materials. We regret that.

We would make sure that we go back. We know that we also have a backlog. All this is an endeavour that all people must have houses, as the Freedom Charter says that there shall be houses for all. For us it is not because we are doing it for fun. We are doing it because we understand our mission and we will make sure that we deal with this issue, and we will report back to the House. Thank you very much.

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, MEC Mokone.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

We shall now move to item 5: Are there any Executive Statements as per Rule 201? It seems as if there are none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers, honourable Members? There are none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. Second Reading of Presentation of Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B01-2022]

As the Presiding Officer, let me take this opportunity Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive Council, the Leader of the Government Business, chairpersons of the portfolio committees, the Chief Whip of the majority party, Members of this august House, to call upon the

Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 01: Office of the Premier. Over to you, Hon Premier. [APPLAUSE]

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Whip of the ruling party, chairpersons of various portfolio committees, esteemed Members of the House, members of the media, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

(Address by the Mr C S Mathabatha, Office of the Premier)

It was about a month ago, when I stood in this hallowed chamber and in front of the people of Limpopo to outline the plans of our government for the year ahead. I did this through our cherished tradition of the State of the Province Address (SOPA).

As we all know, the State of the Province Address is an important platform through which we outline the progress on government commitments made in the previous years. We also use this platform to highlight challenges and to commit ourselves to solving such challenges afflicting our province. As part of our tradition, SOPA is also used to outline government's plans and programmes for the year ahead and beyond. These are the plans and programmes designed to propel us to a desired destination of a better life for all. As this ANC-led government, we tailor our plans and programmes to drive and direct our province to the promise of our constitution, the promise of equity and equality, the promise of social security, the promise of dignity and indeed, the promise of prosperity.

We craft our plans and programmes guided by the knowledge that our people desire social development, economic growth, the creation of jobs and the reduction of unemployment, inequality, and poverty. In this regard, we are forever conscious and alive to the fact that the people of Limpopo require and deserve reliable access to water. Our people require and deserve to enjoy access to decent sanitation facilities; they desire and deserve a guaranteed meal on the table, every single day and our plans are designed to respond to the persisting challenge of crime and general insecurity.

Hon Speaker, the bold plans and programmes as announced during the very State of the Province Address, require budgetary support to translate them into tangible projects with meaningful impact on the lives of our people. Today's exercise is therefore aimed at giving impetus to this programme of action as government. The Office of the Premier is therefore, required to provide leadership and support to the rest of the provincial administration.

It is the responsibility of the Office of the Premier to coordinate the functions of the provincial administration and departments. This is done to ensure an effective implementation of the plans and programmes of government. The Office of the Premier is, therefore, an engine that drives the entire provincial administration. The budget we are presenting here today serves as a fuel that powers this engine for optimal performance.

Hon Speaker, the Office of the Premier is organised into three programmes which help to ensure that the office can respond effectively to this legislative mandate. These programmes are Corporate Management; Institutional Development and Support; and Planning Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation. These programmes enable the Office of the Premier to do the following:

- Coordinate the preparation and initiation of provincial legislation;
- Coordinate the functions of the provincial administration and its departments;
- Manage performance of the provincial administration, monitor and evaluate service delivery and governance;
- Develop and oversee the implementation of policy and planning, and most importantly; and
- Strengthen the inter-governmental and international relations.

The main function of programme 1: which is Corporate Management, 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.

Hon Speaker, effective and efficient utilisation of allocated resources is directly linked to our ability to take services to the people and quality services to our people. When it comes to financial management, the Office of the Premier must lead by example. In the same vein, proper financial management supports service delivery, and sustains the confidence of the people in their government. I am therefore happy to state that the Office of the Premier continues to lead by example when it comes to the management of allocated resources. In this regard, I am proud to report that the Office of the Premier has received yet another clean audit opinion from the Auditor-General. [APPLAUSE] For us, this is what leading by example means.

I want to specifically acknowledge 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. Nevertheless, the Office of the Premier will not be complacent and relax because of this clean audit outcome but will instead work even harder to sustain the momentum. In the same vein, we have a responsibility, in line with our leadership and coordinating functions, to make sure that all departments and entities of government follow suit and I can guarantee you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, that we have started doing so. Hence out of the 17, about 15 provincial entities are unqualified, some are clean. It is only two that are qualified.

Hon Speaker, there can be no doubt that the inability to spend allocated resources is one of the factors that impedes service delivery. It is for this reason that the Office of the Premier has been leading in ensuring that the allocated budget is spent. In the past financial year alone, the Office of the Premier had managed to spend over 97% of its allocated budget. I can add that our Annual Financial Statements were in line with the established accounting standards.

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. Honourable Members would agree that paying service providers on time is vital for the financial health of small, medium and macro enterprises because they are cashflow based. The sustainability of these SMMEs is highly dependent on us paying their invoices as and when they become due and payable.

This is very critical. It is for this reason that we are concerned about several other departments which are not doing well regarding this area of payment within 30 days. We will therefore be working with the Provincial Treasury to ensure that all our departments do pay invoices within a

prescribed 30-day period. This, honourable Members, is a non-negotiable imperative and must be done or complied with.

Honourable Members, regarding our employment equity targets, the Office of the Premier is working hard to ensure the affirmation of those who were previously marginalised, especially women and people living with disability. Regarding the representation of women in our office, I can report that women make up to 57% of the total staff complement of the Office of the Premier. At management level, women continue to dominate at 51%. We are working to improve the representation of women at Senior Management Service level from the current 46% to 50% or more. The overall representation of people living with disability in the Office of the Premier is at 3,6% and this is above the 2% target as stipulated in the employment equity legislation.

We are also working to decrease the vacancy rate in the Office of the Premier. We are currently at a 9% vacancy rate; however, the Office of the Premier is still within the guidelines from the Department of Public Service and Administration which indicate that the vacancy rate should not exceed 10%.

Hon Speaker, as I have said during the State of the Province Address, we need to recognise the role played by military veterans in our struggle for freedom and democracy. The Inter-Ministerial Task Team which I have established to deal with the plight and welfare of our military veterans is already at work. Thus far, we have facilitated the assistance of 447 military veterans' enquiries regarding housing, education support, database verification and Social Relief of Distress. The comprehensive Military Veterans Implementation Plan will be finalised in the first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year.

We further commit ourselves to establish military veterans' helpdesk in each department in the province during the first quarter of the same financial year. We implore on our municipalities to also do the same. Now, the Office of the Premier is hosting the military veteran's secretariat as part of measures to assist the veterans in the administration of their own affairs.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, the function of programme 2: Institutional Development Support, is to provide efficient and effective institutional support services to the rest of the provincial government. This programme is primarily concerned with the capacity and capability of the provincial administration. As the office, we appreciate the importance of public servants as the central driving force that should enable improved governance, better management of resources, and the ability to get the entire government and stakeholders to work together. This will ensure that we achieve the goals we set out in the Limpopo Development Plan.

There is a close relationship between the performance of an organisation and the skills capabilities of the men and women who are at the helm of such an organisation. This is equally true with governments, including the Office of the Premier. All the positions of the heads of departments, have been filled with men and women with the requisite skills and experience. The Office of the Premier has been very proactive in filling HOD positions as and when they become vacant. To date we have commenced with the recruitment process for the remaining two HOD vacancies for the Department of Transport and Community Safety and CoGHSTA.

In fact, if I am not mistaken Director-General and honourable Members, when it comes to the Department of Transport and Community Safety, the process has been finalised. We are only left with CoGHSTA where the HOD's contract has just lapsed at the end of February this year. Regarding positions for chief financial officers, I can state that all, except one department have full-time appointed CFOs.

Honourable Members, last year we committed to review the capacity of all the provincial departments and public entities with a view to ensure that they fulfil their developmental mandates. The development literature confirms that public entities play a very strategic role in the economic development of any country, especially in this country of ours which has determined or chosen or taken a particular route that says ours will be a mixed economy, where both government and the private sector will complement each other in developing our society. So, your public entities become very critical.

This assertion is equally applicable to Limpopo. However, our recent experience indicates that the role of public entities should be reviewed regularly. It is against this background that we have established an Inter-Ministerial Task Team on reconfiguration of these public entities. I am happy to indicate that the review process is at an advanced stage and will be concluded in the first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year.

I did announce in this august House honourable Members, that as part of the oversight of provincial administration, I will enter into service delivery agreements with the MECs. We have since entered into these service delivery agreements and the process of regular assessment is continuing. In fact, honourable Members, we have completed the previous financial year where we assessed all government departments and soon, we will be implementing strategic intervention measures based on the assessment that we made.

As a province, we recognise that information and knowledge supported through advanced information and communication technology is fundamental for the achievement of the developmental goals. That is particularly the case in the new emerging economies and in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The approved 5-year Limpopo e-Government Strategy Implementation Plan lays a solid foundation for the digital transformation of the provincial administration. This provides an approach for an effective government-wide sharing of information and knowledge electronically. Perhaps I should repeat this. This provides an approach for an effective government-wide sharing of information and knowledge electronically.

In realisation of the government's commitment to bridge the digital divide, especially in rural communities, the Office of the Premier has coordinated the establishment of the Limpopo Broadband Forum. In the next three years, the forum will coordinate the implementation of SA Connect Project to connect government sites, schools, health facilities, Thusong Service Centres and traditional authority offices. With the schools in the province benefitting from this infrastructure, it will be possible to maximise the use of digital technologies to enhance teaching and learning. This will place our children at the centre of the digital revolution.

Hon Speaker, we are at an advance stage with the review of the Limpopo Human Capital Investment Strategy. This process, including the adoption by the Executive Council, will be concluded in the first quarter of the next financial year. The purpose is to support the skills needs of the provincial economy and the labour market trends, with specific emphasis on agriculture, mining, tourism and manufacturing. The focussed attention will in the main be on the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (SEZ), as well as other Provincial Growth Points such as Polokwane, Lephalale and Fetakgomo-Tubatse.

We are also delighted that the Limpopo Human Resource Development Council has been resuscitated and it is chaired by the Premier. We have also reconfigured the Limpopo Skills Development Forum which is chaired by the Director-General. We therefore appreciate the active participation of SETAs, TVET colleges, and universities, in these forums. We also commit ourselves to strengthening our partnership in developing appropriate skills relevant for our economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Whilst the province has adopted its Youth Development Strategy; our youth development machinery is not yet running very optimally. It is in this context that I have directed the Director-General to put systems in place to ensure the full implementation of the strategy. Remember, these young people are our future. If we do not do that our future is doomed.

Hon Speaker, as we said during the State of the Province Address, the fight against crime and corruption is one of the critical priorities of this government. This is simply because, more than anything else, crime and corruption undermine society's ability to operate fairly and efficiently, including the government's ability to deliver on its mandate. We have accordingly resuscitated and reconvened the Limpopo Anti-Corruption Forum. This forum comprises of business, labour and faith-based organisations. This is part of the many components of our anti-crime and corruption arsenal.

In the same spirit, we are finalising consultations on the development of the Limpopo Anti-corruption Strategy, which will be a blueprint and a tool to help us prevent and expose corruption in all its manifestations. The Office of the Premier has established a vetting field unit which will heighten the grip in our fight against corruption. This unit, in partnership with the SSA, will help to reduce the backlog on vetting of senior management and supply chain management officers.

We have commissioned several forensic investigations, both in the provincial government and municipalities as part of our effort to fight corruption and malfeasance. In this regard, I have directed the Director-General to follow up on the implementation of the findings and recommendations. In the State of the Province Address we also directed that all municipalities must ensure that recommendations of their forensic audit are implemented.

Hon Speaker, in the same vein, please allow me to clarify recent media reports that says as the Premier of the province, I have done nothing to implement the recommendations of the VBS report by Adv Terry Motau and the remedial actions by the Public Protector, since 2018. I would want to clarify that because that is far from the truth. The fact that nowhere in the report is either the Premier or a Member of the Executive Council for CoGHSTA implicated in wrongdoing, so for any person to insinuate that nothing has been done would amount to gross negligence of the objective reality, because that is not true. Just to remind those who might have forgotten, the following actions were taken since then.

Immediately after Adv Terry Motau's report was made public in 2018, I have specifically directed the Provincial Treasury to commission a forensic audit into the matter. As a result of such audit, majority of municipal managers and CFOs who were implicated were disciplined for their role in the VBS matter. All the recommendations of that forensic audit were implemented, so it cannot be true that we have not done anything about the VBS report.

In addition, seven Mayors were since relieved from their duties. If these actions do not amount to concrete expression of our resolve to fight against corruption, then I need to be advised as to what is it that we need to do further, because we are not law enforcement authorities like your police and whatsoever. We are an administration that implement and administer the laws. We are not enforcing the laws; we are administering the laws.

Furthermore, we referred our forensic report to the Hawks because they are enforcing, and in terms of our mandate of administering and managing the law, we then referred some of those recommendations out of the forensic audit to those who are duly authorised to arrests and charge, not us. We referred them to the Hawks who continue to effect arrests for further prosecution.

Therefore, for any person in his right mind to say that it has been years of inaction, that to me is a game of political point scoring laced with half-truths and lies.

Lastly, besides clearly pronouncing publicly against the VBS investments, municipal councils, besides being autonomous in terms of the law, were since directed by this Office of the Premier to report to the Public Protector on the implementation of the remedial actions on VBS. Bjale, wena o re o tsoga moo o tsogago gona wa re ga re dire selo ka VBS. Go nna ke ditoro fela tše. Standing in this august House, I have no doubt that as the provincial government, we have done what is humanly possible to deal decisively with the VBS saga.

Honourable Members, programme 3: Planning Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation, is responsible for governance, transversal policy and planning coordination. This programme has led the processes for the review and adoption of the Limpopo Development Plan. As you would know, the Limpopo Development Plan is designed to guide development across all spheres of government, including the private sector and civil society during this sixth term of our administration. The main thrust of the Limpopo Development Plan is to address persistent socioeconomic challenges evident in the increasing levels of unemployment, deepening poverty, and inequality. The plan thus introduces measures to strengthen integrated planning and delivery towards reconstructing and growing the economy. In this regard, the Office of the Premier has been positioned to coordinate strategic catalytic interventions and provides support in ensuring alignment of the departmental strategic plans and municipal IDPs.

Honourable Members would remember that towards the end of the fifth term of our administration, the province regressed in terms of education outcomes in particular the matric pass rate and water provisioning. As a measure of reversing this downward spiral in our performance in education, we have recently convened the Provincial Education Summit to deliberate on the necessary interventions. I am happy to announce that the summit has agreed on the holistic intervention plan. This plan was unanimously endorsed by all key stakeholders including organised labour and learner organisations. I wish to call on all members of society to actively participate in the implementation of this adopted plan.

As I have committed last year, we have since finalised the transfer of the Early Childhood Development function from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education. We have no doubt that this plan will help focus more attention on improving the foundation phase of our education system.

Honourable Members, in terms of improvement in the provision of water to our communities, the Office of the Premier will accelerate the implementation of the Limpopo Integrated Water Master Plan. We have since established the Water Infrastructure Working Group with the objective of ensuring water provision is available for economic and social development needs throughout the province.

Honourable Members, we are very fortunate that we have got a Minister who is very available, who is very amenable, very cooperative to our strategies in the province, who operates in a very integrated manner, who understands integrated development in the sense that he is always on the ground. He is always with us directing the processes, directing projects with us in the province. We do not just hear that there is a programme or a project in Giyani or there is a project somewhere in Malamulele where we are not involved as a province. The Minister is active, and his Deputies are actively involving us in the implementation of this and that is what we call Integrated Development Planning.

We are a government that values partnership with the private sector. We have thus established Public Private Partnerships through the Premier's Economic Growth Advisory Council (PEGAC) and the Impact Catalyst initiatives. PEGAC is comprised of experts from industry sectors such as mining, houses, agriculture, ICT, and institutions of higher learning, and offer advisory services to the Premier on the implementation of the Limpopo Development Plan. Whilst the Impact Catalyst is comprised of Anglo American, Exxaro, the World Vision, CSIR and Zutari.

The Impact Catalyst initiative is providing technical and financial support for the implementation of the Limpopo Development Plan. Indeed, honourable Members, together we will do more or together we can do more. Their contribution includes supporting catalytic projects in all districts, namely: the SEZs with specific reference to agro-processing projects, community primary healthcare project in Mogalakwena in particular, Mooihoek Game Farming, Geospatial Value Chain analysis, Tourism projects as well as projects that embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution imperatives. We have embraced the District Development Model to respond to a challenge which our President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa referred to as a "pattern of operating in silos."

We agree with the President that this challenge has led to lack of coherence in planning and implementation and has made monitoring and oversight of government's programme very and extremely difficult. We have therefore, incorporated the District Development Model imperatives in the development of our LDP for the development plan. So far, all districts have finalised their District Development Plans. We, therefore, urge all departments and municipalities to ensure effective implementation of these plans.

Hon Speaker, the provision of reliable and sustainable energy is a necessary condition of economic development and industrialisation. However, the country has been experiencing a crisis regarding energy provision. Our observation is that we will not be able to achieve the LDP targets on economic growth and poverty eradication unless we address the energy crisis. I have therefore directed the Director-General to urgently assemble a team of officials to develop a Provincial Renewable Strategy.

Hon Speaker, ge ke eya mafelelong, let me indicate that it is my honour to table before this esteemed House, the 2022/23 Budget Vote for the Office of the Premier for appropriation. Le ge ke na le lešaka le tletše le fufula, ke rata gore ke re go lena kamoka ke re molete sekuba, le ge ke sa le fe namane ye khulwana goba ye swana. Inkomu. I ndlopfu ya hina. Ro livhuwa nga maanḁa. Re a leboga. Ndau ya nduna! [APPLAUSE]

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Re a leboga Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa'a Molea. The Budget Speech for Vote 01: Office of the Premier is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for consideration and report back to this august House. Thank you very much.

Honourable Members, it is my honour and privilege to call upon the MEC for the Department of Health, Hon Phophi Ramathuba, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 07: Department of Health.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(Address by Dr P C Ramathuba, MEC for Health)

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker in absentia; Hon Premier; colleagues from the Executive Council; Hon Chief Whip; Hon Chair of Chairs; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee

on Health; leaders of the opposition parties; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; Director General of the province and all HODs; leaders of the religious community, and all the guests that are here. Ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni. Thobela. Goeiemôre. Silotjhile. Likuphi.

We come to this august House, galvanised by this government's priorities as outlined in the State of the Province Address, as delivered by our Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa. It was evident from the Premier's address that the province is still facing steep and daunting challenges on different fronts, and our portfolio as Health, is no different.

In the same breath, we want to assure the people of Limpopo, that no challenge is bigger than the ANC-led government. We shall overcome. As we proceed, let us be sure to strike a perfect balance among such imperatives as economic recovery, inclusive growth, saving lives and livelihoods and creating a conducive environment for the people of Limpopo to live a long and healthy life. As Limpopo rises, the Department of Health will be front and centre in ensuring that the health care needs of our people are catered for without fail, comprehensively and without discrimination.

COVID-19 has taught us that without a healthy nation economic growth, job creation, and poverty eradication will remain a pipe dream, hence, the time to start seeing health as an investment rather than an expense, is long overdue. We welcome the opportunity afforded to us to report on the achievements and future programmes of the Department of Health in strengthening the health care sphere and accelerating the provision of healthcare services across the length and breadth of our province. It is important to report upfront that a considerable number of our programmes that we had envisioned to be implemented in the previous financial year, were disrupted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

However, despite such difficult circumstances, we must applaud the men and women in the healthcare sector who have demonstrated resilience and innovation, resulting in us registering significant progress. We are confident that the next financial year, as the department learns to operate within the new normal, operating with COVID-19 as part of us, will allow us to operate in a better environment, addressing fundamentals, and setting the department on an upward trajectory.

Hon Speaker, we take this opportunity to thank the people of Limpopo for not only accepting vaccination, but for their cooperation since 16 March 2020, when we registered our first COVID-19 case. Our push back strategy, as led by the Premier at the Provincial Command Council, focusing on health promotion and disease prevention, has yielded results. This includes the successful phased in implementation of the vaccination programme, which helped us to curtail the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our province led one of the biggest vaccination programmes in the country, which was easily accessible and the accolades that were heaped on us are now common knowledge.

To date, we have registered a total of 155 689 COVID-19 cases, and sadly 4 574 of our people succumbed to this disease. It must be emphasised that most of these deaths that occurred prior to the vaccination programme, were people with co-morbidities and some of them were at an advanced age. Those deaths that occurred post 17 May 2021, when we introduced the vaccination roll out for the public, were people not vaccinated. We welcome and reemphasise the call made by the Premier during his State of the Province Address, for all eligible citizens to get vaccinated and receive the booster vaccine. I hope honourable Members here have already received their boosters.

The Limpopo Department of Health implemented the vaccination programme through a combination of primary vaccination sites located in hospitals and primary health care facilities, and the deployment of mobile vaccination teams. The mobile vaccination teams have vaccinated clients on various platforms including farms, shopping centres, in work settings, community halls, taxi ranks and churches. Wherever there were people, vaccination teams were deployed there. As of 4 March 2022, the Limpopo Department of Health had administered 3,1 million dosages of COVID-19 vaccines. This representing an adult first dose total coverage of more than 54%. Special appreciation goes to all those that are above the age of fifty, because they have long passed the 70% target of being vaccinated.

Despite the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, COVID-19 remains a substantial burden to the already resource constrained health system. The COVID-19 virus continues to mutate, resulting in a constant threat of emerging COVID-19 variants. Thus, it is predicted that South Africa will experience a fifth COVID-19 wave in May and June 2022. Although most of the experts predict a less severe wave, the threat of a more virulent COVID-19 variant cannot be disregarded. Therefore, we call upon all of us to join the Premier in calling upon all those eligible to get the vaccine, to get vaccinated, so that, come the fifth wave, we will be ready, and our immune systems would have received the booster.

Hon Speaker, allow me to invite this august House in congratulating and thanking all our healthcare workers in the province, who have made it possible for many of us to still be alive despite the brutality of the first, second and third wave. As a province, our efforts in fighting the pandemic were even recognised, this past week, by the Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ms Ayanda Dlodlo during the recent 7th Batho Pele Annual Awards, where our very own physician, our head of internal medicine, Dr Phetho Mangena scooped a gold award as the best doctor and physician in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in the entire country. Re a go lebogiša, Mmirwa! [APPLAUSE] I am sure he is around somewhere, but you know dynamite comes in small packages. You might not see him.

Hon Speaker, the implementation of the 10-Point Plan strategy to accelerate the achievement of the 90-90-90 targets, was affected by the focus on the COVID-19 pandemic. In some cases, the same staff that works with HIV and TB had to perform both functions. Having learned from the 2020/21 financial year experiences, where we regressed due to the focus on and reverting all the resources to fight COVID-19, we were able to develop catch-up plans, as guided by the Limpopo Aids Council. This included integrating healthcare services, hence, there have been improvements in the response to the control of the HIV and TB pandemics.

To date, more than 350 000 clients were tested for HIV on a quarterly basis, and those who were ready, were put on ARV programmes. This represents a persistent achievement rate of more than 90% of the target of clients that are to be tested throughout all the quarters. This performance is attributed to the improved number of people who are visiting our facilities, and the intensified integrated health screening activities, especially during the commemoration of World Aids Day (WAD) 2021, where we hosted the Deputy President as a province. It is also attributed to World TB Day 2022 where, in collaboration with funded support partners, we conducted community-based testing.

The Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme is continuing to reduce maternal HIV vertical transmission, however, we are worried about having regressed on this target. As at the end of December 2021, the programme had a transmission rate of 1,0%. It is an improvement from the 2020/21 financial year, but it is a regression from 2019, where we were at 0,7%. When a pregnant woman or breastfeeding mothers interrupt treatment around the time of delivery and during post-natal care, their viral loads increase, and this puts the new-born babies

at a higher risk of transmission soon after birth. Expectant and new mothers need all the support they can get from all of us to adhere to treatment, if we are to see an HIV-free generation in our lifetime.

It is for this reason that we, as a department, move towards the elimination of mother to child transmission, and we will be implementing some of the following to reduce the positivity rate:

- strengthen the Universal Test and Treatment to all HIV positive pregnant women, where mothers are initiated on treatment upon diagnosis.
- Tracking of viral loads in pregnant and breastfeeding mothers to make sure that the viral load remains suppressed and where possible, undetectable. If you do that, the pregnant woman or breastfeeding mother will not infect the baby. No child in this day and age deserves to be born HIV positive, even if their mother is HIV positive. We are spending a lot of money and investment on this programme.
- Linkage of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers to Mentor Mothers and Community Health Workers and Community Care Givers (CHW/CCGs) to encourage treatment adherence.

What is important, is that our mothers need love and support from their partners, from their families, and from the community at large. If you know you have impregnated a lady, you should make sure your support does not stop with the day of conception. You should continue supporting her through the entire antenatal clinic programme. We test her for HIV, if she is positive, both you and her take ARVs religiously, and at birth, your baby will be HIV negative. That I can guarantee you.

The Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) initiations remained between 8000 and 9000 per quarter. The high loss to follow-up led to the slow but steady rise, from 389 960 in quarter one of the 2021/22 financial year, to 404 506 at the end of quarter three. To deal with the high loss to follow-up, as a department we are proactive in managing it by encouraging treatment support right at the start of treatment and investing more on adherence and counselling, while we are implementing the Universal Test and Treatment.

We are relentless in our fight against TB, which has been one of the top ten causes of death and the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent, ranking even above HIV/Aids, for the past decade. More than 1,5 million people died last year globally, as a result of TB infection, making it number two after COVID-19. That is why, as a province, we are also pleased that the TB incidence rate in Limpopo has decreased from 203 per 100 000 population in the 2019/20 financial year, which translates to 11 795 infections, to 163 per 100 000 in 2020/21, the current financial year, where we had registered only 5 973 infections. We must give credit to the fact that a large part of this decrease may be attributed to the wearing of masks, especially in public. Therefore, the wearing of masks during COVID-19 does not only protect us from COVID-19, but this logically applies to the reduction of all airborne infections.

With the current decline in deaths as a result of COVID-19, and the relaxation of the wearing of masks in public, we must expect TB to reclaim its position as the number one killer. It is against this background that, as a department, our focus will be on integrating TB screening into comprehensive healthcare screening for both communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, HIV, and STIs, and non-communicable diseases, such as hypertension (HPT), diabetes, and cancer etc. as part of the ongoing Check'Impilo campaign.

We are pleased to announce that 150 facilities across the province, as announced last year, were piloted successfully on the new, less invasive TB diagnostic tool, the Urine-LAM. In the 2022/23 financial year, we are going to make sure all our facilities, whether it's a clinic or a hospital, have this Urine-LAM. This is a more sensitive test that will assist us, especially where we missed TB in patients with HIV and Aids. During our 2021/22 Budget Speech, we made a commitment that we will procure 14 digital mobile X-ray machines. We are pleased that COVID-19 could not stop us. We were able to procure all 14, and they have been delivered and commissioned for use in all identified hospitals. However, we must raise our concerns, which we have discussed last year, that the continuous defaulting of TB, is costing us a lot of money. Let me give a simple example. When we were deployed by the Premier to go to Vhembe District, Makhado Municipality, where the TB infection cure rate is very low, we discovered that 1 303 of our patients, who were supposed to be on TB treatment, have been lost. They usually take treatment for two months, and then default. We started tracing them and were able to find only 412 of them. The remaining 819, we are still looking for them. What this means is, for us to treat one TB patient successfully, it costs us R1 537, if you have normal TB, for six months.

If you default after two months, we start treating you with Multiple Drug Resistant medication, and it will cost us more than R112 000. Meaning these 412 patients, whom we could have successfully treated with R633 000, Hon Sekoati is going to be fighting with us, because we must now use R48 million, just to treat the 412 patients.

That is why, honourable Members, you cannot leave this to the Department of Health or to the Limpopo Aids Council. TB becomes our problem, because these are the resources which we should be able to use in addressing other challenges that are facing the province.

As a department, we continue to invest resources including human capital towards the reduction of the mortality & morbidity rate as a result of malaria. We have since seen an ongoing reduction of malaria confirmed cases. Hon Speaker, we come from a painful past, where if I remember, in the 2017/18 financial year, as a province, we registered 18 977 cases, and regrettably 160 deaths were reported. Cases and deaths continued to decline despite nature blessing us with an abundance of rain. This is why I always say: "Thank God for His mercies". Sometimes we forget to do that. Instead, we gloat and brag as if we do all these things out of our own wisdom. Tla re lebogeng Morena magagešu. In the 2020/21 financial year, we saw a further decline in malaria cases to 3 169, with only 16 deaths. We can gladly report to this august House that, once more, malaria cases have declined even further, to 1 881 and only nine deaths in the 2021/22 financial year. Even though one death is one too many, this is at least a step in the right direction. We are confident that these numbers will continue to plummet until we record zero malaria related deaths.

This positive achievement is as a result, among others, of sustained community engagement where we were able to increase the household spraying in malaria endemic areas, from 1 023 680 houses in the 2020/21 financial year, to 1 110 212 houses in the 2021/22 financial year. 390 seasonal spray workers were employed in the 2021/22 financial year. This number of seasonal spray workers will increase by 30 to 420 in the 2022/23 financial year. As a province, we were also innovative, learning from COVID-19. We trained 24 environmental healthcare practitioners, to go into households, where especially in the Vhembe and Mopani Districts, they initiate malaria testing. If you are positive, before you even get sick, these healthcare practitioners are allowed to prescribe treatment. Usually, it is a professional nurse or a doctor who does this, but we have been able to get that approval from the Healthcare Professional Council, to treat uncomplicated cases at home without visiting any health care facility.

Accordingly, we have ensured that communities at risk of malaria are covered with indoor residual spraying, undergo testing at household level and are receiving treatment in the comfort of their

homes. We are going to train our employees in the use of drones, with a view of expanding our coverage to more discreet areas.

Hon Speaker, a successful health care system will be underpinned by zero avoidable maternal deaths, particularly in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the current financial year, the department has reported the lowest maternal mortality rate ever, since I have worked in this department, not just as an MEC, but even as a doctor, which is 56,8 per 100 000 deliveries. I still remember, Hon Premier, when your administration started, the maternal deaths were at 182 per 100 000 deliveries. As a province we were worried that the pandemic, like it has done in many other disciplines, will regress the progress made towards saving mothers and their babies. However, the innovative efforts of our obstetricians and gynaecologists in supporting our medical officers and midwives through teaching online seminars and outreach visits, have helped us to sustain the continuous decline in maternal deaths. These engagements, along with the implementation of the Maternal Health Standards, have helped improve the care of pregnant women to ensure a safe and healthy pregnancy. To this end, the department is committed to progressively improve the pregnancy journey of all women in pursuit of better health outcomes. This did not just come cheap.

Hon Speaker, again, in our presence, we have one of our own sub-specialists, Dr Muavha Dakalo, a urogynaecologist, whom we have invested in as a department. Very young, but we gave him great responsibility. On Thursday 24 March, he was presented with a gold award as the best innovator and researcher in the entire country during the 7th Batho Pele Annual Awards. [APPLAUSE] He is another dynamite that comes in small packages. You might not see him. Dr Muavha has invented a health technology app called Zavazide, in his obstetrics and gynaecology speciality. This app empowers junior healthcare workers, especially in the rural areas, with knowledge on the go. During the hard lockdown when we could not go anywhere, he had to be innovative on how he is going to teach the junior doctors out there so that pregnant women do not die when they are there to give birth. As a province we are proud of investing in these young medical professionals. Despite the fact that we have been patiently awaiting an academic hospital, they have not stopped being innovative. Ba re ge o le modiidi, you have no option but to find a way.

The Zavazide has four distinct features: protocol and guidelines, online pre-recorded videos, live ward rounds, and live training sessions and a referral map. This app was developed to serve the people of Limpopo, especially pregnant women, and their unborn babies. Under normal circumstances, Dr Muavha would be selling the app to the department, however he has handed it over to us for free, for the people of Limpopo to use, so that pregnant women do not die during labour. I have just discovered that the entire continent has now adopted the app and is using it. It is not surprising as he is currently the champion in the Limpopo Obstetrics Response Team (LORT), a project that seeks to improve maternal services in Limpopo, hence, Minister Dlodlo could not ignore him but had to award him since he is the best among us. Ro livhuwa murundwa, ngdou dza Vhuṭanda. A ni ri tshileli.

Nutrition in hospitals form an integral part of patient treatment. It accelerates patient recovery while shortening their hospital stay, resulting in the reduction of the general cost of healthcare services. It is for this reason that 43 food service units have been refurbished with new food service equipment and are now implementing the centralised meal delivery service system, otherwise known as the plating system.

We undertook to expand our breastmilk banks during our Budget Speech in 2021. We are proud to announce that as a province we now operate with two breastmilk banks. In honour of Ms Charlotte Maxeke, we celebrated her birthday in April 2021, by officially launching another

breastmilk bank for the people of Sekhukhune, named after her in Philadelphia Hospital, in addition to the existing Mankweng breastmilk bank. These breastmilk banks assist newborns whose mothers have trouble producing milk and those who have been abandoned or orphaned during COVID-19 when lactating mothers were admitted to ICU. It came in handy in assisting newborn babies with breastmilk, because no newborn baby must be denied access to breastmilk especially during their first six months of life.

These banks rely on the goodwill of mothers who are willing to donate. We encourage all mothers to come on board and enlist as donors to help newborns in need. Le dikgomo di a thušana. Ge ye nngwe e hwile tšela tše dingwe di kgona go nyantšha namane yela. Even wild animals, as long as it is mammals. As human beings, why do we fail to donate breastmilk and assist another newborn baby?

Hon Speaker, primary healthcare reengineering remains the backbone towards the successful implementation of the NHI. COVID-19 has impacted negatively towards our goal of achieving Ideal Clinic status. Budget cuts and the diversion of resources towards the funding COVID-19 deepened the crisis we are facing. Some of our clinics, which were operating 24 hours, regressed as a result of the shortage of staff, mainly clinical nurse practitioners, or professional nurses with midwifery. Security in our facilities remains a challenge. As we learn to normalise living with COVID-19, plans to recover from these setbacks are at an advanced stage. The integration of our services which will see us having COVID-19 vaccinations becoming a primary healthcare mandate, will see us reducing expenditure since it will be incorporated within the expanded immunisation programme. The teams tasked with assessing the Ideal Status clinic, will now be resuming their duties since they are from districts, provinces and national.

In terms of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), despite the addition of new ambulances each year, the loss of fleet in EMS is far greater in proportion than these additions. Most of the ambulances have exceeded their life span, and therefore, it is technically not counted. To continue strengthening the Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the department procured 25 ambulances in the 2021/22 financial year. The department will continue to strengthen the emergency services to communities, and we will procure 35 emergency vehicles in the coming 2022/23 financial year. We must, however, appreciate our road infrastructure challenges which contributes negatively towards the lifespan of our vehicles, hence, the commitment made by the Premier that during this administration we must continue to procure EMS vehicles annually. We will continue to honour that commitment, Hon Premier.

In terms of our medical equipment, to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, the department had to invest and expand the bed capacity, which included procuring appropriate medical equipment. While focussing on the ongoing pandemic, the intention remains to strengthen the health care system at all levels. To this extend, medical equipment amounting to R147 million was procured in the 2020/21 financial year, with R190 million used during the 2021/22 financial year. Instead of building field hospitals, Hon Premier, as it was the norm countrywide, the department, through your guidance, invested in strengthening the existing infrastructure. We managed to add a total of 453 hospital beds, of which 206 were ICU beds, procured 133 ventilators, as well as 50 High Flow Nasal Oxygen units. The availability of this equipment has not only enabled us to treat critically ill patients during the pandemic but will also assist us to respond to any other burden of disease in the future that will need these resources. I am sure now honourable Members understand why we said that we cannot build field hospitals at the stadiums. The infrastructure that we have is going to assist us, even in the future.

Hon Speaker, there was also a concerted drive to strengthen radiology, which includes our X-ray units at all hospitals in the province. New digital X-ray units were installed in 7 hospitals with

Computed Radiography systems installed in all 37 hospitals in the province. Where patients used to wait long for the processing of their X-rays, digitalisation has improved the speed of the development of X-ray films, thus contributing to the decrease in the overall waiting time. This is a revolution of our radiology unit. It has never happened before.

In addition to the Computed Tomography (CT) Scanners that were installed in the two tertiary hospitals, Pietersburg and Mankweng, as well as in the regional hospitals Letaba, Tshilidzini and Mokopane, Sekhukhune District will also receive a CT scanner. It will be installed at St Rita's Hospital, during this 2022/23 financial year. The result of this installation will mean that patients will no longer travel all the way to Polokwane and Mankweng, sometimes in a comatose state, just for a scan. CT scans will be done in all districts.

We remain relentless in our fight against cancer. We will be strengthening our oncology services with the installation of five mammogram units, these are the machines that assist us in detecting breast cancer, in our five regional hospitals. Breast cancer in women should be diagnosed early so that we can provide treatment early. Since 2020, when the Premier invited Dr Dzivhani, our first locally produced oncologist, in his State of the Province Address, where we celebrated her, Hon Premier we can announce to you that we have indeed implemented your commitment when you said: "Dr Dzivhani is just the beginning". In 2020 it was her, today we must announce to this House that two more oncologists were produced in house, in Polokwane, bringing our oncologists to four. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, mental health has become another pandemic. The current situation has been worsened by the impact of COVID-19. Job losses, fear of infection, fear of isolation and quarantine, loss of loved ones and divorce, have increased the level of depression to a stage where it is now manifesting itself by the increase in the number of suicide cases in our communities. What saddens us the most is that it is increasingly members of the younger generation, which is supposed to be economically productive, who are victims of suicide. It is against this background that as a department we must be proactive and adopted a campaign under the theme: "Be kind to your mind." Two districts, Mopani and Waterberg have already launched this community approach towards dealing with mental health care issues. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members, the people of Limpopo, I am begging you, please. People who attempt or commit suicide are not selfish, they have an illness, and they need our support. Our mental healthcare practitioners are well equipped to help them with coping mechanisms and problem-solving skills whenever they encounter stress and other challenges in life. We are not the same, some of us can deal with stress, others cannot. Even in this House, sometimes the way in which we treat each other, I need to appeal to you, you do not know my genetic or biological make up. You might think you are howling at me, but it might trigger me to go and commit suicide. We saw what Will Smith did, because he was not sure of how his wife would take it, being made fun of as a result of her medical condition. He had to jump and defend his wife. While we do not promote violence, I think that action was brought on due to the fact that he did not know how his wife will react when her medical condition is made out as a joke on global television. Let us stop making fun of each other, we do not know each other's strengths in terms of mental health issues.

That is why our campaign is also focusing on employees, especially those operating in stressful environments, for example those in the security cluster, our police officers, our forensic pathologists, and our emergency medical services personnel. These are employees who are first to arrive on the scene of brutally murdered people. When seven family members in Vhembe were killed, including children, it was these officials who arrived first. When people burn beyond recognition on the N1 road, these are the first people to arrive. When husbands and wives kill each other and the entire family, these are the officials that arrive first. Therefore, a business-as-usual approach to the circumstances of these employees is not only dangerous, but

counterproductive. That is why in most cases we have seen police officers resorting to intimate partner violence before committing suicide.

All the signs would have been there, however, we usually miss them because we are failing as a society to be a brother or sister's keeper. We sometimes fail to see signs because we are too busy chasing targets. Since charity begins at home, we have spent two weeks with our forensic pathologists, conducting a debriefing session. It was done by our clinical psychologists, and some of our employees started admitting that they have become alcoholics, of which they were not even aware. This was as a result of what they have experienced during the festive season. This is going to be a continuous programme, as long as they render services, and our plan during this financial year, is to expand this programme to our sister departments. All the employees who are operating within this dangerous environment, must undergo this programme.

Until such time where all of us treat mental health care as a priority, like we do with other medical conditions, we will continue to regret as a nation, starting with us as healthcare providers. That is why on 24 February, as a department, we launched a year-long training programme for all our mental healthcare practitioners on mental health care issues. Let us remember, we all have mental health care issues, just at varying degrees, hence there is no health without mental health.

In 2016, the Hon Premier, invited the young, 15-year-old Junior Mkhombo, to attend his State of the Province Address. This was because you were writing history in our country. Firstly, since 1994 the country has never established a stand-alone medical school, and secondly, Junior was the youngest first year medical student in the country. Today we pride ourselves as a province, that 47 out of the 60 students of the class of 2016, have taken a Hippocratic oath and are now qualified medical doctors. Dr Junior Mkhombo is part of those who are now doing internship in different parts of the country. Once more, he has also made history, because he is the youngest graduate, being a doctor at the age of 21. He was here, being a part of us. Those who are saying Mathabatha's government, is fast asleep. We have results, Junior is a doctor now.

The journey towards this milestone was long, rocky, and exhausting, however through your leadership, Premier, and the collective efforts of both the University of Limpopo and the Limpopo Department of Health, this was made possible. We salute this joint effort between the university and the department because training medical doctors requires 60% of the Department of Health, and only 40% of a university and higher education. We must support these universities jealously. I must say, it must grow, and it must prosper. Our commitment towards bringing specialist services closer to the people, did not only contribute to cost-saving, ensuring that patients get the desired medical intervention without traveling beyond the borders of our province, but also, they are key towards training and the teaching of medical students. You will remember that, at some stage when we started, we had around 20 medical specialists. Today we are moving towards having 200. In the 2017/18 financial year, we only had 39 registrars, who were training to be specialists. Today we have 120 medical doctors, who are training to be medical specialists. We will not be travelling to Gauteng anymore as a province as long as the ANC-led government is still in charge.

COVID-19 pushed us into innovation. During the hard lockdown, only emergency services were rendered by our facilities, resulting in serious surgical backlogs. In a rural province like ours, where surgical backlogs were a norm even prior to COVID-19, it became a crisis, hence, the birth of the Rural Healthcare Matters campaign. To this end, the campaign will be converted into a service delivery model on specialist's services, focusing on rural areas, because in terms of the ANC-led government, rural health care matters the most. This campaign managed to attract volunteer specialists from provincial hospitals, the private sector, as well as specialists from other provinces and universities. This project enables complex operations, which would have waited many months

or years to be performed at regional or district hospitals. The Rural Healthcare Matters project has had a lasting impact on the lives of many people in the province.

Since 01 April 2021 until Sunday 27 March 2022, when we wrapped up our 2021/22 Rural Health Matters campaign, more than 3 300 patients across the province have been operated on, and therefore were given a reason to join all of us in commemorating Human Rights Month, because indeed, health remains a basic human right. It is very disheartening for us to see our people subjected to blindness due to cataracts, a simple procedure that does not take 15 minutes, and the person is able to see again and live a quality life. It is also disheartening to see a child growing up with a clubfoot resulting in physical disability, and must queue at Sassa while growing up, while a procedure to correct it at birth is available. A 12-year-old had to drop out of school in Mopani, because her breasts were too huge for her to carry. She has become a joke. When we heard this story, it was touching. There are many young women who must resign from work as a result of chronic backache due to their large breasts. This Saturday, we operated one at Letaba Hospital, who was crying when she woke up from theatre, and realised that 5 kg of her breasts have been removed, by the one and only Dr Netshiogolwe, another dynamite that comes in small packages. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, it does not have to be like this. Elderly women, particularly in the rural parts of Vhembe, Sekhukhune, and Mopani, are called witches and threatened to be burned because they developed keloids. This cannot be. That is the reason we will never rest as long as our people need us. We will continue with our innovation to make sure our people receive this service which is a basic human right as dictated by the Constitution of our country, hence, Rural Health Matters, continue to matter the most.

Hon Speaker, following up on the delivery of the commitment we made in this august House, of insourcing renal services from the Public Private Partnership (PPP) project, we are embarking on the process of decentralising. This is another achievement of Dr Mangena. We did not have a renal unit, but now it is owned by us as Pietersburg Hospital. We are now embarking on decentralising. Together with his team, the renal services are starting with Mopani District, followed by Vhembe. The reason is not Shumela Venda, I must clarify this upfront. The reason is because Vhembe and Mopani have the highest burden of disease, as a result of renal failure. This project was derailed by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, however in the current financial year much progress was registered. We are going to see Tshilidzini and Letaba Hospitals opening these units. It is expected that the services will be launched in the first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year. Tshilidzini and Letaba Hospital will be used as satellite units that will cater for 48 and 36 renal dialysis patients, respectively.

The mother to child centres of excellence as announced in the State of the Province Address last year, all our regional hospitals have received those upgrades to strengthen their capacity to provide excellent mother and child healthcare services and intensive care. An upgraded 20 bed ICU and Paediatric ICU unit have been opened at Mokopane Hospital. The ICU unit at Tshilidzini Hospital has a 14-bed capacity, and Letaba Hospital has 24 ICU beds. Apart from the disruptions caused by COVID-19, and some of the politics within the locality, Philadelphia Hospital is ready to open a 20-bed ICU facility, and will be followed by St Ritas Hospital, where a 12 bed ICU unit and 30 bed neonatal unit are expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter. Significantly, the maternity upgrades at St Ritas Hospital have been completed and handed over to the department. This will go a long way in complementing our efforts to fight maternal mortality.

A comprehensive programme of repair and maintenance commenced in the 2021/22 financial year to address the recommendations of the Public Protector on the flood damaged buildings at WF Knobel Hospital. This will continue over the 2022/23 Medium Term Expenditure Framework

period, and will include the male and paediatric wards, kitchen, boilers, hospital entrance and storm water drainage system, demolition of condemned buildings and a reorganisation of the admin, X-ray, and allied functions into other facilities within the site.

Work is already in motion to restore the burnt ward at FH Odendaal Hospital into a maternity complex. Repurposing of existing facilities into clinical platforms, reorganisation of the OPD and Casualty to provide adequate space for patients including the Eye Clinic, the hospital entrance and perimeter fencing has commenced and will be completed in a phased manner starting over the 2022/23 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will update you on the others.

While the rise of medical malpractice litigation is a global crisis, as a province we are disturbed by the current contingent liability standing at a staggering R14 billion. This has become a threat towards healthcare delivery in our province. We did a root cause analysis, which revealed among others, a lack of adequately skilled staff, equipment, and a poor attitude of staff. We cannot rule out a possible collusion between government employees, be it state attorneys or the Department of Health with the plaintiff lawyers and senior councils. A turnaround strategy was developed, and it is being implemented. The unit has now been reorganised completely and we have strengthened it and is currently being led by a medical specialist, a radiologist by qualification, who is also an advocate. I am not sure whether in addressing him I should say Dr/Adv Cedric Sihlangu.

We do understand that there is a lot of vested interest in this matter. We are wating with bated breaths for the mooted legislative reforms that will see us closing this tap, because in this Budget that I am tabling today, there is no item that talks to the R14 billion. This means that we must take money from your ARVs and pay this R14 billion. The painful part is that when we are litigated as government, the bulk of the money, which is supposed to go to future medical care, goes to the lawyers. For instance, if we are sued for R55 million for a cerebral palsy baby, the highest we have seen so far awarded for personal damage is R3 million, meaning the rest is supposed to go towards future medical care. Unfortunately, our real experience on the ground is that the money does not go for future medical care because two weeks later, after awarding the money, the baby will be brought to public hospitals for treatment. Is this not double dipping? Is this not the same fiscus? Our proposal is thus, instead of awarding R55 million, award the R3 million for damage, and the rest, ask us as the state to prove that if this child needs future medical treatment, we will provide it without fail. That we can assure you. If we do that, we will be closing the tap, and you will not see this R14 billion.

The ever-decreasing provincial department's Equitable Share allocation, strengthen the argument that 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 surpassed its targeted amount by R56 million over the last two financial years, the 2018/19 and 2019/20. The COVID-19 pandemic however disrupted the momentum in the collection, resulting in the collection of only 90% of revenue targeted in the 2020/21 financial year. The impact of the pandemic further resulted in the reduction of the revenue estimates for the 2021/22 financial year and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

Despite the pandemic that is still with us, the department is still optimistic that, with the revised strategy, it will collect R202 million in the 2022/23 financial year. We will put in more effort to achieve this target as we are aware that this will contribute towards the funding of healthcare services in the province. Services are still free at primary level, such as at clinics, mobile clinics, gateway clinics and health-centres. Free services have also been extended to all COVID-19

related services for low-income groups - thanks to the ANC-led government- the unemployed, and those that are not members of medical schemes. We call upon all our communities to visit these facilities for their wellbeing. Members of the communities that fall within the paying categories, like Members who are sitting in this House, are urged to pay for the health services they receive at our health facilities. We also need your revenue, so we can subsidise those who cannot afford it. We say, assist us in generating maximum revenue and we will assist you in providing quality healthcare services.

Hon Speaker, as we firmly emerge from the grips of one of the most devastating pandemics, we recommit ourselves to building a comprehensive and inclusive healthcare system capable of meeting the desired electoral, constitutional, and legislative mandates. We will do so mindful of the fact that we carry an obligation to bring into practical reality the dream of a long and healthy life for the people of Limpopo. We plan all this, being aware that all the competing priorities require adequate funding. With the introduction of budget cuts, the department will endeavour to stretch the rand to address all challenges facing us so that we can provide quality healthcare to our people.

The Coronavirus pandemic has significantly disrupted a whole range of our programmes, and delayed implementation of our foremost projects in our journey to making public health care more accessible, efficient, and effective. We need to move with exceptional speed in our vaccination programme, particularly with young people as our target. I am grateful for the confidence, support, and guidance that we continue to receive from the Hon Premier, in making sure that we deliver quality services in our facilities and utilise our budget allocation prudentially.

A special thanks goes to my colleagues in the Executive Council for your continuous support. Where we have overlapped, you have always been there. In our journey with COVID-19, you, the Executive Members, did not leave it up to the Department of Health. Led by the Premier, we travelled the length and breadth of this province to make sure that we minimise the damage that COVID-19 will cause. A special thanks goes to the Portfolio Committee on Health for their robust, frank, and constructive engagements and continuous oversight. We will be making a mistake if we do not take this opportunity to convey our appreciation to the committee of the past tense, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, for making sure that we pay attention to our blind spots. To the Treasury, let us continue to work together towards making sure that we deliver healthcare to our people. Gratitude to our HOD, Dr Thokozani Mhlongo, and all her generals, not forgetting all our foot soldiers, from the men and women in blue at the gate to the men and women in blue at the mortuary, for your loyalty to this government and for your service to the people of Limpopo. This Budget should be a catalyst in ensuring that Limpopo rises again to reach unprecedented levels.

The 2022/23 overall Budget for the Department of Health has increased by 3,4% from the 2021/22 financial year. The Main Appropriation has decreased by 3,2% from the Adjusted Appropriation. Equitable Share decreases by 3,8% from the 2021/22 adjusted allocation, whereas Conditional Grants decline by 0,6% from the 2021/22 adjusted allocation. The Equitable Share allocation includes an amount of R1 billion, earmarked for the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. In monetary terms, the total Budget decreases from R23,5 billion in the 2021/22 financial year, to R22,7 billion in the 2022/23 financial year. You can see how tough things are going to be. The total allocation declines by an average of 0,4% over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. This is an indication that the department is continuously under financial strain for the foreseeable future.

Hon Speaker, I am therefore honoured and indeed privileged to table to this noble House the Budget for the Department of Health, for the 2022/23 financial year, to the value of R22,7 billion,

which consists of R18,3 billion Equitable Share, R4,2 billion Conditional Grants and R201,6 million own revenues.

The Budget is therefore tabled. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, MEC for the Department of Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba. Honourable Members, the Budget Speech for the Department of Health, is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Health for consideration and to report back to this august House. Honourable Members, as the Presiding Officer, I have the responsibility to maintain the decorum and the presidium of this House. It is in that context, honourable Members, that we must at all material times, be exemplary in the adherence of the COVID-19 protocols. I therefore humbly request Hon Smalle to take his designated seat. Thank you very much.

We shall now call upon the MEC for the Department of Transport and Community Safety, Hon Lerule-Ramakanya, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 08. Honourable Member, over to you.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

(Address by Ms M M Lerule-Ramakanya, MEC for Transport and Community Safety)

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ndi matsheloni. Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House; the Hon Premier of our province, colleagues in the Executive Council; the Leader of Government Business; the Chief Whip of the Legislature; the chairperson of the Transport and Community Safety Portfolio Committee; chairpersons of other committees; leaders of the opposition parties; HOD and the CFO; SAPS Provincial Commissioner; honourable Members of the House; members of the media present, and thousands of followers on social media platforms. Good morning.

Hon Speaker, a week ago, President Cyril Ramaphosa gave the nation hope when he announced a full set of measures, that for the first time showed signs that our country was going back to normality, after two years of harrowing pain brought about by Covid-19 restrictions. For the first time in two years, we have learned that we could now remove our face masks while outdoors and in public places as we begin finding our pace in living with COVID-19 as a vaccinated nation. This came as a relief to thousands of people who lost their jobs and many whose businesses went under at the mercy of an invisible, tiny virus that destroyed families and livelihoods.

This year offers much hope compared to the other two difficult years we have had. I have no doubt that we stand a chance of great possibilities of normalcy returning to our province. As we come towards the end of the national state of disaster, it is going to be all systems go for most sectors and industries in our province. Limpopo's economy is now open for business as we can travel and trade the best way we know how. Although the virus is not fully obliterated, I am confident that if tourism is open and stadiums and places of worship are receiving 50% of vaccinated people, this can only mean that the transport sector will be engaged to its full capacity. This is good news for our bus and taxi operators who were already struggling to keep their heads above water.

As tourism gains foothold and momentum in the country, we are encouraging the people of Limpopo and of South Africa to make use of the safest mode of transport available between

Polokwane and Johannesburg. The existence of the airport in Polokwane is solely reliant on customers, and through our engagements with the Limpopo Tourism Agency, we will market the airport to ensure that the facility is used to its maximum capacity to the benefit of the province. You will recall that the airport is now back in full operation after commercial activities were suspended early last year, due to a downgrade by the Civil Aviation Authority. It took the Gateway Airports Authority Limited (GAAL) about five to six months to fix the identified risks, and as we speak the airport is fully compliant and ready for the challenge.

The department will transfer R73,331 million to Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL) for the 2022/23 financial year. These funds are allocated to manage and maintain the operations of the Polokwane International Airport (PIA) and to sustain the airport license even though it is evident that the allocated budget will not sustain all operations at the airport. We will however make sure that the downgrading of the facility and the grounding of flights does not happen again.

Hon Speaker, public transport remains the backbone of our economy as a rural province, where millions of our people rely on public transport to commute from their respective homes to their places of work. It is therefore imperative to ensure that we maintain the Passenger Subsidy programme to ensure that our people are not side-lined from economic activities due to their geographical location. Buses and taxis are the common modes of transportation preferred by most of our people and they will continue to receive support and empowerment from the department. An estimated 12 million passengers across the province benefitted from the Bus Subsidy programme during the 2020/21 financial year and this figure represents a total of 90 606 trips undertaken, covering close to 5 million km. We are talking here about an average of 886 buses which were used to ferry commuters across the length and breadth of the province.

The department spent an estimated R650 million on 26 subsidised contracts in the 2021/22 financial year, even though COVID-19 lockdown levels and public transport restrictions had a severe effect on all bus operators in the province. For the 2022/23 financial year, the department has set aside an amount of R707 million for subsidised services, even though the Public Transport Operating Grant (PTOG) has been reduced by R2 million, which may negatively affect some services. From this grant, an estimated 15 million passengers will benefit through the Passenger Subsidy system during the 2022/23 financial year. We continue being proud that companies that are receiving government subsidies managed to create and sustain an average of 2 360 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, which are in rural areas where there are little or no economic activities. Scheduled subsidised public transport services provide low-income populations with connectivity to places of employment and social amenities in ways that no other private sector organisation can intervene.

Hon Speaker, furthermore, I am pleased to reiterate the decision we took to appoint the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to redesign the bus subsidy networks and service contracts in the province to ensure that subsidised services are equally spread across the province and to ensure more effective and efficient service delivery. The CSIR has completed new contract documents for the five districts in the province during the 2021/22 financial year. Consultations with all affected stakeholders will commence in the 2022/23 financial year and the advertising of tenders for new subsidy service contracts will commence in the 2022/23 financial year. Route surveys and on-board surveys have been concluded, which indicate passenger demand. The department, with the approval of the Provincial Treasury, extended the 26 bus contracts until March 2024, to provide sufficient time for the rolling out of new tenders.

The department will continue, in the 2022/23 financial year, to assist municipalities in establishing and resuscitating transport forums. The programme was seriously affected by COVID-19 lockdown levels. Transport forums create an important platform for industry and community participation in transport matters at a municipal level.

The Provincial Regulatory Entity, which monitors and oversees public transport in the province, had 73 hearings in which they adjudicated on an estimated 2 600 operating licence applications in the 2021/22 financial year. The entity will continue to conduct monthly hearings in all five districts in the 2022/23 financial year. An amount of R2,7 million has been allocated to sustain the services of this very important entity. The department received and processed an estimated 15 000 operating licence applications during the 2021/22 financial year. We will sustain operating licensing services in our five district offices. It will continue to render part-time satellite services in Waterberg, Mopani, and Capricorn Districts to ensure easy access to services and will sustain the satellite services at the Groblersdal Cost Centre and Dilokong Traffic Station.

An amount of R38,12 million has been budgeted for the 2022/23 financial year to sustain the regulation of the public transport industry through the Operating Licence 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 the Department of Transport plans to address the backlog in the issuing of new route-based minibuss taxi operating licences.

Hon Speaker, on the taxi industry, we have set aside funds in the 2022/23 financial year to assist with the administration and the management of the industry. The department is servicing, apart from the public transport services, 116 taxi associations with 7 789 registered members operating 10 690 taxi vehicles with operating licences. We often experience conflict in this industry due to various reasons. The instabilities brought about by interruptions in public transport services have serious economic implications. The department will continue to sustain the multi-disciplinary Provincial Taxi Task Team, which was established to address conflict in the public transport industry. On Friday last week, we woke up to the closure of the R81 road between Mall of the North and Thornhill shopping malls due to taxi violence. We condemn, in the strongest terms, the action by one association to disrupt economic activities because of their dissatisfaction with certain issues. Violence will not and has never resolved any problem. We are always open and available to engage with associations and their councils when conflicts arise.

Notwithstanding last week's conflict, I am nonetheless encouraged and delighted by the new spirit of unity and collaboration brought about by the Taxi Makgotla in the previous financial year. One of the key areas which the industry is seized with, is to professionalise the industry, and the commitment to this resolution is bearing fruits. We are currently facilitating workshops for the taxi industry with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and the Department of Labour to ensure that the industry complies with tax and labour laws. The industry, which was at some point viewed as stubborn and not properly led, is turning the tide and positive signs are showing everywhere. Just like hundreds of taxi operators countrywide, our own operators were given an opportunity to apply for the National Minister's COVID-19 relief fund for the taxi industry at the end of the 2021/22 financial year. We believe that they took advantage of the window period and will be among the beneficiaries of the scheme.

Hon Speaker, under the Transport Regulation, the safety of commuters and all road users continue to occupy a centre stage in the work of our department. In the Budget Vote last year, we highlighted that we spent R12 million to acquire official vehicles. This was done for two reasons: firstly, for visibility and secondly for the reduction of road carnage. I am here to report that we were able to achieve this objective, though not to our highest satisfaction. Using these working

tools, the department managed to decrease fatalities by 12,9%, from 1 235 to 956, during the past financial year. This was attained through focused speed operations conducted to minimise accidents, drunken driving operations and visible patrol deployments. We focused on the problematic roads identified both by us and the National Department of Transport based on the recorded accident statistics.

I also made mention that the safety of our people is key, especially learners who cross the road to access schools. We introduced a safety programme at district level to ensure that children, pensioners, and people living with disability among others, are able to cross the road with ease. The department has, through its EPWP programme, managed to recruit 218 youths from the five districts and trained them as traffic point duty officials. In this regard, 30 youths from Mopani are currently attending training at the Limpopo Traffic College. In this financial year the last batch of 32 youths will be recruited from Vhembe to make a total of 250. The inception of this programme has resulted in a sharp decline in accidents involving pedestrians at designated crossing points where drivers were speeding due to the non-visibility of officers. We are alive to the reality that communities are expanding and the need for point duty officials is increasing. We will attend to and address the need as and when it arises.

The department continues to ensure compliance at the License Testing Centres and Vehicle Test Stations. This is also focused on curbing the fraudulent issuing of driving licenses and vehicle roadworthy certificates. So far, the process of standardising learners testing in the province is at its completion stage, with 31 centres already fitted with the computerised Learners Licence Testing System. At the moment only Mankweng and Modjadjiskloof are remaining, and the management of these centres have been engaged to ensure compliance of their facilities. In a bid to improve the provision of services to the people, the department is intending to upgrade traffic stations into multipurpose centres that will ensure inclusion of licensing services which will also improve revenue collection for the province, while reducing queues at the existing centres and slow services provided to the public.

Hon Speaker, under SAPS oversight, the department will continue to perform its oversight functions over the South African Police Service. We currently have 104 police stations in the province that we are continuously monitoring in terms of their compliance to policing standards, prescripts, and instructions. The department will also conduct customer satisfaction surveys in relation to all the respective police stations I alluded to. The department will further monitor the District Commissioner's offices, specialised units, and SAPS garages. The heads of provincial components will also be engaged to address findings from the monitoring reports.

The department will conduct an investigating on the implementation of the JCPS recommendations by the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster departments, in strengthening the Criminal Justice System of the Limpopo Province. This research will examine the significance in which the JCPS Cluster is held by the relevant departments and thereby assess whether the recommendations thereof are implemented or not. The study is important to ensure that the justice system of the province is reinforced through this integrated approach and the fight against crime and corruption is intensified.

The rate of crime perpetrated against women and children has spiralled out of control and it is a serious cause for concern. To that extend, the department is facilitating an increase in visible policing, and partnering with crime prevention structures to assist in combating the scourge. We are of the view that the ongoing izimbizo led by SAPS, both at the provincial and national level, are assisting in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide. It is in these platforms where people can speak out and challenge the police to attend to these cases with urgency.

The department will continue to support community structures through their participation in the Expanded Public Works Programme- Crime Prevention, through the Environmental Design programme. This programme is geared at participants clearing and cleaning contact crime hotspots in the province. A total of 500 participants will be recruited from the community policing and safety structures, which is 100 from each district. A budget of around R2 million received from the Integrated Grant will be used for this very important programme. In the year under review, contact hotspots were identified, de-bushed and cleaned across the province.

As part of the contribution to youth development in the sector, the department will recruit 300 participants from the Youth Against Crime programme from all police stations. Other members from the patrollers will be Youth Councils from municipalities, who will also be patrolling side by side with SAPS in an endeavour to heighten police visibility and make inroads in problematic areas.

A budget of R3,7 million has been set aside to procure uniform and for the payment of stipends for this project in the 2022/23 financial year. The allocated budget is not much, but it will go a long way in rooting out crime and other social ills in our communities. The department will closely monitor the implementation of the Limpopo Crime Prevention Strategy during the 2020-2025 Medium-Term Strategic Framework period. In partnership with SAPS, the department is continuing to work together with community structures such as the Community Policing Forum and Community Safety Forums to assist in the fight against crime. The cooperation and assistance we are getting from the community structures are overwhelming, and I can say without a shadow of doubt that most of our successes are as a result of their hard work. We take pride in the results of the good work that our dedicated volunteers are doing in the villages and townships and our town.

This year marks five years since we relaunched both the Community Policing Forums (CPFs) and Community Safety Forums (CSFs) in the province, and we are at that juncture again where we need to meet and renew the mandate. We are going to relaunch 28 CSFs and 110 CPFs around the province and take responsibility to ensure that the new structures are capacitated to carry their tasks diligently for the benefit of the communities. The department will also continue to assess the functionality of these structures on a regular basis.

Hon Speaker, in the 2021/22 financial year, the Department of Transport and Community Safety conducted five initiatives to educate communities about domestic violence and gender-based violence. Due to limitations by COVID-19 regulations, these initiatives were conducted in densely populated areas such as malls and taxi ranks to interact with as many people as possible as opposed to bringing people in an enclosed venue for better interaction. In the current financial year, these initiatives will be focused on capacity building sessions with SAPS members responsible for the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, the Sexual Offences Act, and related legislation. This is to ensure that SAPS members improve on compliance, especially when dealing with victims and administration of these cases. This is done to avoid secondary victimisation of the victims and failure to secure convictions due to poor investigations.

The department has established a Domestic Violence Act compliance forum which focuses on improving SAPS compliance. The compliance forum is also busy with poor performing stations and detectives to ensure compliance, and to secure successful convictions in GBV and femicide related cases. We will continue to attend to service delivery complaints against the SAPS and ensure that they are resolved within 30 days. This is a mechanism to transform SAPS to be a reliable and dependable institution. The public is aware of the right to complain and to hold any official accountable. We have established a complaints management desk at provincial and

national izimbizo to register grievances. This is in addition to complaints received through walk-ins, and the Premier and Presidential Hotlines.

To ensure improvement on the side of police investigations, the department is conducting court watching briefs at 60 magistrate courts per annum. We do this solely to assess the reasons for cases being withdrawn or thrown out of court. Where findings indicate poor service conduct or action, the cases are submitted for reinvestigation and action is taken against affected members.

Hon Speaker, the twin challenge of poor skills and youth unemployment remains a serious problem in our country that requires us to address it through extraordinary means. In this regard, I am delighted to announce that in this financial year, we will give 20 students, mainly from the TVET colleges, an opportunity to put their theory to practice. Students with mechanical engineering related qualifications will be placed as interns through a Workforce Integrated Learning programme at our government garage facilities.

We will also be recruiting for Traffic Law Enforcement Learnerships to close the increasing vacancy gap created by various factors including COVID-19. This will indeed be a life changing experience for many of our young graduates and those aspiring to be traffic law enforcers. To our youth, always know this: What you think, you become. Nothing is impossible if you are hungry enough and desire to achieve your goal. "Everything you need is already inside of you, so just do it" – to quote the legendary Nike shoes slogan.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Transport and Community Safety remains the biggest contributor of revenue collection in the province. I say this looking at my colleague, the MEC for Treasury. At the end of the 2020/21 financial year, the department collected R651 954 which is 10% above the target. In the current financial year, as at the end of February, the collection rate was already at 99% of the annual target. The department will meet the target for the current financial year and exceed the expectation. The department has the potential to over collect by bigger margins, but the impact of COVID-19 negatively affected many businesses. As a result of this, we therefore anticipate collecting R717 094 in the 2022/23 financial year.

The total Budget for the 2022/23 financial year, is R2,366 billion which shows an increase of 1,6% compared to the 2021/22 Budget. The 2023/24 financial year Budget is R2,433 billion which is an increase of 2,9%. A Budget of R2,435 billion is allocated for the 2024/25 financial year, which is only a 0,9% increase. Included in the Budget is the Public Transport Operation Conditional Grant (PTOG) allocation amounting to R422,338 million for the 2022/23 financial year, R440,951 million for the 2023/24 financial year and R460,754 million for the 2024/25 financial year.

The department contributes almost 47% of the Provincial Revenue through traffic functions. The department is projecting to collect R717,094 million in the 2022/23 financial year, which will increase each year, to R748,645 million in the 2023/24 financial year, and R782,258 million in the 2024/25 financial year.

Hon Speaker, as we get on with our task of implementing this Budget and making a difference in the lives of our people, I wish to thank the stakeholders of the Department of Transport and Community Safety. The public, whom in one way or the other we serve, or they participate when we implement our Budget. I wish to thank the Acting HOD Ms Mulaudzi for steering this ship to calmer waters. I further wish to thank her management team and all officials for helping us achieve success in the past two difficult years. The two successive clean audits that we received in the last two financial years are a feather on our cap and a good testimony to the hard work and perseverance we endured as both the Office of the MEC and officials in this department. There

is no magic or miracle in achieving this feat. What we have discovered while travelling on this road was that - the harder we worked, the more focused we stayed.

Thank you, Acting HOD and your collective team. Thank you to the staff of the department and the staff in my office for your commitment. Thank you to the Provincial Commissioner of police and heads of the JCPS cluster departments; and thank you to all our traffic officers, contravention officers and heads of stations for being the good public servants that you are. In you we know the true taste of the meaning of service. I want to thank the Office of the Premier for their continuous support to us as a department. My colleagues, MECs, our department crosses paths with you, and as departments we will continue to work bilaterally, which will help us to deliver services. I also want to thank the chairperson of the committee and all Members, for the continuous support through questions that they always ask. The oversight visits to our facilities, keeps us on our toes, because we understand that as a department, we must be accountable. I also want to thank the House, under the stewardship of the Hon Speaker, for the support and understanding, when we are too fast or too slow in executing our work.

Hon Speaker, as indicated, our Budget this year is as follows:

- Administration : R599,231 million
- Transport Operations : R916,162 million
- Transport Regulations : R787,853 million
- Provincial Secretariat for Police Services : R62,316 million

We present today, a total Budget of R2,366 billion. The economic classification is as follows:

- Compensation of Employees : R1,107 billion
- Goods and Services : R393,107 million
- Transfers and Subsidies : R799,617 million
- Payments for Capital Assets : R66,223 million

This is what brought us to the conclusion of R2,366 billion that we present this morning. I wish all Members of the House a safe Easter and holiday as we start with our preparations. Hon Speaker, lastly, let me thank my family, especially my children and my grandchildren, who continue to be my strength each day, understanding that I am always away because of the work that we must do. Let me thank my God and my permanent angel, Dr H, for their continuous strength and watch over me. I started this day with the two people who are celebrating their birthday today, and they transferred this happiness to me, that I am bubbling with this morning. That is my office spokesperson Maringa and our honourable Member, Caroline Mahasela. Happy birthday to you. I thank you. Ndo livhuwa. Ndza khensa. Baie dankie. [APPLAUSE]

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, MEC for the Department of Transport and Community Safety. The Budget Speech for Vote 08: Department of Transport and Community Safety is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, for consideration and to report back to the House. There is a concern honourable MEC, that one honourable Member of this House is not acknowledged. He has formally lodged a complaint. That is Hon Thabo Mokone, the MEC for LEDET. I do not know why. [LAUGHTER]

We also want to seize this opportunity on behalf of the presiding officer to extend and express our profound sense of gratitude to Hon Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela on her birthday. Happy birthday, honourable Member. Let us proceed with the business of the House.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements, Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Food will be served outside.

9. ADJOURNMENT

THE ACTING SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Chief Whip. The announcement was that ge le tloga mo le tla hlapa diatla ka mo ntle. That was the message. Honourable Members of this august House, let me take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation today, as the serving Presiding Officer. This House is adjourned to Thursday, 31 March 2022 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THIS HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 31 MARCH 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now take this opportunity to observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Please be seated. Members, good morning and welcome to this Sitting today. We would like to thank those who held the fort when we were not here. We were indisposed. Thank you very much, Hon Monama.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE LATEST INCIDENT OF AN ATTACK AT JANE FURSE POLICE STATION
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the DA that this House notes the latest incident of an attack on a police station. A suspected robber was fatally shot by backup police at the Jane Furse Police Station last Monday night. The suspect is reported to have disarmed a police officer and refused to surrender when backup arrived.

This House must further note that this is not an isolated incident. Less than five months ago, 20 armed criminals robbed the Malamulele Police Station of firearms and ammunitions and proceeded to rob local businesses of cash. The Malamulele gang was arrested only eight weeks after the incident.

This House must further note that these incidents prove the extent to which criminals are confident to target rural police stations that have become soft targets.

SAPS in Limpopo needs to turn around the previous reported downward trend of crimes detected as a result of police action in Limpopo province by urgently establishing a well-informed crime intelligence network.

Criminal elements in the force need to be removed as we have seen in some instances that former and/or current law enforcement officials are involved in criminal activities.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Can we call for a seconder to the motion? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand here to second the motion as read by Hon Phala. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice in terms of Rule 145? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE SADDENING NEWS ABOUT THE PASSING OF NEHAWU REGIONAL
SECRETARY, SOLLY MABUSELA**
(Motion without Notice)

I, Mmaishine Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to send a message of condolences to the family, friends and comrades of Solly Mabusela, a unionist to the end who spent a great depth of his service in the public sector representing workers.

The Nehawu regional secretary was involved in a car accident about a week ago; unfortunately, he could not make it. Cde Mabusela was central to the workers' collective bargaining process and has dedicated his life to championing the interests of the workers.

Death has robbed the workers of a dependable comrade and an outstanding leader of the working class. May his soul rest in peace!

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Can we call for a seconder to the motion? Hon Joshua Matloa, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ha khensa Xipikara, Mina Joshua Matlou ndzi seketela leswi Mhani Seono va swi vulaka. Inkomu!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Manganye, you are recognised.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE VIOLATION OF THE STUDENTS' RIGHT TO ACCESS EDUCATION BY
CAPRICORN TVET COLLEGE
(Motion without Notice)**

The EFF is pledging its support for students whose right to access quality education is being denied. This is a violation of student rights which undermines EFF's cardinal pillar on education. Therefore, we call on the college management to address the impasse speedily in the interest of poor students who depend on the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

Students are forced to submit supporting documents such as affidavits and signatures of parents on a declaration form by the college before they can receive their NSFAS allowance. This led to a shutdown of Polokwane, Seshego, Senwabarwana and Ramokgopa Capricorn TVET Colleges; a move that the EFF is fully behind.

Students cannot be held at ransom due to petty requirements by the college, primarily because these students have already been approved by NSFAS for funding in the 2022 financial year.

The EFF believes that this is an undue delay, whose main purpose is to distract the revolution of an educated society. Starting a year on a backfoot is not good for our students, especially after dealing with the impact of COVID-19 on education, and now they are propelled yet to another pandemic of being precluded from the gains of democracy.

Capricorn TVET Colleges are public institutions; and we call on the management not to run them like their own homes. The EFF will take the necessary action to make sure that the academic activities resume at the affected campuses.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Can we call for a seconder to the motion? Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Managa Lilian, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Tinyiko Manganye. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE NEED FOR THE HOUSE TO AUGMENT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO ENSURE
THE OPTIMISATION OF ALL FUNDS ALLOCATED FROM THE FISCUS**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move a motion without notice that this House notes that now more than ever that it needs to augment its responsibilities to ensure the optimisation of all funds allocated from the fiscus to safeguard the people of Limpopo against the potential impacts of economic livelihood against the effects of the global economy and the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Further notes that the war in Ukraine poses hardships for households, the agricultural sector and food security due to the rising costs of fuel, fertilisers and food. It also notes that currently 3,32 million people in Limpopo are unemployed and are desperately looking for an alternative to joblessness and hunger.

It is the responsibility of this House to hold the executive accountable to ensure that the quality of life improves for all in the province, despite the failing global economy.

Finally, notes that it is paramount to encourage foreign and domestic investments, address poor governance and focus on improving and addressing the province's infrastructure backlogs by accelerating this programme.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Can we call for a seconder to the motion? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Hon Speaker, I rise to second the motion as read by Hon Smalle. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. I call upon Hon Maseko.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE WELCOMING OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE REHABILITATION OF ROAD
D11 IN THE GREATER LETABA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**
(Motion without Notice)

The ANC is encouraged by the progress that government is doing on the rehabilitation of road D11 in the Greater Letaba Local Municipality. This road is one of those roads in an extremely bad condition and not user-friendly.

Based on its state, the provincial government had to commission an urgent rehabilitation initiative on it as it was negatively affecting the flow of traffic on that busy road. As things stand today, the project is now at 65%, and we expect the project to be completed as soon as possible. The total stretch to be rehabilitated, Hon Speaker, is 10 km. However, because of budget constraints, government had to only work on 6 km as the first phase, and the remainder (i.e. 4 km) will be completed once funds are available.

We want to welcome the endeavours of government for working tirelessly to resolve the infrastructure challenges on the many provincial roads that are having adverse effects on the delivery of goods and services between communities.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Can we call for a seconder to the motion? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand on behalf of the majority party to second the motion by Hon Maseko.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? 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

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE FAILURE OF LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN COLLECTING REFUSE
IN MAHLAKUNG INFORMAL SETTLEMENT**
(Members' Statement)

The Lephalale Local Municipality is failing to collect refuse in Mahlakung informal settlement, which is surrounded by refuse. It is so bad that it seems as if Mahlakung is in the middle of a landfill site. The residents of Mahlakung complain that the refuse skips are not emptied regularly and that the refuse truck does not even come once a month to collect the rubbish.

To exacerbate this matter, Mahlakung is situated next to Ellisras District Hospital, and the management has complained numerous times not only about the stench but also about the powder of rubbish. The Democratic Alliance had reported this environmental hazard to the Community Services Department to no avail.

On Saturday, 26 March 2022, the DA cleaned part of the informal settlement to enable children to play in an unpolluted area. This House should find it unacceptable that the dignity of the residents of Mahlakung has been compromised.

Hon Speaker, can the MEC of CoGHSTA please explain to this House why the Lephalale Local Municipality is disregarding not only the NEMA (National Environmental Management Act), but also the Constitution by seriously infringing on the dignity of the residents of Mahlakung? Further, he must explain what his department would do to ensure that this rubbish dump is cleaned, the pollution of the environment is reversed, and the dignity of the residents is restored.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further Members' Statements? Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

**THE SADDENING NEWS ABOUT THE PASSING OF MR JEFFREY CHAUKE DUE
TO NEGLIGENCE BY MALAMULELE HOSPITAL**
(Members' Statement)

The EFF is concerned about the allegations that Mr Jeffrey Chauke was neglected since his arrival at Malamulele Hospital on Sunday, 27 March 2022. At around 17:00, Mr Chauke's nephew by the name of Dennis requested an ambulance at Malamulele Hospital to come and fetch his uncle at Mapapila village in Malamulele. Sadly, the ambulance arrived very late, between 08:00 and 09:00 at night.

Mr Chauke was set to receive his COVID-19 test at Malamulele Hospital before his departure to Mankweng Hospital, where he was referred to receive further management for his condition.

The EFF learnt that Mr Chauke was not admitted on arrival on Sunday but left to sleep on the wheelchair unattended at the administration hall and without a proper medical treatment. The patient was unable to eat; he was unable to talk; and he was in severe pain.

The purpose of his admission was to transfer him to Mankweng Hospital for further management; but because of hospital negligence, the poor man let a person to wheel him to the ambulance the following morning.

We are unequivocally condemning this heartless behaviour of our staff members who could not carry out their primary responsibility of taking care of the patients. Mr Chauke has an established record at Malamulele Hospital.

Therefore, EFF, on behalf of the family, calls upon the Limpopo Department of Health to institute an investigation into the negligence of Mr Chauke. The EFF is of the view that this is a violation of Mr Chauke's right to have access to healthcare services as his basic human right, which is guaranteed by section 27 of the Constitution of the country.

We call upon the MEC to investigate this matter and hold those who are responsible for Mr Chauke's suffering accountable. It is with great sadness to inform this august House that the poor man took his last breath yesterday. As EFF, we send our heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr Chauke.

I so move, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONCERN OVER THE STOPPAGE OF TEACHERS' INCENTIVES BY LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (Members' Statement)

The withdrawal of the policy on improving conditions of service for the educators employed in terms of the Employment of Educators Act, 1998: Teachers' incentives with effect from 01 April 2020. The Limpopo Education Portfolio Committee's report stated that only 17% of the targeted 60% of teachers showed the requisite competencies in the subjects they offer, also noting the lack of suitable qualifying teachers in Mathematics and Science with only 18% of our learners achieving 50% mark or more.

What were the circumstances that led to the decision to withdraw the payment of the incentives? What would be the direct impact on the learners and the quality of education within our province? What would be the direct impact on the current 6 000 teachers in our province, mostly teaching in the lower quintile schools? Was the policy abused by the educators in our province? If so, was there any investigation completed that gave sanction to this disciplinary process? What has been the feedback in reaction to the teachers' union and affected educators with regard to the decision to stop these incentives?

I thank you, Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further Members' Statements before we call on the EXCO to respond? If there is none, can we request that we rise and observe a moment of silence?

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. Hon Makamu will respond to the first statement about refuse removal in Lephalale. Why are they laughing at you, Hon Makamu?

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to respond on the issue raised by Hon Phala about the constitutional obligation of our local governments, with specific reference to Lephalale Local Municipality in relation to the collection of refuse in a village called Mahlakung.

It is true, Hon Speaker, that in terms of the objectives of local government, section 152 also talks about this responsibility. It should, however, be understood that the resources that we always have as municipalities do not allow us to cater for all the areas that we are given, specifically refuse removal. As the provincial government, we are busy supporting our municipalities to make sure that they render services as it is the constitutional right of communities to receive these services. I will personally work with the municipality to see what is it that could best be done for the community of Mahlakung so that the environment where young people are playing should be clean and a proper environment.

Hon Speaker, I should also, on behalf of the MEC for Health, join you in observing the moment of silence on the passing of Mr Chauke. This is a serious matter, and I will take the responsibility and share with my colleague and indicate that a thorough investigation

with the view of improving will be done so that our communities do not experience the same problems that Mr Chauke had to go through.

As government, we feel sorry for Mr Chauke's family and we take this matter on a serious note. Hon Speaker, we will discuss with our colleague and make sure that we improve our services.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. MEC for Education, you are the last one.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. In response to the statement presented by Hon Smalle on the withdrawal of rural incentives, this policy was introduced by the national Department of Basic Education, and we were paying as a province, albeit it was an unfunded mandate. And we were not getting a refund from the national department. Unfortunately, the funds dried up during the process. Besides, this policy was abused, because it did not cover all the schools in rural areas. This benefit also belonged to a person and not necessarily a school. For instance, if an educator is appointed at a rural school to teach Mathematics, and then gets a post at a township or town school, that educator moves along with the rural allowance. Unions complained, and after thorough consultations with the SGBs, it was decided that it should be withdrawn or else subject the policy for a review to strengthen it. You asked if it was done in terms of consultation; and I would say 'Yes'. It has since been withdrawn because was discriminating – it did not cover everybody – and was not used for what it was intended for.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

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

We now go to the tabling of the 2019/20 section 47 Report on the Performance of Municipalities in the province and call upon Hon Makamu to take the podium.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR 2019/20**

(Tabling of a Report)

In terms of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000) section 47(1), the MEC for local government must annually compile and submit to the provincial legislature a consolidated report on the performance of the municipalities in the province. Section 47(2) further indicates the report must: (i) identify municipalities that underperformed during the year; (ii) propose remedial action to be taken; and (iii) be published in the *Provincial Gazette*.

Hon Speaker, in line with the provisions of the abovementioned legislation, I hereby table the 2019/20 Report on the Performance of the Municipalities in the Province for consideration by this august House.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. The Second Reading of the presentation of Budget Votes and Schedules of Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022

We shall now call upon the MEC for Education, Hon Boshielo, to present the Budget Speech. Hold on, MEC, there is a hand, let's wait. Hon Matibe, you are recognised.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, chairperson. On the tabling of committee reports, there is a Report on Public Administration and I do not know if it has been captured there?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

It is not on the Order Paper, Hon Matibe. Honourable MEC, you can proceed.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We were struggling on Tuesday referring go Hon Monama as "Madam Speaker". You must pardon us when we say "Madam Speaker".

THE BUDGET SPEECH FOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Address by Ms S P Boshielo, MEC for Education)

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, honourable colleagues in the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial Legislature, the leadership of the African National Congress, the leadership of the opposition parties, stakeholders in education, Director-General in our province, Heads of Department, Head of the Limpopo Department of Education, members of the media fraternity, ladies and gentlemen, comrades and compatriots, it is a great honour and privilege to deliver the 2022/23 Budget Vote 3 for the Limpopo Provincial Department of Education. The department will reflect on the successes and progress made towards achieving our set objectives as contained in the 2021/22 Budget Vote.

During the 2022 State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa rightfully pointed out how hard it has been for our learners in the last two academic years: “For the last two years, the education of our children and young people has been severely disrupted. As we return to normal educational activity, we will work harder to ensure that all learners get the quality education they need and deserve.”

The unprecedented loss of teaching and learning time is well-documented and we have to get going in a manner that will see us achieving better learner outcomes across the system. As a department, we are making a clarion call to every stakeholder in the education sector including our communities to play their part in supporting our efforts to deliver quality education in the province.

Our Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, in his State of the Province Address for 2022 has clearly said in no uncertain terms: “Education is the backbone of economic growth, development and prosperity. It is in this context that as government, our task is to ensure that access to education, particularly basic education, is not unnecessarily impeded.” The department agrees fully with the Premier that the sector cannot afford impediments as a result of disruptions for whatever reason. Every day should be made to count towards full teaching and learning in our schools.

In the 2021 Budget Vote, we indicated that the education sector has adopted the Early Childhood Development (ECD) as one of its six priorities. We also indicated that the process to shift the ECD function is well on course. The department is happy to report that tremendous progress has been made with respect to the relocation of the ECD function from the Limpopo Department of Social Development (LDSD) to the Limpopo Department of Education (LDoE). The proclamation of the function shift was first signed by the President and subsequent to that the Premier of our province also signed it. This proclamation gives legal effect to the transfer of the administration, powers and functions entrusted by legislation from MEC for Social Development to the MEC responsible for Education with effect from 01 April 2022, which is tomorrow – and it is not April fool, Hon Speaker. The proclamation was translated into 6 official languages in the province.

The ECD function was officially handed over by the MEC for Social Development, Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale, to the MEC for Education on 17 March 2022 after thorough consultations between the two departments. By tomorrow, 01 April 2022, the functions will officially be in the Department of Education. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Limpopo Department of Social Development under the leadership of MEC, Hon Christian

Rakgoale and HOD, Desmond Mahopo, for their cooperation and leadership in the smooth shifting of the function. Re a leboga, Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale.

Hon Speaker, in the coming years, the basic education sector will focus on implementing strategies to improve ECD provisioning which covers the strengthening of the National Curriculum Framework and thereby ensuring early learning for all our children in our province from birth to five years. In this financial year, the department has allocated an amount of R15 million to continue with the provisioning of outdoor equipment to promote the play-based learning methodology. Re tla be re namela mezwinki. Le se ke la re makalela.

In strengthening our foundation during 2021/22 financial year, the department conducted reading, creative writing and mathematics competitions for Grades 2 and 3. The programme started at the school level, then circuit, district until the finals at the provincial level. Prizes were awarded to positions 1, 2 and 3 for learners who reached the finals.

Advocacy on Reading Plan has been conducted to officials in the ten education districts to promote reading in our schools. The main goal is to ensure that learners are able to read for meaning with comprehension for understanding and enjoyment. The department has also procured storybooks for Grades R–2 to strengthen reading for pleasure. In this financial year, we are going to provide storybooks for Grade 3 learners in both home language and English in quintile 1–3 schools. We want each school class to have a corner library, hence the supply of these storybooks.

Hon Speaker, in promoting reading for pleasure, the department has through the second phase of the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, appointed and trained 3 646 reading champions. The champions support schools in the establishment of reading clubs, resuscitation of classroom reading corners, organising of reading activities, and in the planning and organisation of reading activities such as World Read Aloud Day on 2 February 2022 every year.

Schools took part in reading, dramatising, and creation of poems from the 2022 storybook titled A party at the park. To further promote reading for pleasure, 360 teacher mentors were trained on the formation and support of reading clubs, and 13 schools are actively participating in this programme.

Hon Speaker, in the 2021 National Senior Certificate results, the province's performance declined by 1,5% from 68,2% in 2020 to 66,7% in 2021. In 2021, 105 101 candidates wrote the 2021 NSC exams. Out of the 105 101 candidates who wrote, 70 124 passed the examinations. Out of these, 28 072 obtained bachelor passes as compared to 22 907 in 2020. About 23 533 learners obtained diploma passes as compared to 18 588 in 2020. Candidates that obtained Higher Certificates are 18 516 as compared 12 134 in 2020. Three candidates obtained National Senior Certificates. To manage this underperformance, the department annually identifies, as regulated by section 16(a) and 58(2) of the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act 84 of 1996) underperforming public schools.

These are schools that failed to obtain 65% and having less than 30% bachelors and diplomas passes combined in the National Senior Certificate examination. The schools that have been declared as underperforming are provided with notices and are expected to indicate through the development of the Academic Performance Improvement Plans (APIP) how they are going to improve their performance.

The department has conducted accountability sessions with underperformed and declined districts, circuits and chronic underperforming schools. Chronic underperforming schools are schools which failed to achieve 65% over the period of five years. These accountability sessions provided the department with opportunities to identify key areas that are contributing to underperformance. Furthermore, these districts, circuits and schools were provided with differentiated support on how to improve learning outcomes in lower grades. In order to improve school functionality across the system, the department will reposition and institutionalise Whole School Evaluation.

Hon Speaker, the performance in the 2021 NSC examinations necessitated the Limpopo Provincial Executive Council, under the leadership of our Premier, to take a decision to convene a Stakeholder 2022 Provincial Education Indaba. The indaba took place on 10 March 2022 where the intervention plan was adopted to improve learning outcomes across the system. The stakeholders undertook and signed a declaration to support the department in implementing the measures as agreed in the intervention plan. The indaba also agreed that progress reports should be assessed periodically in order to intervene where there is a need to put the Limpopo province on a path to educational excellence. The indaba agreed on the following intervention pillars:

- Enhance quality of instructional leadership;
- Optimise teacher utilisation and deployment;
- Maximise creation and delivery of strengthened support systems;
- Maximise provision of learner support services;
- Strengthen assessment practices; and
- Enhance efficiency and effectiveness of blended delivery modes.

In his 2019 State of the Nation Address, His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa said: “Our greatest challenge is to create jobs for the unemployed of today, while preparing workers for the jobs of tomorrow. Our young people need to be given a real head start in the world of work.” Our Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, in his 2019 State of the Province Address equally emphasised: “Education remains a vital key to unlocking opportunities for the future. Educating and training young minds is an investment into the future of our province and our country.”

Informed by this injunction, the department has embarked on a process of resourcing and bringing back the glory days of our eight agricultural schools in our province. The department in collaboration with the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development identified critical areas that will improve the implementation of agricultural programmes in our province.

The agricultural schools are Mandela Barloworld, Merensky, Tshipakoni, Dimani, Kuschke, Harry Oppenheimer, Settlers and Kheto Nxumalo. In the 2021/22 Budget Vote, the department committed to resourcing these agricultural schools as a focal area for the province. The department has conducted needs assessments and audit of infrastructure and we will start in this financial year to address some of the challenges. The main aim is to train young farmers who will venture in the field of agriculture, as one of the key economic pillars of the province.

In 2021, the department identified mining as one of the major economic activities sustaining livelihoods in the province. We also indicated that learners completing Grade 12 at our technical high schools are well-prepared to further their studies at higher education institutions where they can obtain their mining qualifications.

In this regard, the department is happy to announce that the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, and the Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, attended a sod turning ceremony of the launch of the Sekhukhune Skills Development Centre at Aquaville Section in Groblersdal town, Sekhukhune District on 21 October 2021. The construction of this centre, which includes a mining academy, has commenced and is at an advanced stage. The three-mining focus high schools that the department plans to construct in Sekhukhune, Mogalakwena and Mopani will be feeders to this centre. This will assist in equipping our learners with relevant skills required by the mining sector in our province, as one of the key pillars identified to grow our economy.

In 2021/22 the department decided to resuscitate the 16 former Dinaledi Schools to increase the performance of Maths, Science and Technology in the province. In this financial year, the department will continue with the programme of focusing on these gateway subjects. In that regard, we have also introduced Dinaletsana, which are primary school feeders to Dinaledi Schools in our quest to increase learner participation, interest and excellence in Maths, Science and Technology from a young age.

Currently, the department has 51 Dinaledi Secondary Schools, 32 Dinaletsana Primary Schools and 24 technical high schools. This will ensure that the province addresses the goals and objectives of the National Development Plan.

Hon Speaker, it should be noted that schools in the conditional grant have been supported by providing smart classroom equipment including smart interactive boards, tablets, data projectors and laptops during the 2021/22 financial year. Moreover, most will be retained during the coming financial year in order to strengthen the support further while few new schools will be included.

Several teacher training sessions were organised targeting both the content and methodology in the MST subjects. Learners from these schools were supported through winter residential camps and other means. Furthermore, learners were registered for participation in various Olympiads and competitions.

In the last financial year, the department announced that a two-pronged approach will be followed in rolling out the e-Learning strategy. The first approach was successfully

implemented through the launching of the smart classrooms in 106 Maths, Science and Technology (MST) schools with the software that is intended to revolutionise teaching and learning in the province. An analysis of the Grade 12 results in these schools indicate that the performance of learners has increased by on average 5% in these gateway subjects.

The second approach was the provisioning of tablets to learners and laptops to teachers in selected schools in the province. The department is pleased to announce that 24 600 tablets for learners and 3 173 laptops for teachers in Grades 1 and 8 have since been procured and delivered. The tablets will enable learners to have access to zero-rated educational websites and a learning platform.

The interactive learning platform will also enable teachers to prepare and deliver lessons, give assignments and interact with learners on the platform. The teachers will also be able to mark the assignments on the platform electronically and provide feedback to learners instantly.

For the 2022/23 financial year, an amount of R312,7 million has been allocated for this programme. This amount consists of a special allocation of R100 million from the Provincial Treasury and R212,7 million from the equitable share of the department. As we get more funding, the department will accelerate the provisioning of tablets and laptops to schools, prioritising quintiles 1–3.

The department is committed to conducting advocacy and mobilisation campaigns targeting out of school learners with barriers to learning and disability to ensure access and participation for all.

Hon Speaker, inclusive schools are premised on strong pedagogical knowledge and skills. In that regard, the department has orientated 100 educators, SMTs and subject advisors on inclusion, curriculum differentiation, accommodation, and concession geared towards the meticulous implementation of Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support (SIAS) Policy, which is the cornerstone of proper learner profiling. Further to that, the department has completed the first draft of the SIAS practical guide to institutionalise inclusion across the curriculum, which will be taken for consultation and inputting by social partners.

In its quest to improve learning, the department has decided to exploit the virtual and digital platforms in the teaching and learning for learners with disability by allocating R13 million with which we procured assistive technologies for blind and deaf learners. These assistive devices were fully provided for all blind learners in the following six special schools offering academic programmes, namely: Setotolwane, Rivoni, Letaba, Bosele, Siloe and Tshilidzini. In the 2022/23 financial year, the department has allocated another R13 million to fully provide assistive technologies for learners with low vision and those who are partially sighted.

Hon Speaker, the department is continuing with its drive to recruit new entrants to the teaching profession by ensuring that educators below the age of 30 years are prioritised for appointment. The Limpopo department, Funza Lushaka and NSFAS bursary schemes

continue to be an impactful pipeline for the supply of educators for scarce skills subjects. In 2021/22, the department appointed 1 176 teachers who are 30 years and below, 359 of which came from the bursary schemes. The number for new recruits for this academic year is 602 bursary holders, who will be appointed in schools in need – funds permitting, MEC for Provincial Treasury.

The national Department of Basic Education is finalising a Teacher Development Model that will exploit a network of new District Teacher Development Centres (DTDC) and Provincial Teacher Development Institute (TDI). The objective of the programme is to intensify Teacher Development Programmes in our province. The training model will exploit the blended mode of delivery to ensure extended coverage and quality of Teacher Development Programmes.

The department is currently rolling out a School Management and Leadership Programme that aims to prepare the future school principals. We are pleased to share that we have enrolled 200 school departmental heads and deputy principals with higher learning institutions in the province on an Advanced Diploma in School Management and Leadership. This programme will enable school departmental heads and deputy principals to participate in the succession plan which is key to school functionality.

During the 2022/23 financial year, the department has budgeted R93 million for the training and development of its employees. This will be used to offer bursaries to 1 980 of its officials and educators. The budget will also be used for payment of stipends to interns who are appointed as part of government's plan to offer young people experience in the workplace.

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.

In order to ensure that our schools remain learning centres, the department has established a Provincial Consultative Forum (PCF) which provides a platform for engagements with the Association of School Governing Bodies and the South African Principals Association (SAPA).

In 2021, the department inaugurated all newly elected school governing bodies who are provided with induction and training on their roles and responsibilities as required by section 19 of the South African Schools Act of 1996, as amended.

In the 2022/23 financial year, we will work together with various stakeholders to salvage and make the academic year a success by resuscitating provincial and districts Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC) structures in collaboration with the provincial Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC).

The South African Schools Act requires that all public secondary schools must establish Representative Council of Learners (RCLs). As a way of ensuring that our schools are effective in 2022/23, we have planned RCL conferences wherein the focus will be on their roles and responsibilities, including debates on aspects such as bullying, sexual abuse,

impact of 1976 June 16 in our lifetime, just to name a few. The department believes that full implementation of RCL activities and consultative forums will improve the functionality of our schools and contribute towards improved learner performance.

The Norms and Standards Programme has been allocated a total amount of R2,553 billion, of which R1,787 billion is for running costs and transfers to schools for quintiles 1 – 3 public ordinary schools and R745,981 million is for Learner and Teacher Support Material (LTSM). Included in the allocation is an amount of R20 million for exemption fee to cater for learners attending schools in quintiles 4 and 5.

We are pleased to inform this august House that the department is complying with minimum amounts payable to each learner in public schools as gazetted by the Minister of Basic Education. The 2022/23 allocation is funded at 100%.

Quintiles 1 – 3 No-fee threshold is R1,536.00 per learner, whilst on quintiles 4 and 5 we will be paying R770.00 and R266.00 per learner respectively. With regard to small schools, there is a national fixed amount of R35 598.00 per school.

During this financial year, the department will continue to procure LTSM which includes textbooks and scholastic stationery for all public, ordinary and special schools. Storybooks and readers will be procured for Grade R – 2 as part of the reading strategy. The department will further procure readers and storybooks for improvement and establishment of reading corners as we said earlier.

The wellbeing and safety of our learners is of uppermost importance in everything that we do in the department. Schools are supposed to be safe havens for learners. It is against this exposition that we must make education a societal matter wherein communities are called upon to actively assume their citizenry responsibilities. The department is implementing the School Safety Policy and programmes towards the realisation of these objectives.

During October 2021, the Department of Basic Education conducted an Anti-Bullying and Anti-Substance Abuse Campaign through a jamboree event in Sekhukhune East District at Marwale Primary School, after officially launching the campaign in Gauteng in May 2021. The event was attended by over a thousand people including different provincial and national departmental officials, educators, learners, SGBs, parents, social partners and members of civil society.

Hon Speaker, there has been a need for the department to strengthen provision of psychosocial support services in schools. During the current financial year, we provided psychosocial support services to 2 600 learners through individual and group counselling sessions and for some it was referrals. Debriefing sessions were conducted to 5 155 learners who were exposed to traumatic incidents. There were six awareness campaigns conducted on bullying and child abuse across the province.

The training of 584 School-based Support Teams (SBSTs) was conducted on provision of psychosocial support to learners in schools. Training of 1 762 child and youth care workers in public ordinary and special schools was done. These are youth appointed

through the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative to provide psychosocial support to learners.

Hon Speaker, the In-School Sport, Arts and Culture, Social Cohesion and Equity in education has for the past years been implemented across the schooling system. Its overriding objective is to promote physical education, provide recreation and ultimately inculcate the habit of promoting active citizenry. This programme encourages tolerance of different cultural practices, views and generally promotes social cohesion in different communities. All the programmes were halted since March 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. Since the opening of schools in the academic year January 2022, learners are participating in specific codes as gazetted by the Minister of Basic Education, Hon Angie Motshekga. The department is looking forward to the full participation of our learners in all sporting codes due to the relaxation of the COVID-19 regulations that are in the pipeline. This will be done in partnership with the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

The social sector Extended Public Works Programme Grant (EPWP) contributes towards the alleviation of poverty, addresses inequality and temporarily reduces unemployment. In the 2022/23 financial year, a budget of R18,354 million is allocated. The department, through this grant, will continue to appoint 595 beneficiaries in the province. The following appointments will be made in various institutions: 433 school-based monitors, 18 administrative assistants, 6 ECD toy librarians; 133 ECD Pre-Grade R practitioners and 3 Data Capturers. These posts are provided to enhance school functionality.

The department implements the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) with the aim to improve the health and nutritional needs of learners from public ordinary schools in quintiles 1–3 and special schools. The NSNP provides learners with nutritious meals for a specific number of school days over a year in order to alleviate hunger, access to education and to contribute to the enhancement of the learning capabilities. Since the implementation of the NSNP, learners' retention and punctuality levels have been positively recorded.

In the 2022/23 financial year, the programme will serve meals to learners in 3 601 public ordinary quintile 1–3 primary, secondary and 35 special schools. The department will also appoint 10 460 voluntary food handlers, which is an increase from the previous financial year. An amount of R1,530 billion is allocated for the National School Nutrition Programme, that is the feeding scheme.

The Learner Transport Programme is one of the access programmes aimed at providing deserving learners with transport to school. These learners who travel 5 km or more single trip to school, are the ones that qualify for Learner Transport Programme. The province has covered a range of areas in this regard as the number of learners to be transported to schools keep on increasing while the MEC for Provincial Treasury is not increasing the budget. In the 2021/22 Budget Vote, we mentioned that the department provided learner transport to a total of 47 276 learners across the province. The number of learners, coming from 476 schools, has since increased from 47 276 to 56 694 learners in the 2022/23 financial year. The programme assists in reducing absenteeism and late coming amongst school going learners.

In the last Budget Vote, we mentioned that the department started delivery of sanitary towels to indigent girl learners in quintiles 1–3 public ordinary and special schools. In the 2021/22 financial year, R34,042 million was allocated to the department for this programme. About 2,3 million packs of sanitary towels were procured and distributed to 195 000 girl learners in quintiles 1–3 public ordinary and special schools. The department officially launched the Limpopo Sanitary Dignity Programme on 04 March 2022 at Tshivhase Secondary School in the Vhembe East Education District. In this financial year, an amount of R35,345 million has been allocated for this programme which is an increase, and we thank the MEC for Provincial Treasury for that.

Hon Speaker, 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 Programme 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 2021/22 financial year, a total of 170 learner support agents (LSAs) were appointed and placed to high burden schools to make interventions to learners' barriers to teaching and learning. An additional 10 social workers were appointed on a two-year fixed contract and placed at each of the 10 education districts. Their role was to support LSAs placed at the schools and to make direct interventions in the schools that were not amongst the identified high burden schools. The HALS programme managed to train 124 circuit managers on HIV policies including Care Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) and the newly approved Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in Schools. In this financial year, R26,875 million has been allocated for this programme.

Hon Speaker, the department has successfully implemented phase 2 Presidential Employment Youth Initiative (PYEI) intervention. Youth between the ages of 18 and 35 years were appointed in all public ordinary and special schools on a five-months fixed contract from 01 November 2021 and ending on 31 March 2022. It is our pleasure to share with this House that PYEI will be implemented in phase 3 which starts from tomorrow 01 April 2022 to 30 August 2022. The PYEI thus remains a large-scale public employment intervention, wherein 38 429 youth categorised as education assistants and general school assistants will be appointed on a new five-months fixed contract. The appointed assistants will also be provided with the following training: Digital Literacy, Online National School Safety Framework and four ICT Modules, compulsory online Standard Protocol for COVID-19, just to name a few.

Hon Speaker, it is our pleasure to announce that even under these unfavourable economic conditions, the department has retained the educator post basket of 51 752 for the 2022 school academic year. This is to ensure that the quality of learning and teaching is not negatively affected by the current economic milieu.

It should be noted that the pressure related to educator provisioning remains. The increase in learner enrolment from 1 693 589 to 1 723 692 and the more participation by

learners in the technical and other gateway subjects has put a lot of pressure on the provisioning of educator posts. This has resulted in the rise of the learner-educator ratio, which in turn increased the average class size in all categories of our schooling system. Class size is among the important variables of quality teaching and learning.

As per the commitment made to strengthen school management teams, we are happy to report to the august House and the people of Limpopo that we advertised 4 064 posts for principals, deputy principals and departmental heads. Some posts were withdrawn and deferred due to the transfer of excess educators and the need to correct the curriculum requirements of the posts. Out of the 3 589 posts, 3 326 appointments were made. This means that 92,4% of the posts were filled. The residual posts will be advertised and filled in the 2022/23 financial year. This will help to stabilise our structures and systems at our schools.

We want to reiterate that the filling of these posts will enhance the capacity of the SMTs in driving curriculum management and school governance responsibilities. We, therefore, expect improved functionality and performance in our schools. The department has commenced with the induction workshops for all newly appointed principals, deputy principals and departmental heads on their roles, responsibilities and expectations.

Hon Speaker, we advertised and filled 36 posts to provide appropriate support to learners with severe to profound intellectual disability in special care centres and schools. These posts include speech therapists, occupational therapists, educational psychologists, physiotherapists and education specialists. However, we still have a backlog in terms of provisioning of professional and support staff to special schools which will remain a priority to be addressed.

The department has a high vacancy rate of support staff at circuits, districts and head office. The underlying reason for the rapid attrition rate is the problem of the ageing workforce in the department.

The department has reached a stage where, if this matter is not addressed, it will soon be incapable of supporting educational activities in our schools which is the imperative of our existence as a provincial department. The Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury are assisting the department to deal with this matter.

In the 2022 State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa said: "Government is introducing an innovative social infrastructure delivery mechanism to address issues that afflict the delivery of school infrastructure. The new delivery mechanism will introduce a special purpose vehicle, working with prominent development finance institutions and the private sector, to deliver school education infrastructure." Hon Speaker, we are quoting the President to illustrate the seriousness in which government is aware of the infrastructure challenges across the country and the work that is being done to address it.

It is against this background that the department is continuing to deliver infrastructure across the province. In this regard, the Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG) budget allocated in this financial year is R1,316 billion. The department has received an

additional allocation of R200 million from the provincial equitable share to renovate and refurbish 50 storm-damaged schools and another allocation of R15,879 million for ECD Infrastructure. The remaining R2 million is for the maintenance of office space. The total Infrastructure Development Budget amounts to R1,534 billion. This infrastructure budget will be utilised towards new and replacement of infrastructure; upgrading of existing infrastructure; refurbishment, rehabilitation and renovations of storm-damaged schools; as well as maintenance and repairs of existing infrastructure.

In the 2021/22 financial year, we are pleased to announce that the department was able to complete the upgrading and additions at the following nine schools: Tshilwavhusiku Special School, Driekop Secondary School, KK Monare Primary School, Kgoluthwana Secondary School, Radire Secondary School, Petamukanda Primary School, Rita Primary School, George Maragula Primary School, and Shorwane Primary School. Hon Speaker, the contractor for Rivoni Special School for the Blind has commenced with construction work. The physical progress on the project is currently sitting at 40%. The contractor is on course to complete the project well before the contracted completion date of 24 June 2024. The construction of the new Malamulele High School is well on course and will be completed in June 2022. The following schools are currently under construction and are scheduled to be completed in the 2022/23 financial year: Naledi ya Meso Secondary School, Alldays Primary School, Gidela High School, Marude High School, Mahlagaume Primary School, and Leduma Mahume Primary School.

In order to further improve teaching and learning conditions, the department is planning to undertake major upgrades and additions to 62 schools across the 10 education districts in the province in this new financial year. This investment will ensure major improvement of the teaching and learning environment particularly for schools in the rural areas. Contractors for 36 out of the 62 schools have already been appointed and are on sites. These schools will be completed in the 2023/24 financial year. The remaining 26 schools will have their contractors procured in the 2022/23 financial year. The planning phase of an additional 105 schools will commence in this financial year. The schools include the new Bendor and Greenside Secondary Schools which will go a long way in alleviating admission congestion in the city schools.

The planning of Asiphumelele in Sekhukhune South, Rethusheng and Setlolwane in Polokwane is in progress. Design process will be completed in this new financial year. Funds permitting, construction is scheduled to commence in the 2023/24 financial year, because we also take care of our special schools.

The department is currently implementing Water and Sanitation Programme to 215 schools using the in-house technical capacity. Out of the 215 schools, 211 schools have been awarded to contractors and 4 will be awarded in the next financial year. To this end 139 schools have been completed. Three contractors who were allocated 17 schools have been terminated due to poor performance. The remaining 55 schools are at various stages of construction and their completion is expected by the end of April 2022.

The department also wants to report to this august House that of the 300 schools which were allocated to DBE through the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE)

Programme, 246 have been completed and the remaining ones are at the various stages of completion.

The Executive Council has mandated the department to establish an Infrastructure Technical Resource Unit (ITRU) in order to enhance its capacity and to undertake some projects in-house. The unit is up and running and it has ushered in a new dawn of infrastructure delivery, that is why we are able to make progress in terms of sanitation. The department has embarked on a process to procure a panel of contractors to improve the turnaround time in reducing the backlog of school damages.

The department continued its history of excellent performance in the National Teachers Awards (NTA) competition. In 2021, the following teachers obtained first positions in the NTA Awards Competition, and we have invited them so that the House can recognise them:

- Mr Leuba Alfred Sokana in the Secondary School Teaching Category. You can just wave, Mr Sokana; [APPLAUSE]
- Ms Nkasana Sophia Matlapu in the S/hero Category; and [APPLAUSE]
- Dr Timothy Mbalati in the Kader Asmal Excellence Category. [APPLAUSE]

We applaud these educators for a job well done.

Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to present the 2022/23 Budget for Vote 3: Limpopo Department of Education. The total Budget for 2022/23 is R36,445 billion. This Budget is made up of Equitable Share amounting to R32,586 billion; Conditional Grant amounting to R3,163 billion; and Own Revenue amounting to R696,4 million. In terms of economic classification items, the allocation is broken down as follows:

• Compensation of Employees	: R26,924 billion;
• Goods and Services	: R3,955 billion;
• Transfers and Subsidies	: R4,359 billion; and
• Payment for Capital Assets	: R1,206 billion.

The compensation of employees makes up 74% of the total Budget. This percentage, however, increases to 82% when conditional grants are excluded, and it all goes to teachers.

It is worth mentioning that the COE of the department under equitable share is R26,830 billion. Of this amount, R24,423 billion, that is 91%, is for teachers' salaries. Included in the Budget are the following conditional grants:

- R1,530 billion for National School Nutrition Programme;
- R1,316 billion for Education Infrastructure;
- R18,858 million for Early Childhood Development;
- R49,721 million for Mathematics, Science and Technology;
- R34,451 million for Learners with Severe Profound Intellectual Disability;
- R26,875 million for HIV/Aids Life Skills Education;

- R18,354 million for EPWP Social Sector Incentive; and
- R2,702 million for Integrated EPWP programme.

Departmental priorities are allocated as follows:

• Independent Schools Subsidies Transfers to Schools	: R153,527 million;
• Public Special School Education Transfers to Schools	: R73,322 million;
• Scholar Transport	: R340,952 million;
• School Furniture	: R56 million;
• E-Education	: R312,718 million;
• COVID-19	: R333,738 million;
• Learner Attainment Strategy	: R101,133 million;
• Inclusive Education	: R15,420 million;
• Teacher Development	: R14,751 million;
• Education Management Information System (EMIS)	: R12,577 million;
• Library Services	: R5,802 million;
• Quality, Improvement, Development, Support & Upliftment Programme (QIDS-UP)	: R4,431 million;
• Systemic Evaluation	: R2,181 million;
• HRD System	: R1,297 million; and
• School Safety	: R1 million.

As I conclude, the department has and will continue to put necessary measures in place that will ensure that we work hard towards our targets. We will tighten monitoring and support systems in order 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; train 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.

Hon Speaker, we take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the support of the Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, whose leadership is always vital in the delivery of education in the province. No amount of words can ever be sufficient to thank him enough for his support even when the going is tough and when one wants to give up. The support from my colleagues in the Executive Council, I must single out the MEC for Provincial Treasury so that I get more. On matters of common interest and intervention, the wise counsel from the Portfolio Committee on Education under the leadership of Hon Violet Mathye. Their wise counsel and advice really keep us going. Indeed, your support is much appreciated.

We take this opportunity to thank our partners and key stakeholders in the education sector. These include learners, educators, parents, school governing bodies, teacher unions, learner formations, traditional leaders, religious leaders, our sponsors, the business community and community members at large.

We also want to thank the Head of Department, Mrs Onica Dederen, Senior Management, and the entire workforce of the department for the sterling work that you put in on a daily basis in the department's quest to deliver quality teaching and learning to more than 1,7 million learners who have been entrusted to us. It might not be easy, but I think Mrs Dederen, you are holding the fort. Your determination, dedication and commitment are appreciated, and we urge you to keep going. Together, we must continue to be hard at work to better the lives of our people through education and nothing else.

Let me thank my Chief of Staff, Mr Maseema, and all the staff in my office who are there at all times to ensure that we continue to provide the leadership and guidance that the department requires.

Lastly, let me thank the wind beneath my wings, "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 regard to official duties.

Let us all respect and protect the Right to Basic Education. In all that we do, it should remain a societal issue that put the interest of learners first. Please remember, every child is a national asset.

Hon Speaker, I hereby table the 2022/23 Budget Vote 3: Department of Education. Education is a societal matter. Thank you very much. Re a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Boshielo, for the elaborate of Budget Speech. The Budget Speech for Vote 03: Department of Education is referred to the Portfolio Committee for Education for consideration and report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Seaparo Sekoati to present the Budget Speech 05: Provincial Treasury. Over to you, Hon Sekoati.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

THE BUDGET SPEECH FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

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

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou; the Premier of the province in his absentia, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; my colleagues in the Executive Council; Members of this august House; Head of the Department; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, I greet you all. It is my honour and privilege to present the 2022/23 Budget Vote 05: Provincial Treasury to this August House. The focus of the Provincial Treasury in the coming financial year will be to increase the monitoring and support to our municipalities, departments, and public entities to ensure that there is a greater improvement in compliance with PFMA, MFMA and other enabling policies and legislation. The Provincial Treasury has been allocated the Budget of R409,9 million for the 2022/23 financial year. The overall allocation for the department sees an increase

from R364,9 million in the 2021/22 financial year. The Budget will be distributed in line with the departmental economic classification as follows:

- Compensation of Employees : R303,3 million;
- Good and Services : R95,7 million;
- Transfers and Subsidies : R3,9 million; and
- Payment for Capital Assets : R7 million.

Hon Speaker, Compensation of Employees increases by 7% from R283,3 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R303,3 million in the 2022/23 financial year. The allocated funds will be used to fund identified critical vacant funded posts. Included in the COE is an amount of R10 million for Municipal Intervention Capacity.

Goods and Services budget also increased from R78 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R95,7 million in the 2022/23 financial year to strengthen support in institutions. The allocations include funding earmarked for Municipal Interventions and Infrastructure Capacity, Logistics Assets Module Implementation, Escalation on Contractual Obligations and other non-negotiable costs such as legal fees, departmental fleet running costs, renewal of software licenses and maintenance of software and subsistence allowance mainly for officials who are required to travel as and when they conduct their transversal unit functions in the five provincial districts.

Transfers and Subsidies allocation increases from R2,1 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R3,9 million in the 2022/23 financial year. The increase will mainly cater for payment for bursaries for existing external students registered with the institutions of higher learning, leave gratuity for employees who will retire from the public services, municipal rates and taxes, as well as the vehicle license fees.

Payment for Capital Assets equally increases from R1,5 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R6,9 million in the 2022/23 financial year. The increases will cater mainly for procuring security equipment, systems and tools of trade for officials such as laptops.

Hon Speaker, our department is composed of five integrated divisions that ensure the implementation of the budget per our economic classifications and their allocations are as follows:

- Administration is allocated R175,8 million to provide effective and efficient strategic management, administrative support and sound management to the Provincial Treasury. The division comprises the following sub-programmes: MEC Support Services; Management Services; Corporate Services; and Financial Management Services.
- Sustainable Resources Management is allocated R69,9 million in order to inform the financial resource allocation, manage the provincial budget and support, and monitor provincial departments, municipalities and public entities for efficient and effective use of the province's fiscal resource.

Sustainable Resource Management is also responsible for analysing key economic variables within the province through economic research and their interrelations and relevance to the budget. This analysis helps in identifying the alternative budgeting, revenue and expenditure scenarios on selected key economic growth and social development indicators.

The division is responsible for providing advice and monitoring of municipalities and their entities in the implementation of the Municipal Finance Management Act. An amount of R10 million is, therefore, allocated for funding the Municipal Support Programme.

The province has eight municipalities with unfunded budgets resulting from either poor revenue collection, lack of necessary capacity delivery, inability to pay creditors and lack of good leadership. I am pleased to announce that these municipalities have been supported with the development of funding plans which are intended to turnaround their unfavourable funding position. We are constantly monitoring the implementation of those plans through dedicated bilateral engagements with municipalities with affected Mayors in attendance.

Ladies and gentlemen, as at the end of December 2021, we had noticed that at least 11 municipalities in the province had shown signs of financial distress and during our 2021 Municipal Mid-Year Budget and performance assessment engagements, we have resolved that our municipalities must address the capacity challenges, particularly the filling of key vacant funded positions and improve the revenue collection which is central to improving their financial performance.

To this end, five of these municipalities are already implementing financial recovery plans developed with the assistance of National and Provincial Treasury as well as CoGHSTA. These are legislated plans designed particularly for municipalities with deteriorating financial positions and under intervention through section 139 of the Constitution. We are collaborating with CoGHSTA and National Treasury to monitor the implementation of these plans.

Our public institutions also contribute towards the financial crisis of our municipalities by not paying for municipal services as well as rates and taxes on time. During the 2021/22 provincial adjustment budget, the province allocated an amount of R144 million to pay current and arear municipal rates and taxes charged by Makhuduthamaga Municipality and a further R121,5 million to pay municipal rates and taxes charged by other municipalities in the province.

In the 2022/23 budget, the province again made available additional amount of R150 million to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to pay current and arear municipal rates and taxes. We, therefore, trust that this allocation will go a long way in assisting the province to settle the municipal rates and taxes accounts on time. Hence, it will be equally important that municipalities ensure that their billings are correct to avoid incorrect billing disputes. In an effort to support, we have developed a system of reconciliation between the municipalities' valuation roll, and rates and taxes billing. The process is intended to improve the accuracy of rates and taxes billing and collection which should be in accordance with the general valuation roll of each municipality.

We are also supporting municipalities in the development of monitoring of Unauthorised Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure Reduction Strategy (UIFWERS). To this end, all municipalities are required to report monthly on progress made in the reduction of UIFW expenditures, including consequence management initiatives implemented by municipalities to recover municipal funds lost through UIFW expenditures.

We have held capacity-building programmes inclusive of councillors induction sessions which were conducted from November to December 2021. This was done in collaboration with other stakeholders in order to provide guidance to UIFW expenditure reduction measures and MFMA in general. Similar training will be done in the year ahead with Municipal Public Accounts Committees known as MPACs and Municipal Misconduct Boards.

With the 2020/21 municipal audit completed, out of 27 municipalities in the province, 4 have improved their audit outcomes, and are as follows: Waterberg District Municipality; Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality; Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality; and Mogalakwena Local Municipality. Nineteen municipalities also maintained their previous outcomes, whereas three municipalities regressed, namely:

- Capricorn District Municipality, which has moved out of their clean to unqualified audit opinion;
- Giyani Local Municipality, moved from unqualified to qualified audit opinion;
- Mopani District Municipality regressing unfortunately from qualified to a disclaimer.

I therefore wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Waterberg District Municipality for having achieved a clean audit outcome and to further convey my special gratitude to all municipalities that have improved their audit opinions in the year under review.

Hon Speaker, the technical infrastructure units in municipalities are faced with capacity challenges, hence Provincial Treasury initiated an Infrastructure Support Programme with Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC) so that our municipalities are capacitated with the requisite technical skills to effectively plan and efficiently deliver on infrastructure projects.

Provincial Treasury has also undertaken an assignment to diagnose the conditional grants and earmarked funding performance for provincial departments and entities in order to determine the required management tools and technical capacity to efficiently and effectively manage and improve their spending going forward.

Through this exercise, we noted that the challenges that are affecting the performance of conditional grants are cross-cutting and generic and cannot be deemed unique to a particular department. As a result, we came up with intervention measures in the mediate to improve the spending during the 2021/22 financial year and improve planning over the 2022/23 MTEF period.

Through the capacity-building initiatives and support of the Provincial Treasury, our departments came up with turnaround plans to improve performance in the current year, and the impact can be noticed in the improved expenditure during the fourth quarter. Based on the lessons learnt and cross-cutting challenges and experiences in the delivery of infrastructure during the current financial year, we saw it necessary to expedite the provincial infrastructure plans so that we are ready to implement when the 2022/23 financial year starts. We also assist departments with improving their User-Asset Management Plans and Infrastructure Programme Management Plans for the 2022/23 financial year.

However, it must be noted that the recent Constitutional Court judgment that found that the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act Regulations to be illegal will also have an impact on all procurement in the fourth quarter of 2022/23 financial year.

Our province is faced with a constrained fiscal position due to reduced national equitable share. This poor position leaves the provincial government with limited resources to address the socioeconomic needs of its citizenry. In order to address the fiscal challenges, the province developed the Provincial Revenue Enhancement Strategy to maximise our own revenue and augment the provincial revenue.

As at 28 February 2022, the province collected own revenue amounting to R1,302 billion or 93% of the revised target of R1,395 billion, and it anticipated collecting the aforementioned set own revenue target as at today, 31 March 2022. The provincial own revenue target for the 2022/23 financial year has increased from R1,481 billion from the 2021/22 financial year target of R1,458 billion and a further increase of R1,551 billion and R1,627 billion in 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years respectively, which reflect the average of increase 8,1% over the 2022 MTEF period.

The provincial government departments and public entities that generate more revenue above their own credible set target receive incentives in line with the Provincial Revenue Enhancement and Retention Strategy. Let us hope it will continue to encourage you to bring more, so that we can give you more.

Provincial Treasury thus plans to collect own revenue of R272,6 million in 2022/23 financial year growing to R298,3 million 2024/25 financial year, to which R272 million and R297,5 million of this own revenue collection in 2022/23 and 2024/25 financial years respectively will be from interests and on the positive provincial bank account balances.

Hon Speaker, the Provincial Compensation of Employees budget represents 68,6% of the 2022/23 financial year total budget and is allocated R50,757 billion in the 2022/23 financial year and R50,690 billion 2023/24 financial year, and R51,453 billion in the 2024/25 financial years. The increase of COEs in the province has been a concern over the past years and was over 70% of the total budget in 2016 and far exceeded the 60% the national norm, hence the Provincial Personnel Management Framework was introduced and approved by the Executive Council.

Provincial Treasury will continue to implement the Provincial Personnel Management Framework through the Provincial Personnel Management Committee (PPMC), which

manages and monitors the COE expenditure in all departments and public entities. Critical vacant posts are identified by the departments and public entities, and the approval is issued by the PPMC based on the availability of budget over the MTEF period.

I think I must emphasise this, Hon Speaker, that Provincial Treasury will continue to implement the Provincial Personnel Management Framework through the Provincial Personnel Management Committee (PPMC), which manages and monitors the COE expenditure in all departments and public entities. The critical vacant posts are identified by the departments and public entities, and the approval is issued by the PPMC based on the available budget over the MTEF and not the Provincial Treasury. I am emphasising this so that nobody comes and says the Provincial Treasury did not allow us to fill vacant posts and so on. It is the PPMC that does that and not the Provincial Treasury.

Since the introduction of the PPMC, the province has managed to maintain the CEO expenditure below 70% of the total budget. However, the province has a long way to go to reach the national norm of 60%, which has a huge impact on terms of developmental trajectory in the province.

Hon Speaker, Assets, Liabilities and Supply Chain Management receives an allocation of R48,3 million. This allocation will be utilised to provide policy direction and facilitate effective and efficient management of assets, liabilities, financial systems and Provincial Supply Chain Management Processes. The division will continue to strengthen the Assets Management, Cash Management Strategies and monitor the supply chain compliance by the departments and public entities

Financial Governance receives an allocation of R71 million, and this allocation will be utilised for the facilitation of sound financial management and financial accountability in the province through capacity-building, financial reporting and development of transversal financial policies.

The allocation in this branch will also be utilised to maintain and support all the provincial electronic financial processes and systems, implement the Logics Assets Module in all provincial departments, and provide IRFID support and professionalisation of the supply chain in the province. The allocation will be further utilised to support the oversight structures and bodies to ensure all departments and public entities implement the effective risk management and internal control process.

Internal Audit receives an allocation of R44,8 million, and the shared Provincial Internal Audit Unit enhances and protects the organisational value by providing risk-based audits and objective assurance advice and insight to all provincial departments. The allocated funds will be utilised to pay for the quality assurance review as well as for the travel and subsistence of officials when conducting the audit across the province.

Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, as the Provincial Treasury, we have the statutory task of allocating, monitoring, and managing the provincial coffers to ensure that they meet the developmental objective of the government and as enshrined in the Public Finance Management Act, 1999.

We will continue to be more vigilant in ensuring that public resources, particularly our limited financial resources, are spent economically, efficiently and effectively for the purpose intended as outlined in our respective Annual Performance Plans. I thank you. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. We just want to urge Members that even when they are happy with what the MEC is presenting, dancing in the Chamber is not allowed, Hon Makhurupetje. She was dancing here, and I don't know why she was dancing. Yes, it is not allowed.

The Budget Speech for Vote 05: Department of Provincial Treasury is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? Hon Maseko, you are recognised.

MR MASEKO

Thanks, Hon Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Maseko, we cannot hear you. Can we request you to come to the fore maybe? Hon Makhurupetje, can you have order, please. Re a go kgala, ga o mamele. We are calling you to order; you are not listening.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Members are invited to a lunch outside. Thanks.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko, for that.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Sitting is adjourned to Tuesday, 05 April 2022 – Hon Makhurupetje, the Sitting is still in session – at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 05 APRIL 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We will now have a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you, please be seated. Morning Members and guests and welcome to the session of the Limpopo Legislature today. To our brothers and sisters in the Muslim faith, we say Ramadan Mubarak. May Allah give you strength and patience to fast during the whole month of Ramadan, and may Allah bless you all in this holy month and grant you all Shiva, Amen!

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO BLACK COFFEE FOR WINNING A GRAMMY
AWARD**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes and congratulates Black Coffee on his first ever Grammy win for the Best Dance/Electronic Music Album Award at the Annual Grammy Awards. This is a great achievement and should be celebrated nationwide and it shows the immense potential that there is for music and artistry in the country. This historic victory should be a clarion call for our provincial government to put real substantial resources into the art space, as well as to offer more support and to nurture the talent we have in our province of Limpopo.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Moraka.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Anna Tandi Moraka, rise to support the motion that congratulates one of our own, Black Coffee, on the excellent [Inaudible] for winning the Grammy Award. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you for seconding. Are there any further motions without notice? I recognise Hon Mathe. Can I request that those who have got cell phones, they seem to be interrupting the system as the speaker speaks. If you could either put them far away from the mic or put them on silent.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE TEMPORARY RELIEF ON FUEL LEVY FOR MOTORISTS DUE TO THE INCREASE ON FUEL PRICES (Motion without Notice)

I, Simon Mathe, rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to welcome the temporary sought relief on fuel levy that is aimed at assisting citizens amidst the never-ending fuel price increases that are caused by the conflict in Russia and Ukraine. The negative impact has been hard felt by South Africans and this measure will go a long way in alleviating the impact exacerbated by a rise in food prices.

We applaud the government for moving with the required urgency to alleviate the burden on South Africans who are already hard-pressed by the tough economic conditions. We are also impressed with the move to have fuel retailers selling fuel at a cost that will be determined by themselves, competing against each other and not being regulated.

I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

A blessed good morning, Deputy Speaker and honourable Members. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the motion presented by Hon Mathe. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Are there any further motions without notice? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

UNITED NATIONS WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move that this House notes that we are within the World Autism Month that kicked off over the past weekend, 02 April, sanctioned by the United Nations as the World Autism Awareness Day. About 1 in 100 children have autism.

This House must further note that this month aims to take measures to raise awareness about persons with autism throughout the world. Autistic people are said to being often subjected to stigma and discrimination including unjust deprivation of healthcare, education and opportunities to engage and participate in their communities.

As Members of this House, we must join the rest of the world in observing the World Autism Month 2022, under the theme, "Inclusive Quality Education for All."

I so move.

THE DEPUTY 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 Phala.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I recognise Hon Radzilani.

MS RADZILANI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and a blessed morning to honourable Members of this august House and all the guests.

**THE ANC WISHES THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY WELL DURING THE MONTH OF
RAMADAM**

(Motion without Notice)

The ANC wishes the Muslim community well as it enters the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a period devoted to fasting, prayers and good deeds from dawn to dusk. The

practices of Ramadan are meant to purify oneself from thoughts and deeds which are counter to the Islamic faith. By removing material desires, one is able to focus fully on devotion and service to God. To the Muslim community, Ramadan is the time of reflection and worship as well as solidarity and compassion for those who are suffering. For Muslims, fasting teaches self-control, and shows devotion to promote empathy with the poor.

We wish all Muslims well over the fasting period.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as read by Hon Radzilani.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Nakedi, did you want to move? Or you wanted to second? Oh, okay, I thought you were raising a hand to move a motion. That is fine. Are there any further motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings Speaker, and greetings to the House.

**THE INCOMPETENCE OF THE LAND CLAIMS COMMISSION TO ASSIST THE
TALE GAMORUDU CPA
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes the incompetence of the Land Claims Commission to assist the Tale GaMorudu CPA to get their land back. Of the 18 portions of land that they have claimed, they have only managed to get 17 back through the willing-buyer willing-seller agreement. There are many similar cases in the province which remain unresolved because there is no political will to address the challenges faced by our people. In some instances, CPAs refuse to relinquish power while their term of office has lapsed, and the department is not doing anything to facilitate the election of the new CPAs.

Most of the CPAs that were elected in the new democratic dispensation are refusing to vacate office because of the resources they find on the farms or land. It is even worse because officials accept bribes from the sitting CPAs for them to continue staying in power. In the case of Tale GaMorudu CPA, the question that comes to our mind is why all of a sudden, the seller is not willing to sell that last portion? With the current situation of mushrooming mines, we are afraid the seller who is not the rightful owner of the land,

might be willing to settle for more over what the rightful owners are willing to settle for. The hopes and aspirations of our people are shattered by this action. Does it really mean that the black people are not supposed to own land in South Africa? The land that the settlers or sellers have the title deed for but do not have the proof of purchase.

It is for this reason that the EFF calls for expropriation of land without compensation. The ANC-led government does not protect the constitutional rights of our people.

I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Tinyiko Manganye, rise to second the motion presented by Hon Mohlala.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I recognise Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to object to the motion on the basis that the ANC respects the constitutional rights of our people. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The motion is objected to, then it falls off. Are there any further motions without notice? There is none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements? I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

DEATH OF A PATIENT AFTER BEING DISCHARGED AT KGAPANE HOSPITAL
(Members' Statement)

There was recently a report of a female patient who collapsed and died at the taxi rank near the hospital just moments after being discharged from Kgapane Hospital. The woman had reportedly been transferred from Sekgopo Clinic prior to her hospital stay at Kgapane Hospital. While the nature of the illness is unclear, the manner in which she passed just after leaving the hospital suggests that she should have been kept for longer and monitored in the facility. This incident is just an example of reports we receive of the standard of care at hospitals in the province. The issues range from ill-treatment of patients, medicine shortages, crowded facilities, lack of equipment and poorly maintained infrastructure.

Kgapane Hospital has 39 medical legal cases that amount to over R238 million. This suggests that the facility has institutional challenges that affect the quality of care that patients get.

May the MEC shed light on whether she is aware of this incident and the circumstances surrounding it? May the MEC also provide information on the main issues being experienced at Kgapane Hospital, what the vacancy rate at the hospital looks like? What is the department doing to address the issues at the hospital?

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further statements? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning to honourable Members, our support staff and guests.

ALLEGATIONS THAT FARMWORKERS ARE FORCED TO SHARE THE SAME GATE WITH BUFFALOS AT ZZ2 (Members' Statement)

The EFF has learned with shock on allegations that farmworkers are forced to share the same gate with buffalos at a farm owned by ZZ2 near Madimbo village, that is at Ward 8 in Musina Municipality under Vhembe District. This racist farmer poured water to the concern raised by farmworkers on this matter by saying that these wild animals are not dangerous. The EFF is condemning this racist action with the contempt it deserves because we view it as an exploitation of farmworkers and pushing the narrative that black lives are cheap.

It is for the same reason that the EFF has been calling for the expropriation of land without compensation so that we deal with this white arrogance. ZZ2 has occupied thousands of hectares of land than black people in this province against the fact that black people are majority in this province. Its founder, Bertie van Zyl has stolen our land, made good fortunes through the sweat and blood of our forefathers. Yet, his grandchildren today, continues to exploit our people and the ANC sees nothing wrong with this because they

worship whiteness. It is the same ZZ2 that has closed off the tributary rivers flowing into the Middle Letaba Dam for self-enrichment, while communities downwards the river continue to suffer from unbearable shortage of water.

The EFF had previously handed over a memorandum of demands to ZZ2 raising amongst others, the issues the exploitation of farmworkers. Up until today, ZZ2 is refusing to treat black people with dignity because he is not scared of the government and its laws. The EFF will up its game in fighting for the rights of black people and ensure that ZZ2 desist from exploiting farmworkers. We will not stand by and watch our brothers and sisters being exploited and racially discriminated by van Zyl.

The EFF calls upon ZZ2 to open the gate for workers to pass safely. Failure which, the EFF will mobilise communities and farmworkers to close his operations.

We further call upon the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development to investigate this matter and make sure that ZZ2 is held accountable for these evil deeds.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further Members' Statements? If none, can I ask the Leader of Government Business to respond.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I thought there were other Members you might have requested to respond. However, Chair, I think it is important to note the issues that have been raised by the EFF. Once again, I would like to request the EFF and other parties that if there is no substantial information on the matters that they are raising, they should not come and bring allegations into this House., It is so misleading that ZZ2 who is one of our industrialists in this province, who is contributing enormously to the economy of this province, from time to time, his name is being brought to this House with allegations that are non-existent. Previously, they brought this issue about the diversion of water and investigations were undertaken, and nothing was found.

Again, it should be noted that there are trade unions, and they are protected by the Constitution in this country. Only those that are trade unions should be allowed to deal with matters of the workers. I do not see any sense where the EFF as a political party would be running around in farms, and industrial factories to try and become a trade union. It is not a trade union, and it is an illegal act that that EFF is undertaking. It is illegal. So let us not create chaos in the workplaces and allow the trade unions that are legally allowed to deal with those issues in the farms, in the factories and so on. If there are issues, there is the Department of Labour. If you feel that workers are not being protected, they should be consulted, and they should be allowed that space to go and deal with those matters. The EFF is not a trade union.

Lastly, it is important for all of us in this province to ensure that we continue to support those who are contributing economically to this province. Some of us can go out and make noise but none of us are contributing to make sure that we create jobs, and we are able to contribute positively towards the growth of this economy.

It is people like ZZ2 and other industrialists who are making this province to work. It is ZZ2 and other industrialists who are creating jobs for people in this province. It is ZZ2 and other people who must be finding support from us who are responsible as legislators that are making laws. At all times we continue to say, let us create that enabling environment for people to come and invest in this province. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Kindly wrap up, honourable MEC.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

For us to be able to do that, part of that enabling environment is to ensure that all these people who are investing in this province are supported and protected so that our people are able to benefit and are able to get jobs in this province.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any Executive Statements? Order, order, Members!

MR SESHOKA

[inaudible]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, respect the House, please. Hon Seshoka! Honourable MEC, please. Hon Seshoka! Emang lena. Hon Seshoka! Hon Seshoka! Hon Seshoka! Hon Seshoka! Hon Seshoka, can you stand up please? Hon Seshoka, when the presiding officer calls you to order, you listen to the presiding officer. You do not disrespect the presiding officer and continue to scream and shout while I am saying please let us have order. I do not think you want to turn this House into chaos. We are not going there again. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Spokesperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You are repeating. Hon Selamolela and Hon Mathe, can you allow me to address Hon Seshoka?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

[inaudible]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

But you are the ones who want to create chaos. Can you allow me as a presiding officer to deal with Hon Seshoka? Hon Seshoka please, when we as the presiding officers try to run the House, we do not want anybody to be disruptive. We are trying to make sure that yourself and other Members respect this House and respect the presiding officers as we want to run this House smoothly. Thank you very much.

MR SESHOKA

Can I sit down?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, sit down. Hon Maharaj, you were up. No, Hon Maharaj, I recognised you.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On the point of order! It is just that there was no response to the Members' Statement that I read out from any of the MECs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Oh, the Health issue. Is there any Member of the Executive Council who wants to deal with that? I recognise Hon Mokone.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Hon Speaker, we take note of what Hon Maharaj has said about the incident in Kgapane Hospital. The matter will be referred to be relevant division and we will respond in due course because he wanted to know if we are aware of this incident and what have we done. In due course we will be deal with that. Thank you very much.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any Executive Statements? There is none,

6. TABLINGS OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports or other reports and papers? There is none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. Second Reading Presentation of the Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022

We shall now call upon the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon T Mokone to present the Budget Speech for Vote 6: Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

(Address by T A Mokone, MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism)

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; she is here, Deputy Speaker, [LAUGHTER] Hon Azwindini Jeremiah Ndou; Premier in absentia, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Provincial Legislature; colleagues from the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the majority party; leaders of opposition parties; chairpersons and members of the boards of our entities; fellow South Africans; ladies and gentlemen; good morning.

The country is reeling from the exciting pronouncement by the President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa last night, that South Africa is no longer in a State of Disaster. This brings welcome relief to the harsh economic conditions that we endured throughout the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic and will certainly pave the way to open up the economy to create the much-needed jobs and promote economic activity. We had to meet virtually to deliver the previous Budget Speech. Although this approach enabled us to be exposed to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, it however, denied millions of our people an opportunity to listen and engage with us, especially from far-flung rural areas.

Today we have the opportunity once again to meet as Members of this august House, led by the African National Congress, with a duty to the people of Limpopo. Communities have hope and confidence in us to turn things around for the betterment of their livelihoods, to resuscitate the provincial economy from the devastating impact of COVID-19 and to create the much-needed jobs. The provincial government, under the leadership of Premier Stanley Chupu Mathabatha will continue the implementation and monitoring of the Limpopo Socio-Economy and Recovery Plan to mitigate against the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods and businesses. We will build and industrialise this economy with our social partners and communities.

The war in Ukraine has come at a time when the world was expecting socioeconomic recovery from the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Limpopo, a total of 240 000 people has lost their jobs since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other structural impediments. According to Statistics South Africa, by the end of 2021, the number of people employed in the province was 1 145 000. The official unemployment rate in Limpopo is currently at 33.9% and we as the provincial government, must work hard to reduce this number to 14% in line with the 2020-2025 Limpopo Development Plan target.

The war in Ukraine continues to have a devastating impact on the global economy as growth projections are reviewed and revised downwards. Ukraine is the world's biggest producer of sunflower oil, while Russia is the biggest source of oil and gas. Indeed, the rise in global energy and cooking oil prices threaten global recovery efforts, especially for emerging economies like South Africa. However, we must not despair under the impression that everything looks gloom for South Africa and Limpopo. The latest report by Statistics South Africa show that the South African economy recorded a positive growth rate in the fourth quarter of 2021. The GDP grew by 1,2% in the fourth quarter, taking the annual growth rate of 2021 to 4,9%. Economic growth is the most powerful tool for reducing poverty, creating jobs and improving the quality of life for our people.

The implementation of the Limpopo Socio-Economic and Recovery Plan is in full swing, as a strategic intervention to deal with the impact of COVID-19 and resuscitating the provincial economy in the short-term, medium-term and long-term. The Socio-Economic and Recovery Plan was allocated a total amount of R503 million to fund short-term measures in the 2020/21 financial year. During the financial year 2022/23 onwards, the department will be implementing the long-term measures of the plan, which include amongst others, the industrialisation programme, implementation of sector master plans and support for entrepreneurship and enterprise development. In September 2021, the province hosted the Limpopo Investment Conference, under the leadership of Premier Mathabatha, an initiative that yielded investment pledges to the value of R208 billion.

As the Hon Premier said, we must now translate these commitments into tangible projects that create value and impact on the local economy. We must see construction taking place and jobs being created. We are proud to announce several investment pledges that are now being implemented on the ground. The Masingita Group has started with the construction of the Nkuna Smart City project with a total investment value of R1,5 billion and envisages to create 13 480 jobs during the construction and operational phases.

The mining industry is the mainstay of the Limpopo economy. In the quest to deal with conflicts in mining communities, the Premier directed that we host a Mining Indaba. Together with the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), Hon Gwede Mantashe, the province hosted the first ever Limpopo Mining Indaba in 2021. The indaba focused on the capacitation of traditional leaders. To that end, traditional leaders have been trained on mining regulations in March 2022. This will assist them to understand their responsibilities with regard to mining rights. The indaba further resolved that all mines that are under care and maintenance must be reopened. I am proud to report that two mines in Limpopo viz: Bakone and Cheetah SA have been reopened.

The indaba looked at the issue of illegal mining, which is a risk factor to mining activities in Limpopo and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy has been requested to strengthen the capacity of the security cluster to deal with illegal mining in Limpopo. A task team, comprising LEDET and DMRE, has been established to monitor the resolutions of the mining indaba and report back to the political structures on a quarterly basis.

During the State of the Province Address, the Premier emphasised that industrialisation of the provincial economy, through implementation of megaprojects in manufacturing, the agriculture and the tourism sectors continues unabated. The department is implementing high impact catalytic projects focusing on the Broadband Network Infrastructure Initiative, the science and technology park, digital hubs and two Special Economic Zones, namely, the Musina-Makhado SEZ and the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. LEDET will drive the implementation of the industrialisation programme in partnership with other departments in the economic cluster.

The long-awaited environmental authorisation for the south site of the Musina-Makhado SEZ has been issued. We are happy to announce that the sod-turning ceremony of the north site of the Musina-Makhado SEZ will take place in May 2022. The province has set aside R600 million to develop infrastructure for the north site of the Musina-Makhado SEZ over the MTEF period. Of this allocation, R38 779 000 has been spent to date on engineering work. The current year's budget allocation of R200 million will be utilised in this financial year to roll out security, water and electricity projects.

The implementation of the SEZ is progressing very well. In support of the SEZ work, we are working with the Border Management Agency to implement the One-Stop Border Post in an attempt to reduce delays at the border gate. This initiative is meant to support easy access to the SADC export market and the SEZ will benefit out of it. We believe that the SEZ in Vhembe should support the skills profile of the district. To this end, we have forged a partnership with the Vhembe TVET to relocate the engineering campus within the SEZ site. De Beers will support the graduates with on-the-job training.

We are once again proud to announce that we will soon break ground with the implementation of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone. We are finalising the business case for the designation of the SEZ. A total of R25 million has been set aside as a down payment to procure the mining input supplier park owned by Glencore. An agreement will be signed in the first quarter of this financial year between LEDET, Sekhukhune District Municipality, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) to cement this partnership. A project management team has been established and is gradually being capacitated to commence with infrastructure rollout in the current financial year and R35 million is allocated to set up the infrastructure that is required to locate investors, which includes the perimeter fence, clearing of site as well as to finalise rezoning of the land for township establishment.

Madam Speaker, ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

MEC, you can turn around. [LAUGHTER]

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Hon Speaker, in relation to mining, the Sefateng Chrome Mine project, with an investment value of R1,2 billion will create approximately 9 050 job opportunities during full

production. Corridor mining resources has applied for a mining right for Tshepong Chrome Mine. The early works of the mine will start once the mining rights have been obtained. The Ivanhoe Mine that has already spent R7 billion of its R9 billion investment commitment, will in this financial year, spend the remaining amount on mining infrastructure in the Waterberg District. By the end of the 2022/23 financial year, the contribution on job creation by Ivanhoe would have reached 1000 jobs. With an investment commitment of R48 billion, Anglo-American and De Beers plan to spend R3 billion before the end of June 2022 to service the Mototolo Mine in the Sekhukhune District.

The extension of the Radisson Hotel in Polokwane will begin in September 2022, creating 500 job opportunities. The implementation of the Limpopo Township and Rural Economy Revitalisation Strategy is in full swing. During the past two financial years, 1 247 registered spaza shops in the province benefited from the National Spaza Shop Relief Fund, totalling an amount of R8 729 000. About 207 SMMEs and cooperatives are currently participating in the LEDA Business Incubation Programme, of which 63 SMMEs and 32 cooperatives are youth-owned enterprises. Through this Business Incubation Programme, LEDA has been able to sustain at least 279 and 690 job opportunities in SMMEs and cooperatives respectively.

Within our industrial parks, we have been able to sustain over 6 000 jobs in Seshego, Nkowankowa, Lebowakgomo, Thohoyandou, Giyani and Mkhuhlu Industrial Parks, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Limpopo has benefited from the National Industrial Revitalisation Programme and has implemented security infrastructure in Seshego and Nkowankowa Industrial Parks. We are implementing a digital hub in Seshego and Nkowankowa Industrial Parks to bolster digital training and stimulate job creation, especially for young people. The department signed an MOU with the Department of Trade Industry and Competition for R23 million in the 2022/23 financial year. A month ago, I was invited by the University of Venda to launch their broadband initiative which is intended to cover the whole of Vhembe District. The beneficiaries from this initiative include, amongst others, students, business enterprises and ordinary folks. This initiative demonstrates that with more hands on deck, we will be able to connect the whole province. We will continue to support such initiatives and we would like to encourage other institutions to follow suit.

Guided by the District Development Model (DDM) and Limpopo Industrial Master Plan, the provincial government will aim to achieve catalytic development projects in every district. We believe that together, we can do more. We are busy planning megaprojects for the districts that do not have SEZs. The department will continue to pursue engagements with the Polokwane Municipality regarding the Polokwane Freight & Logistics Hub, with Mopani District on the agro-processing hub and Lephalale Municipality on the Lephalale Logistics Hub. The District Development Model has become a cornerstone of integrated planning across all spheres of government. In support of the DDM, we have established governance structures comprising provincial and local government to support environmental and other LED (local economic development) initiatives within the districts. LEDET initiated the LED capacity-building programme to train councillors and officials responsible for LED functions on key technical skills with the objective of building efficiencies in the implementation of the local economic development

mandate. To date, LEDET has spent R3 million to train 79 councillors and LED officials, who have since graduated in October 2021. The last intake of 75 councillors, including officials, were enrolled with the University of Johannesburg in February 2022.

During the State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa emphasised the importance of reducing the regulatory burden of doing business in the country. In response to the President's call, LEDET has commenced with the implementation of the Red Tape Reduction Programme. To ease the cost of doing business, the department, in partnership with SITA (State Information Technology Agency), is developing a web-enabled biodiversity permit management system and liquor management system. This will reduce cost and save time when lodging applications. These two projects will be completed in the current financial year.

During the State of the Nation Address again this year, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa made a call for government to redesign its loan guarantee scheme to ensure that more enterprises qualify for government-backed SMME support measures. This requires us as the provincial government to adjust the eligibility criteria for SMMEs and cooperative financing strategies, which will encourage greater uptake by small local businesses. To crowd in more support to SMMEs and cooperatives in the province, LEDA has extended its partnership with the Companies and Intellectual Properties Commission (CIPC) to assist Limpopo-based enterprises to access various statutory compliance services. To date, 4 633 local enterprises were assisted to access various CIPC services.

Furthermore, we are also partnering with the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) to support businesses to improve on quality of their products and service offerings. We have a partnership with LEDA, SEDA and Productivity SA to implement the competitiveness improvement programme. In the last financial year, we have assisted 20 companies on productivity improvement and 10 on the turnaround programme. We have also trained 50 champions to implement the programmes across our 5 districts. We will continue with this programme with the same number of beneficiaries in the current financial year.

Youth development remains at the core of our work as LEDET. The department empowers young people in various fields through programmes such as skills development, youth entrepreneurship and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). We are proud to report back that 8 262 young people were trained in various business and technical skills led by LEDA in 2021. Through the LEDA-UIF partnership, 651 young people were further trained on the New Venture Creation Programme and then placed in various organisations to complete their practical training. During the course of the 2021/22 financial year, the department, through LEDA, further supported 77 youth-owned enterprises in Limpopo to access finance from different development finance institutions. We will continue to support enterprises through technical and soft skills programmes in addition to financial support.

The department continues to implement EPWP and as at the end of December 2021, a total of 78 young people had benefited from environmental programmes to assist with infrastructure repairs and maintenance in state-owned nature reserves and resorts. In this financial year, R2,1 million has been set aside to continue with EPWP. In this regard, 28

learners were enrolled in the Energy Management Systems Programme of which 7 have already qualified as certified energy auditors, while 2 qualified both as certified energy auditors and certified energy managers. Through this green economy programme, the department enhances the capacity of the province to fully participate in the green economy sector and improve efficiencies in the manufacturing industry.

It is our responsibility as LEDET to ensure that our entities have functional boards, which is indeed the case. I do have regular interactions with these accounting authorities as it promotes good governance and ensures that the department maintains oversight of its implementing agencies. The gambling industry, which was hard hit by COVID-19, has begun to recover. With the National State of Disaster having finally come to an end, we look forward to the revitalisation of the industry and the resuscitation of further economic activity. On 26 November 2021, the Limpopo Gambling Board officiated the opening of the Goldrush Bingo in Phalaborwa, which is the last of the seven licensed Bingo sites for the province. The Bingo site will employ a minimum of 26 permanent employees. The Limpopo Gambling Board further licensed seven limited payout machines sites in November 2021, which has created fourteen jobs. In addition, one bookmaker site was opened in December 2021, employing eight young people.

We have currently published the gambling, liquor and consumer regulations and this will ensure that we implement the principal acts in the current financial year. In line with the Limpopo Business Registration Act (LIBRA), 13 municipalities have been assigned as business registration centres. The department is continuously engaging the remaining 12 municipalities to be assigned the LIBRA function. By taking up the function as business registration centres, the municipalities will be able to generate income from business permit applications. We will continue with the programme to monitor and inspect businesses for compliance with their licensing conditions, especially in the liquor industry. To deal with the mushrooming of illegal taverns and shebeens in townships and rural areas, the department will partner with the South African Police Services to conduct joint operations and bring offenders to book.

The tourism sector was the hardest hit sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. In mitigation, the department developed the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan and hosted the Provincial Tourism Lekgotla in August 2021 with a view to support the industry on a path to recovery. Furthermore, Limpopo Tourism Agency launched an aggressive marketing campaign to promote implementation of health and safety protocols within tourism facilities, all in an attempt to re-ignite travel and tourism and ensure that Limpopo remains at the helm of domestic tourism. We will continue to implement the Tourism Recovery Plan and supplement the provincial resources to the national funding set aside for the sector.

In the last fortnight, we hosted two international golf championships in Waterberg that were broadcast internationally, reaching out to 30 countries. These initiatives contributed in excess of 400 job opportunities in the hospitality industry, with an investment injection of R11 million. We have budgeted R21,8 million for destination marketing and we want to recover the lost ground in terms of foreign and domestic arrivals. Within the department, we will continue to implement programmes to support transformation of the tourism

industry by prioritising emerging tourism product owners in terms of services and product grading and marketing exposure.

The LEDA Group is the epicentre of economic and industrialisation development in the province. We are continuing with the implementation of the GNT turnaround strategy. About R216 million was allocated to GNT to turn around the entity into a viable public transport company. To date, all outstanding debts to creditors have been settled. We have reduced the excess staff to acceptable business industry norms and to make GNT a viable entity. We will continue to monitor the turnaround strategy to turn GNT into the transport company of choice in the province.

We are happy to announce that Risima is a financially viable institution and is no longer dependent on a government grant. Risima, in partnership with the Polokwane Municipality, is implementing a project to develop 1000 affordable housing units in Extension 72 and 79 of the Seshego Housing Development Project. This is meant for the gap market, targeting low- and middle-income earners who otherwise would not qualify for bank mortgage loans. This initiative will create approximately 10 000 indirect and direct local jobs. Engagements with the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality in Mopani are at an advanced stage to replicate a similar housing stock package targeting low- and middle-income earners who qualify for CoGHSTA-backed Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP).

Biodiversity is globally identified as the cornerstone of socioeconomic growth and sustainable development. Being a province rich in biodiversity, Limpopo has to establish mechanisms in which its biological assets can be used sustainably to contribute towards dealing with socioeconomic ills such as unemployment, poverty and inequality. Recently, under the People and Parks Programme, the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, together with the Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Forestry (DFFE) awarded the long-awaited Lekgalametse restitution programme. We want to congratulate the community of Maruleng and commit that we will work with them to achieve the intended outcomes.

In the last financial year, the department created over 160 jobs through the Expanded Public Works Programme in 25 nature reserves across the province. In partnership with the relevant SETAs and the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, the department will provide support to communities through funding, to pursue biodiversity economy initiatives that includes the cultivation of indigenous plants that are part of the 20 nationally prioritised for food or medicinal purposes. To date, three Limpopo community projects have been funded by the national government to cultivate and process indigenous plants. Hi Hanyile and Dloziliyakhala Medicinal and Essential Oil Projects have received R5 million each to fund production infrastructure. We will continue to implement in partnership with SANParks and Kruger National Park, the Greater Kruger Strategic Development Initiative. In this financial year, we will reignite the Shangani Gate, which is a catalyst for economic development to communities in Giyani and Collins Chabane Local Municipalities.

The department continues with its environmental education and awareness programmes. Traditional leaders continue to show interest in environmental management and issues

related to natural resource management within their jurisdiction. To date, the department has conducted over 29 capacity-building initiatives amongst traditional leaders and traditional health practitioners, even under the COVID-19 pandemic limitations. In partnership with Salga and DFFE, the department will be training councillors on their role in environmental decision-making processes in June 2022.

In a recent engagement with the South African Human Rights Council, the department was commended for its sound environmental management plans. To enhance the contribution of the wildlife industry to sustainable development and economic growth for the province, the department continues to partner with communities through co-management agreements to manage community nature reserves. We believe this is important to transform the sector and bring onboard previously disadvantaged communities to benefit from the products and services in their parks.

The department has partnered with DFFE through the People and Parks Programme, to recruit 186 youth beneficiaries to participate in the removal of bush encroachment in nature reserves. This programme will run for a period of 12 months. In the 2021/22 financial year, the department issued over 160 decisions on EIA (environmental impact assessment) applications for infrastructure projects, inclusive of basic services provision, with an estimated value of R3 billion. These developments have the potential to create approximately 500 job opportunities once construction has commenced on the approved infrastructure projects. In addition, we will continue with the fight against poaching of rhinos, lions, pangolins and the exploitation of fauna and flora. Afterall, we remain responsible for the sustainability of our environment for the generations to come. This will remain our legacy.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the department, LEDET, obtained a clean audit opinion in the last financial year. [APPLAUSE] This was achieved through the dedication and commitment of the management and staff of the department. We are working hard so that this audit opinion is maintained. Again, please join me in expressing my heartfelt congratulations to the Limpopo Gambling Board and Risima for obtaining clean audit opinions during the 2020/21 financial year, an accomplishment that their boards have consistently maintained over the last two years. [APPLAUSE] We intend to sustain this clean audit status during the current financial year, while working hard with LEDA and LTA to join their brothers and sisters in this crusade of clean audits.

The department has been allocated a Budget of R1,585,878 billion for the 2022/23 financial year. Out of this allocation, R75,652 million will be transferred to the Limpopo Gambling Board. An amount of R76,697 million will be transferred to Limpopo Tourism Agency. An amount of R596,634 million will be transferred to LEDA.

Let me take this opportunity to thank my family for being the pillar of my strength at all times. I must also extend my gratitude to the management of the department, led by the acting Head of Department, Mr Matodzi Rathumbu, the chairpersons of the boards, board members, CEOs and the staff of our entities for their support and hard work in ensuring that we achieve our mandate. My gratitude is also extended to all officials of the department and entities for their commitment and hard work.

I must also hasten to express my gratitude to the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, my colleagues in the Executive, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts led by Hon Monama, and the leadership of Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism led by Hon Donald Selamolela and his colleagues and of course this House for their continuous support and oversight on the department that I lead. Without your support, it would not be easy to achieve what we are achieving. We want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, let us all work together to build the economy of the province. Let us give the people and the youth in particular, hope about the future. Hon Speaker, honourable Members, it is my pleasure to thank all of you for your support. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members, and thanks very much to the MEC for the presentation of the Budget Speech for Vote 6. The Budget Speech will be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for consideration and report back to the House.

We shall now move to the Budget Speech for Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. I invite the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Moraka T, to present the Budget Speech. Thanks very much.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE (Address by Ms Moroka A T, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture)

Premier of the province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha in absentia; colleagues in the Executive Council who are here with us today; chairpersons of various portfolio committees; esteemed Members of this august House; officials from the various government departments who have joined us today; special guests that are joining us from the sector of sport and recreation; members of the media; community members who have joined in this hybrid sitting, I know that the department is broadcasting this Budget Speech on our Facebook page. Good morning. Avuxeni. Ndi matsheloni. Lotjhani. Thobela.

Hon Speaker, we are presenting the Budget Speech in the month of April, which is a month that is very significant to us as a country and the province as we will be joining the multitudes of our community members in celebrating the Freedom Day on 27 April. The democratic dispensation brought forth the freedom that the people of South Africa continue to enjoy because of the relentless fight that was waged by men and women of our liberation struggle against the then apartheid regime which oppressed our people and subjected them to elements of dehumanisation.

The South African democratic dispensation brought forth a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it. The freedom that we enjoy today did not come to us on a silver platter.

We have seen the heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle fighting for this freedom that we all benefit from as a people. I am speaking here about heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle such as Tata Oliver Reginald Tambo; Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela; Tata Walter Sisulu; the lion of the north, Peter Mokaba; General Ike Maphoto; Ntate Pharephare Mothupi; Mama Charlotte Manny-Maxeke; Mama Lilian Mmakgomo Ngoyi; Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Mama Albertina Sisulu, Baba Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, just to mention a few. The fighting spirit of these gallant fighters of our liberation struggle are the ones propelling us to take the Limpopo province to greater heights in the fight against the triple challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

The mandate of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is premised on the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996. The Act enshrines the rights of all people in our country and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality, and freedom.

Hon Speaker, on 04 April 2022, the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa was briefing the country on the development of the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He made an announcement that the National State of Disaster will come to an end after such a long 750 days of its announcement due to the COVID-19 pandemic that befell not only South Africa, but the rest of humanity internationally. The State of Disaster was introduced with the aim of helping the government of today with the regulations and measures that will help the country to navigate its way through this deadly pandemic of COVID-19.

Hon Speaker, as a sector of sport, arts, and culture, we welcome the President's termination of the National State of Disaster Act, because we are the ones that were the hardest hit by the restrictions of the National Lockdown during those alert levels. This then means we can all return to normality, and we now want to take this opportunity and urge our people to walk the journey with us as we embark on an economic recovery plan for our people in this sector. This then means that if we are all vaccinated or have recently tested negative for COVID-19, we will be able to return to watching sports activities in our stadiums, attending music concerts, attending theatre performances, attending conferences and other related events. I thought that Hon Seshoka will clap hands for that.

The department has four programmes, that is, Administration, Cultural Affairs, Library and Archives and Sport and Recreation. The overall main appropriation for 2022/23 financial year has been increased from R473 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R533 million in the current financial year. This translates to about 12,6% which translates to R59,9 million increment to the overall Budget. The Budget comprises of equitable share of R313 million and conditional grants of R219 million.

Programme 1: Administration. The objective of the programme 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. A total allocation of R181,8 million has been allocated for this programme.

The department achieved an unqualified audit opinion in the last two financial years. [APPLAUSE] This is an indication that the internal control measures and interventions that are now implemented by the department are starting to bear fruits. The department

will continue to be innovative in ensuring that prudent financial management is taking place and appropriate consequence management where necessary is applied without any compromise. These are part of the concerted efforts from us as a department moving towards achieving a clean administration.

The department is busy with the recruitment process for critical senior managerial positions which are going to strengthen core functions of the department with the necessary skills. It is anticipated that these appointments will be concluded in the coming second quarter of this financial year.

Programme 2: Cultural Affairs. The objective of this programme is to promote culture, conserve and manage the cultural, historical assets and resources of the province by rendering various services and hosting cultural events. This programme has a total allocation of R84,9 million for the current financial year 2022/23. This programme has a dual funding of equitable share and EPWP conditional grant that 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 landscape because it keeps our integrity as a people. The department hosted Africa and Heritage Day celebrations virtually as planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the previous financial year. The purpose of these celebrations is aimed at fostering nation-building and social cohesion in the province of Limpopo. The department will continue to celebrate national and historic days in the current financial year in partnership with other relevant stakeholders. A total budget of R7,6 million has been allocated for all the abovementioned programmes in this current financial year.

The signing of a Twinning Agreement with Mexico in relation to the Baobab Tree that is situated in the Vhembe District and the Tule Tree that is in Mexico has not been concluded as the new ambassador of Mexico in South Africa has just been recently appointed. The process of signing that Twinning Agreement is already at an advanced stage. Once that Twinning Agreement is signed, we will have a potential to grow the heritage and cultural landscape in the province and thereby bringing forth huge economic spinoffs for these two countries.

We are proud of all our artists in the province who continue to do a sterling job of representing this province and the country locally and internationally. Our own daughter of the soil, Makhadzi, has made history by becoming one of the first African artists from the country of South Africa, Limpopo in particular, to fill up a stadium in a foreign country. She did this last month in Gaborone, Botswana when she performed in front of 30 000 fans and supporters and supported by many fans in that part of the country in the Tlokweng stadium. [APPLAUSE] The department is planning to embark on a similar project, of course in partnership with our own Makhadzi, of course considering other Limpopo-based artists to embark on similar events in the near future.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture could not host our annual Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival for the previous two financial years, due to the lockdown restrictions

of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are pleased to announce to this august House that the department will continue to host the annual Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival in this current financial year as a way of supporting our local artists, and fostering social cohesion and nation-building and preserving our cultural heritage landscape. The last time the department hosted this festival, we are pleased to report that tickets were sold out and we managed to fill up the old Peter Mokaba Stadium to capacity during that very same event. The aim of the department is to grow the brand Mapungubwe even beyond the borders of South Africa, so that it can help to grow the economy of the province and serve as our departmental revenue enhancement strategy programme. A total budget of R13 million has been set aside for this year's Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival.

The department conducted eight social cohesion dialogues focusing on prevention of gender-based violence, femicide and promoting cultural diversity in the province. These dialogues were conducted in all five districts with different stakeholders and the total number of participants that were reached was 2 500. The discussions in those gender-based violence engagements reflected the challenges faced by women and children in our various communities. The department will be hosting this flagship project together with the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. This project is called the Holekane Campaign. The main idea behind this Holekane Campaign is to make it a point that we deal with issues of gender-based violence and also promoting awareness and also promoting issues of non-tribalism, and non-sexism in our various communities. We are making a clarion call to all our municipalities in the province to come and participate fully in this flagship project, because its aim is to educate our people on how to deal with issues of anger and do away with issues of gender-based violence.

Our artists and athletes continue to suffer the negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this is the cause for concern for us as the department. We are going to work with the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to assist our artists through the Silapha Project. We have seen a process wherein our prominent men and women who are in the creative arts space resorting to issues of suicide and violence. We are really worried about the mental wellbeing of our artists because they should not resort to the issue of committing suicide. We are here as a department to partner with them and to make sure that we take the journey with them against this negative effect of COVID-19.

The campaign for promotion of nation-building and patriotism through, "I am the flag campaign." was conducted in all five districts in partnership with the Department of Education and the National Heritage Council. A total number of 2 000 flags were distributed in all the districts. This campaign will go a long way in building social cohesion among the children and youth in understanding our national symbols and the significance of our South African flag. The programme will be scaled up in the coming financial year in all the municipalities that we have in the province. In this financial year the department will enter into an agreement with the Department of Education with the aim of rolling out of this programme in our public schools.

The Creative Industry Strategy has been approved by EXCO and the department will continue to support seven creative industry subprojects to make sure that they are developed throughout the province of Limpopo. The department will be working in partnership with the South African Cultural Observatory which is commonly known as

SACO in a statistical and socioeconomic research project that will be launched by the MEC in this current financial year. The institution also charts the socioeconomic impact of the arts, culture, and heritage sectors and the cultural and creative industries in South Africa's economy. The department will also conduct further research in the province in partnership with SACO to develop programmes in the creative industry strategy for our people in the sector.

Regarding the long-awaited project of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre, we are pleased to report in this august House that the Polokwane Municipality has finalised the donation of 10 hectares of land for the construction of this theatre. It is worth noting that the prefeasibility study and concept designs for phase one and two of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre have been completed. It is anticipated that the detailed designs will be implemented by end of April 2022 in this current financial year and construction work will commence in the second quarter of this same financial year. The envisaged completion stage of this project is estimated in December 2025 as per the implementation plan that is now presented by the implementing agents. The department has already set aside a budget of R143 million, and the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has also committed R45 million for this project over the MTEF period.

We are concerned about the state of our museums and heritage sites in the province given the need for us as the department to turn our museums and heritage sites into tourist centres and a platform for us to contribute to our revenue collection strategy. The three sites for the National Liberation Heritage Routes have been identified and approved for each province by the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. In the case of the Limpopo province, the sites are as follows: the University of Limpopo, Tjate and Tshitangadzimeni. Feasibility study has been completed in all these three sites and submitted to the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for approval. Upon adoption, the phase two which is the development of the project will follow with district municipalities playing a role through the District Development Model.

The department is pleased to report progress on the construction and the upgrading of the Schoemansdal Museum which now stands at 75% completion. The completed museum will depict the history and the heritage of our region and will also be able to include and be inclusive of all the languages, cultural activities, and traditions that we practise in the province of Limpopo. It is anticipated that the upgrading of this museum will be completed by March 2023. The department has set aside a total budget of R2,2 million to implement the Expanded Public Works Programme where 54 job opportunities for the general maintenance of the museum will be generated for our women and our youth.

Programme 3: Library and Archives. The main aim of the programme is to provide library, information, and archive services in the province of Limpopo. We appreciate the fact that knowledge is power, and therefore 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 R183,6 million in the 2022/23 financial year.

The department celebrated the Library Week in all five districts under the theme, "ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover ... Libraries!" The celebrations are part of the

campaign adopted from the International Literacy Calendar with the aim of promoting and sustaining the culture of reading in the country. Due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are implored upon to come up with innovative ways to disseminate information through our libraries, aligning ourselves with the rest of the world as it is moving towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

We are pleased to report the progress on the construction of the following libraries, which are, Runnymede Library which is at 100% completion, Seleteng Library which is also at 100% completion, Mavalani Library which is also at 100% completion in terms of the construction work. We are worried about Mulamula Library which is at 65% completion. The department is planning to open and handover all these state-of-the-art libraries to our communities in the second quarter of this financial year. The province is still having challenges to complete the Mulamula Library due to issues of traditional leadership disputes that are emanating from those affected communities. We are going to work and partner with the relevant stakeholders in the process of registering progress in the construction of the Mulamula Library in the near future.

The department has allocated a total budget of R38,8 million for the construction of the following new state-of-the-art libraries: Tshaulu Library, Makhuduthamaga Library, Botshabelo Library and Vleifontein Library. These are new libraries which are going to be implemented in this current financial year. The planning and design to build these new libraries has been completed and the appointment of a contractor will be finalised in the second quarter for all the above-mentioned libraries.

The department has planned to maintain and upgrade libraries in different communities where 12 libraries that were planned for maintenance and upgrading have been completed earlier than what we have expected. Through the Library Conditional Grant, the department managed to maintain the following libraries: Ntsako Modular Library, Masisi Modular Library, Manenzhe Modular Library, Khubvi Modular Library, Litshovu Modular Library, Timamogolo Modular Library, Seshego Library, Vlakfontein Library, Musina Nancefield Library, Capricorn District Library, Metz Library, and Soetfontein Library. Additional 12 libraries will be maintained in the current financial year and the allocated budget for that exercise is R9,6 million.

The department purchased 20 000 planned library materials and library kiddies' educational toys for distribution to various communities where these libraries are going to be build libraries. A total of R7 million has been budgeted for that particular exercise.

The department in partnership with South African Library for the Blind provided assistive technology to 10 libraries which are Siloe School for the Blind; Mogalakwena Public Library; Vlakfontein Community Library; Babirwa Community Library; Nzhelele Community Library; Shiluvane Community Library; Ba-Phalaborwa Community Library; Polokwane City Library and Thulamela Main Library to make them accessible to visually impaired users. The following seven libraries will be provided with assistive technology in the current financial year, which are, Marble Hall Library; Lephalale Public Library; Musina Nancefield Community Library; Lebowakgomo Library; Alldays Community Library; Giyani Public Library and Tzaneen Public Library. The department will continue to make sure

that all our libraries are user-friendly to people with disability. A budget that is at R1,2 million has been set aside for that project to be implemented.

Six oral history projects were conducted during the year on the evolution of traditional leadership and its role under the new dispensation. The other six projects will also be done in the current financial year. The Liberation Heritage Route project will also provide sufficient oral history material through some of the survivors and family members.

Programme 4: Sport and Recreation. The main aim of this programme is to provide assistance to provincial sport associations and other relevant bodies to stimulate the development of sport and recreational services on the ground. This programme has been allocated a total budget of R83,7 million in the 2022/23 financial year.

The department supported 48 leagues with equipment and attire throughout the rest of this financial year. Those teams are Moletji and Seshego Rugby Clubs that managed to affiliate to Limpopo Blue Bulls North Region League. The department would like to take this opportunity and honour the contribution made by the previous cluster manager, Mr Freddy Chisi, for his contribution in Limpopo Rugby. It is through his leadership that Ralebona Lebogang from Moletjie Mmakgodu village and Rights Mhlari from Bungeni hub have been selected in the South African national team of rugby that will represent South Africa in New Zealand this year. [APPLAUSE]

Through the Mass Participation and Sport Development Grant's budget, the department will continue to support two non-statutory bodies which are Limpopo Academy of Sport and Limpopo Sport Confederation. In terms of Limpopo sport academy programmes, a total number of 500 athletes have been supported with scientific, medical as well as fitness and conditioning services in the following sporting codes: baseball, softball, basketball, football, rugby, hockey, indoor rowing, para-athletics, volleyball and netball. The academy further supported five sport focus schools namely: Ben Viljoen School, Settlers High School, Capricorn High School, and Louis Trichardt High School with their equipment and attire as mentioned earlier. The department will continue to support the academy of sport in the province and a total budget of R5,8 million that has been set aside for the current financial year.

The department will continue to deliver school sport, community sport, and recreational programmes through this conditional grant. The department coordinated the National Indigenous Games; National Youth Camp; Golden Games in the province of Limpopo where we have seen almost 100 hubs in all the five districts supported through the equipment and attire while hub coordinators will be capacitated on code specific and administrative skills in the current financial year. A total budget of R12,4 million has been set aside for that particular programme.

In the Sports Development Programme, it is where 400 clubs will be supported with equipment and attire. Support will be provided to 223 leagues that will be staged throughout the province in 8 priority sporting codes. Four hundred people will be trained in accredited code specific, generic administration and sport management courses and the allocated budget for that particular programme is sitting at R12,9 million.

The province of Limpopo has successfully implemented the National Indigenous Games in Seshego Stadium in the Polokwane Municipality under the Capricorn District Municipality. We are pleased to report that team Limpopo has also participated in the recently held National Indigenous Games that were held in the province of in KwaZulu-Natal and the province of Limpopo got position 3 in that particular tournament last year. Amos Makwala from Mopani District was selected the best player of the tournament and I am pleased Hon Speaker to indicate that he is here with us as my special guest today. Can he stand up? [APPLAUSE] Indeed, Hon Speaker, dynamites come in small packages. He is not here alone, he is here with his coach, Mr Bouse Masetla, who is always guiding him every time when he is about to enter the field of play.

Hon Speaker, in school sport, almost 16 918 learners will be supported to participate in school sport activities from the district to the national level. Three hundred schools will be provided with equipment and attire as per the established norms and standards of that particular conditional grant. Four hundred and seventy-five people will be trained in accredited code specific generic administration and sport management courses wherein nineteen school sport structures will be supported during the coordination of school sport activities and a total budget that is allocated for that is R25,9 million in this current financial year.

It is no more a secret that the 2023 Netball World Cup will be taking place in our country, South Africa, in the province of the Western Cape. The province will be hosting the 2023 Netball Trophy Tour in all five districts with the purpose of creating hype for the World Cup which will take place in the country as mentioned earlier. The planning will commence from this financial year in partnership with Netball South Africa and our provincial netball federation together with our municipalities so that we can create a hype for the Netball World Cup that is going to take place in due course. The academy will support 400 athletes with attire and all those athletes are found in all our five districts. A total budget of R5,8 million has been set aside to support 100 netball athletes in preparation for the 2023 Netball World Cup. We want to see the province of Limpopo dominate in that space of the International World Cup that will be taking place in our country. We want to take this opportunity and congratulate the president of Netball South Africa who is the daughter of the soil Ms Cecilia Molokwane who could not join us due to matters of ill-health.

We want to this opportunity and update the House on the construction of the Polokwane International Softball Stadium that has commenced in the last financial year. We are pleased to report in this august House that the contractor is anticipating completion of that facility by end of July 2022. This is the project that is implemented in partnership with the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the Polokwane Municipality through the MIG funding that is allocated to the tune of R90 million and is being implemented by the Polokwane Municipality.

Limpopo Sport Confederation is also an enabling agency in delivering sport programmes where government is unable to reach. This Limpopo Sport Confederation is there for our community development programmes. The confederation assists in ensuring that federations, as custodians of sporting codes function effectively and efficiently to deliver growth in all sporting codes in the province. The Limpopo Sport Confederation will be

supported with an allocation of R1,3 million to render sport services to support federations and our district academies.

The department will continue to host the annual sport awards and a total amount of R631 000 has been budgeted for that particular event so that we can continue to award and recognise excellence in sport. We shall continue to partner with private sector to access more resources so that our athletes can be recognised and awarded accordingly. I would also like to take this opportunity and make a clarion call to other stakeholders to come on board so that we can travel this journey together.

The department is in a process of collaborating with the PSL Sekhukhune United team in staging football development tournaments in all districts, from local municipalities to provincial tournaments. We want to see the teams that are at PSL coming to our districts to scout for talent. This is in line with early childhood development for our athletes so that we could continue to be a feeder into the national professional football in the country of South Africa.

The team came to visit us last week and they brought the cup here in the province and a meeting was convened with the chairperson of that particular team and the management of the department on how we need to fast-track the construction of the stadium in the Sekhukhune District that is meeting the PSL standard. We want to see the Sekhukhune United Football Club starting to host their matches in the province of Limpopo, because Sekhukhune United Football Club is a Limpopo-based team in terms of its origin. That on its own will go a long way in growing the fan base of the team and contribute to the GDP of the province whilst the team is hosting its matches in the province.

Hon Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity and congratulate our athlete Sheryl James for winning a bronze medal in 400m at the 2020 Summer Paralympics games that was held in Tokyo, Japan last year. I would also like to thank Kgothatso Montjane for becoming the first Black South African woman to compete in all four Grand Slam Tennis Tournaments that happened in the international space. They both achieved all these under the very difficult conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [APPLAUSE]

I would also like to congratulate Kwena Matlala for breaking the South African under 13 high jump record after clearing 1,75 metres. Kwena who is a Grade 7 learner at PEPPS broke the record that stood for 22 years during the Athletics South Africa Primary Schools Championship, last month as held in Potchefstroom in the North West province. [APPLAUSE] His achievement is a result for his hard work and diligence to his talent and the support he is receiving from everyone around him including the educators.

Hon Speaker, let me also take this opportunity and congratulate the Limpopo Softball Senior Men's team for winning the 27th edition of Softball South Africa's National Provincial Championship. [APPLAUSE] The warrior men from the great north are winning this flagship tournament for the sixth time in succession. They are here with the trophy to show the particular effect. [APPLAUSE] This is indeed a great achievement for the province of Limpopo. It is really showing that our Club Development Programme is making a big difference in the development and the promotion of our players in our various communities. Let us also congratulate the players and the coaches who have been

selected to represent South African in the national team to the World Cup in New Zealand later this year. Those players are Tidima Kekana, Mogau Thaphudi, Phomolo Phaladi, Sello Molokoane, Nkomori Chepape, Mandla Matsunyane and George Hlanga. [APPLAUSE] All these players are going to represent the national team in New Zealand later this year. They are from this province of ours. [APPLAUSE] The coaches are Lemo Raphasha as head coach assisted by Thapelo Seshoka, not this Seshoka, [LAUGHTER] Thapelo Seshoka, Nakedi Mohlake and Nakedi Raphalo. [APPLAUSE] We want to appreciate the sterling leadership, can you behave? We want to appreciate the sterling leadership displayed by the president of Softball in Limpopo Ms Mokgadi Moswadzi who is a female, and she is here joining as a guest. [APPLAUSE] This team really deserves the attention of all of us for them to continue to make us proud. We are also pleased to announce to this House that we have the fastest pitcher in the continent Mr Tidima Kekana who is also gracing this occasion in a special way. [APPLAUSE]

The department will embark on several sport programmes for this financial year, and they include the following: the National Disability Games and the hosting of the Softball South Africa Masters National Games in September.

I would like to take this opportunity, Hon Speaker, and send my words of appreciation to the portfolio committee as chaired by chairperson, Hon Caroline Mahasela, and the entire team of the oversight mechanism that is within that portfolio committee. I would also like to appreciate the administration wing of the department as led by the accounting officer, Ms Mapula Daphne Ramokgopa and the entire staff component of the department. I also want to appreciate the support that I continue to receive from the dedicated men and women in the Office of the MEC in the form of the support staff. Hon Speaker, the overall Budget for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for the financial year 2022/23 is hereby presented to this august House for further processing and consideration. I want to take this opportunity and say, Ha khensa. Ro livhuwa. Ke a leboga. Baie dankie. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for that elaborative speech honourable MEC. Order! Can I request Members to stop these gestures across. They are creating confusion in the House. Please, from both sides, I said stop those gestures. You are still pointing fingers ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I am showing you what happened. I need your protection. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

When you speak, stand up.

MR SESHOKA

But Hon Speaker... [inaudible]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Then sit down. Hon Seshoka, you know the rules of the House. When you want to raise an issue, it is either a point of order, you rise up, and you raise that issue. You do not sit down and point around, because we do not understand that language. That is what I am talking about. In future, please, if there is an issue that you want to raise, you know the rules. Let us stick to the rules, please. Thank you very much. I hope the desk of the Secretary will also make sure that there is order. This 'whoo, whoo, whoo,' I do not understand it. It is very disruptive.

The Budget Speech for Vote 10 will be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and report back to the House. Order please! Yes, Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

I just stand on a point of clarity, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there such a point?

MR SMALLE

No, it is a point of clarity, Hon Speaker. I just want to make sure that 'vu-vu' is not a vuvuzela. You know sport has a way to unite people in the country. You understand Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, whether it is a vuvuzela ... Hon Selamolela, can you allow us to run the House. We will not allow anyone to interrupt us when we are running the House. I was saying Hon Smalle, whether it is a vuvuzela or it is a 'vu-vu' through the mouth, it is not allowed in the House. Yes, a vuvuzela can be there in the stadiums and everywhere, but not in the House. Thank you very much. We shall now call on the Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon Molapo R to present the Budget Speech for Vote 2.

THE SPEAKER

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE (Address by Ms Molapo R R, Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature)

The presiding officer, Hon Ndou; Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha in absentia; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the House, Hon Mokgonyana in absentia; Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Buthane in absentia, Hon Smalle and Hon Maritz; Chairperson of

Committees, Hon Mashamaite in absentia; honourable Members of this House; Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature, Mr Simon Mothoa; officials of the Limpopo Legislature; officials from various government departments; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, ke a le dumedisha.

This Budget is presented a few days after the country has celebrated International Women's Day and Human Rights Day in which we commemorated the massacre of our people while protesting against apartheid pass laws. The Human Rights Day reminds all of us about the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of a free, just, and democratic society. Inspired by this we need to move with speed and zeal to ensure the delivery of services that will make the lives of our people better.

The 2022/23 Budget Speech is delivered within the most challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic which has brought so many disruptions to our people's livelihoods and wellbeing. Families have lost mothers and fathers due to COVID-19, and each of us have been affected with the loss of a distant or a close family member. Equally, our economy has experienced a nosedive which led to unprecedented high levels of unemployment with the young being the most affected.

The Limpopo province as a whole is logically characterised by pressing and competing needs for service delivery for our people. The local government elections held on 01 November 2021 has raised the expectations of our people of the need for better services. Furthermore, the COVID-19 challenge has taught us that there is a need for better and creative ways of maximising service delivery initiatives in our communities. This approach was in line with what was alluded to by President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa in his State of the Nation Address when he remarked that, "As the trajectory of the pandemic has continued to change, we had to adapt and evolve." Our Premier, Hon Stanley Mathabatha, further amplified this view in his State of the Province Address on 24 February 2022 when he stated that: "While COVID-19 caught us off guard, our collective response was swift and equal to the task." This is the attitude that we adopted as the Limpopo Legislature. We did our level best as an institution to come up with creative ways to ensure that the business of the Legislature did not suffer as a result of the impact of the pandemic.

It is clear that with the prospect of a fifth wave, there is a need to enhance our approach to oversight and channel resources accordingly. Drawing from the gloomy economic environment outlined by the MEC for Treasury, Hon Seaparo Sekoati, in his Budget Speech on 8 March 2022, it is clear that the Limpopo Legislature's mandate of oversight, law-making and public participation should be enhanced to ensure the creation of a conducive environment for economic growth and development in our province.

It is important that as a Legislature we should ensure that through oversight we derive value for money for the R64 billion Budget allocated to the province. In line with the call by our President, we must rebuild and restore trust and pride in public institutions.

The Legislature being the vanguard and representative of the people, is indeed strategically positioned to ensure through robust oversight so that the people of the province are not failed. It is therefore incumbent upon us that we exercise oversight on

the billions allocated to the province, departments and entities. Through our committees which are the engine rooms of the Legislature, we will follow the provincial Budget allocated to the department to ensure value for money and that the budget is used for the purposes intend for.

As the Legislature, it is our understanding that accountability and transparency are fundamental qualities of a functional and ethical developmental state. It is our constitutional obligation to hold the Executive accountable. That compels us to agree with Mother Theresa when she said: “Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable. Be honest and transparent anyway.”

To this end, it is important for the House to seek accountability from those entrusted with public funds. For this reason, the dominant discourse in our portfolio and standing committees has taken the following pattern:

- Identifying the measures or steps taken to prevent irregular, wasteful or unauthorised expenditure;
- Identifying the responsible officials; and
- Clearly stating the action taken against responsible officials.

This line of questioning is not meant to be antagonistic, but to seek clarity on the usage of public funds in order to prevent anomalies in the future. In presenting this Budget let me state that it will be in the best interest of the people of Limpopo that committees of the Legislature enforce accountability without fear or favour. Our zeal to exercise oversight is more than just a constitutional obligation as it is founded on a profound paradigm that our people need better services.

Amilcar Cabral captures it well when he states that, “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.” Informed by this view, our oversight outlook should therefore be needs and development orientated.

In his State of the Province Address, the Hon Premier clearly stated that: “The financial performance of our government is improving for the better.” It is worth noting that the oversight role of the Legislature over the Provincial Administration cannot be taken for granted. Robust oversight by portfolio committees of the Limpopo Legislature has kept departments on their toes, which has pushed them to continue to register favourable audit outcomes.

Legislatures are constitutionally required to meaningfully engage the public in all their affairs. Therefore, public hearings remain critical in enhancing effective participation of the public. During the previous financial year, public hearings were mainly held virtually in order to afford the public an opportunity to effectively participate during law making processes. As part of public participation, we have received and processed petitions across all the five districts of the Limpopo province. We acknowledge that the processes

of resolving petitions takes long, but we should in the same breath celebrate our successes when it comes to resolving petitions referred to us.

The number of petitions referred to us clearly demonstrate that the public has confidence in the work we do as the Limpopo Legislature, and we cannot afford to disappoint them. Drawing from some of the successfully interventions by the Legislature in the 2021/22 financial year:

- The Legislature has brought remarkable joy and confidence to the children of Ms Cecilia Mofokeng from Greater Letaba Municipality who were born at home by facilitating that the Department of Home Affairs speedily processes their birth certificates.
- Rantho Francina from Mopani District was struggling to get an ID for her son and through the Legislature's intervention, Home Affairs issued the ID. [APPLAUSE]
- Mmathabeng Maila from Maila Segolo Village in Makhuduthamaga wrote a petition regarding an incomplete road D420, and the Legislature intervened, and the road was subsequently completed. [APPLAUSE]
- Bakone Ba Matlala Traditional Council in Capricorn District Municipality wrote a petition regarding the tarring of Road D3377 at GaMatlala Setumong to Limburg. Through the intervention of the Legislature the road was tarred.
- Mawele Secondary School wrote to the committee to request for the fast tracking of a merger between their school and JM Gwangwa in Waterberg District. The Legislature intervened and the schools were merged, and learners provided with transport.
- Surprise Monyela from Capricorn District had been applying for an RDP house for over 5 years and through the intervention of the Legislature, the house was built by CoGHSTA.
- M Mokoena, a disabled petitioner from Julesberg in Mopani District wrote a petition regarding her request for an RDP house. A special RDP house was built through the intervention of the Legislature.

Honourable Members, I can go on and on, but these are just some of the few examples of the many interventions that the Legislature as the vanguard of the people is doing to ensure that our communities receive quality and efficient services.

We will in the current financial year ensure that the petitions referred to us are quickly adjudicated on and resolved for the benefit of our petitioners. This will assist in ensuring that the petitioners get what they deserve from their government.

The Legislature conducted oversight visit in Mopane District focusing on the implementation of projects such as Norjax Tomato Paste Plant, Mabunda Citrus, Masalal

Packhouse, and Inhlahlayami, Greenlife Cooperative. Key amongst the committee recommendations during the visits were mainly ensuring that the projects have water rights, and that farmers continue to get production inputs and technical support from the responsible departments. These are some of the approaches that our progressive Legislature is undertaking to ensure that our oversight is development oriented.

In the coming year, the committee has planned to conduct more intense oversight on the key catalytic projects that are anticipated to turn around the economy of the province.

In the backdrop of the recent COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recession, it is important to ensure that portfolio committees are geared to undertake oversight that goes beyond mere inquiry and scrutiny but are development focused. Committees must inspire economic growth and ensure that there is reduction in unemployment as well as eradication of inequality and poverty. It is for this reason that our committees will, for instance, actively monitor the implementation of the Socio-Economic and Recovery Plan by the LEDET and other such initiatives aimed at developing our province.

The long-awaited relocation of the early childhood development function from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education is concluded and the implementation is set for April 2022. The relevant committees of the Legislature will ensure that robust oversight is undertaken to ensure a smooth transition.

Our interest in the education of our children is the one that is driving the committees of the Legislature to play an active role by monitoring the implementation of the schools programme throughout the financial year. The Legislature undertook oversight visits to all special schools in the province, focusing on the state of the infrastructure in special schools, like Rivoni, Asiphumelele and Rethuseng.

Our committees will continue to engage with the Department of Education on issues that affect the performance of schools. The Legislature will also engage the provincial Department of Education on the Grade 12 year-end performance for the 2021 academic year as well as plans to address poor performance and gaps wherever they exist.

In exercising our oversight to the Department of Transport, the Legislature visited various sites in order to check if the mandate of the department of ensuring effective, affordable, safe transport and secure province is implemented as planned. In line with this, oversight was undertaken to various traffic stations, weighbridges, police stations and South African Police Service garages to primarily assess the state of infrastructure, personnel, eye tests and payment sections and general policing in the area. In this case, Mabopo, Schoonoord, Lebowakgomo, Mankweng Driving Testing and Licensing Centres were visited by the Legislature.

Some police stations which are amongst the top 30 high crime stations such as Thohoyandou, Maake, Bolobedu, Lebowakgomo, Burgersfort, Polokwane, Seshego and Mankweng have been visited as well. SAPS garages are equally important as their efficiency in repairing and servicing police vehicles play a critical role in SAPS efficiency and in this case, Makhado, Lebowakgomo, Tzaneen and Polokwane SAPS garages have been visited. This is Legislature at work honourable Members. We leave no stone

untuned. We seek accountability and transparency on behalf of the people who elected us.

Oversight at Limpopo Training Traffic College and Thohoyandou Intermodal facility with massive infrastructure development are some of the infrastructure projects which draw the attention of the Legislature. Our own Polokwane International Airport which is managed by Gateway Airport Authority Limited was also visited as it was experiencing its most downfall times when it was downgraded to a lower level. The Legislature did not rest until the airport regained its status back and opened for operation of commercial flights. The Legislature will continue to play its vigorous oversights in this provincial key point until this airport is able to sustain itself and generate better revenue. Our committees will make the necessary follow-ups on such initiatives due to the fact that we understand and appreciate the role of efficient transport system in development.

The Legislature intends to take its oversight to borderlines which include amongst others, Groblersbrug, Pontdrift and Stockpoort to assess safety and security. Furthermore, the Legislature will interact with Community Policing and Safety Forums to assess their operational efficiency. It is impressive and historic to note that, our Portfolio Committee on Health has conducted oversight visits to all psychiatric hospitals and all nursing colleges in the province. These are some of the examples of the hard work undertaken by the committees of the Legislature in order to make a difference in the lives of our people.

By ensuring that there is effective oversight over CoGHSTA, municipal audit outcomes have improved significantly in the past two financial years as well. There is a reduction in the number of municipalities that are using consultants to prepare annual financial statements. This is a result of portfolio committees playing oversight for development purposes and working towards improved audits outcomes by municipalities, entities and departments.

The Legislature is exercising oversight over major projects implemented by the Department of CoGHSTA. These projects include the construction of community residential units in Marapong, Lephalale; Alldays veterans housing units, Talana temporary residential units, and Burgersfort Extension 10 temporary residential units.

The Legislature will continue to play oversight on the construction of 1 000 housing units at the underdeveloped Vingerkraal village in Bela-Bela Municipality which is made up of a scatterlings of shack dwellings.

As Members of this House, we need to ensure that government programmes, as outlined by the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, during the State of the Province Address, are fully implemented. Our government needs to contribute to job creation and create conducive environment for the youth to participate in the economy.

Investing in our youth is our priority and we will set aside resources to ensure that the month of June is dedicated to youth empowerment through the hosting of the Youth Parliament. During our oversight function, we will ensure that the Executive plays its part when it comes to the participation of youth in the economy.

In the 2021/22 financial year, the Limpopo Legislature hosted sectoral parliaments for the youth, workers, and people with disability. The events provided these groupings with an opportunity to discuss issues affecting their wellbeing and rights. We will continue even in the current financial year to provide them with a platform to participate in the activities of the Legislature.

We have however noted that the challenge with conducting virtual sectoral parliaments and public hearings during the COVID-19 is that not all participants were able to participate due to lack of resources such as smartphones, laptops with cameras or poor internet connectivity in some areas. This affected the number of participants negatively. This may sometimes lead to complaints from stakeholders from disadvantaged communities about their non-involvement in our processes and activities. We are exploring alternative options and support through which such stakeholders can participate in our activities notwithstanding their connectivity challenges.

Having outlined the challenges of public participation under COVID-19, it is still crucial that Members of this House should ensure that the resolutions taken during sectoral parliaments are fully implemented by the Executive. We will continue in the current financial year to host sectoral parliaments or alternative outreach initiatives in an effort to discuss and address issues affecting children, workers, youth, disability, women and elderly people.

Capacity-building is a necessary requirement to strengthen and sharpen Members and support staff with skills and knowledge on the mandate of the Legislature. In the 2021/22 financial year, 12 members who were registered with the University of the Witwatersrand completed their entry certificates and will commence with their diplomas in due course. We also have two Members who are pursuing their diplomas with the University of Johannesburg.

We have also trained 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 and workshops with recognised institutions of learning.

These kinds of interventions will continue in this financial year in order to successfully implement effective capacity-building programmes to address the needs of the Legislature, particularly on issues related to oversight, accountability, rules and procedures, public debate, finance, ethics, etc. More workshops and training will be provided in the financial year to continue with the capacity-building initiatives which commenced in the previous financial year.

Hon Members, the Limpopo Legislature has in the past years provided capacity-building needs for Municipal Councils and Municipal Public Accounts Committees in the Limpopo province. Municipalities remain critical to service delivery and the realisation of the goals of a developmental state; hence we cannot afford to have them failing in their goal. This view is in line with what our Hon Premier alluded to in his State of the Province Address where he indicated that, "One of our standing commitments has been to ensure that our

municipalities are well governed and that finances are properly accounted for.” In this financial year, we will where possible assist municipalities in our areas of expertise in order to enhance their capacity whenever the need arises.

Furthermore, the Office of the Speaker annually hosts the Provincial Speaker’s Forum, which is a forum that rotates per district in Limpopo. The forum provides a platform for the Legislature presiding officers to share best practices with municipal speakers with regard to presiding and legislative matters. We will continue in the current financial year to host the Provincial Speaker’s Forum to share best practices and empower our municipalities.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated to us that no institution can operate without ICT technology. When the COVID-19 situation was at its worst we were able to successfully run critical and core functions of the Legislature through virtual operations. The reality is that these technological setups do not come cheap as the latest infrastructure and software are required to keep the systems running. It is clear that more funding will be required to ensure that the institution keeps up with the latest ICT technology in order to effectively achieve our mandate.

The renovations at Block 3 of the Legislature building have been completed and upon our assessment we found that most of the existing assets that were used before have become old and obsolete for any use. Therefore, this means we are faced with a demand for new office furniture and office equipment to replace the old and broken ones.

Furthermore, the aging assets in the Chamber still remain a worrying factor that need urgent attention. A Chamber system must be procured to replace the existing one which has become obsolete and therefore incompatible with the latest technology. We have performed a benchmark exercise on the audio-visual systems at various legislatures and at some municipalities to check their audio-visual systems in their Chambers, and we have realised that we will need millions to improve our current Chamber system. Some of the chairs in the Chamber are also broken and need replacement as this poses a risk to the safety of the Members. These are some of the challenges and pressing needs that should be addressed for the Legislature to effectively to fulfil our mandate.

The 2022/23 Budget comes at a time when the country is struggling to meet competing socioeconomic needs which are exacerbated by the current economic meltdown. The national fiscus has been negatively affected by the general socioeconomic pressures triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Drastic budget cuts had to be implemented since the 2020/21 financial year to enable government to address the economic challenges that were mainly worsened by the pandemic. The Legislature itself was not immune to these budget cuts and challenges of limited financial resources. The predicament facing us is to always ensure that the limited financial resources available are effectively and efficiently utilised to ensure that the objectives of the Legislature are met without compromising of the quality of services provided. The oversight, law-making and public participation roles of the Legislature will always be the core focus, despite the limited financial resources within which we are expected to operate. The Legislature is more than ever determined to ensure intense and robust oversight over the Executive notwithstanding the challenges outlined. We will also work hard to ensure adherence to supply chain management processes and will avoid unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and

wasteful expenditure by ensuring that all is done within the prescripts of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act.

We will continue to play effective oversight over the Executive in the 2022/23 financial year to safeguard the limited financial resources of the province. Focusing on improving our oversight role and encouraging public participation in the activities of the Legislature, whether physically or through the available social media networks, remains high on the list of our priorities. The Legislature will work within the limited allocated budget to ensure that the most critical projects and programmes are completed within this financial year.

The total Budget allocation for Limpopo Legislature in the 2022/23 financial year is R385,9 million of the equitable share. This Budget shows a reduction of 2,46% when compared to the prior year allocation. A 2,46% reduction on the Budget means that the Legislature will have to operate within a limited budget environment.

The Budget as presented, will be utilised to cover employee costs, goods and services, capital expenditure as well as support to political parties. The Budget is allocated to the three programmes of the Legislature as follows:

Programme 1: Administration. This programme has been allocated R146,8 million in the 2022/23 financial year in order to provide strategic leadership and administrative support to the entire Legislature. Most of the infrastructure and ICT costs will be incurred from this programme.

Programme 2: Facilities for Members and Political Parties. Facilities for Members and Political Parties has been allocated R142,1 million in the 2022/23 financial year to provide compensation of Members and support to political parties. Allocation to programme 2 includes the direct charge of R51,6 million for the remuneration of Members as well as an amount of R77 million as required by section 34(5) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act. This R77 million will be transferred to political parties for constituency allowance and political party support.

Programme 3: Parliamentary Services. Parliamentary Services has been allocated a total of R97,5 million in the 2022/23 financial year to provide services related to oversight, public participation and law-making.

Having outlined the allocation of the Budget to various sections and divisions, the Legislature will continue to execute its mission of being the vanguard and the voice of the people dedicated to continually fulfilling its core mandates of oversight, law-making and public participation.

As an oversight body, we are entrusted with enormous responsibility of ensuring that our democracy functions and services are delivered to our people by exercising effective oversight over the Executive. We are fully awake to the reality that for us to achieve this goal, we require the prudent use of both our financial and human resources. Mindful of the separation of powers as outlined in our Constitution, the colossal challenge ahead of us demands the collaboration between the Legislature and the Executive in order to contribute to the growth and development of our province.

We thank all our stakeholders in particular Chapter 9 and 10 institutions for supporting democracy as provided in the Constitution. The work of the AG has enhanced the oversight work of the Legislature and has indeed lifted it to another level.

Let me take this opportunity to thank honourable Members of the Legislature for their support and the leaders of political parties represented in this House for your commitment in serving the people of Limpopo. A special thanks goes to the Oversight Mechanism Committee, led by Hon Lekganyane, for always providing useful guidance and inputs to the work of the Legislature.

I would also like to thank the Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature, Mr Simon Mothoa, the management and team Legislature for your support and commitment.

It is my honour and privilege to table the Limpopo Legislature 2022/23 Budget Vote to this House. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the Budget Speech. The Budget Speech for Vote 2 will be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism for consideration and report back to the House.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The only announcement that we have is that there is food outside if Members feel hungry and want to eat. Please, you are welcome.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Sitting is adjourned to Thursday, 07 April 2022 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 07 APRIL 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

We may be seated. Honourable Members, officials from Legislature, officials from various departments and our guests; good morning and welcome to our Sitting. Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Kekana.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO GEN FANNIE MASEMOLA ON HIS
APPOINTMENT AS A NEW NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSIONER
(Motion without Notice)**

I, Nakedi Kekana, rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to congratulate Gen Fannie Masemola for his appointment as the new National Police Commissioner. Gen Fannie Masemola has served the people of Limpopo diligently during his term as the Provincial Commissioner here in Limpopo. We welcome Gen Masemola into this enormous position of high responsibility, and we are certain that under his leadership this country will be in very safe hands.

He has a reputable track-record within the police service, and he has proven his mettle that he will be up to the task of ensuring the safety and sovereignty of this country. In Gen Fannie Masemola, the President has appointed a credible candidate and a professional police officer with unfettered merits and someone who understand that public service is about putting public interests first.

We wish him all the best in his new responsibilities.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Radzilani.

MS RADZILANI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani, rise to second the motion as put forward by Hon Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONCERN BY THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE OVER THE SHODDY WORK DONE
ON THE COMPLETED BRIDGE PROJECT IN SENDEDEZA VILLAGE**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes that the Democratic Alliance is concerned about the shoddy workmanship done recently on the completed bridge project in Sendedza village at Ward 33 in Makhado Municipality. The cost of that bridge project was R3 million. The construction started in January and was completed by the end of March 2022.

The bridge has been in use for only a few days, and so far, it has already started showing some huge cracks. The other section of the bridge has seemingly already started to collapse. Its concrete slab is less than 5 cm thick, with a huge amount of loose soil underneath it. There are also heaps of sand that were left in the middle of the river after its construction.

Sendedza village residents are failing to use the flimsy structure as it might be unsafe. The residents also fear that it might be swept away during rainy seasons.

The Democratic Alliance in Makhado believes that these issues are as a result of poor workmanship by the contractors appointed to carry out bridges construction.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any motion without notice? I recognise Hon Raphela. Hon Raphela, I didn't receive any motion without notice from your party before. The procedure is that if you want to table any motion without notice, it should reach the Office of the Speaker before the tabling. I didn't receive any. That's the procedure, but I will allow you to present it just only for today. Next time you should follow the procedure.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE MINORITY PARTY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We are promising you that it will never happen again.

THE EFF'S DISTURBANCE BY THE MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DISCLAIMER AUDIT OUTCOME (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes that Mopani District Municipality's disclaimer audit outcome for the financial year 2021/22 is very disturbing and it's not restoring any public confidence. Limpopo government had a high number of annual Premier intergovernmental forums. A few weeks ago, the performance of municipalities was assessed. Two municipalities that have regressed in terms of audit opinions are Capricorn District Municipality and Giyani Municipality.

The EFF condemns the use of external consultants to prepare the financial reports for municipalities every year, while municipalities have got their own CFOs. Despite the use of consultants in some instances by the municipalities, the audit outcomes remain the same resulting in wastage of taxpayers' money. In fact, there is a criminal act like what happened with the Department of Education when they appointed consultants to facilitate the appointments of feeding scheme tenders while the department has been independently running this process without the assistance of such consultants.

The outcomes remain the same, and it is even worse this time around. The department was taken to court over those processes. There were even more complaints about those processes which paid the same human beings doing the same work as if there is something different from that human being or beyond that human being that will happen if those outsourced consultants are being used. The EFF believes that the only way out is to continue with the utilisation of our own bureaucracy and ensure that there are consequences for those who do not do their work accordingly.

Furthermore, the EFF believes in doing away with the tender system as well as the usage of consultants because this is an "legal" way of stealing money from the poor.

The EFF calls again for the appointment of qualified people and the filling of vacancies in senior positions in order to fast-track service delivery instead of cutting state budgets, especially on the compensation of employees because this is outsourced support and not profit. Profiti yona le a e tšhaba.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Raphela.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any motion without notice? I recognise Hon Mochadi.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our guests.

**COMMEMORATION OF THE HIGHLY HONOURED FREEDOM FIGHTER, CDE
SOLOMON KALUSHI MAHLANGU
(Motion without Notice)**

I'm rising on behalf of the ANC to present a motion without notice in commemoration of a fighter – a man who sacrificed his life and a man who fought for the freedom of South Africa, a freedom which we are enjoying today. A man who has given his life at an early age that he has given his all to us.

On Wednesday, 06 April 2022, the ANC will commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the passing of the great Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, iNdebele lekhethu, who was killed by the inhuman apartheid government. Solomon Mahlangu was a South African freedom fighter; struggle activist and an operative of the ANC military wing; uMkhonto We Sizwe – Lerumo la Sechaba. He was found guilty under the Terrorism Act and was executed by hanging at Pretoria Central Prison on 06 April 1979. At the age of 23, Mahlangu was executed for his bravery and unwillingness to submit and sellout on his ideals of a free and united South Africa.

His last words to his mother, Martha Mahlangu, as he walked through the gallows of death remains relevant even today. He said: "My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. – which we are enjoying – Tell my people that I love them. They must continue the fight." His tears ushered in a period of heightening lawlessness as the Mass Democratic Movement structures started with heightening and concerted campaigns to defy the monstrous apartheid rules.

We continue to celebrate martyrs such as Kalushi because today we are basking in, enjoying and eating the fruits of his blood under freedom and democracy because of the solid revolutionary foundation that he, and a host of other freedom fighters, have laid.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Mochadi. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Moraka.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Anna Tandi Moraka, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mochadi. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable Members, let's make sure that we comply with the rules of COVID-19. Please make sure that you wear your masks all time. Is there any motion without notice? There is none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Is there any notice of motion in terms of House Rule 143? There is none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements in terms of Rule 200? I recognise Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

COMMUTERS' CONCERN OVER THE UNROADWORTHINESS OF GREAT NORTH TRANSPORT BUSES (Members' Statement)

A Great North Transport bus carrying passengers caught fire on Tuesday morning, 05 April 2022 at GaThaba village in GaMolepo. One passenger who tried to jump off through a window when the bus caught fire suffered minor injuries and was taken to the nearest hospital for treatment.

This was not the first time that the safety of commuters has been compromised by Great North Transport that uses unroadworthy buses. On 31 May 2017, a Great North Transport bus caught fire in Polokwane. In that incident there were also no reported casualties as passengers escaped via emergency doors and windows. It was alleged that the fire started from the front of the moving bus.

Furthermore, in March 2015, 10 people died and 39 were injured around Tzaneen after a Great North Transport bus crashed following an apparent brake failure. After the recent GaThaba incident, the department, through its spokesperson, said that it was still unclear as to what could have caused the fire, but investigations are ongoing. This is the same response by the department on the previous incidents. As the department re-investigates

this matter, the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism must commit himself to provide LEDET and Transport and Community Safety portfolio committees with reports and measures that will be put in place to ensure the safety of commuters, especially in the hands of a state-owned entity such as the Great North Transport.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Is there any other Members' Statement? I recognise Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings to our colleagues, the staff members and our guests today.

CONCERN OVER THE FAILURE BY THE ANC-LED GOVERNMENT TO RENDER SERVICES IN TZANEEN MUNICIPALITY (Members' Statement)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to present the Members' Statement about the ANC which is feeding our communities with empty hopes in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. Our people continue to suffer in the hands of the ANC-led government due to lack of service delivery in their areas while money is being misused through corrupt means.

Last year the people of Bolobedu, GaThoko village in Ward 9 under Greater Tzaneen Municipality at Mopani District embarked on a protest, demanding tar road in their areas. This happened just before the 2021 local government elections and because it was election time, the municipality rushed to the community and committed themselves that the roads will be built this financial year.

It has been a tendency of the ruling party to feed our people with empty hopes especially during the election period. As usual, the ANC government led an electioneering campaign at GaThoko village and promised community members paved roads. As we speak, this road is not even in the draft IDP document of the municipality; meaning that it is not budgeted for. The EFF sympathises with the people of GaThoko who believed the lies of the ANC-led government.

Just last week, there was a terrible accident on the road and people nearly lost their lives. The car fell into the valley beside the road because of dangerous conditions of the road. The dangerous pothole that ripples the road gives an access to six villages of GaThoko, Kwekinya, Jokone, Chipolo, Tshilubeni and Maseboya and further connect Greater Tzaneen Municipality and Greater Letaba Municipality.

We call upon the dodgy ANC-led municipality to deliver on their promise and construct the road for the people as per their commitment. We further call upon the MEC for

CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to the people of GaThoko.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Are there further Members' Statements? There are none. Are there any responses from the Executive? I recognise MEC Hon Makamu.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY]

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Let me start my response with the issue raised by Hon Phala in terms of the unroadworthiness of the GNT buses. You will remember that by the time MEC Mokone presented his Budget Speech, we have embarked on purchasing buses in order to renew those buses that are there. As we continue to make sure that we put GNT buses safety first, we came to this Legislature and accounted for the work that GNT was faced with. The strategies that we have put in place as the Executive Council to make sure that it's a sustainable entity was to make sure that it is able to deal with public transportation in the province.

I will look into this specific matter and respond on behalf of MEC Hon Mokone who is not here today. The fact remains that the entire Executive Council has already come up with a recovery plan and turnaround strategy in order to make sure that GNT becomes sustainable to provide public transport in the province.

There is another Members' Statements raised by Hon Seshoka. I must clarify that any road that connects two municipalities – and in this case it's Greater Tzaneen and Greater Letaba municipalities – should not be budgeted for by the municipality, but by the provincial government in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

Nevertheless, Hon Seshoka, you were correct to say that it was supposed to be in the IDP of the municipality. I must also indicate that it is not the ANC's intention and I thought by this time, all of us have accepted that the people of this province and the people of Letaba and Greater Tzaneen Municipalities have got serious confidence in the ANC. It's not that we visit them during elections only. In fact, we stay with them. We don't only go there during elections. If you look at the conditions of the roads that are here in this province, we are going everywhere and building roads, and MEC Masemola is aware and busy with that. We are not doing it for elections. The people of this province have elected the ANC without giving them roads and water. We are doing it because we are the ones who should be able to provide that as we are the government.

I will also take the matter up and look at why it isn't necessary in the IDP of Greater Tzaneen Municipality. The fact remains that everywhere in the province we are providing services as the ANC.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC Hon Makamu for the response.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Is there any Executive Statement? There is 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. Second Reading: Presentation of Budget Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B01-2022]

We shall now call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Masemola.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(Address by Dr N D Masemola, MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure)

Madam Speaker, a very good morning to you and Deputy Speaker as well; Hon Premier, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip of the Legislature; my colleagues; Members of the Executive Council present here this morning; chairpersons of the portfolio committees; leaders of the opposition; honourable Members of the House; Executive Mayors; Mayors; Speakers; and Councillors of municipalities in our province; royal leaders represented by both the House as well as Contralesa; Director-General of the province; chairperson and board members of Roads Agency Limpopo; HoDs present here this morning; leadership of the ANC as well as the alliance; veterans of our liberation movement; leaders of religious community; leaders of organised business and labour; leaders of the youth, women and community structures; members of the media; people of Limpopo; comrades; friends and fellow South Africans; thobela. Avuxeni. Ndi matsheloni. Good morning. Goeie môre. Lotjhani.

We stand in this august House of the people of Limpopo – the seat of our democracy – during this very significant month in the calendar of our country in our revolution. It is the month of the martyrs of the struggle for freedom. It is the Freedom Month in which we remember the passing on of President Oliver Reginald Tambo, Tembisile Chris Hani, Adv Zola Skweyiya, Winnie Mandela and Solomon Mahlangu, just to mention but a few.

Equally significant, we have just observed the 43rd anniversary of the brutal killing of a brave young operative of the liberation army of uMkhonto we Sizwe, Kalushi Solomon

Mahlangu, who faced the gallows on 06 April 1979. Related to this context is that we have also commemorated the 62nd anniversary of what is recorded in our history as one of the darkest days in our struggle for freedom; to free the people of South Africa from bondage and shackles of brutal apartheid regime, the Sharpeville Massacre. To date, since the advent of democracy, which was ushered in through blood and sweat of our heroes and heroines, both unsung and renowned, we observe this day as the Human Rights Day.

This year, it was observed under the theme: “The Year of Unity and Renewal: Protecting and Preserving our Human Rights Gains.” As we continue to make strides in advancing the National Democratic Revolution towards full realisation of the Freedom Charter, we have sought to return to this honourable House to present a holistic account on how we continue to work and contribute to the quality life for the people of our province and ensure that they continue to enjoy their rights as enshrined in Chapter 2 of the Bill of Rights of our Constitution.

This policy speech will be another contribution in our collective endeavours of the momentous efforts by this administration led by Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha in order to reconstruct the economy and re-ignite socioeconomic activities in bettering the lives of the people. It is a package of our endeavours aimed at contributing towards a more positive viable economy and sustainable livelihoods. In terms of the latest report by Stats SA, our gross domestic product (GDP) as a country has grown by 1,2% in the fourth quarter of 2021, which contributed to a total annual growth of 4,9% for the entire year 2021.

We need to continue on such a positive note as we gradually emerge from difficult times that we were besieged with. Last time when we stood here to give a report of government through the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, we were going through difficult times of uncertainty in our livelihoods due to the threat brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Today we stand in this House grateful that we are gradually emerging stronger as people, who are working together on our way towards the necessary reconstruction and recovery of our socioeconomic difficulties that besieged us in the past two years.

We are talking at the time when as a country we have just exited the National State of Disaster which lasted for two years and in continuing to manage COVID-19, some of the measures remained in put to help us manage the transition.

This period had an effect on the fiscus and therefore it dictated the allocation of resources. However, to this extent we have been able to save the lives of the people and in going forward we should be able to re-arrange our system in response to the needs and challenges that our people continue to face. It is therefore, undoubtedly, a period through which we, as government, are working hard to address socioeconomic challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality and the ailing economy which were further exacerbated by this pandemic. As government, we made a commitment to the people of South Africa through the National Development Plan 2030, a period less than 10 years from now. We are very impatient as this administration with bureaucratic challenges, and we wittingly remain prepared to take the nation forward.

All this will happen without any failure because we have a responsibility to meet the 2030 National Development Plan targets. In our provincial context we have, through the Limpopo Development Plan 2021-25, accordingly aligned ourselves to this noble national blueprint for development. In the next three years from today, we will take stock of the strides made in developing the situation of our people in the province. As the department, we are here to account for the achievements registered during the 2021/22 financial year through the massive roll-out of infrastructure projects throughout the province.

We heeded the call by the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, to contribute to the economic reconstruction and recovery programme through infrastructure implementation. Today we are happy to report that in the year under review, the department stepped up to the challenges and launched what we call “Letšema Ditseleng” which is a campaign aimed at getting more people involved in project implementation by infusing massive labour-intensive aspect of the construction projects. This method to massify job-creation is implemented through our road maintenance and road upgrades programmes. One such project is the inter-municipal rural access road which links eight villages across Capricorn and Mopani Districts. The road was constructed through the use of differentiated engineering methods and material which include concrete and interlocking paving bricks taking into consideration the landscape of that area.

This is where at least 115 beneficiaries participated in the construction of 32 km road and produced high quality work. In the same spirit, about 50 SMMEs benefited from various business opportunities throughout the life cycle of this project. His Excellency, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa witnessed this confluence of great engineering work and the investment of resources with maximisation of job-creation when he visited the project in Thakgalane village, in Letaba Municipality under Mopani District. The project is in its final stage and will be completed very soon. This has been one of the best means to showcase what the department through Roads Agency Limpopo is able to achieve with limited resources given the well-known fiscal constraints that we continue to grapple with.

This is one of the road infrastructure projects currently under construction that we had committed to implement through a multi-year budgeting process that has since proven to be working. In the 2021/22 financial year, we made several commitments to the people of Limpopo concerning road infrastructure delivery. It must be noted that these commitments were made with the understanding of our current financial standings as a province and notwithstanding the fact that more still needs to be done despite the budget constraints. An amount of R1,1 billion was transferred to Roads Agency Limpopo for operational costs and roads maintenance in the 2021/22 financial year.

This amount could not make any provision for us to start any new road upgrades given multi-year projects that are still under implementation, and nothing were expected to be delivered to our people precisely because of the above-mentioned point. The allocation for upgrading gravel roads to tar is the equitable share of the province. It has proven over time that it is insufficient given the backlog confronting our government and the expectations of our people. Another allocation provided for roads is the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant which is strictly meant for maintaining only the existing tar roads and nothing else.

Through the Roads Agency Limpopo, we were able to work on several provincial roads across the province that required maintenance and major rehabilitations. Allow me at this point in time to provide details concerning these roads I have mentioned, because one of the issues the people of Limpopo are concerned about is seeing actual contractors working on our roads network.

These are projects that had already commenced over a few financial years as I already indicated and were due for completion. We have been able to complete phase 1 of 3 km stretch of road D3878 from Sekororo towards Balloon Road. Phase 2 is for upgrading 7,5 km stretch on road D3727 from Mashamba - Mulima - Tshitale - Morebeng. It is a stretch of three roads. This is a stretch of roads that requires further attention on the part where it is unpaved. Therefore, with the limited resources, we will work on the remaining part of the road gradually. In this financial year, we will improve part of it to an engineering string gravel road and in that way we will be providing a lasting solution for the people of that area to traverse but most importantly, laying a foundation for ultimately tarring the road as we move forward.

The upgrading of 5 km road D4253 in GaMasemola in Sekhukhune is also 100% complete and was officially opened by the Hon Premier in October 2021. In Vhembe District, we have also completed phase 1 of the upgrade of road D3688 from Khubvi to Tshidzivhe which is a 3 km stretch. This is the road which made headlines where local people decided to take matters into their own hands and tried to pave it with cement. The terrain of this road requires intense engineering approach and methods. In this financial year we have planned to apply differentiated engineering methods given the terrain of the place to make sure that this road is durable and usable and, of course, as the department we are going to respond to that situation.

The upgrade of 3km o road D3187 and D3843 from Mageva to Makhuvha in Mopani District is complete. The people of Mokwakwaila, Mawa and surrounding areas in Mopani District can also attest to the 100% completion of phase 1 of the upgrading of road D3200. In going forward, this year we are going to do designs for the remaining part of the road so that upon completion, we will be able to complete that remaining stretch of the road that links both Mokwakwaila and Mawa. As we register progress in many parts of the province, we are fully aware of the work that should be done in many other areas.

We are working tirelessly to touch as many communities as possible thereby enabling a hive of socioeconomic activities across the length and breadth of the province in the process of project implementation. In that regard, we are also pleased with the progress registered in other projects which are outlined as follows:

- The construction of bridge 6116 in Makuleke is currently at 100% completion – this bridge is on the road D3653 which is in a bad condition somewhere at Collins Chabane Local Municipality. We have put plans in place to start with its major rehabilitation in this current financial year and a contractor has been appointed and is busy taking site.

- The upgrading of 22 km on road D4370 from Tompi Seleka - Mogaladi - Phokwane is at 95% completion and despite the problems that were encountered, we would like to thank the community leaders of that area by working together with us to resolve the said problems and the road is almost about to be completed.
- The upgrading of 11 km on road D2922 and D2919 from Keerom (Metsanangwana) to Tshikanosi is at 100% completion.
- The rehabilitation of 19 km on road D1589 from Kgobokanang to Makgato in Blouberg is at 100% completion.
- The upgrade of 3 km on road D3377 from Limburg to Matlala, Capricorn District is at 99% completion.
- The upgrade of 32 km on road D3232, D15 and D3150 from Morebeng to Sekgosese is at 95% completion – this is the road that I have mentioned that the President has visited recently.
- The rehabilitation of 30 km on road P51/3 from Stofberg in Sekhukhune is at 95% completion. Phase 2 of this road will cover a 9 km stretch of the road and a contractor has been appointed and is busy with site establishment. Phase 3 will be completed in the next financial year to complete this key economic road which connects Stofberg and Groblersdal.
- In the same area, there is a significant amount of work carried out by SANRAL on R555 which connects to this road P51/3 as follows:
 - The improvement of road condition from Stofberg to Burgersfort and from Steyndrift to Steelpoort River while the following roads are at planning and design stage;
 - The road that stretch from Stofberg to Steyndrift, Steelpoort River - Kokwaneng - Kokwaneng - GaMapodila; and lastly from GaMapodila to Burgersfort town. These are multi-year projects that will help to improve road network in that part of the province once completed.
- The rehabilitation of 7,5 km on road D2537 in Penge in Sekhukhune is at 84% completion and this road connects Penge as well as Dresden on your way to Burgersfort.
- Phase 1 rehabilitation of 30 km on road D4 from Malamulele to Elim is at 73% completion – this road ultimately connects to the N1 and its rehabilitation is done in phases. Phase 2 will cover 10 km from where phase 1 ends and proceed to Vyeboom. At this point, a contractor has been appointed and is busy with site establishment. Furthermore, plans are underway to start on the N1 side towards Elim passing Mailaskop and nearby villages and a contractor as well has been appointed to deal with the problems on that road.

- The rehabilitation of 5 km on road D4150 from Bothashoek to Praktiseer is also at 75% completion.
- The rehabilitation of road D3840 from Giyani to Phalaborwa phase 1 is at 75% completion: A contractor is on site to start with phase 2 which will complete the entire road from Giyani to Phalaborwa.
- In Giyani there is road D3641 from Giyani College via Thomo to Mninginisi which is in a very bad state. Plans are underway to ensure that this road is fixed through our internal maintenance. During this current financial year, we are going to put a contractor on site to deal with that problem.
- Phase 1 rehabilitation of 9 km on road D11 in Mopani is at 65% completion. A contractor is on site for the phase 2 and that will complete the entire rehabilitation of road D11 at GaMamaila Kolobetona.

Allow me at this point to say, may the soul of His Royal Highness, Kgoši Mamaila Kolobetona to rest in peace. He departed recently and in the same vein we bow our heads in honour of the departed struggle stalwart of our liberation, Ntate Poo Pharephare Mothupi, who hails from the same area. We worked with these two leaders when we started these projects, and we will forever cherish their support and in their honour, we will make sure that this road is completed. May their souls rest in peace!

This affirms our resolve that we shall continue to demonstrate our commitment to serve by demonstrable progress and furthermore account accordingly as follows:

- The rehabilitation of 5,3 km on road D3200 from Lebaka to Mohlabaneng in Mopani at Letaba Municipality is at 95% completion.
- Phase 1 of the rehabilitation of road D1483 from Musina to Pondrift in Vhembe is at 83% completion and plans are underway for phase 2 to begin in this new financial year and the contractor will be put on site in the coming week.
- This rehabilitation will restore the condition of this road and enable it to continue to support tourism activities in that part of the province as it provides access to the Mapungubwe National Park.
- The rehabilitation of the flood-damaged road D4240 at Maseven village in Tubatse is at 52% completion. In this project, we have planned to upgrade the existing bridge that was not appropriately built.
- Road D4424 from Lulekani in Phalaborwa will be rehabilitated this financial year to be in good state of use. A contractor will be put on site in the next coming weeks.
- Road P98/2 from Makhado to Vivo – the work is underway to ensure routine and preventative maintenance for about 35 km stretch of 52 km route.

During the financial year under review, we also made efforts to meet with the Project Steering Committee and Vhembe Municipal District leadership regarding the Makuya-Masisi road upgrade. The project had challenges but to this end, we can report to this honourable House that 25 km stretch of road P277/1 from Thulamela Municipality all the way to Musina has been unlocked and the construction is progressing very well. We continue to strengthen and sharpen our project management and stakeholder engagement processes within both the department and RAL to ensure smooth running and ultimate conclusion and completion of our projects on time.

We had also committed to various communities and their respective municipalities and royal authorities that we will begin with the rehabilitation of their roads very soon. We are pleased to report that road D192 in Mogalakwena which passes through Rantlakana, GaChere to Marken in Waterberg's major rehabilitation work on this road is about to start and a contractor is on site establishment.

Over and above that, the following other projects are equally at site establishment phase and we will be breaking ground in this new financial year:

- Maintenance of road D856 from Dennilton to Moteti;
- Maintenance of road D3873 from Bokgaga to Lephepane;
- Maintenance of road D3880 from Lenyenye to Mosoroni;
- Maintenance of road D3110 from GaSeleka to Shongoane;
- Maintenance of road D4070 from Mamaolo – Seleteng – Mashite;
- Maintenance of road P18/2 from Kuschke to Zebediela;
- Maintenance of road D3502 from Magongoa to Mosesetjane;
- Maintenance of road D2219 from Magnet Heights to GaMalekana Steel Bridge; and
- Maintenance of road D3820 from Rotterdam.

Community dynamics which emerged during the implementation of these road projects have been resolved and we will continue with the work unabated. Noting the negativity and sceptics who have been telling the community that we don't care about them. We want to prove to them that they were just blowing hot air. Whoever went to that community and said that must regret that unfortunate stance the person took. We once again prove that we subscribe to the fundamental values enshrined in the Constitution of our country that we shall serve our people without any failure and any favour.

The construction of a new state-of-the-art bridge in GaMalekana at the intersection of road D2219 and R555. This is where the long-standing one-way steel bridge which is 94 years old continues to cause massive traffic congestion.

We appreciate the mining companies that have made significant pledges towards the construction of this iconic state-of-the-art-bridge. Combined financial contributions with government have brought us to the realisation of this project. The project is at the final stages of detailed design and in the next few weeks we will hand over a contractor site to start with the actual construction of a new bridge at GaMalekana steel bridge. That steel

bridge will be an issue of the past and the old one will be refurbished or rehabilitated to become a heritage site for the people of our province and many others who visit that part of the province.

These projects that we continue announcing and implementing are not just sand and stones, pavement and asphalt, they have significant impact on the lives of the people as they participate both as employees and SMMEs during their implementation. Through these projects, many young people of working age including women and people living with disability have been able to gain skills that can help them sustain their livelihoods long after the projects would have been completed. Allow me to remind the people of this province that there were issues of suspected negligence and possible sleaze related to the maintenance of road D959 from Makhado to Madombidzha route.

Soon after the completion of the project, the road started to deteriorate. The matter has been handed over to both the SIU and the Hawks and we are waiting for a report and an official in the department in this regard has been suspended. We are going to move steadfastly without any favour to make sure that state resources are not being taken for granted.

In the meantime, phase 2 of road D959 towards Makhado town will begin in this quarter. On road D3715 of Sinthumule which connects to the road going to Kutama villages phase 1 has started and is progressing very well. We remain committed to ensure that we deal decisively with matters of suspected malfeasance, sleaze and malversation as they subsequently lead to delivery of sub-standard infrastructure, and this cannot be accepted nor tolerated. The commitments we make to the people of our province from time to time do not go unnoticed and therefore unimplemented. During the 2021/22 Budget Vote in this very august House, we announced that we will do designs for several roads which are part of the backlog in terms of road infrastructure delivery in the province.

We have since allocated engineers during the financial year under review and the designs are at an advanced stage. In this financial year we are going to start with the construction of the following roads – In fact, we are going to upgrade them from gravel to tar – after having slightly stabilised and received some significant contributions from the Provincial Treasury. We thank you, Hlabirwa'a Hlabirwa, for that consideration because now at least this year we are able to start a new set of roads that we will upgrade from gravel to tar as we move forward. We are going to start upgrades on the following roads:

- D4180 road from Atok Mine - GaSelepe - Modimolle
- D3278 road from Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek
- D3561 road from Segole 1 and Segole 2 from Masebe Nature Reserve to N11 Waterval
- D4260 road from Malope to Phokwane
- D3669 road from Mavhunga Access road
- D3734 Tshatshama road in Mopani which is GaRaphahlelo, GaPhooko
- D4090 road, D4093 road, D4094 road and D4096 road that connects to Malimati village
- D4199 road from Apel to Ga-Nkoana

- D3436 road, D3428, D5005 road from GaRamoshwane - GaRammetlwane to GaRamotlwana
- D3248 road from Thapane Access to N'wamitwa
- D4283 road from Glencowie to GaMalaka
- D3671 road from Musekwa to Maranikwe
- D4260 road from Malope to Phokwane
- The upgrading of the 10 km road D4109 from Mmamatonya road to road D885.

Currently, designs were concluded, and the project is ready for implementation without any failure. These are the lists of projects which the Hon Premier mentioned during the State of the Province Address to make sure that this department, through Roads Agency Limpopo, makes it possible that the people of our province experience, once again in their lifetime, progress with regard to how we work the networks of our province. The roads upgrade backlogs in the province remain enormous and a major challenge given that we are forever inundated with demands by communities for their roads to receive attention.

In that regard, we are trying our best to address these challenges through Roads Agency Limpopo despite budget limitations which, of course, is a reality. It is in that spirit that in this financial year we will consider the following bridges and roads for technical designs and later upgrading most probably, in the next financial year:

- Flood-damaged bridges on road D3505 near Thutlane community in Mogalakwena within the Bakenburg area.
- The flood-damaged bridge on road D3753 near Dzondo community in Thulamela
- The flood-damaged bridge on road D3817 near Wayeni community in Collins Chabane
- The designs for the upgrading of road D3746 between Schuynshoogte, Vyeboom and Dhavana cross
- D3661 road from Tshikonelo to Xikundu in Collins Chabane
- Design for the upgrading of Leolo Access Road D4227
- Designs for the upgrading of road D2405 from R36 to Kgautswane village
- The bridge on road D5010 from Maijane to Nkotokwane
- D4032 road from GaMothapo, Phomolong to Rampheri
- D4285 road from Maserumule park - Leeuwkraal - Patantswane
- Road D3710 from Dzingahe to Tshivhazwaulu
- Road D2677 from Vleifontein - Nthabalala - Mpofu - Pfananani
- D2913 road from Magakadimeng - Mpheleng - Stompo
- D3786 road from Mashishimale from R3 to R1
- D4055 road from Mafefe, Geneva to Moroke
- D3746 road in Vuwani. This is one of the longest stretches of road which stretches through the areas of the following royal leaders: Masia, Nengwekhulu and Tshimbupfe;
- The design for maintenance of road D1231 from Mashashane to Mokopane
- Road D3135 from Botlokwa old clinic to Sekakene village
- Road D3370 from D19 to Newlands, Setotolwane to Mapangula.
- Seriting, Mohlalaotwane to Tafelkop

- Mphanama to GaRadingwana
- Road D3812 from Homu 14B to Vuhehli
- D1589 road from GaMakgato - Eldorado - GaDankie
- D3775 road Mangweni to Mafarana

We are engaging with the mine regarding the road that connects Phahlamanoge and Tjate and hopefully, a solution will be found because partnerships are critical in the delivery of road infrastructure. In the meantime, we are considering other means to make the road useable.

The above-mentioned list is not conclusive. It's an attempt for this financial year going forward with an understanding that the COVID-19 exit will most probably unfreeze resources which were locked to fight the pandemic. Most probably, as various departments we will be able to get what we deserve as a reasonable share to enable us to redouble our efforts moving forward. The roads mentioned above are critical for the socioeconomic development of the province and as such we are looking into other reliable funding streams primarily the Presidential Infrastructure Commission, which needs bankable projects that are ready for implementation and upon completion of these designs, we will be ready for rollout given availability of resources at that level.

Beyond any doubt, given the commitment and passion of Dr Ramokgopa, we are quite certain that upon completion of this design we will secure funding over and above the provincial contribution to this department and therefore enable Roads Agency Limpopo to do its work. There are several roads in the province that are receiving attention to restore their condition as we have reported to this honourable House before. However, allow me to list the following two roads that are unique given their location and the access they enable:

- Road D3184 in Morutji village which is at 95% completion of its 4,5 km major rehabilitation work. This road leads to the Modjadji Queenship Royal Palace.
- Road P278/1 in Nzhelele area.

We have recently allocated a contractor to this road for major rehabilitation of 4,8 km stretch of that road which was horribly damaged. This road provides access to Vhavenda Kingship Royal Palace. For the financial year 2022/23 the department will transfer R1,5 billion to RAL for road maintenance and upgrading and for the entity's operational costs. This allocation will help address part of the backlog that the province has regarding road upgrades notwithstanding the extent of challenges at hand and resources permitting would enable faster movement.

We will continue monitoring the implementation of the outlined projects working together with communities for quality and durable roads that will serve the people for decades to come.

We will continue with both preventative and routine maintenance on the roads of the province. This work is carried out by Roads Agency Limpopo and through the household programmes as well as 36 cost centres that are based in 22 of our local municipalities.

These are service points expected to service the communities and we will continue to strengthen their capacity both technically and with human resources.

To improve on our performance, senior officials both in the districts and provincial office will have their performance agreement directly linked to set targets and areas under their administrative leadership.

Be that as it may, challenges of old yellow fleet negatively affect our work. However, we have since submitted our plans to the Provincial Treasury and we are confident that we will receive positive feedback and deal with the replacement of this old fleet which makes our cost centres' work a bit difficult. Our communities complain from time to time because of broken equipment. As we continue with infrastructure maintenance based on policy redesign and development given the challenges confronting the municipalities, we have since taken a bold decision to deepen and enhance cooperative governance by giving it a concrete expression at the level of service delivery.

We are going to rehabilitate roads in the following municipalities: Baphalaborwa, Musina, Elias Motsoaledi focusing on Groblersdal and Motetema. In Polokwane, we will be focusing on Mankweng; in Collins Chabane we will be focusing on Malamulele; in Bela-Bela we will be focusing on the township; in Tubatse we will be focusing on Burgersfort; and Makhado Municipality. This special intervention programme will focus on the CBDs, industrial areas, and identified townships in those municipalities. This will mark the beginning of a one-of-a-kind intergovernmental resource and expertise collaboration that will take the province's road infrastructure maintenance to another level.

This is why we thought it will be extremely important that we design and redefine the mandate of Roads Agency Limpopo and collaborate with municipalities and provide the capacity required so that the conditions in those municipal areas and towns of our province can be restored to their state of normality. We are looking forward to this special intervention to bring about serious changes in the outlook of the road networks in those suburban areas which include the central areas as well townships of those places.

We have started with the programme in Mogalakwena Municipality and people are appreciating the efforts of this caring ANC-led government. We remain steadfast in our approaches and endeavours to restore the affected infrastructure for quality services and facilitation of socioeconomic activities. Beyond any reasonable doubt, we are on track to serve our people. We are in the process of establishing Roads Agency Limpopo Regional Boards in the five districts of the province that will comprise five board members each and we will have ex officio members drawn from designated authorities. Their primary focus will be amongst others to deal with the following in their advisory role to the MEC responsible for this portfolio:

- Illegal demarcation of sites on land adjacent to the provincial network and illegal structures within the road reserves of the provincial roads.
- Access to and egress from the provincial roads are amongst many other things that this regional road boards are going to do. We are looking forward to the

finalisation of the process between us on the outstanding technical matters that are from Provincial Treasury and therefore we will have to go to the public and put these boards into office so they can start doing their work looking after the road networks of the province and the conditionalities that are attached thereto should be observed without any failure.

If you travel to many parts of the province, there are structures built just adjacent to the road and tomorrow if there are any possible road extensions, it is just going to be impossible. These regional road boards, amongst other things, are going to normalise that anomaly and restore law and order and compliance without any failure. During the State of the Province Address, the Hon Premier indicated government's commitment to matters of royalty. As such, matters relating to the building of traditional council offices are getting the necessary attention. We are very serious and deliberate about retaining the prestige of the institutions of royal leadership in the province.

In this regard, we will start working together with CoGHSTA to construct the following traditional council offices: Bakone ba Matlala Traditional Authority; Majeje Traditional Authority; Raphahlelo Traditional Authority; Bakwena ba Matsepe Traditional Authority; Manoke Traditional Authority; Davhana Traditional Authority; and Bokone Traditional Authority.

Equally, we will continue with the construction of Mogashoa-Ditlhakaneng Traditional Council Offices where progress is at 55% and we have completed the construction of Ditlou Machidi Traditional Council Offices and most probably, the MEC for CoGHSTA and ourselves will go there to handover that project to the said communities. This is the demonstrable evidence of the efforts by the provincial administration to restore and retain honour and prestige that the royal leadership deserves in the province. We will therefore handover contractors' sites in the coming weeks for the projects referred to above.

In going forward and in line with the provincial government's efforts to reconstruct and grow the economy, we are currently working with LEDET and SANParks as they start the process of opening a new gate into the Kruger National Park on the Shangani Gate. We will start with the planning and design of a 3,5 km access road in support of the work to grow tourism as one of the pillars of the provincial economy. Understandably, this intended project will bring changes in that part of the province. The work to maintain the roads of the province comes with opportunities for the people who reside within areas where such happens.

Through the 22 household projects that are contracted to the department for three years and through EPWP coordination; people get attached to these activities for their livelihood and therefore their plight is our concern.

In the financial year 2021/22, this programme benefitted about 4 920 people out of whom 3 624 are women, 40 are people with disability, and 1 937 are young people and many small, micro and medium enterprises (SMMEs). We have just had the EPWP Provincial Summit that came up with a set of resolutions to guide the implementation thereof and we are looking forward to the realisation of the set targets and recording of meaningful

progress on job opportunities, on training and skills development, artisan development, empowerment of women and youth and participation of people living with disability.

In the 2021/22 financial year, we have set a target of 95 210 work opportunities as the provincial administration, and we have surpassed the target by creating 95 907 job or work opportunities. These achievements are distributed per EPWP sector as follows: Infrastructure = 25 243; Environment and Culture = 10 461; Social Sector = 23 682; and Non-state Sector = 36 521 work opportunities. In terms of social groups, women account for 67 885, youth 30 798 and people living with disability 733.

In essence, in the 2020/21 financial year, we have recruited 50 participants in partnership with the South African National Council for the Blind for a period of 24 months. This year the contract has been renewed and the participants are placed at institutions identified by the South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB) for the coming 24 months. Again, in the 2022/23 financial year, the department has partnered with DeafSA Limpopo Chapter whereby 100 participants are part of the programme and will be placed at different institutions identified by DeafSA Limpopo.

A conversation in this regard was occasioned based on the theme: “Contextualizing the role of Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) in economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic”. During this summit, we were honoured by the presence of the International Labour Organization (ILO) represented by Ms Mito Tsukamoto from ILO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

This programme is essential to help people to survive as we grapple with the negative impact of the pandemic and the triple challenges that faced society. Our Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan is driven through infrastructure rollout, especially through capital projects aimed at improving provincial assets as well as providing adequate infrastructure for government to conduct its business. As the main infrastructure implementing agent for provincial government, we are committed to collaborate, support and ensure collective management and implementation of all these projects because by ourselves we might not be able to do so. We need to ensure that that collective leadership, both politically and administratively, characterises our projects implementation.

We are currently busy supporting client departments for various infrastructure needs and more improvement and progress will be registered in this financial year as well. Over the previous financial year, we have appointed several contractors for the construction of schools across the province. These projects are at different stages of progress and include the Gidela Secondary School, Alldays Secondary School, Marude Secondary School, Mahlagaume Primary School, Leduma Mahume Primary School and Naledi ya Meso Secondary School.

All these projects are at various levels of completion, and we are quite certain that this year, in particular, we should be able to complete them. Lagging behind is Naledi ya Meso in Dikgalaopeng, but interventions have been made to make sure that the contractor who is on site assisted by the officials in the department in terms of tight monitoring and oversight on that project. Equally important, that project should be completed this year.

Our mandate is infrastructure delivery and maintenance, and this was evidenced by the Hon Premier, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, during SOPA when he mentioned a list of projects that we are implementing. Indeed, the pronouncements that we make today resonate with what was said on that day and this would bring serious changes in the development landscape of our province. Furthermore, in support of other client departments, we have completed the construction of offices for the Department of Agriculture in Molemole municipal area. We will continue with the construction and accommodation facilities of the Limpopo Traffic College phase 2 and phase 3 where projects are at 60% and 40% completion respectively. Planning for phase 4 which is the construction of a kitchen is at an advanced stage.

This is where we are going to construct a state-of-the-art traffic college. It is anticipated that construction will commence during the second quarter of this financial year for phase 4 of that project. Again, in this financial year, we will construct Thohoyandou K53 Testing Station in the Thulamela Municipality, Vhembe District. Construction will commence in the first quarter of this year, which means we will hand over a contractor site very soon.

We remain determined to support the Department of Transport and Community Safety to complete key infrastructure and enable the provincial government to enhance revenue generation and therefore boost the provincial fiscus. The work to support the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in their endeavours to continue encouraging and supporting a reading culture in communities continues, and we will construct libraries in Tshaulu, somewhere in Sekhukhune, Botshabelo and Vleifontein.

The construction will commence in the first quarter of this financial year, and we will work together with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and handover those contractors to commence with their work. [APPLAUSE] Furthermore, we are on track with the planning for the state theatre because land transfer with Polokwane Municipality has been concluded. Designs are almost at an advanced stage of completion during this first quarter and quite understandably, in the next quarter of this financial year, we should be able to put a contractor on site to start with the construction of that long-awaited state theatre for the province.

We are hard at work to meet the expectations of the client departments and the province with regard to this state theatre. [APPLAUSE] For the construction of the Maphutha Malatji Out-Patient Department (OPD) projects which is currently at 92%, the department intends to continue and bring this project to completion by this current financial year. Administrative issues related thereto are being attended to together with the HOD of Health as well as our HOD to close the project and hand it over to the Department of Health.

On the Department of Health at Letaba Hospital, the construction of a 36 new bed female general ward has been undertaken. We are also dealing with wastewater management which is almost complete and the department will continue with the renovation of the existing 26-bed female ward. The Bosele and Lebogakgomo EMS projects, where sites were handed over to contractors during the third quarter of the 2021/22 financial year, work has commenced and is progressing very well.

As we continue to drive an infrastructure-led socioeconomic recovery in the province, understanding that tourism is one of the pillars of the provincial economy as expressed in the Limpopo Development Plan, we are equally making notable interventions in that space.

We have reported to the people of Limpopo that we have completed phase 1 on the maintenance of Nylsvlei and Wolkberg Nature Reserves. The department will continue with phase 2 of maintenance at Nylsvlei, Wolkberg and Blouberg Nature Reserves from the first quarter of this financial year. The construction of Letaba Nature Reserve is at 40% completion and the maintenance of the access road to Makhutsi Camp in Lekgalametsi Nature Reserve is at 45% completion. At Schoemansdal Museum we are doing one of the most exciting projects, we are currently implementing them, and progress is registered at 67% completion.

The envisaged relocation of Sekhukhune District offices to Jane Furse is imminent. We have made significant progress and achieved a key milestone in this regard. Today, I am excited to announce that we have formally received community resolutions for the allocation of land in the Pedi Mamone jurisdiction next to Jane Furse in Makhuduthamakga Local Municipality. We can report to this august House that 53 hectares of land is allocated for this project, and we have agreed in principle with the people of Mamone, through their leadership authority in the tribal council, that another portion of land for human settlement is available.

They are awaiting CoGHSTA to indicate the size of land required for that development so that they can start phase 2 of releasing land for the purposes of macro socioeconomic development on that space, with an endeavour to build a new town, post-apartheid era, for the first time in the Republic of South Africa. [APPLAUSE]

The commitment of the people of Mamone and their royal leadership to these phenomenal efforts and endeavour is beyond reproach. It is perfect, and it must be appreciated. Going forward, in this financial year, we have to install signage on that site to avoid trespassing and invasion. We are going to start with planning and design of the place and finalise the implementation model on the actual construction of that massive project. We, together with Treasury, will assist with all these policy technical areas of implementation on how best which model will be utilised to start the process of relocating the government building complex to Jane Furse. That will be a major and a bold decision to go and build the economy that is so much required and long missed by the people of that region for many years. In fact, for the past 44 years, there was an attempt even during the apartheid era to relocate and build a capital city there which they couldn't.

For the first time in our lifetime, as this generation of leaders, we are going to see an emergence of a town in our lifetime and this is great news to the heroes and heroines who fought for freedom and democracy and, of course, a better life for our people. We will also start engagements with stakeholders for broad briefings and consultation given the magnitude of the project. Indeed, pillars of the new town development are in place, and this remains a historic process to be realised by us as leaders occasioned to provide that required leadership at this point in time. There is nothing insurmountable where solid collective leadership is provided, guided by the need for development and nothing else.

Words of appreciation to all those who participated in this process, particularly, the royal family for their cooperation and robustness with which this matter has been resolved and the community structures for their continued engagements, and my colleagues in the inter-ministerial committee, that work together to drive these processes. Words of thanks and congratulations are also attributed to your leadership. The people of Sekhukhune will finally access government services in their own district instead of travelling to Lebowakgomo in the Capricorn District.

It is clear that Sekhukhune will never be the same after these projects. All of the above-mentioned work must be done, and they will be carried out by capable men and women within both the department and RAL, and that includes efficient and prudent management of the budget allocated for accountability and performance.

I urge the officials to remain focused and ensure that the unqualified audit reports that we got, both from the department and RAL as expressed by the Auditor-General, are sustained and, in fact, work hard towards clean audits. We have been hard at work and showed endeavours to rebuild and strengthen the capacity of the department and that includes the implementation of the newly approved organisational structure which the department struggled with for more than a decade. The resultant effect over the years was the loss of confidence by client departments, hence, Public Works functions are performed elsewhere in the public administration.

There was a loss of skillful officials and depletion of skills base, misalignment between strategy and capacity required. The process will re-position the department for excellence and occasion the officials for change management and heightened efforts to serve our people and rekindle our collective consciousness of the Batho Pele Principle and a need for continuous productive engagements of purpose. As such, RDP of the souls is essential as once said by President Nelson Mandela. In fact, we must all accept that service of national purpose demands a profound mutation in the process of development and deployment of productive bureaucracy for sharpened political as well as moral awareness.

We have worked very hard thus far, notwithstanding related issues thereto in the process of review and implementation. We need our focused attention because any work environment is characterised by bargaining, and that remains a platform created for the provision of collective leadership. This is not a matter of choice but of the law, fully understanding the primacy of sound labour relations and applicable policy frameworks. Development and review of structures is an ongoing dynamic process that always requires continuous assessment and determination based on the Labour Relations Act, the Basic Conditions of Employment Service Strategy and Alignment.

However, we remain committed to platforms of robustness and solutions and a conducive working environment. In this regard, we are and will continue to work with organised labour as we traverse this political administrative landscape in the repositioning of the system. As soldiers of humanity in the vast fronts led by the ANC, we remain faithful to the principles and to the fundamental cause of the revolution through coherence of unity of ideas. We are in full possession of the fundamental orientation and have acquired firm

posture and strength for ideological victories and impetuous advance of great proportions led by seasoned revolutionaries for administrative progress and social power of our people.

The struggle is to defend and consolidate the hard-earned democracy and government demand of our vigilance and actions to continue neutralising and eliminating the maneuvers which may attempt to dislodge the people's movement from the imaginations of the people. In essence, the centre of gravity necessarily remains with the glorious movement, the ANC in this regard, in terms of governance and leadership of society and the entirety of the administration nationally, provincially including the level of local municipalities.

We fully understand the grandeur, diversity and complexity of our province and our mutual approach to our communities. In this regard, therefore, I would like to take this opportunity and appreciate the good work that is done by the officials of the Department of Public Works at various levels of their responsibilities led by HOD, Mr Seroka. Thank you for the wonderful job you are doing in serving the people of this province and keep up the good work. Secondly, thanks to the chairperson of the RAL Board, Mr Matome Ralebipi, and Board members which include the CEO and executives of the entity and its entire staff for the good work that they continue to do. That's what conscious officials do in serving our people.

To the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje, your oversight leadership on the department is also highly appreciated. To the chairperson of Scopa, Hon Monama, thank you for your leadership to ensure accountability as we continue to serve the people of the province. The department receives a Budget allocation of R3 471 248 000 for the 2022/23 financial year. In comparison to the 2021/22 Budget allocation, there is a growth of R259,321 million or a 7% increase from the previous financial year. In the allocation, there is an inclusion of R150 million for Municipal Rates and Taxes, R1,212 billion for Conditional Grants, part of which will be allocated to Roads Agency Limpopo as part of RAL allocation of R1,540 billion for roads maintenance, upgrading, partnerships as well as other operational costs. The departmental allocation is broken down as follows:

- Administration : R399,723 million
- Infrastructure Operations : R708,304 million
- Extended Public Works Programme : R69,287 million
- Roads Infrastructure (both for RAL and the department) : R2,293,934 billion

The revolutionary cause of social justice is on track purposefully geared for improved socioeconomic conditions of the people. The collective convergence of our perfect ideas accepts factual conditions well-articulated in the National Development Plan and, in particular, the Limpopo Development Plan as the guiding policy framework that would guide us and lead us to the greatest heights of development in the province. Ke a leboga. Thank you so much. Ndo livhuwa. Ha khensa. Baie dankie dames en here en die gemeenskappe van Limpopo provinsie. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Selamolela please, keep quiet. The Budget Speech for Vote 9 is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and to report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the MEC for Social Development, Hon Rakgoale, to present the Budget Speech. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEPARTMENT

(Address by Ms N C Rakgoale, MEC for Social Development)

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the ruling party together with the Deputy Chief Whip, leaders of the opposition parties, chairpersons of the portfolio committees, honourable Members of the Legislature, good morning. Ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni.

It is my privilege to present the 2022/23 Budget Speech for the Department of Social Development to this august House. On this occasion allow me to once again appreciate the great work and dedication displayed by our social workers, social auxiliary workers, probation officers, community development practitioners, child and youth, healthcare workers, and all frontline staff who put their lives at risk to render services to the vulnerable members of our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Allow me to report to this august House that on 18 March 2022, we converged all social workers from across the province in Bela-Bela to commemorate World Social Work Day as a way to express our heartfelt appreciation for the sterling work they performed. On the very same day, social workers recommitted to the credo of their profession as a sign of unwavering commitment to continue to serve our people.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, 10 123 cases of gender-based violence were reported in the province. In response to all these cases, our social workers provided psychosocial support services to the victims and ensured that some of them acquired restraining orders against their abusers.

As the COVID-19 situation is slowly normalising, as recently announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa, we as a nation owe a great debt of gratitude to all the dedicated frontline staff, who worked as a collective in providing care for those who needed it most during the trying times of the pandemic. The Department of Social Development is primarily responsible for the implementation of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) priority 4, which is: "Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services". We also contribute towards MTSF priority 6, which is: "Social cohesion and safer communities".

The main beneficiaries or target groups of these priorities are children, older persons, persons with disabilities, destitute families; unemployed and out of school youth, women,

victims of crime and gender-based violence, youth in conflict with the law, individuals infected and affected by HIV/Aids, vulnerable and food-insecure households and individuals addicted to substances. The department provides the bulk of its services in partnership with; civil society organisations, non-profit organisations (NPOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), faith-based organisations, traditional councils, municipalities, agencies, and other government departments, within the context of intergovernmental relations and public-private partnerships.

As the Department of Social Development, we have so far reached out and assisted about 2,6 million beneficiaries, which constitutes half of the province's population, through our social protection system. This includes old age, child support and disability grants along with other forms of social grants. We are proud to say that this is amongst the greatest achievements of the ANC-led government, especially in recent times, when we saw the world come to a standstill due to the COVID-19 pandemic. About 10 million recipients have benefited from social relief of distress in the past financial year. Of that total figure, 1,4 million unemployed beneficiaries are from Limpopo province.

This is a clear demonstration that during these difficult times, we remained a government that truly cares. President Cyril Ramaphosa further recently announced during his State of the Nation Address, that government will further extend the R350 SRD grant to the end of March 2023. Early childhood development remains an apex priority of government. One of our remarkable achievements was the smooth transition of the ECD service from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education. This initiative followed the 2019 State of the Nation Address, wherein President Cyril Ramaphosa directed that the responsibility of ECD be migrated to the Department of Education.

After the signing of the proclamation by the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, consultation processes ensued, and all relevant stakeholders were consulted, who then fully participated in the processes and planning of the function shift. I must emphasise that although the ECD function has been shifted, Social Development remains in the space of ECDs, ensuring that the necessary support is provided to our counterparts the Department of Education in the spirit of cooperative governance. The Department of Social Development will henceforth focus on strengthening the services of; child protection, psychosocial services, child support grants, access to social services to prevent and address risk factors, parental support programmes, respite care facilities, aftercare facilities and private hostels.

To date the department has registered 33 respite care facilities with 847 children, 42 after-school care facilities with 1 412 children, five private hostels with 175 children and we have funded 21 respite care facilities that benefit 921 children. Our society still lives with the ongoing devastation of gender-based violence and femicide every day, which is causing suffering and disruption in families and communities at large. This scourge has been declared a pandemic second to COVID-19 by President Cyril Ramaphosa. This then means that; government, civil society organisations, traditional leaders, faith-based organisations and individual community members must all join hands in the fight against this scourge, which seems to continue unabated.

The Department of Social Development together with the Department of Transport and Community Safety, established a gender-based violence technical committee, as mandated by the Hon Premier. This has seen awareness campaigns taken to areas in Vhembe, Sekhukhune, Waterberg and Capricorn Districts, where incidents of gender-based violence and femicide are more prevalent according to statistics. Through partnerships with the mining sector, Anglo Platinum has donated two houses in the Magobading village in Sekhukhune District, which the department is utilising as a satellite social work office for accessibility of communities around the area. The company also donated a fully furnished park-home which is used as a VEP centre in Mecklenburg in the Sekhukhune District and another house was donated in Thabazimbi, in the Waterberg District, which is also utilised for the same purpose.

As part of implementing the comprehensive poverty relief interventions framework, the department is partnering with registered, functional, and fully compliant non-profit organisations and cooperatives in the five districts of the province. This is being done in the quest to fight poverty and unemployment, which is affecting millions of people in the province - the majority of whom live in the rural areas and are women, youth and persons with disabilities. The department resumed feeding at 19 community nutrition development centres or CNDCs, with 250 people per CNDC, as of September 2021. The service was suspended prior to this date, due to lockdown restrictions and was replaced by the distribution of food parcels during the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years. A total of 116 416 food parcels were therefore distributed between April and September 2021.

The department has entered into partnership with two NPOs, being Makotse which caters for Sekhukhune, Capricorn and Waterberg Districts, as well as Homu Minceka White, which manages the food distribution in Mopani and Vhembe Districts. These two NPOs have the capacity to manage and support the programme and to monitor and provide reports on the implementation of the feeding programme, which benefits a total of 4 750 people. About R13,1 million was allocated towards this programme in the 2021/22 financial year and more than 181 work opportunities were created for cooks and security guards. In addition, 2 914 work opportunities were created through the EPWP programme. The easing of lockdown restrictions on the gathering of people, enabled the department to reach out to more young people in collaboration with LEDA, Molekwane Development CC and Meetse Magolo. Skills development interventions were provided to young persons aged 18 to 35, in starting their own businesses in sectors and disciplines such as poultry production and breeding, project management, computer literacy, brickmaking, customer care, crop production, wellness, thatching, landscaping, beadwork, preparing of CVs and basic plumbing to name but a few. I also wish to highlight that despite a budget cut of R198 million, from R540 million due to reprioritisation to fund COVID-19 priorities in the province in the past financial year, the department managed to fund 2 904 NPOs providing services relevant to the department's mandate. Let me take this opportunity and unpack the department's plans and priorities for the 2022/23 financial year, as I present a total Budget of just over R1,7 billion for the Department of Social Development, Hon Moraka. This is, however, a reduced budget as compared to the R2,01 billion budget, as presented to this House in the past financial year of 2021/2022. I am sure you will understand why because ECD has been migrated to the Department of Education on service standard and quality assurance. I don't know why The MEC for

Provincial Treasury is laughing with me, but I am still going to knock on his door looking for money regardless.

In the recent past, the department experienced difficulties to fully comply with the national supervision framework for social workers. We have therefore decided to prioritise the appointment of social work supervisors to improve current ratios in line with the prescripts and to strengthen service delivery. In the previous financial year, a total of 438 contract social workers were appointed as part of the Presidential Stimulus Package. Unfortunately, the funding was not extended, and their contracts came to an end on 31 March 2022. The appointment of these social workers assisted the department in addressing backlog cases on foster care grant applications. The MEC for Provincial Treasury, as I am on the podium, I am told these social workers are submitting a memorandum to my office.

On services to older persons, let me indicate that 537 older persons will access residential facilities, while 9 250 will access community-based care and support services for the 2022/23 financial year. The department also plans to participate in the golden games provincially and nationally during September and October 2022. Our precious older persons have not been able to participate fully in these healthy ageing activities for the past two years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To that effect, an amount of R4 million has been set aside to promote active ageing. This will assist the department in promoting care and protection, as directed by the Older Persons Act. In our effort to support persons with disabilities, there are three residential facilities in our province to which we are still committing our support 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, and as such, the department has set aside R185,4 million. On the subject of the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre, allow me to indicate that the Department of Social Development is in the process of appointing a transactional advisor who will be key in advising the department on the management of the centre, while we ensure that there is a smooth transition from the current contracted Life Esidimeni. I must hasten to indicate that this specific centre renders specialised services including healthcare, which will necessitate careful consideration in continuing professional care of the patients.

The Department of Social Development has been assigned a specific role in the National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB 2017-2022, mainly to contribute towards the prevention of new HIV, STIs and TB infections and to lead in addressing the social and structural drivers of HIV, STIs and TB. To this effect, the department will train 515 implementers on social and behavioural change programmes, in order for us to reach 29 012 beneficiaries. About 10 800 beneficiaries will be provided with material and psychosocial support. The department will further also provide school uniform, through the appointed NPOs and in partnership with cooperatives, which will benefit 1 500 children from vulnerable and youth-headed families. The department has set aside R3 million for this programme.

Under care and services to families, let me highlight that it is our strong conviction that healthy and cohesive family units are needed urgently to address some of the societal

challenges that we are facing as a nation. Roles and responsibilities by family members will teach our children morals and values while they are at a very young age. To this end, we engaged 23 011 family members through our family preservation services, with 8 436 family members participating in parenting programmes. One hundred and nine individuals were reunited with their families. Despite all our efforts, the violence and abuse against women and children continue unabated. Two hundred and fifty-six cases of child abuse were attended to by social workers and other relevant stakeholders, who provided therapeutic intervention and psychosocial support to the affected children and their families.

The province currently has 14 child and youth care centres, five of which are government-run and nine are managed by NPOs. Seven hundred and twenty-eight children were placed in child and youth care centres due to abuse and neglect. In the previous financial year 84 children were reunited with their families. In order to continue this crucial service in protection of our precious children, an amount of R192,712 million has been set aside.

On community-based care services for children, 37 378 were reached through Community Based, Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes (CBPEIP). The department has therefore adopted a comprehensive poverty relief interventions framework to ensure that there is improved service delivery. The framework consists of six pillars, and they are as follows:

- Pillar 1: Providing feeding to CNDC beneficiaries through cooked nutritious meals;
- Pillar 2: Providing COVID-19 food relief in the form of food parcels to food-insecure households
- Pillar 3: Providing food relief to victims of natural and man-made local disasters;
- Pillar 4: Providing material support such as school uniforms, blankets, sanitary towels, baby diapers, and any other relevant support to beneficiaries of social relief of distress (SRD);
- Pillar 5: Coordinate donation and distribution of food and material support to deserving beneficiaries; and
- Pillar 6: Facilitate developmental initiatives and link beneficiaries with sustainable livelihood opportunities as part of an exit strategy.

I don't expect hands to be clapped because I am not talking about roads, Hon Masemola. I am talking about social issues here. This approach will be implemented in a coordinated and integrated manner through district distribution centres, managed in partnership with non-profit organisations, community-based organisations, traditional councils, and municipalities in line with the District Development Model (DDM).

Twenty million rands has been set aside to implement these pillars that will see a full expansion of community nutrition development centres (CNDs) from 19 in 2021/22 to 27 in the 2022/23 financial year and beneficiaries increasing from 4 750 to 6 750. The food and nutrition security programme has been prioritised as an intervention by the cabinet as part of the revised MTSF priorities in the social development sector. Three thousand EPWP work opportunities will be created within various social development programmes for the youth, women, and persons with disabilities and R10,4 million has

been set aside for this venture. An additional R2 million is allocated for the recruitment of about 30 researchers who will assist the department in conducting a study on the impact of DSD-funded residential facilities and other critical service delivery areas.

To ensure impact-driven results the department will endeavour to provide accredited training to 550 youth, women, and persons with disabilities, including a starter pack allocation to kick-start their own small business initiatives. For this R14,3 million is allocated for the financial year 2022/23, with an additional R7,4 million which will continue to support cooperatives to create the necessary income and promote food security initiatives. With regard to victim empowerment programme, against our relentless efforts, gender-based violence and femicide is continuing to give us sleepless nights and prompted by this, we are going to continue with our vigorous awareness campaigns against this scourge of GBVF and bullying, which commenced in the previous financial year.

We plead with and encourage members of the public, civil society organisations and individual members of the community daily, to help fight this scourge along with other social ills. I have issued a specific directive to management, to start drawing up plans for outreach programmes that will directly involve members of the public in the fight against GBVF. We need an all-hands-on-deck approach. The department has therefore set aside R81,2 million for the funding of the Victim Empowerment Programme. I know this is one programme close to the heart of Hon Phala, Phala the female. With substance abuse having been identified as one of the contributing factors to GBVF and other violent crimes, the department in collaboration with other stakeholders is implementing the provincial drug master plan, aimed at fighting substance abuse, particularly amongst young people.

In partnership with the South African National Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SANCA) and other NPOs, the department continues to render outpatient services to people who are assisted while they are at home. The Seshego Treatment Centre is continuing to do its great work of assisting people who are having challenges with the abuse of substances. During the financial year 2020/21, the department, through the Seshego Treatment Centre, admitted and treated 91 service users. This number increased to 144 service users in the 2021/22 financial year. Therefore, we have allocated R72,2 million, and 22 NPOs rendering relevant services will also be funded from the allocated amount. We are reiterating our call for people who are having challenges with the abuse of substances to seek professional help from our social workers who are deployed across the province. 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 seek treatment. 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 street corners. We are therefore continuing to make a clarion call to all our people to make use of our services so that we can save lives and build strong family units.

Under social crime prevention and support, let me indicate that in an effort to create safer environments in communities, the department is paying special attention to the Social Crime Prevention and Support programme. This is where we will be having concentrated awareness campaigns targeting, schools, children in conflict with the law, youth in

communities and general community members. In the same programme we also manage the Mavhambe and Polokwane Secure Care Centres, where we render rehabilitation programmes, life skills, diversion programmes and psychosocial support to children in conflict with the law. A total of R88,5 million has been set aside for this purpose.

With regard to the district development module, let me highlight that as we all know, the department was also not spared during budget cuts due to COVID-19, where we were forced to halt all planned capital infrastructure projects. We have since turned our focus to maintenance of existing facilities to ensure compliance with relevant labour and building regulations. Hon Speaker, with all of that in mind, herewith, is a summary of the Budget allocated to the aforementioned services:

• Programme 1: Administration	: R339,8 million,
• Programme 2: Social Welfare Services	: R435,0 million,
• Programme 3: Children and Families	: R544,4 million,
• Programme 4: Restorative Services	: R251,1 million,
• Programme 5: Development and Research	: R217,6 million; and
Total	: R1,787,9 billion

In conclusion, allow me, Hon Speaker, to appreciate the unwavering support given by the Hon Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha and our colleagues in Exco. I also want to thank the Portfolio Committee on Social Development led by Hon Sarah Monyamane and all oversight bodies for their guidance and leadership. My appreciation also goes to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) led by Hon Rodgers Monama as they continue to guide us to ensure that public funds are accounted for at all times. In the same breath, allow me to thank the Head of Department, Mr Mahopo, and the management of the department for their dedication and assistance in the delivery of services to our people. The management and staff of Sassa and NGO, the MEC support staff, my family, my children, and all those who pledge their support; I stand and salute in appreciation.

Hon Speaker, it gives me a 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 SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Rakgoale. The Budget Speech for Vote 12 is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development for consideration and to report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu to present the Budget Speech for Vote 11. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COGHSTA

(Address by Mr B R Makamu, MEC for CoGHSTA)

Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier of the province, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; colleagues in the Executive Council; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party; leaders of official opposition parties, the chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, Ms Johanna Aphiri; honourable Members of the august House; the chairperson of SALGA and members of the provincial Executive Committee in the province; our Executive Mayors and Mayors of our local municipalities; the chairperson and the deputy chairperson of Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders including the entire executive committee; provincial leadership of Contralesa; the leadership of the ruling party, the ANC and alliance partners; leadership of chapter 9 and 10 institutions present; the leadership of various religious denominations; representatives of state-owned entities (SOEs); the leadership of Nehawu and PSA in the Department of CoGHSTA, our CoGHSTA staff led by the Acting HOD, Dr Motjatji Malahlela; members of the media present and other stakeholders, ladies and gentlemen; inhlikanhi. Ndi masiari. Thobela. Goeie môre. Silotjhile. Good morning.

Namutlha i siku ro hlamuleka swonghasi, ndzi rhandza ku teka nkarhi lowu ndzi mi xeweta hinkwenu. Hi amukela nkarhi lowu hi nga nyikiwa wona ku mi tivisa leswi hi nga fikelela swona tanihi ndzawulo na leswi hi lavaka ku swifikelela eka lembe ximali leri. It is indeed an honour and privilege for me to present to this august House and the people of this province the Budget Vote 11 for the 2022/23 financial year. This presentation for us, puts into perspective that the provision of decent services is an essential step towards a solution to address most of our social ills. It is no longer only about a constitutional right, but also a Freedom Charter directive to address the scourge of poverty, inequality, homelessness, and unemployment to Limpopo citizenry. In partnership with both the public and private sectors, we have an obligation to commit against the 35,5% unemployment rate which is before us and derive a collective concerted effort to reduce and fight this plight.

An eagle flies with precision. When an eagle grows old his feathers become weak and cannot take him as fast as he would. When he feels weak and about to die, he retires to a place far away in the rocks. While there, he plucks out every feather on his body until he is completely bare. He stays in this hiding place until he has grown new feathers, then he can come out and then flies with precision. Today I'm standing before you with revamped agility and rejuvenated feathers with an assigned responsibility of providing shelter and better services to our needy in the province. It is not just a sole responsibility but a collective responsibility to take the department to the next level. Learning from our challenges, our new feathers are fully oiled to stretch in order to provide houses, security and comfort for all.

We dedicate this Budget Vote of the Department of CoGHSTA to the late veteran of our liberation struggle, Mr Richard Poo Pharephare Mothupi. During its Sitting on Thursday, 24 March 2022, we spared a moment for his tributes as a former Member of this august House. We are a free nation because of the contributions and sacrifices of veterans such as Mr Mothupi. Rest in eternal peace Mr Poo Pharephare Mothupi. Joe Slovo, the former Minister of Housing at the signing of the Botshabelo Housing Accord in 1994 stated the

following: “All role players must strive for the establishment of viable, socially and economically integrated communities.” This Budget we are presenting today is cardinal to the realisation of our vision to promote developmental cooperative governance, support municipalities and traditional leadership institutions and optimally deliver integrated and sustainable human settlements. In honour of our stalwart, our flight of service delivery to the people of Limpopo is endless.

The dawn of our Sixth Term of Administration in 2019 was disturbed by COVID-19. Nevertheless, we continue to commit ourselves to the implementation of the National Department of Human Settlements Strategy for the 2019 to 2024 Medium-Term Strategic Framework. In keeping with the provincial targets which include: 30 732 houses, 8 435 serviced sites, 744 rental housing units, and 10 000 registered title deeds, as the department, we poised ourselves to appoint eligible civil and structural engineers and contractors to achieve a target of 49 911 housing opportunities by 2024.

In his State of the Province Address, the Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha reflected that: “The delivery of housing infrastructure is part of our government’s agenda to restore the dignity of our people, particularly the poor”. In the last financial year, we committed to deliver 4 257 housing units to the qualifying beneficiaries. Despite facing numerous housing delivery challenges during the first two quarters of the previous financial year, I am delighted to announce that as at the end of March 2022, we have managed to recover. We built and handed over 4 122 houses, thus achieving 97% of our annual target. The remaining 3% of the housing units target is at various stages of construction, and completion is planned for the first quarter of this financial year.

We have also provided serviced sites to 2 525 households against a target of 4 098 which translates to 62%. The delay in the completion of several projects was due to the lack of bulk infrastructure which necessitated the relocation of projects. All projects are currently under implementation. The department plans to deliver 4 895 housing units during the 2022/23 financial year, with priority given to designated groups namely: the aged, child-headed families or orphans, people living with disabilities and those without proper shelter. To plan better municipalities were requested to submit a five-year plan for areas to be developed. This will ensure that the planning processes like geotechnical investigations, beneficiary management and clustering of units are undertaken in the preceding years to offset delays in the commencement of projects.

To support rapid land release, the department endeavours to service 6 055 sites. This will ensure that while low-cost houses will be built in the urban areas beneficiaries, who do not qualify to receive breaking new ground (BNG) houses can build their own houses. Bulk infrastructure projects will also be implemented to upscale delivery of serviced sites in pursuance of integrated human settlements. May I take this opportunity to convey this exciting news that our housing quantum has been increased from R115 000 to R141 000 while the service sites increase from R45 000 to R55 000 this financial year.

On land acquisition, the department continues to identify strategically located land for integrated human settlements. To this effect, we are engaging Eskom on an acquisition of Portion 4 of the Farm Paarl in Ellisras comprising of 200 serviced sites. The acquisition will be completed in the first quarter of this financial year. This land is in the mining town

which is a national priority development area. In addition to this, the department is exploring the possibility of acquiring identified serviced stands in the Ephraim Mogale Municipality. The department will continue to identify strategically located land pieces for acquisition, especially in the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Elias Motsoaledi and Polokwane with the purpose of creating integrated sustainable human settlements around the province.

As part of housing benefits to the military veterans, the department in collaboration with the Department of Military Veterans (DMV) plans to deliver 79 housing units to the military veterans. The DMV will conduct verification for eligibility of the beneficiaries and attend to the challenges of untraceable beneficiaries. To date, we have provided 122 housing units to approved military veterans' beneficiaries. The department has started with the elimination of asbestos roofs in the province. A total of 1 500 houses will have their asbestos roofs replaced in the 2022/23 financial year in Seshego. Currently, we are busy with assessments in Mogalakwena and Elias Motsoaledi. In line with the Provincial Spatial Development Framework, we will continue to channel resources to the identified provincial growth points which are mining towns. Previously, the projects included servicing of sites in Regorogile in Thabazimbi, construction of a link road in Burgersfort Extensions, provision of a water treatment package plant in Raphuti, correcting the outfall sewer in Mokopane Extension 20 and the construction of roads in Masakaneng. The ring-fenced allocation of R80 million for the 2022/23 financial year will assist the department to provide bulk infrastructure in the identified mining towns projects.

Previously constructed single gender-based hostels degraded the dignity of our citizens and further contributed to the collapse of the family structure. To address this anomaly the democratic government continues to abolish the hostels and create family friendly community residential units (CRUs). The CRU programme aims to facilitate the provision of secure, stable rental tenure for lower income persons or households. The rollout of CRU continues to be the key focus of our department. In the past financial year, the department had a target of 150 CRU units in Marapong, Lephalale. The said target was not met due to payment disputes between the implementing agent which is the housing development agency (HDA) and contractors. To mitigate this challenge, the department terminated the implementation agreement with the HDA and the department is managing the project. In this financial year the department targets to complete 44 units. It is anticipated that upon completion this project will have housed 514 families.

The department is in the process of finalising a feasibility study and project packaging for Talana CRU. The principal agent and contractor will be appointed in the 2022/23 financial year to commence with the actual work of delivering community residential units and ease the congestion which is there at Talana. Service providers for Tshikota CRU have been appointed and the project is currently at site establishment stage. The project will be officially launched in the first quarter of this financial year. In the previous financial year, 35 subsidies were delivered through the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP). The department plans to deliver 50 subsidies under FLISP. The department will further seek partnerships with mining companies and enhance awareness campaigns to reach out to the beneficiaries of the gap housing.

We will introduce more of the Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP) in the following municipalities: Fetakgomo-Tubatse in Burgersfort especially extension 54, 58, 71 and 72; Musina at the Rhinoridge Park; Polokwane Ext 133 and 134 and in Greater Tzaneen, Arbor Park and Nkowankowa to bolster mixed development in the 2022/23 financial year. As we are continuing to increase delivery of housing units in the province, we are mindful of the 1 589 housing units that were left unfinished in the past. The department appointed the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBC) to conduct a structural integrity audit on all the incomplete houses. To date we have unblocked 84 units and we will continue with the programme in the current financial year. I must emphasise, Hon Speaker, that this was a problem of the past and currently we have no challenge of new unfinished houses.

Security of tenure promoted through effecting transfer of housing properties remains cardinal to the human settlement's development. Through this programme, in the 2021/22 financial year, we have registered 977 title deeds to the community of Limpopo. In this financial year we plan to register 2 527 title deeds. The department will formalise informal settlements in; Novengelia in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Jacob Zuma in Bela-Bela Local Municipality and Portion 39 Farm Berlin, Hoedspruit, in Maruleng Municipality. The formalisation will pave way for bulk services, servicing of sites, construction of top structures and the transfer of title deeds to beneficiaries.

Regulatory boards play a pivotal role in both our public and private institutions. I am happy to announce that I have already appointed the Limpopo Rental Housing Tribunal and Limpopo Housing Advisory Panel statutory bodies in January 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the two statutory bodies to discharge their fiducial responsibilities and advise the department accordingly throughout their term of office. Despite all the efforts to implement all the projects we intended to, we have unfortunately lost R20 million of the informal settlements upgrading partnership grant. This loss translates to an equivalent of 400 serviced sites. To prevent a recurrence of this, we have developed a plan to enhance forward planning. This will ensure that we are ready to implement projects for the upcoming financial year in the last quarter of the preceding year. I can confirm that for the financial year we have already appointed the relevant people to take care of that. The poor performance is totally unacceptable, and action will be taken against those found to be responsible for poor performance.

The country administered successful local government elections in November 2021. In preparation for the transition, the Executive Council approved the local government transitional framework. The objective of the framework was to ensure a smooth transition from outgoing to incoming councils. To this effect hand over reports were prepared outlining the state of municipalities and an action plan for the new councils. Mayors are urged to monitor the implementation of the action plan to sustain delivery and further stabilise municipalities. My message to all Mayors is that you have a big task lying ahead of you. The people of Limpopo are waiting impatiently for you to implement the plans entailed in your Integrated Development Plans (IDP). Access to basic services remains a priority for the democratic government. Unfortunately, statistics reflect a decline in access to water and sanitation provision in the province. Improving performance on various conditional grants earmarked for basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity should be the focus of all of us.

The Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) provincial allocation for the 2020/21 financial year is R 3,1 billion. As at the end of February 2022, R1,5 billion translating to 50% was spent. In terms of the performance, nine out of 25 MIG receiving municipalities spent more than 60% in the current municipal financial year, which is commendable. The municipalities are: Collins Chabane at 99,2%, Greater Tzaneen at 96,1%, Makhado Municipality at 86,6%, Maruleng at 74,6%, Blouberg at 69,2%, Elias Motsoaledi at 68.9%, Capricorn at 64%, Modimolle-Mookgopong at 63% and Greater Letaba at 60%. Let me take this opportunity to applaud these municipalities for this good spending pattern. [APPLAUSE] Equally I would like to call on all the municipalities that are not performing well to roll up their sleeves and increase their spending in the remaining months of the financial year. We will continue to support struggling municipalities to improve their performance. As the MEC, I will be meeting with Mayors and Municipal Managers of poor performing municipalities.

Our municipalities are also expected to play a leading role in executing the District Development Model (DDM) which is being championed by President Cyril Ramaphosa. We are saying this because every single development that takes place in this country does so on a municipal space. There is no development that can happen outside of a municipal area. The provincial government has adopted the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) to guide development planning actions of government and non-government actions in the province. The Exco further adopted the Provincial IGR and Integrated Planning and Monetary and Evaluation Framework in August 2021, which makes the argument for the DDM to be institutionalised within current Political and Technical IGR structures in the province. The framework argues that the DDM should be mainstreamed into existing provincial and district IGR structures and not be viewed as a parallel process. Thus, at a provincial level, the DDM will be driven by the Premier through the Premier's Intergovernmental Forum and supporting structures, whilst at a district level it will be championed by Executive Mayors.

I am delighted to announce that our five districts have launched the DDM, developed it and submitted their One-Plans. The One-Plans Quality Assurance Assessment Panel assessed all the One Plans of our districts. The panel has issued the district with One-Plan Assessment Reports which have been forwarded to all five districts for further enhancement. All government spheres, civil society and the private sector should continue to embrace the principles of the DDM and align to the comparative advantage of each district. COVID-19 and the recent floods have highlighted the centrality of mainstreaming disaster management. As a result, to achieve our developmental goals, it is imperative that the effects of climate change are embodied in government programmes, as we observe changes in rainfall patterns, diseases and other disasters resulting in the loss of lives and infrastructure damage. In response, our provincial disaster management centre, working in collaboration with various stakeholders have started the process of reviewing our provincial disaster management plan.

We further call upon our district municipalities to ensure that the district disaster management centres have the necessary capacity to prepare, manage and respond to any disaster. Allow me to bestow honour to the municipalities that have done us proud. This is a moment of pride as we credit excellence where it is due. The audit for the

2020/21 financial year has been concluded in all municipalities except Bela-Bela. As per the report of the Auditor-General, in the 2020/21 financial year, three municipalities regressed, four improved, while 14 and five maintained unqualified and qualified audit outcomes respectively. Nonetheless, let me congratulate Mogalakwena Municipality which improved from an adverse to a qualified audit opinion. You will see that the decision by the Exco to place them under section 139 is yielding results. [APPLAUSE] Elias Motsoaledi, and Fetakgomo-Tubatse progressed from qualified to unqualified audit outcomes. Waterberg District Municipality progressed from an unqualified to a clean audit outcome. May we give them a round of applause and request Hon Raphela to clap hands for Waterberg District for having achieved a clean audit. Congratulations. [APPLAUSE]

It is sad, Hon Speaker, to notice that Mopani District Municipality regressed from a qualified to a disclaimer audit outcome. Also regressed is Capricorn District and Greater Giyani Municipalities. In line with the resolution of the Premier's Intergovernmental Forum, CoGHSTA and Provincial Treasury will conduct a rapid assessment in Mopani and others to identify areas of intervention. There are also municipalities that remained stagnant namely, Vhembe District, Sekhukhukune District, Ba-Phalaborwa, Modimolle-Mookgophong and Thabazimbi Municipalities. Hon Raphela, you must know that in Premier Mathabatha's administration we don't celebrate qualified audit opinions; we only work for unqualified and clean audits, hence we are meeting them. The Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACs) have a duty to provide the necessary oversight so that we can improve audit outcomes. This will help restore the confidence of our people in the system of local government. Let me as well congratulate the newly established provincial MPAC forum and implore the leadership to strengthen strategic oversight to the municipalities.

The institution of traditional leadership continues to play an important role in promoting local governance and social cohesion. As a result, the relationship between magoši and this government is a solid one that dates back before 1912 when the ANC was founded. The very formation of the ANC was a result of a meeting attended by traditional leaders from all over the country to consolidate the formation of what was then called 'Imbumbano ya Maafrika'. Through the contributions made by magoši, our government has succeeded in many ways to change the cosmetic look of our rural communities for the better. In line with the framework for the provision of enabling resources to qualifying traditional leadership, the provincial government continues to provide a budget to support the sector. The Limpopo Provincial Government has thus far managed to construct 19 state-of-the-art offices and further refurbished 18 offices for traditional councils. Processes are underway to continue with the construction of seven offices and the completion of one office, as Dr Masemola mentioned, the Mogashoa Ditlhakaneng which was abandoned by the contractor.

Twenty-one offices in the previous year have been furnished with furniture for the previous financial year. Furthermore, amounts of R137 million and R15 million have been provided over the MTEF period for the construction and refurbishment of offices and the provision of furniture respectively. This shows the commitment of the Limpopo Provincial Government towards supporting the institution of traditional leadership. The department together with the Limpopo Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure has

been mandated to develop a maintenance policy to assist in ensuring that offices built for traditional leaders do not dilapidate.

Section 16 of the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Act, 2019 (Act No 3 of 2019) mandates all provincial governments to reconstitute and constitute traditional councils. We are expected to have fully reconstituted councils by March 2023 in line with the provisions of this Act. We are also aware of the concerns by various stakeholders on the ability and readiness of our province to meet this deadline considering our history of failure to ensure compliance with traditional councils. I am pleased to report to this august House that significant progress has been registered to ensure readiness to have fully constituted traditional councils by 31 March 2023. An induction programme has been concluded for all senior traditional leaders on the TKLA. With the support of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development the department has completed the verification of 95% of the traditional boundaries.

We have also concluded the draft determination of the number of councillors per traditional council in line with the formula gazetted by the Minister for CoGTA on 04 February 2022. We have provided an amount of R3 million. Thank you, Hlabirwa, for making this money available for the project. We are mindful of the fact that this is a huge and complex project, and we rely on the support of various stakeholders to succeed. The participation of traditional leaders in municipal councils is critical for facilitating good working relations between traditional leaders and municipalities. We however plead with the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders to assist in finalising the names of outstanding senior traditional leaders in the affected districts, while engagements continue with the national Department of Traditional Affairs on the implication of the reduction. It is important that traditional leaders participate in municipal councils to strengthen local governance and integrated spatial development, particularly in rural areas. The department will make a formal submission to the Minister on the concerns raised by the institution of traditional leadership.

We are cognisant of the challenges faced by traditional authorities which have led to most traditional leaders requesting the intervention of either the Premier or the MEC for CoGHSTA. This was partly due to the lack of capacity in our district offices to address concerns raised by either royal families, community members or traditional leaders. To this effect, the 2021 departmental structure will make provision for a separate branch for traditional affairs to be led by a Deputy Director-General. In addition, the structure has also been reworked to ensure enough capacity at district offices to ensure that both anthropological and institutional matters can be speedily addressed at the district level. Several posts are currently being filled with the available budget to bring much-needed institutional capacity to the traditional affairs branch.

In terms of the functionality of traditional councils, it is acknowledged that there are vacancies in traditional councils due to retirements or staff being expelled by senior traditional leaders. Due to budgetary constraints, the department has not been able to fill the vacancies but will continue to prioritise the matter guided by available budgets. Senior traditional leaders are also encouraged to work with the staff provided by the provincial government to reduce the vacancies. Another area of concern is the continuing tension between some municipalities and traditional leaders, which further compromises service

delivery. On the other hand, we have many municipalities that have created harmonious relationships with their traditional leaders.

Customary initiation is an integral part of the African culture. In the previous two financial years, Hon Speaker, our Provincial House of Traditional Leaders suspended all initiation schools in order to preserve lives. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the leadership provided by the executive committee of the House, led by Kgoši Malesela Dikgale, for being visionary and doing all to maintain a balance between saving lives and promoting our cultural practices. The Customary Initiation Act, 2021 (Act No 2 of 2021), provides a framework for the management of initiations in this country. In compliance with this Act, the provincial initiation coordinating committee has been established and consists of eight members including senior traditional leaders. We are confident that the committee will administer an incident-free initiation season. We envisage absolutely no tolerance to illegal initiation schools and zero deaths at the end of this season.

I wish to thank the Premier for his continuous guidance on matters pertaining to traditional leadership in the province. The Limpopo Houses of Traditional Leaders' term is coming to an end on 31 May 2022 following expiry of its term of office. By the end of April 2022, the local houses would have conducted elections of new members. By the end of June 2022, the new Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders would have been constituted. May I take this opportunity to congratulate the outgoing local and provincial houses. In particular, the entire executive led by Kgoši Malesela Dikgale for two terms that he served the House in the province. Re a go leboga, Mokone. Thank you for the sterling work that you and your executive have displayed – cum laude. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, I would have done a great disservice to my work if I equally don't pay tribute to the senior traditional leaders who passed on in the last financial year. Their gallant work in traditional leadership institutions and community development will continue to be remembered. The department also lost a significant number of officials during the previous financial year. We are grateful for the role that the fallen colleagues played in the department. May their souls rest in peace. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all senior traditional leaders recognised during the previous financial year. We look forward to working together with you in pursuance of sustainable rural development.

For the financial year 2022/23, the total Budget available for the Department of CoGHSTA as allocated is R2,418,737 billion, a slight increase from the previous year's Budget of R2,3 billion. The departmental budget allocation per programme is as follows:

- Administration : R325 million;
- Human Settlements : R1,2 billion;
- Cooperative Governance : R281 million; and
- Traditional Affairs : R524 million.

As a department, we appreciate this budget allocation, Hon Speaker, as it will enable team CoGHSTA to provide services to the people of the province on the premise of its Annual Performance Plan in the quest for housing, security, and comfort for all.

As I conclude, may I also take this opportunity to express my most sincere gratitude to the following contractors who voluntarily built houses for the needy in our province: Mathara Investments and Molanco Trading Enterprise; Koephu Business Enterprise; Zohra Khan Developers; Mamondo Development and Construction; Ixlore Ramkol Construction; KIPP; Phamela; Morula; Rhandzo; SML; Hermiglo and T2-Tech. Thank you for your generosity. [APPLAUSE] I must indicate that these are contractors, when we were confronted with any emergency situation even if not on the list, we would talk to and they will help us and build houses. The department sadly bid farewell to our former Head of Department, Ms Ngaka Dumalisile, who was instrumental in stabilising the department. We continue to be grateful for her dedication and commitment to the vision of the department.

Let me also extend my sincere acknowledgement to the captain of our province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, for his stewardship to drive the province to where it is today. Ha khensa Murhangeri. To the chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee of CoGHSTA, Hon Johanna Aphiri; to SALGA in the province led by chairperson Mr John Mpe; the IEC led by Ms Nkaro Mateta; our Mayors; the House of Traditional Leaders; and my colleagues in the Executive Council for providing undivided support throughout. May I also acknowledge Team CoGHSTA led by the Acting Head of Department, Dr Modjadji Malahlela, for your unwavering support and commitment to the mandate of the department. To my family, I would like to say thank you for the unwavering support that you have always given me. Let me indicate that our dignity and pride as a society is our greatest asset, and we should treasure this with every thought, word, and deed. It is good to have an end to the journey, but it is the journey that matters in the end.

Once again it is my pleasure, to present to you Budget Vote 11 of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Budget Vote for the year 2022/23 financial year. Ndza khensa. Kanimamba. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Makamu. The Budget Speech for Vote 11 is referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and to report back to the House.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hon Deputy Speaker, you may take the podium.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

There are three announcements we are going to make. The first one is that the House will be on recess from today, 07 April 2022 until 05 May 2022. Members, you have worked hard, and the Speaker felt that you need to take a break. However, the training for Members will continue from 21 to 22 April 2022. All Members know that there is training that was organised and Members are expected to attend that despite being on recess. Arrival is on 20 April 2022.

The second one is that The Speakers' Forum will continue on 28 April 2022 as scheduled. The third and last announcement is that food is available outside. Thank you.

9. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. The Sitting is adjourned until further notice. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. We 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? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good morning.

VICTORY BY THE ANC IN THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTIONS
(Motion without Notice)

The ANC is encouraged by the outcomes of the municipal by-elections held across the country on Wednesday, 06 July 2022. We are humbled by the confidence our people continue to demonstrate towards the ANC. In Matzikama, in the Western Cape province, Ward 7, the ANC increased its support by 9% compared to the 2021 results. The ANC retained its wards in both Chief Albert Luthuli, Ward 3, in Mpumalanga with a 70% victory and Nelson Mandela Bay, Ward 7, in the Eastern Cape with a 69% victory.

We are concerned about the low voter turnout and encourage citizens to exercise their democratic right to vote. In order to strengthen our democracy and build a society anchored on the will of the people, we must encourage active citizenry that plays an active role in the government of the country and hold elected leaders accountable.

All ANC councillors must continue to work hard to realise the aspirations of our people. The work of all ANC public representatives is to decisively push back the frontiers of poverty and infuse accelerated service delivery.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Caroline Mahasela, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Sarah Monyamane.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other motion? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE GATEWAY AIRPORT AUTHORITY LIMITED
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move a motion without notice that this House notes:

- That the Gateway Airport Authority Limited is a state-owned schedule 3D company, and the decision by the provincial Executive Council that all state-owned companies should be self-reliant by 2024;

- That since GAAL's establishment in 1995, it is still dependent on the government for its survival. In the 27 years of its existence, the generation of the revenue that would sustain it still remains a challenge;
- The collapse of the GAAL's board which directly led to the downgrade of the airport's licence;
- The concern of the Auditor-General that "the effectiveness of the delegated authority by the executive authority to the accounting authority has been comprised by the instability and insufficiency of capacity and skills at senior management and board" and
- That the cash flow challenges of the entity have always been a contributor to many of the findings incurred by the entity and its inability to collect revenue.

I move that this august House resolves that the province urgently considers a public private partnership (PPP) to not only assist with the management of the airport, but also position it as a real alternative destination to our province.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I would like to second Hon Smalle's motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

**THE GRUESOME KILLINGS OF PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE MOURNING
OF AN AFRICAN HERO, EDUARDO DOS SANTOS AND JAPAN'S LONGEST
SERVING PRIME MINISTER, SHINZO ABE**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC that we have noted with sadness two separate incidents where patrons have been shot and killed in taverns in the KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng provinces over this past weekend.

The gruesome loss of about 20 lives to the murderous gun-wielding thugs calls for the South African Police Services to work harder in their investigations to bring these criminals to book. This has the potential to make members of the public to lose confidence in the state capabilities of protecting them. What makes this gruesome act to be more frightening is that they might look and sound unrelated, but they happened in one night and have taken many lives at once.

We also call upon members of the public to assist the police in their investigations and provide tip-offs if they come across any piece of information that can be of assistance. We send our heartfelt messages of condolences to the families and friends of those who perished.

We also want to send messages of condolences to the family of Cde Jose Eduardo dos Santos and the people of Angola for the passing of the colossal figure of the African revolution. Cde Eduardo dos Santos who was a friend to the people of South Africa played an important role in ensuring continued Angolan support for the liberation movement during the struggle for freedom. Angola hosted uMkhonto weSizwe camps and fought side by side with MK soldiers against the South African apartheid security forces.

We also dip our banner, mourning the callous murder of Japan's longest serving Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe who was killed with a home-made gun last week, Friday.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MASEKO

Thanks, Hon Chair. I rise to second the motion by Hon Mathe.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Mohlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings, Speaker, colleagues in the House and everyone.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE 2022 LIMPOPO YOUTH PARLIAMENT AT RELELA, BOLOBEDU

(Motion without Notice)

The Economic Freedom Fighters in Limpopo notes with dismay the collapse of the Youth Parliament by the ANC cabal at Relela Community Hall, Bolobedu, on Friday, 08 July 2022. The milestone event was supposed to address a pyramid of issues confronting the

youth in the province from unemployment, education to substance abuse, amongst others. It is unfortunate that scholars and professionals from prestigious institutions of higher learning, EFF students and youth could not debate on issues affecting the youth.

The Speaker must be warned that the future of South Africa belongs to the youth and the Youth Parliament should not be used for political point scoring. We have also noted that the session has since been rescheduled due to the ANC's demagogue disruptive behaviour. This could have been avoided if the Speaker was not biased towards the ANC and took action against the ANC Youth League.

Disappointingly, the police watched helplessly because it was the ANC people disrupting the event. We condemn such acts as policing is not meant to brutalise those who are not in government or aligned to the corrupt ANC. The EFF is concerned that in the end it is going to be a blow on the poor as another event will result in wasteful expenditure of taxpayers' money. Taxpayers must be informed that the ANC Youth League has joined their mother body on a train to waste taxpayers' money.

There is a Sepedi idiom saying, kgakakgolo ga e na mabala, mabala a na le kgakana. This idiom is so befitting to narrate what the ANC is today as they have taught and indoctrinated the youth into what they believe in and therefore the collapse of everything.

They can no longer hide. It is through their youth that we get to understand what the ANC stands for. The ANC must be liable for costs of reconvening the Youth Parliament. Limpopo has more pressing issues to be spending twice on one event which has chances of being disrupted by the ANC again.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SESHOKA

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

THE SPEAKER

Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. While we condemn the disruption that happened at the Youth Parliament – am I audible?

THE SPEAKER

No.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good morning. While we condemn the disruption at the Youth Parliament, we want to object to the motion as its facts are very incorrect. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. There is an objection to the motion. Is there any seconder? Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Speaker. I second the objection if it means that is what we must set. I am also setting the objection.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The motion is objected to, which means the motion falls off. Let's proceed. Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND CHILD ABUSE IN SCHOOLS

(Motion without Notice)

I move on behalf of the DA to move a motion without notice for this House to note that currently, there are 11 287 pregnant learners in the province according to the response by Motshekga to a question by the DA in June 2022. These numbers are for girls between 10 and 19 years, between April 2021 and March 2022.

In an effort to curb teenage pregnancies in schools and prevent statutory rape, the Department of Basic Education has introduced the Basic Education Pregnancy Policy in December 2021 through which schools will be compelled to submit a police report if a girl under the age of 16 years falls pregnant.

This policy is linked to the existing laws that protect our children. It is therefore expected for this House to welcome the sentencing of Lesetja Hendrick Lepedi, to two life imprisonment by the Lulekani Magistrates Court, yesterday, 11 July 2022.

The sentencing follows the sexual assault of two minor girls aged 14 and 15 respectively between the period of 2018 and 2019. The accused is reported to have lured these victims from the school he was teaching and played pornographic videos for them before sexually assaulting them.

The incidents were reported to the headmaster of the school who reported the matter to the police and the Department of Social Development. The Phalaborwa FCS unit's Detective Ndlovu worked tirelessly bringing justice to these victims.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as read by Hon Phala. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker and honourable Members of this august House.

THE CONTAINMENT OF THE OUTBREAK OF MONKEYPOX IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE

(Motion without Notice)

As the ANC, we rise to note with a magnitude of disgust the first case of Monkeypox that has been reported in Limpopo. However, we want to express our profound sense of gratitude on the intervention by the MEC responsible for Health, Hon Phophi Ramathuba.

As the ANC in this House, we welcome the swift intervention by the department in this case, as the case is reported to be one of the cases that have been reported in the Republic of South Africa.

This happens as government both at national and provincial levels continues to curb and suppress possible outbreaks of the recently reported monkeypox which is likely to become another pandemic after the perilous COVID-19. Monkeypox is a viral disease that causes flu-like symptoms and skin lesions. It is endemic in parts of Africa, but not in South Africa.

As the ANC, we are also calling for calm amongst the people of the province and assure them that the ANC-led government is doing everything possible to ensure that they contain and arrest this infection not to spread.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Radzilani, you are recognised.

MS RADZILANI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as put forward to this august House by Hon Monama.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice?

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 Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker

CONCERN OVER THE MALFUNCTIONING OF WATER PUMP STATIONS IN THE MAKHADO MUNICIPALITY (Members' Statement)

The Democratic Alliance has noted with concern the multiple challenges following oversight to water pump stations in the Makhado Municipality. Pump station 1 was unmanned, running on its back-up pump and two main pumps stations were not functioning for a period of six months. Pump station 2 has two pump stations of which only one is currently functioning. Pump station 3 has three pumps of which only one is currently functioning.

All these pump stations have been running under capacity and the pumps and the equipment have not been maintained or repaired by the Vhembe District Municipality. To add insult to injury, all water metres are not functioning as well. In her audit for municipalities for the 2020/21 financial year, the A-G expressed her concern over the R561,1 million reported in water losses by municipalities in the Limpopo province.

With up to eight hours of loadshedding per day due to the collapse of Eskom, we cannot have a situation where the Vhembe District Municipality is not capable of maintaining constant water supply to the Makhado Municipality. Also, further notes that all the fire hydrant points within Makhado town are not functioning.

Honourable MEC, will you place the Vhembe District Municipality on terms to immediately repair these broken-down pumps and water metres as well as fire hydrants?

How does the Vhembe District Municipality then bill Makhado Municipality for water usages when no water metres are currently functioning?

What is your message to the nearly 30% of residents of Makhado Municipality who have now been without water for weeks, if not months at the end?

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE EFF'S REJECTION OF GRAVEYARD ACCESS FEES BY THE POOR IN THE MODIMOLLE-MOOKGOPHONG MUNICIPALITY (Members' Statement)

The EFF in Limpopo rejects the graveyard fees solicited from the poor residents of Modimolle by the Modimolle-Mookgopong Local Municipality. It has come to our attention that in the sad event of death, residents are forced to seek permission from the municipality and pay access fee in order to bury their loved ones at the municipality cemetery, wherein an amount of R280 and R996 is paid for children and adults respectively. The areas concerned which are hit by these graveyard access fees are Vaalwater, Amla, Modimolle, Mookgophong and Roedtan.

The EFF is saddened and concerned about the municipality's decision to disregard the indigent policy by imposing graveyard fees on the poor. We have escalated this issue to the Mayor, Marlene van Staden, who proposed that the status quo will be reviewed to exclude some of the residents from paying the graveyard fees. This is just a wake-up call to the people of Modimolle to vote out the DA-led municipality and who seem to admire the bad governing practices of their friends, the ANC, necessarily because these parties don't care about poor people.

It is now clear that the ANC is the role model for the DA. The EFF is resolute and steadfast in ensuring that the state must be the custodian of land upon which they will be equal land redistribution and no graveyard access fees. Furthermore, Black people do not have their privilege to choose where to bury their loved ones unlike White people who can choose whether to use stolen farms cemetery or municipal cemetery because they can afford.

Lastly, the EFF will not backtrack until the graveyard fees are scrapped. We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and scrap out the nonsensical fee which is busy financially suffocating our people.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Manganye, you are recognised.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE LACK OF SERVICE DELIVERY IN COLLINS CHABANE MUNICIPALITY
(Members' Statement)

The EFF in Limpopo demands permanent employment of EPWP workers and funding of electrification projects in more than 192 villages in the Collins Chabane Local Municipality. Since the 2022 State of the Municipality Address, scant progress has been made despite budget allocations. The municipality has set aside a budget of R739,888 million, but the large chunk of it goes into the pockets of ANC comrades doing business with government through tenders. It is disappointing to learn that only R1,759 million crumbs are left to create jobs, whereas in the main, it is the ANC members who will be employed.

Residents in Collins Chabane are neglected and do not get the service delivery which they deserve. The state of roads in over 50 villages remains dire and the municipality is not doing anything to address the challenges. Water is an everyday struggle in the Collins Chabane area. People who voted the ANC live in deplorable conditions. In the next council, we will sharply raise the service delivery challenges, because budget has been set aside, but we do not see any improvement in our communities.

The EFF calls for transparency and accountability in the municipality. Failure which, we will render the municipality ungovernable until our people have access to basic services. We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to our people.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other Members' Statement? Is there any Executive Statement in terms of Rule 201? There is none. Okay, Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, can't you allow the MECs to respond to the Members' Statements that you have just jumped?

THE SPEAKER

My apology for that. Thanks, Hon Smalle. Is there any response from the Executive to the Members' Statement? MEC Makamu, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to respond to the Members' Statements from Members of this august House.

Let me start with the statement by Hon Smalle about the pump stations in the Makhado Municipality. Makhado Municipality is being supplied by approximately six pump stations. The Member correctly mentioned here as we speak that three of those were working. But the three which were the main pump stations were not working. For the three pumps not to work, the problem was compounded by loadshedding. He had a good way of raising it with us even before this august House. The municipality has already appointed the contractor who is busy fixing the remaining three which are not working. It is a matter that concerns us that the people of Makhado town are not receiving water as they are supposed to. We are working with the municipality of the district to make sure that with the local municipality playing its part, we should be able to provide water in that town.

The second statement about the Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipality is very surprising. Hon Speaker, Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipality is a coalition between the DA and the EFF assisted by the Freedom Front Plus. The Mayor of the DA was given numbers by the EFF and the Freedom Front Plus in that municipality. What we are talking here about when we were to constitute, the EFF, the Freedom Front Plus and the DA were working together to establish a government. It is a fact. Nevertheless, the ANC is doing everything in its power to make sure that we do continue to render services to our people in the Alma and Phagameng areas. The issue raised is a matter that I was not aware of, but I will be checking and investigating it and assist our people because that has been the call of the African National Congress in that municipality to make sure that people get services. We will continue to do that.

I may not necessarily respond, but people know that there are 28 seats in Modimolle-Mookgophong. The ANC has got 14, the EFF, the DA and the Freedom Front Plus have got 14. For any of those to get any position, they needed to support each other. They were part to what was happening in that municipality.

The other matter is about the creation of jobs in the Collins Chabane Municipality. The roads that are said to be in the 50 villages which are not workable, I'm not so sure if the honourable Member, either than to get the report, has been in the area of Collins Chabane herself to see all those. Collins Chabane is one of the municipalities that is making sure that service delivery goes to the people. It is an area that you can be able to conduct an oversight. But the fact is that the resources that we have are not enough to can tar or pave roads at the same time everywhere. Hence, we remain as government, and we continue to deliver.

We should be able to worry when we are done with elections and honourable Members come to this House and say they will render the municipality ungovernable. Maybe they lost the opportunity during the difficult times of apartheid where there was a need to render

this country ungovernable. Our government is legitimately elected, and they participated in the elections. They were thoroughly defeated, yet they would want to use violence to make the municipality ungovernable. This House should be worried about that statement. I think we should discourage Members to want to go to any of the levels of government to make the municipality ungovernable. If there are issues that need to be raised, these few that have been elected should be able to contribute positively. We will see each other during the 2024 elections. We will listen to what the masses will say in terms of who should govern in that municipality. It is not our responsibility to render any sphere of government ungovernable when we have an opportunity to be elected to govern ourselves.

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much, MEC, for the response.

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 are none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Second Reading Approval of the Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B01-2022]

We are dealing with the consideration and adoption of the 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Transport and Community and Safety. Committee chair, it is your turn.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, table the 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption by the august House. I so move, Hon Speaker. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

I rise to second the motion as made by Hon Seono. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Consideration and adoption of the 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for GAAL. Committee chair, it is your turn.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, table the 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Gateway Airport Authority Limited for consideration and adoption by the august House. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. 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 Seono. I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. We are debating on Budget Vote 8: Department of Transport and Community and Safety and its entity, GAAL. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Matibe.

MR MATIBE

Ndi khou livhuwa Muhulisei Mulangadzulo, Mupremia washu, Miraḡo vha Khorotshitumbe, Muhulisei Tshimebi, Murangaphanda wa Mahoro Mahanedzi, Miraḡo ya Buthano. Muhulisei Mulangadzulo, ndi khou livhuwa tshipiḡa hetshi tshe ra netshedzwa uri ri ḡe ri ambe hafha nga ha mugaganyangwama hoyu. Tsha u thoma ri ḡo tangedza muraḡo wa Khorotshotumbe hoyu muswa we ra mu nekedzwa ane a vha Vho Polly Boshielo, ri khou vha tangedza kha komiti. [APPLAUSE] Ri khou tenda uri ri ḡo shumisana zwavhuḡi kha komiti iyi.

Ri tenda na uri hoyu mushumo a si muswa kha vho wa u shuma na mafhungo a vhuendi na tsireledzo ya tshitshavha. Ndayotewa ya shango i ri laedza hafha kha khethekanyo 206(3) uri Muhasho hoyu wa Tsireledzo ya Tshitshavha u vha u tshi shumisa hani nahone u kona u zwi dodombedza zwavhuḡi kha khethekanyo 3. Tsha u thoma hafha tshine ra nga amba tshone ndi tsha uri ri khou livhuwisa muhasho ngauri muhasho kha muḡolambaleleno wo sumbedza uri hoyu muhasho u khou shuma zwavhuḡi, wo wana clean audit, nga inwe nḡila ndi odithi i sumbedzaho uri zwithu zwi khou tshimbila zwavhuḡi. Ri pfa ri tshi zwi livhuwisa. [APPLAUSE] Performance of GAAL which does not seem to move in tandem with its mother department because the mother department is performing well in terms of audit, but GAAL is not performing well in terms of audit. We hope that the honourable MEC will look into it and ensure that all the vacancies that are there that are not filled, are filled to ensure that there is good performance there.

The reason why we need GAAL to perform is so that we can improve our economy, working together with the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism as led by Hon Mokone. We can ensure that we improve in terms of tourism and create jobs for our young people that are needed most at this point in time. We hope that the honourable MEC will go and investigate the matter and ensure that whatever vacancies that are there are filled by capable people and leadership that will turnaround that institution and ensure that it is competitive. It establishes a competitive platform to serve the aviation linked economic sector.

On the infrastructure, ri na thandela dzine dza khou shumiwa nga muhasho. Ri na K53 station Thohoyandou na Seshego dzine ri khou tenda uri arali dza shumiwa zwavhuḽi dzi ḽo kona u thusa uri vhathu vha hashu vha wane mushumo. Hoyu ndi muḽwe muhasho une wa nga ri thusa kha u ita uri hu vhe na tshelede ine ya ḽo dzhena into the government revenue. Ri khou ri kha hedzo themamveledziso dzine dza vha hone Seshego a dzi ye dzi lavhelesiwe ri vhone uri zwithu zwi khou tshimbila zwavhuḽi. Ri khou shavha uri ri so ngo vha na khaedu i no fana na ye ra vha nayo kha Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility hune zwa zwino ri khou vhona hu hone hu tshi kha ḽi shumiwa uri i tshimbile zwavhuḽi.

Ri na inwe themamveledziso ine ya vha hone Thohoyandou Traffic College, Hon Speaker. We would wish that we do our oversight as the committee to ensure that indeed that construction which is going on there moves as quickly as possible because Manenu Traffic College is one of the colleges that is doing well in terms of transport students across the country and the SADC region. We would want the honourable MEC to also look into that. We want it to be completed as quickly as possible.

On the oversight of police, there are quite a few areas that need your attention. That as a committee, we regarded as areas that requires attention, your Seshego, Mankweng, Burgersfort and Thohoyandou cluster police stations require urgent attention because those are areas where the rates of murder and robbery are very high. We are sure that working together with the traditional communities, ri khou shumisana zwavhuḽi na mahosi ri ḽo kona u ita uri hafho fhethu zwithu zwashu zwi tshimbile zwavhuḽi.

The other area of concern is the reported backlog on DNA testing in forensic laboratories, we think is one area that also requires urgent attention. We are also concerned as a committee in relation to gender-based violence. According to the executive summary of Real Men Foundation, nearly 1 000 women were raped in Limpopo between October and November last year, while 100 women were sexually assaulted. I think it is an area that we need serious attention in that regard with Thohoyandou police station being one of the areas which requires urgent attention.

On monitoring police conduct, we think is another area that as the committee, we need to investigate – I am trying to move as quick as possible.

On transport regulations, it is another area, budget has been allocated, and we hope looking at how the department spends its budget and the youth that have been employed by the department in that regard and all the EPWP projects that are there, we will indeed ensure that the budget is spent well. Musi ri tshi khou ya magumoni, Muraḽo wa

Khorotshitumbe, ri nga sumbedza uri riṅe sa komiti ri khou tenda uri hoyu mugaganyangwama u ḑo shuma zwavhuḑi wā ita uri tshumelo i ye vhathuni. Ri khou ṭoḑa muhasho u tshi vha proactive. Mafhungo haaḑa ano khou itea Gauteng na Pietermaritzburg na huṅwe. Ri tshi khou shumisana na Muhasho wa Mveledziso ya lkonomi ri so ngo vha reactive, a ri vhe proactive ri ite uri vhadzulapo vhashu vha vhe vho tsireledzea. Riṅe sa dzangano ḑa ANC ri khou ṭanganedza hoyu mugaganyangwama.

Ndi khou livhuwa, Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Matibe. The next speaker is Hon Seshoka. [APPLAUSE]

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the caucus of the EFF, the MECs present here and all colleagues.

It is sad that today we are dealing with the issues of the department that fuel taxi conflicts in Limpopo province. This is the very same department which through politicians and officials, take sides in the taxi industry conflicts instead of providing lasting solutions for our people. It is not surprising that many of these disputes date back as far as 2000, and to date, they remain unresolved. The Musina-Makhado taxi feud remains unresolved to date from the time when the court order was issued.

Equally, the Jane Furse and Masemola taxi dispute also remains unresolved from the time the court order was issued. The Mankweng, Polokwane, Seshego and Moletji taxi associations conflict is an annual permanent event in Limpopo. There are many cases of taxi associations' conflict in Limpopo. We have just given you a few examples. The question is, why is it difficult for the department to quell this taxi violence? What is happening? The big problem in this criminal and gangster department is that for some reasons known to them, they are never prepared to enforce court orders to create stability in the taxi industry. We must tell them here and now that they are responsible for fuelling taxi violence in the province. We put the blame squarely on the government for continued taxi disputes in the province. The department is a conflicted mediator because they have questionable interest in the taxi industry, hence it is difficult for them to quell the taxi violence including killings.

There are senior officials in the department who are very close to taxi operators and associations. They accept bribes; hence they are not enforcing court orders. Furthermore, permits are not issued out to taxi operators, thus encouraging them to break the law by operating without licences. They impound their taxis for a fee of R6 000, making it difficult for operators to pay monthly instalments to their banks for their taxis. Why do you take long before you can issue out permits to operators? It is because clearly, your conduct encourages anarchy in the taxi industry.

We call on the new MEC just to check when will the department ensure that they provide schools with the school patrols. When will you finalise the outstanding Integrated

Transport Plans (ITPs) in both Collins Chabane and Mogalakwena Municipalities because this is a long-standing matter?

Delays in the completion of projects increase costs and further derail service delivery to our people. MEC, more traffic police officers should be recruited in line with the growing population in the province. These law enforcement officers must be trained to enforce the law and not to extort Coke bribes. Build another college for training of traffic officers to reduce the backlog in terms of production of officers, not just to rely on the Manenu Traffic College.

GAAL has become a permanent cash cow for the department. Instead of the entity generating profit to create jobs, it is the one that is milking money from the government. What is the experience, the competency and the qualifications of GAAL board members? How many senior strategic positions have been filled in the last two financial years, and what skills and expertise does each bring to the organisation? The board members of this entity have a reputation of recruiting friends and relatives who have no idea at all or skills to change the fortune of the entity, hence, GAAL is forever in financial troubles, always depending on bailouts from government. What is the status of officials implicated in unauthorised, wasteful and fruitless expenditure relating to the R14 million intervention grant?

The committee has since advised that they be subjected to both internal and criminal prosecution once forensic investigations are completed. Hon Speaker, we want proper answers from the new MEC.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Phala, it is your turn.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The department has retained most of its targets from the previous years. Unfortunately, the Budget has been increased for all the programmes. However, the underspending in the fourth quarter is a cause for concern for us as a committee for the current financial year. Bus contracts continue to have challenges such as noncompliance with kilometres to be travelled to service commuters. This is to some extent due to the roadworthiness of their buses, and therefore, less fleet to service commuters and less kilometres travelled.

This challenge was experienced in the 2017/18 financial year after the installation of the electronic vehicle monitoring system in some busses. Half of the fleet being 468 buses remain unfitted with the electronic monitoring system and are still awaiting Treasury for the financial way forward. The remaining buses are monitored manually which is open to human error. The need for installing of the system remains a priority. The installation of the electronic monitoring system on the 425 buses was a huge success for the department in the previous year that has saved the department an estimated R25 million.

Under provincial secretariat for the police services, it was unfortunate that SAPS in the province saw it fit to delegate an officer whose response to us as a committee was: “I will report to my principals for a response”. During the very same committee meeting, as a committee, we vocalised our disappointment to the then MEC as we found it to be disrespectful and undermining. The absence of a proper engagements with SAPS to appear before the committee is no surprise considering the recent crime statistics where over 900 women in this province were allegedly raped.

It is critical that gender-based violence must now be prioritised by the provincial commissioner and her bosses at national level. As long as FCS units do not have adequate resources and the capacity to effectively investigate rapists as well as child and women abusers, they will continue to harm vulnerable groups in our communities. There was a dramatic spike in child murders in Limpopo including the recent killing of a toddler whose mutilated body was found in a black bag on the N1 outside Polokwane.

It is therefore very concerning that Limpopo FCS units only have 88 vehicles available to combat gender-based violence. In a response to a written parliamentary question, Police Minister, Beki Cele, resolved that as of 30 December 2021, the Family Violence Child Protection Sexual Offences Unit in Limpopo had a collective case load of 6 710 cases. These cases will continue to increase given the lack of manpower and resources available to the FCS units in Limpopo. There are more than 6 000 cases that are currently being investigated by only 174 officers with only 88 vehicles at their disposal.

Thohoyandou which is ranked number four in the top 30 list of stations on rape, only has 20 officers in its FCS unit. This unit is investigating 1 254 cases with only nine vehicles at their disposal. Minister Cele’s response also revealed that Mankweng SAPS ranked number 17, does not even have an FCS unit.

Stock theft is on the rise in the province. It has reported 634 incidents of stock theft. During an oversight visit with the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture to the Matiyani villages, there were complaints about stock theft behind the red line which can cause catastrophic outbreaks of FMD (foot-and-mouth disease).

Hon Speaker, we hope that the new MEC will continue to take this House’s constitutional duty on oversight more seriously under the Department of Transport and Community Safety. As a committee, we look forward to receiving responses. We further look forward to continuing engagements that were there and open platforms for new engagements, all in the effort to work hand in hand with you for the betterment of Limpopo citizens. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Maritz, it is your turn.

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 Annual Performance Plan of this department is good on paper, but the reality is different and there are many challenges in this department. During personal oversight visits to a few police stations and detective branches in Limpopo, I was shocked to discover that the officers and personnel use their own cell phones and, in some instances, their own vehicles. They must buy their own stationery. They must buy papers to print reports that are requested by the courts. There are more vehicles that are broken than the vehicles that are working. I find that these areas have only one vehicle to assist with emergencies. When you call the police stations, they say they are waiting for a vehicle. That is quite unacceptable.

How can the public feel safe when the police stations are robbed, and officers tied up? The issue around taxi routes must be handled with great caution as we all know that there are taxi associations that disobey the law in towns by following and threatening taxis that are not in their associations. The taxi associations are violent and don't respect the public and the service they must give to the communities.

The new initiative of route-based minibus taxis operators' licences is only a new way for fraud and corruption. The highest bidder will get the most routes. This is unfair towards people who are not part of the association and only have one taxi to try and make a living for their family. The police officers must man up and fight fraud and corruption. The department must come up with a plan to stop corruption and fraud in the department.

We need to see the stats of police officers breaking the law and how many are under investigation for fraud and corruption. We cannot expect the police department to catch criminals if there are criminals working amongst them.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Committee chair, Hon Seono, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for affording me this opportunity. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, Deputy Speaker in absentia, Leader of Government Business, Leader of the Opposition in absentia, chairpersons of committees and honourable Members, I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, we welcome MEC Polly Boshielo in her new responsibility. We believe that given your incredible experience in the transport sector, you will be able to lead this department to new heights. The department received two successive clean audit outcomes in the past financial years, with the exception of the entity, GAAL. What this indicates, MEC, is that you are essentially running a department with an ethical and trustworthy civil service. The department has a history of good audit outcomes, and we

believe that under your leadership, this can only get better by ensuring that we see the same sort of audit outcome in GAAL.

Hon Speaker and honourable MEC, in terms of the Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility, the facility remains a serious thorn in the flesh, not only to the department but the provincial administration. The sod turning for the intermodal facility commenced in 2011 under the then MEC, Pinky Kekana, in Thulamela Municipality in the Vhembe District. At the time of its commencement, the facility was a first of its kind in the province and was touted as a benchmark from which other municipalities are to learn from. The facility was modelled on the Bree Street and Noord Street facilities of Johannesburg in the Gauteng province. When the facility was due to be opened, it was reported that a structural fault has been noted in the building. It was concluded that engineers will need to rework the building to reinforce it so that it may be able to carry the weight that it has been designed for. Reinforcement work on the identified structural defect was done on the project, however, there are reported contractual differences between contractors. To this day, the facility remains unopened. We hope that under your guidance, MEC, this project should eventually find finalisation.

In terms of GAAL, we remain concerned about the entity. We hope that given your experience; you will surely be able to turn the tide. Given the unprecedented increase in the price of petrol, given the challenging global politics, we should somehow be able to take advantage of the Gauteng-Limpopo commute to the advantage of GAAL. Many people commute between Limpopo and Gauteng on daily basis. This traffic turns to increase over the weekends. If we were to advertise and market our airport strategically, we would be able to take advantage of this commute. The MEC and her team must be able to look at this opportunity strategically to the advantage of the province. Further, the opportunity to increase bus trips between the provinces should also be looked at given the cost of using one's personal vehicle.

Public transport must become a comfortable, efficient and affordable mode of transport. We believe that your engagement with LEDET in the tourism sector should be able to yield fruits. There is no reason why we cannot develop our airport to the standard of the one in Hoedspruit, more so given our proximity to the world-renowned Kruger National Park and one of Africa's busiest ports of entry, Beit Bridge. Your engagement with LEDET should find expression in some of the programmes within the entity. We recommend that the department finds a way to twin itself with the Hoedspruit Airport to learn best practices there.

GAAL remains a gem whose potential remains underfulfilled. The entity has set itself a target to raise R11 million in revenue collection. It will therefore be very important to develop a business model that will withstand the challenges that have been brought on by the epidemic, this in the face of high unemployment in the province and in the country as well as a negative economic outlook.

Honourable MEC, we would like the department to revisit its projects and see if it cannot revive them so that it will soon be able to generate revenue. Some of the projects listed were selling advertising space, the supply of aviation fuel, leasing of administration blocks

to business and car rental services. We would like to see an effective maintenance plan for the airport to ensure its continual functionality.

Hon Speaker, we remain concerned that the entity continues to fail to meet its revenue collection target, and we hope that under your able leadership, honourable MEC, this will be a thing of the past. We understand that the entity's board is currently finalising the implementation of its turnaround programme focusing on revenue enhancement strategy. We would want the MEC to follow up on this development.

Regarding SAPS civilian oversight, we are saying the department continues its oversight programme of the South African Police Service. The fact that Limpopo remains the safest province in the country with the lowest crime rates is testament to the nature of its citizens as well as the efficiency of our oversight functions. For this, we congratulate the department and want to continue to encourage the positive spirit within which you are working. We would further want to recommend that you enhance this oversight by also ensuring that reports of IPID (Independent Police Investigative Directorate) must also find their way into your department. In that way, you are also able to follow up on any challenges that may be occurring within the SAPS.

We further welcome the continuous positive relationship between the SAPS and community policing forums. This goes a long way in withstanding incidents of vigilantism within our communities. As mentioned in the speech of the MEC, there will be a relaunch of 110 community policing forums and 28 community safety forums. We will continue to play oversight on the functionality of these forums.

The department remains a very important department with regard to revenue collection. The department contributes almost 47% of the provincial revenue through traffic functions amounting to over R700 million in the past financial year and projecting to collect R717 million this financial year. We congratulate the department for this sterling work.

In conclusion Hon Speaker, the department should also ensure that some of the challenges that were experienced in the past years are resolved. Through its oversight role, the committee recommended that those issues that are historical should be set as standing items for continued reporting by the department.

We once more welcome MEC Boshielo in her new responsibility. You have a formidable team in the department, honourable MEC. We trust that you will work well with them to take the department to an even higher level. We welcome the APP and Budget, and believe that under your very able leadership, we will continue to deliver to the people of the province.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Before we can proceed, honourable Members, can we make sure that all our gadgets are muted. We shall now call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Boshielo, to come and respond to the debate. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and thanks very much to my colleagues. Thanks for the welcome, our chairperson, Hon Seono. We will never disappoint like the previous MEC never disappointed you. ANC re bjalo, re tsebja re le bjalo. Nothing is going to change. Hon Matibe, I had to have my translator, fortunately, I came with my personal translator in the form of the MEC for Education, and she was able to translate. Let me say this to you, Hon Tshitereke Matibe, that in terms of GAAL, it has been perennial problems. Fortunately, as some of you know, I have been working in that department as the Chief Director of Public Transport, and serving as a board member of GAAL representing a shareholder. I think what MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya has done is very commendable looking where it comes from. We will continue in that path to make sure that we make it as it should be.

I think the first problem that we have identified with the GAAL is that like all other airports in South Africa, GAAL should be able to change its commercial contract with ATNS (Air Traffic Navigational System) to a statutory contract. If it is a commercial contract, they charge them like they are charging the private sector. But, if it changes to statutory, it is then treated as the National Key Point, which it is. So, you will be able to pay a reasonable cost.

We will also discuss with the South African Civil Aviation Authority on how best we can deal with the matters especially in terms of the tower versus the building including the air site and the land site. We will be able to do that. It is also high time that as a province, we take this GAAL not in partnership with private people for now, but also engage ACSA (Airport Company of South Africa) because almost all the airports in South Africa are managed by ACSA and they also invest lot of money in terms of infrastructure. So, we might want to go that route. We have been advocating for that and we have never succeeded. Since now that one has executive authority, we will pursue it with the Department of Transport.

I think that is the way to go because if you look at all the other airports including your ORTIA (O R Tambo International Airport), your Cape Town International Airport and all the airports, they are run by ACSA. So, why do we think we can run it on our own? Unfortunately, that is not how transport works. We will make a submission to the EXCO in that regard. I agree with you. I went through the CVs of board members, and some want to resign. I don't know, MEC, some I think have even written letters to say they want to resign. I think it is a good thing on our part because naturally as a transport person, when you check their skills, there are no aviation skills there and you need them.

In terms of the personnel, I have heard, Hon Tshitereke Matibe, talking about filling of posts. We will fill the posts, but they need relevant skills. You need aviation people to run the airport. We can't be having a turnaround of CEOs like that. We need to have it stable. If you give a CEO with the relevant aviation authority skills for five years with relevant people, who are able to operate both the air site and the land site, then we will be able to get that airport right. We are on that path, and I think, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya has been going in that direction.

In terms of the airport, while we were still there, we had what we called airlift strategy where we were able to look at the airports in Limpopo, and say, with the airports that we have, how can we maximise them so that we are able to grow our economy. It is true, we can't do that without working with LEDET. You can't have Hoedspruit already overtaking GAAL when Hoedspruit just came now. It shows you that we can do it, but in terms of governance, there is something that is not right. We will resuscitate the airlift strategy and make sure that we go into that direction. We have taken notes and we are trying to do that.

In terms of the Manenu Limpopo Traffic College, I am happy that the committee is doing oversight there. I think the renovation started when we were there in 2008. I was shocked that it is continuing even now. We will be able to take your advice and counsel and be able to make sure that we do that. One of the setbacks if we don't get it right is that, remember for traffic officials to renew their firearm licenses, they must go for shooting. So now that Manenu is being renovated, there is only one in Mopani. The situation is not conducive. We are on top of it; we will make sure that is done.

In terms of the police, fortunately when I came in on 01 July 2022, the National Commissioner Gen Masemola and his Deputy, Lt Gen Vuma and Provincial Commissioner Lt Gen Hadebe and I, had a meeting with all the station commanders, and I was able to address them. One of the issues that all members and I raised, is the issue of the police having a trust deficit with our communities. Our people no longer trust the police. The GBV is high, everything is high, the crime is high, and I said to the station commanders including the national commissioner and his team that we need to regain that trust deficit. It means there are some certain processes that must be put in place to make sure that we achieve what we want. What also comforted me is that the national commissioner said that they acknowledge that GBV is high. They have put in extra R7,4 million just to deal with GBV cases. It shows that we are very serious about this matter.

As I was also briefing our top management in the department, I said to them, we need a different strategy to be able to deal with the GBV. We have been marching, going to courts, which we will still do, but we need to change, maybe concentrate on a boy child. Just to make that sure we bring everybody on board. I think the police with the little resources that they have, they are doing their part. Yes, I agree, there might be some who do not necessarily do their work, and we need to deal with the issue very seriously.

This also include the taverns issue. When I was the MEC for Education, I used to complain to the MEC for LEDET about the taverns that surround schools. We had a programme to deal with the issue. Now that at least some events are coming out, people will then understand why we wanted to do that. Because in Bolobedu where Hon Seshoka come from, there are schools that are surrounded by four taverns. They say they start on Thursday; they call it ladies' night. When the taverns start to operate, the volumes of the radios are high. The learners just leave the classes and run there. They will be there on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and only go back home on Monday. By that time, they are "babalased" and can't even learn something. I even met magoši and everybody to say we can't have this. We don't want to go the way of Eastern Cape and

others. We need to be proactive. I have spoken again to MEC Mokone and MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, I think this will be top on our agenda.

In terms of the taxi conflict, Hon Seshoka, the taxi conflict comes because as government, we have not done some of the things. For example, when there is a new settlement or when there is a new shopping complex, before the complex could operate or people start staying in that settlement, you must do what we call Integrated Transport Plan. You need to know your origins and your destinations, where your people wake up from and go to so that you are then able to provide proper transport. Proper transport means that you will then have to give them the operating licences. What we do is that we build the malls and any taxi that comes first operates – it's first come, first serve. That's what causes the conflict. We will sit down with the taxi operators and be able to deal with this matter. If there is evidence that Hon Seshoka has with the allegations of bribes and whatever, you can bring it to us. We will follow them up and make sure that we take action.

We have also agreed generally that we need to improve the integrated public transport networks, chairperson, you said it. There is no economy in the world which grows without a proper public transport network. You can go to UK. They don't use cars like we are using them. They use trains and all other things. There is no economy which can grow.

The issue of road transport does not necessarily solve the economic problem because as your road grows, the traffic increases, and it comes to what we call equilibrium, and you get more. Look at the M1 or N1. It started with two carriage lanes and now is four, and I don't know whether it is going to be 12. When you look at your figures and you start to see this, you need to change the mode or mix the modes, intermodal. You should not rely on one mode. We, in South Africa, I think we are more into cars road transport rather than anything. What makes matters worse, in the same route, we have freight where we have trucks and everything which we should have moved to the rail long time ago.

In Polokwane in 2008 when we did the survey, there were about three hundred and fifty something thousand cars. Now, it is more than a million. If you look at the road, that time the carrying capacity was 300 000 and then you put in the 5% marked in. The 5% is more than 100%. So, whether you patch it today or tomorrow, it will still have potholes. It means you either change the whole road and increase the capacity or you change the modes that need to be changed. That is why we are talking about integrated transport networks. It is to bring everybody on board so that we do that.

I don't think we need to use old methods to solve transport problems, but we need to come up with new ideas. I have looked at the National Land Transport Strategic Framework in terms of the National Land Transport Act which from where we should be able to have our Provincial Land Transport Frameworks and the ITPs. I looked at the municipalities' ITPs, it is cut and paste as usual, for compliance. But what is also shocking is that in our municipalities, we don't have transport experts. That is why you have the congestion in Burgersfort, the congestion in Thohoyandou and everywhere. There are no transport planners, there is no transport economists even in Polokwane. How do you expect that they will be able to move with times? [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Chair, it is just that this is very passionate. But I was just answering to questions. We also have what we call the Rural Transport Strategy where we don't necessarily look only on the urban site.

In terms of crime statistics, I think I have tried to discuss with the Sergeant. We are also looking at the Limpopo Rail Plan. Remember, we did the prefeasibility and the full feasibility, and it said to us, we can be able to have the first rail between Moria and Polokwane to Mokopane, and also from Johannesburg to Musina. Now it is even nearer. It is at Hatfield. We are also going to look at it and make sure that we deal with other issues. I have noted everything that Members said. If I had the time, I would answer one by one.

But be rest assured, with the assistance of MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, we will be able to make sure that we change the transport system in Limpopo to be what it should be. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Let's proceed. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Education on the 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan and Budget. Committee chair, the floor is yours.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, move for the consideration and adoption of the 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Vote 3: Department of Education. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

I, Falaza Mavhavaza Mdaka, stand to second the motion as raised by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Violet Mathye.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. We are on debate for Budget Vote 3: Department of Education. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Maseko.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Chief Whip of the ruling party and the House, honourable Members and administrators. Let me first take this opportunity to welcome our new MEC from the box, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, to her new responsibility as MEC for Education. We want to commit ourselves to work together in an endeavour to improve the state of education in our province.

This is a department that has been unfortunate not to be able to achieve an unqualified audit opinion for the past 10 years. We believe that the fact that the new honourable MEC in her previous department was able to achieve successive clean audits, it gives us hope that together we can take the department to a particular direction. Thanks for your deployment. You are welcome.

The department has a history of receiving disclaimers, and for the past five years has been stagnant at a qualified audit opinion. Therefore, it is very much clear, MEC, that the task ahead is not for the fainthearted, and it cannot be business as usual. Education and Health are the main two departments that consume the greater percentage of the provincial budget allocation. This is because this ANC-led government prioritises education, for it has been shown that education has been proven time and again to be central in improving the overall living conditions of our citizens, as it is indeed a precondition for development. It is important, therefore, that this responsibility that has been given to you, honourable MEC, must be exercised with the due diligence that it warrants.

Regarding education as a core function of this department, it is to ensure that we are able to produce for our nation children who grow up to become adults, who can help build this great nation of ours. As such, it is the core function of the department to ensure that we follow through our children from foundation phase all the way through intermediate phase and high school. No child should be left behind and no child should fall through the cracks. We cannot claim to have done well as a department when less than 50% of the cohorts who start school in Grade 1 do not make it to Grade 12. The importance of following through the educational path of a child remains very important if we are to create a future South Africa prepared to play its role in the global stage. A high dropout rate means that we are creating a generation of children who are simply left behind despite policies that favour education and health as key priorities for development. We hope the MEC is able to follow through with the recommendations of the recently held Limpopo Provincial Education Summit which had various educational specialists and experts advising on this key sector.

With regards to the APP and Budget, the greater part of the Education Budget is spent on compensation of employees as a business of the Department of Education is to ensure that at the end of it, all we should achieve is to emerge with a child who can read, a child who can write, and thus contributing meaningfully to society. For that, we need well-trained and adequately compensated professionals. We need to improve our working relationship with the teachers' unions and other stakeholders in the education sector. We understand that factors brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic for the past two years probably also played a negative role. However, now it is back to business as usual. We should, therefore, be able to increase contact time between learners and educators. We

believe that the winter enrichment classes in the province will also go a long way in ensuring that we have better outcomes for the coming matric class of 2022.

With regard to the Infrastructure Development Programme, the total allocated budget for infrastructure programme in the year under review is R1,543 billion. We acknowledge and we are impressed about the number of new schools that have been completed in the province within a reasonable timeframe such as Alldays Primary School, amongst others. We are however concerned that at times, this allocated budget is diverted to other projects in the department, and not necessarily the specific projects that it was initially intended for. What concerns us, Hon Speaker, is that at times these changes are not necessary communicated to communities that were the initial beneficiaries of such projects. We are also very concerned that some of the funds intentionally meant to build infrastructure are used to purchase mobile classrooms while our understanding is that mobile classrooms are useful in easing congestions and to relieve dilapidated classrooms, but the overall costs of such are not really cost effective. They are a bit expensive. You cannot be a department that continuously buy mobile classrooms. At least we need to invest more on permanent infrastructure projects.

We are saying the MEC should indicate the amount spent in mobile classrooms in the past five years. That is where you can be able to understand what we are talking about. We spend much on the mobile classrooms whether we know in future where are we going to use them once we have got the infrastructure or not. We are concerned that there seems to be little follow-up on the side of the department with regard to what happens to mobile classrooms once infrastructure has been built. Surely, the department should rather look at refurbishing old mobile classrooms instead of continuously buying new once.

We are also equally concerned about the slow pace of the projects at Rivoni, Setotlwane and Asiphumelele. Projects such as Setotlwane and Asiphumelele have been planned since the financial year, 2015/16. The department has given various reasons of course, as to why these projects remain incomplete including escalating costs. Most of these reasons are not acceptable because we believe that surely cost projections should be done prior to the commencement of projects of this nature as part of the forward planning. While we fully understand that these are multi-year projects, we need to have them expedited so that we can move on to other projects. We have a mandate to deliver on these projects because we ought to remember that these are public funds, and we are accountable to the taxpayer on how these funds should be spent. We remain concerned though about the pace at which the implementing agents in a form of the Mvula Trust, IDT (Independent Development Trust), DBSA (Development Bank of Southern Africa) and Public Works are moving with regard to implementation of infrastructure.

We noted that various engagements were conducted with these implementing agents, however, there seems to be no sense of urgency in that respect. What worries us is that the longer these projects continue, the higher the escalating costs within the construction industry becomes. Surely, we should be able to finalise and close this particular chapter of our lives.

In future, it is advisable for the MEC to ensure that whatever projects they wish to see to fruition, are thoroughly planned for at administrative level. We should not find ourselves in a situation whereby the political head in the form of the Executive makes pronouncements, while those who are to implement on the ground are simply not ready. This may not be a comfortable matter to raise, but a very important one because whatever is pronounced in the Budget Speech must become a policy commitment, and therefore, should be implemented. It really would be unbecoming if we get into the habit of pronouncing on matters but are found wanting with regard to implementation.

We have also observed the slow rate of infrastructure projects implementation by those agencies which lead to underspending and application for rollover of financial commitments which may or may not be approved. It is, therefore, critical that we need to look into our infrastructure development model because the current one is not as effective as expected. This cannot be MEC. We have to find a way to ensure delivery by implementing agents, and in the event where they failed to deliver, we should be allowed to explore other alternatives that are available to us. Let us change the way we do the business so that we fast-track implementation of infrastructure.

We are also concerned about the amount spent on rentals of property as well as overall cost hiring of chemical toilets. We understand the reasoning behind the hiring of toilets, but again, surely, we should be moving with speed in constructing toilets and finally doing away with enormous unnecessary costs. The hiring of chemical toilets, just like mobile classrooms should really be a very temporary solution, not a long-term intervention. We know that it will take many years to eradicate pit latrines in our schools, but we should also move with the necessary speed so that we do not find ourselves caught in the very unsustainable business of renting and hiring, hence, the issue of implementing agents. They need a serious pressure to make sure that they implement the projects at a particular planned period. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion, honourable Member.

MR MASEKO

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, we have a very serious challenge on the audit outcomes. We think, it is very much important and critical for the new MEC to prioritise the audit outcomes as a portfolio committee because irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure remain a problem in that department. We hope together, we will be able to change the status quo. MEC, we believe that you have been correctly deployed in your new responsibility. We hope that you will be able to take this department to a particular level. You are welcome. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maseko. Hon Manganye, it is your turn.

MS MANGANYE

Ndza khensa, Manana Mufambisi. Hon Speaker, we need to indicate upfront that we want nothing but answers from the MEC as the political head of the department. We hope that we are not going to be given excuses like to be told that she is still new in the department, unless if the handover was not officially done. If the MEC was not briefed about the dynamics of this department, well, we can't help her except that we expect her to hit the ground running.

The future of our children now rests in your hands, working with all stakeholders in the province for guidance and wisdom. We can promise you that, if you are not willing to listen and take advice from amongst others, opposition parties, like your predecessor, you will not last in this department, even in the Executive Council. The MEC must be mindful of the fact that she is responsible for one of the biggest departments in the province. The people of Limpopo expect nothing but the results.

We want to see the quality of education improving and matric results improving to inspiring levels. This department requires the individual with outstanding work ethics, impeccable qualities and a visionary driven by the energy to change the lives of our children. Can the MEC brief this House in terms of how many schools still use pit toilets in the province and why do we still have schools using pit toilets? This matter was previously raised with your predecessor, and all she did was to spend taxpayers' money, finding NGOs in court defending corruption rather than providing all schools with pit toilets.

What is your plan to root out corruption in the allocation of NSNP (National School Nutrition Programme) contracts in your department? This is your first biggest test in this department, but secondly, every school must have security guards who will monitor the coming in and out of people for the safety of teachers and learners. These guards will further safeguard the school infrastructure against vandalism. When is the MEC going to implement projects, plans and commitments made during SOPA by the Premier and during the Budget Speech by the MEC and in the quarterly reports by the department?

When is the MEC going to address the shortage of teachers in the province especially rare skills like Mathematics and Science? When will the MEC ensure that all deserving learners are provided with scholar transport? Limpopo got a shocking 66,7% matric results in 2021 continuing on a radical and consistent slide and backward performance. What is the commitment of the MEC in terms of improving matric results this year? How do you plan to deal with the issue of merging of schools in the province because it remains a thorny issue in many respects?

ECD practitioners continue to be paid slavery and poverty wages in this province and also working under terrible conditions. They do not enjoy the benefits like their counterparts who have a permanent status. Do you have any plan to give these educators a permanent status, and when is this going to happen, MEC? Our advice is that don't be like many of the MECs in this House who when opposition parties raise issues in this House, they are simply dismissive by frowning over genuine issues raised on behalf of our people. Let me repeat. Our advice is that don't be like many of the MECs in this House who when opposition parties raise issues in this House, they are simply dismissive by frowning over genuine issues raised on behalf of our people.

We wrote several letters to the former MEC for Education, and she never bothered to respond to a single letter. This type of attitude, MEC, towards opposition parties is exactly what led to the demise of many MECs. We table Members' Statements in this House; they do not pay attention to details or even take down notes to address them. It is not about who raises the issue in this House, it is about whether the issues that are raised are genuine or worth investigation.

Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Manganye. Hon Smalle, it is your turn.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Members of this august House and senior officials of the Department of Education.

Hon Speaker, evaluating the financial affairs of the department against its core functions of providing quality education through effective oversight and having a teacher in front of the class will not be easy especially when the department had to cut R1 billion of its compulsory equitable share on compensation of employees from R4 billion in the 2022/23 financial year to R3 billion towards the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years respectively.

The early childhood development function has also been shifted to the department with the budget of R854 million. This move will come with some added responsibilities to the department as early childhood education must be monitored from once glorified creche centres. This will mean that numerous so-called supervisors must be trained and evaluated against set-up prescribed teaching standards. The Democratic Alliance welcomes the 14,7% infrastructure increase on infrastructure and maintenance conditional grant of which R200 million will be going towards storm-damaged schools that date as far back as 2011. It must be noted that 10 years has gone by exposing schools and some of our learners to unacceptable learning conditions.

It is unacceptable that earlier this year, parents of learners of Ratšheka Primary School had to demonstrate with the community through protest to highlight the unbearable school conditions that these 238 learners were exposed to. Although, we welcome the quick intervention by the provincial leadership to provide six mobile classrooms, this school is still without electricity and water. It cannot be that we find ourselves in a situation where a community needs to protest for better conditions for their learners before this department acts. This failure demonstrated that our circuit offices are simply not capacitated or not willing to do their job.

The rental and hiring of mobile chemical toilets budget increased from R44 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R122 million and from R26,2 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R50,3 million over the MTEF respectively. It is concerning that we have not eradicated pit latrines and that we will still continue to rent these facilities when we should be building

them. We hope that the new MEC does not fail the learners like the predecessor who had committed to eradicate these pit toilets by 2020 and failed dismally. As a result, this department was unable to fill key vacant positions to monitor the poor performance of implementing agents that led to underspending of R222 million of infrastructure grant budget. Many of these learners were not provided with chairs and desks as well as suitable classrooms due to the lack of maintenance being done.

The same implementing agents used by the department were responsible for most of the irregular expenditure incurred. IDT and Mvula Trust are currently under investigation for not adhering to Treasury regulations. Currently, the department has a total of R2,5 billion of irregular expenditure on its books and a further R8,1 billion under assessment of which only R395 million is under investigation.

Hon Speaker, when evaluating the high learner dropout figures in our province, out of 150 000 learners, 19 714 learners have already dropped out in 2022 due to drug addiction, learner pregnancy, learners not residing with parents due to negligence or economic and family challenges as well as learner prostitution. We need to do more than providing learners with nutrition and scholar transport. For many exposed to the social and economic situations, remedial and social support is needed. There is a greater need for intergovernmental support required by providing specialised support and improving the number of remedial teachers at our schools. Every school should have at least one qualified remedial teacher. Cooperation with other departments such as Social Development on strategies and programmes are needed to address these challenges as we are well resourced.

Our performance in examination outcomes continues to be problematic with the department failing to meet its target. In fact, it was the DA earlier this year, that called upon the Premier Stan Mathabatha to relieve the previous MEC for Education of her duties in line with this promise to hold the MECs accountable for their performance targets. This followed the province's symbolic matric results that saw it achieve the lowest matric pass rate of all provinces at 66,7% and the only province that owes to reach 70% pass rate. Limpopo also had the lowest bachelor pass rate percentages of all provinces with only 26,7% of our learners achieving that level and six of the worst performing districts in the country.

Lastly, it is equally my hope that this department has also carried out adequate planning with regards to the resuscitation of the Dinaledi schools that will help increase performances in Maths, Science and Technology in our province. The department also needs to ensure that appropriate planning and resources to have effective mining and agricultural schools in our province are in place as well.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Maritz, it is your turn.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of opposition parties, Members of the House and guests, I greet you.

Education is one of the most important departments of government as it is preparing the youth for the future of South Africa. However, there is still a bad taste in my mouth regarding education in Limpopo as a whole. As the department gets more funded, the department will accelerate the provisioning of tablets and laptops to schools, prioritising quintile one to three in the 2021/22 financial year. About R228 million was made available for the same following the same too prolonged approach for rolling the e-learning strategy out.

The very government that is trying to establish equality is achieving the opposite of what they have promised. Whilst some students get e-learning tablets and laptops, other students don't even have roofs, chairs or even paper and books. It seems unfair and not all students are treated equally in our province.

Teenage pregnancy in the province is of great concern for the Freedom Front Plus and will lead to a situation where pregnant children must leave school early and not finish their schooling. Limpopo has one of the highest unemployment rates in South Africa at 51,6%. How will these children in rural development support their new babies? A child cannot raise a child. Therefore, the Department of Education should urgently look at a working plan together with the Social Development Department to address this alarming increase of pregnancies.

Lastly, urgent serious changes must be made to employ more teachers and give all the children in the province equal education which is what they deserve. Last year's pass rate of 66,7% is very alarming. Our children deserve more in Limpopo.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Our last speaker on the list is Hon Mathye, the chairperson of the committee.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo; Hon Premier, Stanley Mathabatha in absentia; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; honourable Members of this august House; officials from the Legislature led by Mr Mothoa and the officials from the Department of Education led by Ms Dederen, good morning or good afternoon – I am not sure which one is which.

Hon Speaker, allow me on behalf of the committee to sing the song that was started by Hon Maseko of welcoming the MEC for Education, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, in her new appointment. We believe that the sterling work that we observed under your leadership

will translate itself well to this new assignment. On the same breath, we wish you, Hon Boshielo, good luck in your new deployment.

July month is a special month as we look forward to celebrating one of the greatest visionaries and leaders that Africa has ever produced, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. As we celebrate July, we should not forget the special place that education held in the heart of the late President Mandela. We believe that we will be able to rise to the challenge. We welcome your appointment fully cognisant of the challenges in the Department of Education. In the year under review, the department has been allocated R36,4 billion which is 49% of the provincial Budget more than 75% of which goes to compensation of employees as mentioned earlier by Hon Maseko.

During our meeting with the department, as the portfolio committee, we raised the following concerns:

- The first concern is regarding the poor audit outcomes. We remain concerned about the stagnant outcomes of the department. The department failed to move from a qualified audit statement, and this has been the case for the past five years. We know, honourable MEC, that in Education, qualified and unqualified means something different from what is needed by the auditors. Having emerged from disclaimers in the years to receiving a qualified audit opinion, the department fails to receive an unqualified audit opinion. MEC, this speaks again to the level of carelessness, recklessness and mismanagement of the public purse. We are concerned MEC, that this clearly illustrates that fiscal persistence in the department just does not exist.
- We are also concerned that year after year, the Auditor-General continues to raise the same issues with regards to irregular, unauthorised and wasteful expenditure in this department. Worse still, there seems to be very little consequence management and absolutely no willingness to take action.
- Supply chain management policy and procedures are constantly flouted to the detriment of the taxpayer's money. We raise this concern knowing fully well that the core business of the whole department is to provide education. However, in the same breath, we have to emphasise the importance of good management of the public purse. Education is the precondition for development. There cannot be development if there is no improvement in the spending of taxpayer's money.
- The other concern is the decline in the education pass rate and poor outcomes in gateway subject enrolment. We are aware that in the last year, you had more learners writing exams than the previous years. We are, however, concerned about the decline in the pass rate from 68% to 66%. This also keeping in mind that we have some years back targeted a quality pass rate of at least 75%. This also, MEC, is against the background of fewer and fewer learners registering for the so-called gateway subjects. We are afraid, MEC, that we are not producing enough Maths and Science students. This is a problem that starts at foundation phase.

Research has constantly shown that South African children in non-Model C schools continue to struggle in Maths, comprehension and reading.

- We have emphasised many times the importance of ensuring that enough attention is paid at foundational phase and primary schools to address this anomaly. What we strive for is not just education for the sake of education, but quality education that will indeed transform the lives of these learners. As such, MEC, we would like to receive an indication from you on how far the problem of the 32 Dinaletšana schools are progressing across the province. The MEC should brief the House on progress that is specific to the Dinaletšana schools.
- Regarding concern number four, MEC, which is assessment of children at foundation phase. We would also want the MEC to start the uncomfortable engagements and discourse with the teacher unions and other stakeholders on how we can better access our children, especially, at foundational phase and track progress. This, MEC, must be understood against the very real background of an increasing gap between children in former Model C urban schools and our very basic rural schools. We are well aware that there are exceptional schools such as Dendron and Mbilwi. But these are often more exceptional than the rule. Constant hard work and corrective action is often needed to turn the situation around as was the case in the once poor performing school of Mabogopedi in Thabazimbi. This school moved from being one of the worst performing schools in the province to a well performing school registering an improvement ranging between 75% and 85% pass rate for the past few years.

Let us adopt the best practices there moving forward. Mitirho ya vulavula. MEC, we welcome the provincial education summit on 10 March 2022 that was held earlier in the year, and we believe that you will be able to follow up on the directives and excellent recommendations of that particular summit which we believe you should be able to follow up on their particular implementation. We believe too that you will be able to follow up on the Academic Improvement Plan as adopted for the poor performing schools.

On special schools, MEC, we appreciate the fact that assistive devices have been provided for special schools. We, however, remain concerned about the very slow progress at Rivoni Special School. This infrastructure programme is mentioned year after year in both SOPA and Budget Speeches, however, the pace at which this programme is moving leaves much to be desired. With the same token, we appreciate that you have advertised posts to provide appropriate support for learners with severe to profound learning disabilities.

We would like the MEC to brief the House on how far the department is filling the posts of special therapist, occupational therapist, educational psychologist, physiotherapist and other necessary specialists, and how these specialists are distributed across the province. We understand that the department has since managed to attract some specialists by offering competitive rates. It is important to also ensure that the environment is conducive so that these specialists may stay in the province. The department should brief the House on progress so far. It is also advisable to centralise

these services given the current shortages so that the schools across the province are able to share these scarce resources.

On infrastructure, honourable MEC, we welcome the progress in Naledi ya Meso Secondary School, Alldays Secondary School, as said by Hon Maseko, Gidela Primary School, Marude High School, Mahlagaume Primary School and Leduma-Mahume Primary School. We will as part of our oversight visit, ensure that we are able to follow up on these projects. We also believe that we are receiving value for money in this project. We are concerned, MEC, about an emerging culture of vandalising schools and burning of mobile classes as was the case in Ratšeke Secondary School in the Mopani District.

The MEC must ensure that perpetrators of these acts are brought to book. Our communities must understand that whatever they destroy, it takes time to replace as all projects must be properly budgeted for. Further, it is important that we also make it very clear that we condemn these criminal acts, and that a hard line must be taken against perpetrators.

As the committee, we will continue to engage robustly with the department to ensure that it achieves its objectives to better our society. I would like to close by quoting President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela echoing the word of Cabral who said, “It can be said that there are four basic and primary things that the mass of people in a society wish for: to live in a safe environment, to be able to work and provide for themselves, to have access to good public health and to have sound educational opportunities for their children”. MEC, you have been given the special responsibility of the latter. Act on it.

In conclusion Hon Speaker, the committee having considered and supported the department’s Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the 2022/23 financial year moves that the report be adopted as the report of this honourable House, and that the Budget for Vote 3, Department of Education, be passed. I move accordingly.

Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now call upon the MEC for Education, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, to come and respond. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It is not me. Ndi masiari.

BACKGROUND

Avhudi.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much. Let me start by appreciating the opportunity that I have been given by the Hon Speaker. Let me also acknowledge the Premier, Leader of Government Business, MEC Sekoati who is here with us; my colleagues – honourable MECs that are present. Let me also acknowledge the Chief Whip of the House and the Deputy Chief Whip, Leader of the Opposition, my chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, the honourable members of the Portfolio Committee on Education, all other chairpersons of the other committees, the chairperson of Scopa and the honourable Members of this House. Today, let me also take this time to acknowledge the presence of the HOD, the DDG and the CFO who are with us.

Hon Speaker, I want to start by thanking the chairperson of the committee and members the committee for welcoming me and their kind words as they were debating. On behalf of the department, we want to thank you for the robust engagements that have happened until now when we reach to the debate of this Budget. As we did the Budget Speeches, you will remember the discussions, the issues that you were raising that resulted in the APPs and the Budget to be what it is. Let me also thank the committee for the oversight visits that you always undertake to our schools and all other infrastructure projects that we are doing, because that has always strengthened the debate and strengthened how the management should be able to move and come closer to the decisions that we are taking in this House.

On behalf of the department, I want to commit and say, we welcome the feedback that we always get from you, chairperson and the committee, and the honourable House as we are also Members. I also want to take this opportunity to thank MEC Polly Boshielo for holding the fort for us as delegated by the Premier on behalf of this august House. I see now that it is like we have taken her back to her profession. She has hit the ground running, and we want to wish you well, Hon Boshielo, on your new department. We are saying, maybe I should have answered the other side, and she comes and finish this side, but the Premier would have just recalled us immediately when we finished that exercise. Oh, she says she was going to report us.

I am going to deal with the issues that have been raised in this House. We want to commit as the HOD and team Education that the issues that have been raised in the debate, if we will not be able to talk to them now, they will continue to be issues that when we appear before the committee, we will be able to give answers.

I want to thank Hon Maseko on the issues that have been raised, and we want to say, indeed, it is not going to be business as usual. There are indeed plans that have been put in terms of the audit issues which the chairperson of the committee – my chairperson – Hon Mathye, was raising. You will remember that we have looked at the whole programme, but the plans are going to include responding properly and honestly to the Scopa issues that have been raised because majority of the issues that are giving us a problem on the audit are Scopa issues. If we deal with the Scopa questions, those issues are going to be lifted.

As much as we had prehistory issues of section 100 and other issues that were there for some time now, the administration has been out of that process. How do we then ourselves and the Department of Treasury reconcile for us to be able to get out of those

issues which are historical, and that will give us a good audit? I am sure MEC Sekoati is excited about that plan to assist us to get out of that audit because it also gives him an opportunity to shine.

We want to acknowledge the issue of learner dropout. This morning, we have checked on it, honourable members of the committee. In 2020, we had a dropout of more than 35 563 learners and in 2021, we had a dropout of 33 786 learners. Currently, as we speak, we have done something about tracing our own learners, and motivating them not to dropout because the dropout, currently, when we check our stats, is only 19 714 which says, we have reduced dropout by 39%.

I was also just looking at the other issues that have been raised. We are taking note of the infrastructure issue. We have got a programme with the committee through the office of the chairperson. Our department and the Department of Public Works need more time to meet with our implementing agents just to go and deal with the issues that the committee has raised before. After that, we are going to have a joint session with the committee, us as the Department of Education and Department of Public Works. Jointly, we present, and the committee can be able to look at us. That will also be dealing with all the infrastructure issues that have been raised.

We are noting the small pace on the specialised schools as the Members have alluded to. We also want to thank the member of the committee, Hon Manganye, for the issues that you have raised. We are noting, and you will remember that sometimes when we were implementing our own Infrastructure Development Programme on the pit latrines, because of the court issues, you needed to come with immediate plans just to be able to deal with the issues that the court was raising. We are saying to ourselves as government, we need to be able to work as one so that then we can be able to do that efficiently.

On the improvement of matric results, chairperson, which you and Hon Manganye have also raised, the Winter Enrichment Programme has been one of the plans that we had to discuss on how we are going to start to move towards improving our own processes of the matric results. We have also agreed with the management through the office of the HOD and the team that we are working with to say, education, as the chairperson of the committee raised, is not going to start with the Grade 12 results. We need to pay attention to the lower grades.

Besides the enrichment programme, the department has got a programme that they have implemented which is called the DDD (Data Driven District) Programme. The DDD Programme is going to allow us to trace the child from day one when they write tests to the last day when we need to assess if we are going to do well with our Grade 12 results. That model is going to take all the children both in primary and in secondary schools. We should be able to go back to the committee and report to them on how we are doing. We intend to report to the committee. When the Grade 12s start to write exams, we should have come to the committee and report that we think we will achieve 70%. We think we would have achieved 72% because that model is going to help us.

We want to say to Hon Smalle, we are noting the issues that you have raised. We note that the other school that you spoke about is the school that has burnt down. The mobile

classes were responding to the challenge. The issue that you spoke about, the parents protesting, we were responding because the school has burnt.

Hon Speaker, the chairperson of the committee has raised quite a few issues. I did not skip Hon Maritz. We want to say, we are a department that is very caring. Why the chairperson of the committee alluded to us advertising posts for specialised people to give support, is purely because of some of the issues that you were raising on teenage pregnancy and other programmes. These are social programmes that you and I from political parties, sometimes when we are campaigning, we fuel. When we come to the House because we have got a vote, we stay away. You and I have a responsibility to go back. That is why the chairperson spoke about us having to come back and report on how far we are with the posts because we want to address those programmes.

Hon Speaker, as I conclude, the department is committed to the turnaround accountability. We have set ourselves targets, and we have agreed as team Education that we are going to turnaround the accountability, and we have noticed how disappointing it was for us for the results to go down. We also want to welcome the oversight programme. The chairperson of the committee, when we met, she was briefing me that they are still going to go out. The programme of the schools that we were talking about, if the committee could conduct oversight on them, we would be able to compare. In the office I'm given this progress report, and, in the House, I am given another report.

I want to say, Hon Speaker, the department has adopted plans, and we have planned on how we are going to execute them. We are not going to "shambok" ourselves between now and September to try and run all over to make sure that results are there. We want to embark on a programme of motivation for our circuit managers and our teachers to understand that when we say education lies in our hands, what does it mean. I want to acknowledge and take up the challenge and the blessings that come with the Mandela Month that when I landed in Education, it was the month of a giant man.

I conclude by what our former State President, Thabo Mbeki said about education when he said, he was very fortunate to be able to go to school and university because many people of their age could not complete school by then. This gift of education must be used in whatever ways we can to uplift the people of our country.

Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. We are on consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA on the 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan and Budget. Committee chair, it is your turn.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, rise to table the Annual Performance Plan and the Budget

Report for the 2022/23 financial year as it appears on the ATC for consideration and adoption by this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela of the African National Congress, stand herein to second Hon Aphiri for the motion.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We are debating on Budget Vote11, Department of CoGHSTA. The first speaker on our list is Hon Monyamane. [APPLAUSE]

MS MONYAMANE

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Hon Chair of Chairs in absentia, Hon Chief Whip, Leader of the Opposition in absentia, Leader of Government Business, honourable MECs and honourable Members, thobela.

Hon Speaker, the department's allocated Budget increased by 1,53% to R2,418,737 billion which is an increase of R36,537 million from the previous financial year. The department also reported that the budget allocation for the Human Settlements subprogramme is the only one that increased. The compensation of the employees constitutes 40,7% of the total allocation. It has decreased by 6,1% in the 2022/23 financial year. During reporting, the Auditor-General raised material irregularities of annual financial statements which recur from the 2017/18 financial year. The concern raised by the Auditor-General implies that there is a lack of capacity in the office of the CFO. The department should explore avenues on how to address this lack of capacity with the 40,7% budget allocation of the compensation of employees.

The department has a duty to ensure that poor people get proper housing and comfort. Thus, the department, in its Human Settlements Programme should ensure that the provision of housing development, access to adequate accommodation in well located areas, access to basic services and access to social infrastructure and economic opportunities are provided to disadvantaged people of this province. The department should ensure that informal settlements around the province are upgraded with proper services like sanitation and access to water. The right to proper housing is exposed in the Constitution of the Republic. Therefore, disadvantaged people deserve these services.

The allocation of houses should not be biased against people living with disability, child-headed households and households headed by women. The department should undertake thorough research prior to allocation of housing, hence, there is a budget allocated for research and planning.

The construction of community residential units in Marapong is expected to yield some results in the 2022/23 financial year. The department has however, set a target of only 44 units in this financial year. Given the number of units in Marapong, the figure tells a story that not all units will be completed in the financial year. The committee will be hard during oversight to ensure that this project comes to completion.

Informal settlement upgrading programme has been an issue for the department for a very long time. Informal settlements such as Smashblock in Thabazimbi, Mamojela Park in Lephalale and others have not changed till today. The Annual Performance Plan is silent on the construction of units at Vingerkraal village, a project that is meant to construct 1 000 housing units.

The department plans every financial year and includes as key performance indicator the purchase of land for development. This key performance indicator has not been implemented since 2018. The planned purchasing of 31 hectares with an estimate budget of R31,4 million in strategic economic zone areas prioritising mining towns since the 2018/19 financial year has not materialised. This amongst others includes land in Musina and Thabazimbi in the area of Smashblock informal settlement. Thirty hectares of land was planned and budgeted for in the 2020/21 financial year and have not been purchased as well as the 16 hectares of land budgeted for in the 2021/22 financial year.

This financial year, the department has planned to purchase 40 hectares of land. The committee will be hard in its oversight role to ensure that funds for the acquisition of land is spent accordingly. The department should be proactive in identifying municipalities in need of support on MIG spending and assist them in developing plans to ensure that those grants are spent well. The department should develop its own capacity to ensure that all municipalities receive the support needed and provide monitoring. Indigent policies should be monitored and evaluated every year to ensure that they are implemented and assist genuine beneficiaries.

The committee supports the adoption of the APP and Budget for the 2022/23 financial year. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monyamane. The next speaker is Hon Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings, Speaker. Greetings to the House. Hon Speaker, the EFF submits that CoGHSTA should present a comprehensive development plan that seeks to uplift the living conditions of those who reside in squatter camps. Such a plan will eliminate situations like the one wherein Polokwane Municipality ignores existing informal settlement and establishes a town solely for ANC members around Zone 5 in Ward 13. This ANC factional development has caused communities to fight amongst themselves for the houses, worse, the Ward 13 EFF councillor is not being consulted on the matter.

A housing project next to an informal settlement must include integration of those who reside in informal settlements. Therefore, the department must present a plan in relation to all informal settlements as per informal settlement upgrading project. Smashblock in Thabazimbi, Mamojela Park in Lephalale, Vingerkraal, Juju Valley in Seshego and more informal settlements remain in confusion as the department does not have plans on developing such communities.

Furthermore, the support to traditional leaders should not depend on proximity to ANC leaders and government as this disadvantages communities and denies traditional leaders a voice in the developmental agenda.

As the department seeks to integrate and link successive plans, the EFF in Limpopo seeks to establish as to whether CoGHSTA is aware that there have been neglected house projects in Dalmada, Polokwane and Vhembe area between Olifantshoek, Rembuluwani and Tiyani. The above-mentioned areas need special investigation as they both had unexplainable neglected housing development with toilet sewerage system, water and electricity. As a result, in the spirit of integrating development, the EFF demands that the department presents a detailed report of all failed projects in Limpopo. It is in the spirit of successive planning that the report includes all post 1994 housing projects to date.

The decrease in budget allowance of the Traditional Institution Development Programme tallies with the attitude of the ANC-led government towards traditional authorities. We can't have budget decrease when traditional authorities are subjected to dilapidating structures, and some are overcrowded in few allocated offices. The EFF submits that the department reviews the salary scales of our traditional authorities and related benefits. The current system services traditional authorities as state employees and cannot even do a mere business to supplement their income as a system.

Hon Speaker, rapid expansion of energy generation capacity will never happen in the exclusion of municipalities. The EFF calls on the department to engage and make sure all municipalities in Limpopo are given an opportunity to establish their own energy generation plants to avoid overreliance on Eskom on the so-called IPPs (Independent Power Producers). This will even minimise electricity costs to consumers.

Is there any explanation on how the department managed to reduce their compensation of employees' budget and all critical posts filled?

How many contractors did the department terminate for noncompliance with delivery timelines and how many of such contractors were rewarded projects?

Is there a report on clear consequence management and recovery of all moneys which were paid in advance for Marapong community residential units? What was the target if only 44 units are going to be built?

Hon Speaker, our people deserve to know the truth that the ANC-led government has failed and has reached a ceiling in terms of providing solutions to challenges facing society. The report indicates that since 2018, there has not been any purchased land for

housing development. A province with such a huge backlog of housing is comfortable spending zero budget for four years while people are overcrowded in informal settlements. This House must be given a report as to who is responsible for the purchase of land, what happened to the budget thereof since 2018 and what action has been taken against those responsible? Lastly, what are the plans to fast-track land transactions in identified areas? The planned purchase of 40 hectares can't resolve the backlog dating back to 2018. This is a failed department with lots of failed promises continuing to fail poor people who had hope on promised housing development.

Hon Speaker, it is clear that given the history of this department on land acquisition, mainly, the Tubatse land scandal which is still awaiting actions to be taken. Perhaps the department is comfortable to buy land beyond market value as part of their juggling exercises in wasting taxpayers' money. This department is always on the wrong due to lack of leadership. They either underspend, underperform or overspend. Nothing is ever as per plans. It must be noted that EPWP jobs are not designed for ANC members. We have observed, therefore, more transparency is needed when hiring for EPWP jobs. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Your seven minutes is up, Hon Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Smalle, it is your turn.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker and Members of this august House. Honourable MEC, the three critical areas that I wish to focus on which are severely neglected by the department are spatial transformation through multi-priority development areas, adequate housing and improved quality living environments as well as corporate oversight and assistance to local municipalities. To eradicate the total provincial backlog of 124 849 households by 2024, the department has set itself a modest target of 30 732 against the annual rate of 6 144. During the 2011 census, the housing backlog in Limpopo totalled 139 328 which has since increased to 159 625 in 2016. This is an increase of 14,6% or 20 297 dwellings.

Limpopo's poverty headcount has also increased from 10,1% in 2011 to 11,5% in 2016. The NDP (National Development Plan) requires this province to improve the lives of people whose monthly income is below R419 per person from 39% to 0%. Evaluating the department's set targets of constructing houses, it is clear that poverty levels will increase and so, logically, it will follow that the number of households living underneath the poverty line receiving a house will not be achieved. Over the MTEF, the department has set itself the following targets: breaking new grounds, 4 973 households, 4 504 houses; serving of

sites, 6 055, 4 500 and 5 000 respectively; transferring of title deeds, 836, 1 000 and 1 000 the following year, noting that the total backlog of title deeds as from 1994 to 2014 is 1,2 million.

The department had set itself a target of handing just 984 title deeds for this financial year and 300 title deeds respectively following the next three years. Honourable MEC, without the title deeds, these households do not have access to security, and they are unable to unlock economic opportunities and create general wealth. We simply must prioritise the handing over of title deeds and eradicating all the backlogs by 2024.

Honourable MEC, this province's financial health continues to deteriorate despite the DS's constant call for these provincial leaders to attend to the crisis. During the 2020/21 financial year, municipalities incurred R1,8 billion of irregular expenditure mostly resulting from noncompliance with supply chain management legislation, R3,6 billion in unauthorised expenditure, significant increase from the previous year; an indication of inadequate budgetary processes and R109 million in fruitless and expenditure.

Moreover, our municipalities spent more than R971 million on consultants for financial reporting over the five-year period. This includes the R245 million in the 2020/21 financial year. Despite municipalities employing officials who should have performed some of these functions and despite excessive expenditure, there were material errors in financial statements of all municipalities except for Waterberg. These funds could have been spent to help individuals in key positions obtain the required skills, improve the control environment and address service delivery challenges.

All distressed or failing municipalities must be assisted in terms of section 154 (1) of the national and provincial government to support and strengthen the capacity to manage their own affairs to execute the powers and perform their functions. The five municipalities in vulnerable financial state as identified by the AG must be placed under section 139 of the administration to ensure positive impact on both the state of local government and the lives of the people of Limpopo.

On the implementation of the infrastructure programme, our province faces serious water service delivery challenges, and it is concerning to note the delays in projects such as upgrading the Vondo water treatment works and the construction of the Phiphidi reservoir in the Vhembe District. Both projects were planned to have been completed by 2020, and the delays have denied citizens their basic right to fresh water supply. Automatically, the impact of these delays is a continued shortage of infrastructure, delayed services to citizens and the deterioration of existing infrastructure. There is not a single municipality without serious sewerage and waste challenges. In some instances, raw sewerages run freely through the streets of these houses. We must too, invest more in wastewater and sewerage infrastructure to avoid an environmental and human health catastrophe and the further contamination of our water sources.

Monitoring of section 47 reports compiled by local municipalities as well as section 52 and 71 reports cannot just remain a tick box exercise. This province must step up and intervene to turn the tide on basic service delivery statistics because access to things like

clean running water, flush toilets and reliable refuse collection are life changing for many people.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Chair, Hon Aphiri, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. The department's Budget which we are debating today as presented by the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu, takes queue from the tone set by the State of the Province Address presented at the beginning of the year by the Premier of this province.

The priorities as laid down in the Annual Performance Plan are critical for the development of the society and must be implemented without deviation. Immediately after the Budget was presented, the society expects action. They also expect action from the projects that are outstanding and incomplete. We are also aware that this is a year for recovery from the pandemic that had hit our economy. However, that is not what the society wants to hear from us as an excuse. In his State of the Nation Address, the President of this country pronounced the following interventions:

- That we should overcome the COVID-19 pandemic;
- That there should be a massive rollout of infrastructure; and
- That there will be an employment stimulus to create jobs and support livelihoods, just to mention a few that are in relation to CoGHSTA.

The department should ensure that these priorities are addressed. Informal settlements must be upgraded. Corruption in local government must be uprooted. Housing units as per the departmental plan must be built and those that are not complete must be completed. Traditional councils must receive the support they deserve.

The District Development Model as the new approach to development has been accepted as a key instrument that will be used to align the key priorities of the government. This policy instrument is viewed to be more practical, achievable, implementable and measurable. The department must support the municipalities in ensuring that this critical instrument is used to achieve service delivery objectives. The department must play a supporting role to ensure that the municipalities emulate some of the department's obtained favourable audit outcomes.

The APP is approved on the basis of funded key performance indicators which are expected to be delivered to the downtrodden people of this province. Since the approval of the Budget is underpinned by this plan, there should be no misalignment between the

expenditure and implementation of the APP. The department must mitigate factors that are setbacks of delivery services in the middle of the year which will put pressure to spend more at the end of the financial year. By so saying, the department must avoid returning funds to Treasury at the end of the financial year due to underspending. The department must ensure that the issues that overlapped from the previous financial year are addressed.

The investigation on the irregularities of Tubatse land acquisition is of major concern. The matter is long overdue, and an update is required. The department should ensure that the litigation cases that arose from the Kgatla Commission's report are attended to. Twenty-three of these cases are in Capricorn and eight are in Vhembe.

There are continuous forensic audits instituted on municipalities that invested in the VBS. Some of the officials in some of those municipalities are arrested. The department should ensure that the House is updated regarding those developments.

The AG raised material irregularities in the preparation of the annual financial statements of the department since the 2017/18 financial year. It is a serious concern; this department is providing support to municipalities to ensure that their finances comply with the Municipal Finance Management Act while their financial systems are weak. The department must ensure that this financial year, their finances are counted in terms of the Act. The municipalities must also be encouraged to avoid the outsourcing in the preparation of the annual financial statements. The committee encourages the department to ensure that the Chief Financial Officer is constantly consulting with the Auditor-General to address those concerns of material irregularities. They must ensure that the offices of the CFOs are capacitated and those who must undergo training are assisted.

In the previous financial year, the committee undertook an oversight visit to Marapong CRU. The project is more than five years old now. The department reported progress as confirmed by Hon Monyamane on the project. There is an investigation into the irregularities of R33 million advance payment to the contractor. The department must ensure that the investigations are concluded, and a report is submitted to the House. The accounting officer must take responsibility and ensure that consequence management is instituted where anomalies are identified.

Hon Speaker, the committee supports the adoption of the APP and the Budget for the 2022/23 financial year, and requests that this House adopts it as its report. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri. We shall now call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, colleagues in the Executive Council, honourable Members of the august House, Chief Whip of the majority party, chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, Leader of the Opposition and

other opposition parties, comrades and friends. Let me first welcome the debate and the consideration of the APP and Budget for the Department of CoGHSTA.

I must first reflect on what Hon Monyamane indicated about the lack of capacity in the office of the CFO. I must indicate that we had appointed the CFO who had the capacity to work, but unfortunately, she has just resigned and left the department. The capacity will be informed by performance. One of the issues that we were able to achieve during the previous financial year was to reduce our irregular expenditure substantially by almost R2 billion because of noncompliance in terms of the supply chain management regulations. Currently, we are working with the acting CFO, but I must confirm that we have already issued an advert to recruit. We think we should be able to deal with that timeously.

I must indicate on the issues of corporate governance in terms of support of the municipalities that there are concerns about the use of consultants and the decline or regression by some municipalities on their audit outcomes. I must confirm to the House that in terms of our plans, that together with the Provincial Treasury, we have got our targeted approach to support municipalities. Municipalities which have already regressed from the previous financial year in the form of Greater Giyani Municipality, Belabela Municipality and Mopani District Municipality, in terms of the plan, we have already issued a rapid assessment. We have got a report of Belabela. We have got a report of Greater Giyani. We are still working with Mopani together with Treasury to make sure that there are interventions that should be utilised to support the municipalities.

With regard to the issue of the use of consultants by our municipalities, we have categorised our municipalities which are spending a lot in terms of utilisation of consultants but does not even change the outcomes of their financial standing. The example would be Modimolle-Mookgopong Municipality, Mopani and Sekhukhune District Municipalities. We have already started to plan interventions on those municipalities and try to build capacity in the offices of CFOs to make sure that they respond on their own without the use of consultants in preparation of the annual financial statements. We have undertaken to understand that a baggage in, in finances, will be a baggage out. If you have got officials of municipalities working from 01 July until 30 June when you prepare financial statements, what is it that the consultant will be able to do because the information on financial statements would be there. So, we have already started to make sure that we support our municipalities to develop.

Of course, the big elephant in the room is about our performance in the human settlement grants. I must start indicating by one project, chairperson, the Marapong, which Hon Monyamane spoke about. Hon Mohlala spoke about it. It is a project that started in the 2016/17 financial year. We have budgeted to complete the 44 units that we have put in our APP, and we can confirm, honourable chair, that that target is going to be met because as I am speaking, we have resolved most of the challenges which were in the project in its inception. As I am speaking, the contractors are onsite. The work has begun, and we will be able to complete, not necessarily this financial year because there work that has been left is much.

I must indicate that there was an investigation that was carried out, and consequence management was applied. Looking at the challenges, we have ordered the forensic investigation into the project and the work by the National Treasury to give an update and reports. All the irregularities have been made aware to the MEC. We are going to act as recommended by this House and the portfolio committee.

I must also talk about the acquisition of land which has been a matter in the process. It will include why we could not meet our targets the previous years. I must concede that it is correct that we planned to buy, but due to the acquisition of land in the previous years which was just lying fallow, we had to have our land that has been procured, not for the sake of procuring land, but also servicing it so that our people would utilise it. If you see how we have been doing in terms of servicing sites, this is the very same land that has been acquired the previous years. The plan was to service the land that has been acquired so that when we buy, we know we really need it to be serviced. We can agree with you that the Lephalale land that has been a process is at an advanced stage to be acquired.

I would like to talk about the issue of the traditional – I see a hand. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker! Hon Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

Yes!

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I am rising on a point of order just to check if the MEC will be able to answer a question on the Marapong contract. I hear him talking about the Marapong contract and that the contractor is onsite. I just want to check if the MEC will be able to take a question and answer if it is the same contractor that has disappointed us or it is a new contractor. I just want to check if he can take that question.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, you are out of order because you should have raised that in your debate. Can we allow the honourable MEC to finalise his response.? The rule does not allow you to raise questions while the MEC is on the platform to respond. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Which rule does not allow me to raise a point of order?

THE SPEAKER

Wena, Seshoka, I am saying you are out of order. Can you proceed, honourable MEC?
[INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

I am asking if ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, can you proceed?

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I was about to respond on the issue of traditional affairs. Chairperson, we acknowledge that the Kgatla Commission brought in new traditional councils within the province. But that does not come without challenges of legal matters like you raised. Up to so far, we can confirm that of all the legal challenges of the other senior traditional leaders, we have not lost as a department, not even one as we speak. We continue to recognise those senior traditional leaders which are of the outcomes of the Kgatla Commission.

Further than that, we continue supporting unlike what has been said that we are not supporting our traditional leaders. MEC Masemola and I, when he was still in Public Works, we indicated all the traditional council offices that we are going to build. We have successfully handed over contractors to the seven traditional councils that we are to build this financial year in terms of the plan, and that we are on course. I can also confirm, Hon Speaker, that those that were completed, we will be handing them over to our senior traditional leaders and communities to utilise them. The offices that we are currently giving, are the state-of-the-art offices and that you can confirm from senior traditional leaders. We do not only work on traditional issues, but other services of our communities can be found there, your police can be found there, and Sassa can be found there. These are the offices which are now starting to be one-stop services that we are building. We are going to build another one in Raphahlelo where Hon Seshoka is coming from, and we have handed over the report.

I must talk about us not meeting, Hon Smalle, on the BNG (Breaking New Ground) ...
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members! Can we allow the honourable MEC to finalise his response.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

... and other services. Hon Smalle, I must indicate that the delivery of housing units is a moving target. You will understand that as we do registration today, some of the people will not be qualifying to get the house, but in the future, they will be qualifying. We use the numbers that we have to consider such things. Our human settlement systems can show

the people to receive the houses, who are in need. We are not necessarily mindful of the fact that we have got 130 000 people who might be needing shelter in the province. But with the resources that we have, we continue to attend to the matter.

You would have seen that Limpopo in terms of its spatial planning, most of the informal settlements are happening just adjacent to the towns. We are now as a department, having started human settlements upgrading programme, making sure that the numbers that we do to service sites, if you look at the targets we have as a department, are more than what we are doing on housing because in Limpopo, most of the people require services. They can build their own houses in those areas. It is a programme we are prioritising as the department to make sure that people have water services, at the same time not forgetting those that need shelter. We are making this programme a priority.

I must also indicate on the issue of title deeds that as the department, we are increasing the handover of title deeds so that people can utilise their title deeds even as an economic activity because they can utilise their houses as security whenever they are required to do so. So, that programme is receiving serious attention. There are number of areas that Hon Mohlala spoke about of the informal settlements, your Vingerkraal, Mamojela and Smashblock, and I can invite honourable Members to go and see what we are doing in Vingerkraal. We have already started with a project to make sure that we upgrade that informal settlement to be a proper settlement. All the paperwork has been done. The contractor is onsite. We are making sure that there are streets. We are also ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka!

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much. I must indicate that there are challenges. What causes the informal settlements around towns? That is also another challenge. I want to give an example of Mamojela Park in Lephalale. The people just grabbed the land and stayed there. When you do the environmental impact assessment, that area is not suitable for people to stay. Even if you have got capacity and resources to upgrade and make sure that you formalise it, you can't. Now you want to start with social facilitation to make sure that you get people far away from the area because you know that there are mines there. The fact remains that they are not willing because they want to be very close to the town. It is a matter that we have started to resolve, like I said with the Vingerkraal that we are busy with, doing the work. All the informal settlements like Smashblock, we are busy with engagements to make sure that those that can be easily formalised, we should be busy formalising them.

Above all, I must thank the committee because I cannot necessarily respond to each issue. Based on the guidance we continue to be getting from the committee, we are trying our level best to make sure that we improve. Even the issues that we get from Scopa that would seek to improve our financial standing, we always take them into implementation, even the support that we should be able to assist our municipality.

Hon Speaker, I must thank you for the opportunity to be able to come and respond and welcome the issues as raised by honourable Members as we take them to the department to make sure that we are at the service of our people. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Let's proceed. I am 100%, sir.

8. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Honourable Members, we shall now call upon the Hon Chief Whip to come and present the draft resolutions. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and good afternoon to honourable Members.

DETERMINATION OF THE SALARY OF THE PREMIER OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE

(Motion without Notice)

The precedent in terms of the provision of section 6(1) of the Remuneration of the Public Office Bearers Act, 1998 (Act 20 of 1998) determines the salaries and allowances of the Premier, Members of the Executive Council and Members of the Provincial Legislatures by Proclamation Notice 65 of 2022, Gazette no 46545.

In terms of the provisions of section 6(3)(b) of the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act, 1998 (Act No 20 of 1998), "the provincial legislature must by resolution, if the provincial legislature is then sitting, or if it is in recess, within 30 days of its next ensuing sitting having regard to the provisions of subsection (1) and the upper limit as set out in the said notice, determine the salary and allowances of the Premier concerned".

Hon Speaker, I, therefore, move that this House noting the provisions of section 6(3)(b) of the said Act, resolved to determine the salary of the Premier of the Limpopo province as follows:

- The grade will be LA pay level 1, position: Premier;
- Total remuneration as from 1 April 2021, R2,328,221;
- That the determination of salary shall be with effect from 1 April 2021;
- The total remuneration package shall include the following elements: a basic salary component equal to 60% of the total package which constitute the pensionable salary;

- An amount of R120 000 per annum which is an amount which section 8(1)(d) of the Income Tax Act, 1992 applies. This amount is included in the basic salary component;
- An employer's pension benefit contribution equal to 22,5% of pensionable salary; and
- A flexible portion for the remaining amount of the total remuneration.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Some might smile.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party. Is there any seconder? Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Speaker. They can't object this one. They can't oppose it. They are subjective opposition parties. I stand to second the Chief Whip. They are subjective opposition parties; they only oppose those that do not benefit them.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are now on announcements.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, am I protected?

THE SPEAKER

Can we allow the Deputy Chief Whip to make announcements?

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Madam Speaker and honourable Members, I rise to invite all of us to the Committees Boardroom for lunch. Thank you.

10. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The Sitting is adjourned to Thursday, 14 July 2022 at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 21 JULY 2022
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 meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. We may all be seated. Honourable Members, members of staff, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. Honourable Members, before I proceed, during the Sitting held on 14 July 2022, I promised the House that a ruling will be provided on a matter that was raised by Hon Seshoka against Hon Mokone on the allegation that Hon Mokone said that Hon Seshoka lied during his debate.

Honourable Members, after consulting *Hansard*, I realised that the honourable MEC did not say Hon Seshoka lied during the debate. The honourable MEC said: "Hon Seshoka, the truth will never be hidden, speak the truth for you to enter heaven. Because if you work with people and speak lies it doesn't help." That is what he said and that is why I'm making this ruling. After consulting with language practitioners, I realised that he did not say you are lying.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, you must know that you are setting a wrong precedent, and that will remain your legacy that you tend to protect the ANC members when they do wrong. Nonetheless, that is your power, and when we do likewise in the future, don't think that you will call us to order. He said it here in Shangani, he mentioned my name and he said, "Ndzi vulavula mavunwa." You come here and protect him. It is fine, but you must know that you are setting a wrong precedent.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, I have made a ruling, and if you are not satisfied, you know the procedure on how to follow up on this. Thank you very much.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

COMMUNITY PROTEST IN TSHIKUWI, LUVHALANI AND TSHIROLWE VILLAGES
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes with concern the protest currently taking place in ward 21 in Tshikuwi, Luvhalani and Tshirolwe villages in the Makhado Municipality. These protests are over the alleged nepotism in community projects by the councillor in the area.

Further noting that the community alleges that whenever there is a community project, he employs his family and friends, to the detriment of everyone else in the community. This has led to the protest that is calling for his resignation.

This type of behaviour from councillors is unacceptable and needs to be addressed, with the conduct of councillors in their wards being put under sharper focus.

The protest and community action of residents, in this case, should also remind us not to betray our purpose of developing our communities.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Radzilani you are recognised.

MS RADZILANI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

WELCOMING OF THE NEWLY FORMED BORDER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
(Motion without Notice)

I, Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani, rise on behalf of the ANC to present before this august House a motion without notice that we welcome the newly formed Border Management Agency, an entity of the Department of Home Affairs that has been created with the sole intention of managing the country's borders.

About two weeks ago, the government unveiled a new cohort of recruits who have been charged with the task of tightening border management with a single command and control.

Upon its complete establishment, the Border Management Agency will play a pivotal role in tackling border security challenges impacting the country and its neighbours.

It will focus on issues such as cross-border criminality, illegal crossing, and undue delays in the facilitation of the movement of goods and services.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Radzilani. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS AT THE SAPS
(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 calls on the South African Police Service to put more effort into and intensify its employee wellness and victim support programme. The recent

killings involving a member of SAPS, which occurred in Seshego, wherein a SAPS employee in full uniform shot and killed a woman and man and later committed suicide should be a matter of concern to the department.

- We call upon the SAPS to exert more effort internally, in a discrete manner, to enable its employees to freely consult and engage with designated officials on the program. It is a loss to the country when one officer dies, especially when the ratio of one police officer to the population is so high, almost one thousand citizens per police officer.
- This disastrous police to population ratio, cannot accommodate any loss either through suicide or any criminal act. We call upon the SAPS to pull up its socks and ensure that the working environment is conducive to its employees to an extent that they will have confidence in the internal support system.
- Furthermore, we call on members of the SAPS to explore all means of support internally and externally, instead of resorting to violent means of resolving conflict they are experiencing. We convey our condolences and words of comfort to those who lost their loved ones and those who became victims of such unfortunate circumstances.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MPHAHLELE

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

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONCERN OVER THE RISE IN THE NUMBER OF FEMICIDE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CASES

(Motion without Notice)

I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the ANC to move a motion without notice for the House to note that in these past two weeks, there have been two reported cases of femicide and gender-based violence, where men allegedly killed their partners in

possible cases of jealousy. Just yesterday, a police officer, who is attached to the Roedtan Police Station, reportedly shot his girlfriend and another male companion who was allegedly her lover.

He later turned the gun on himself, increasing the number of deceased people from that scene to three. Hon Speaker, we have also learned of another case of jealousy in the Tubatse area, where an intern doctor was brutally stabbed to death by her supposed partner.

She was stabbed several times by her jealous boyfriend who could not accept that their relationship was over. He also committed suicide by hanging himself on a tree. These callous acts of violence where women are being killed are continuing despite the government's continuous messaging to discourage such, but we will never tire.

Hon Speaker, we will continue to call upon men that they should seek psychological help when they are confronted with difficult situations in life.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS LEKGANYANE

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

THE SPEAKER

Is there any other motion without notice? There is 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 Statements by Members in terms of Rule 200? Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

ACCESS TO FREE BASIC SERVICES LOWEST IN LIMPOPO (Members' Statement)

Honourable MEC, Stats SA's non-financial census of municipalities for the year ended 30 June 2020, paints a bleak picture for indigents in our province. According to the census released on 19 July 2022, Limpopo has the lowest number of consumers nationally that have access to free basic services.

Only 7,9% of consumers have access to free water services from municipalities down from 10,6% in the previous year. The national average for consumers receiving water services is 23,9% and the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal all provide free water to more than a third of their consumers. Nationally 19% of consumers have access to electricity, but in Limpopo, only 5,5% of consumers receive free electricity, down from 7,1% in the previous year.

About 4,5% of Limpopo's consumers have access to free basic sewerage and sanitation services down from 6% in the previous year. The national average of consumers receiving free basic sewerage services is 22,1%; about 7,1% of consumers receive free basic solid waste removal services in the province, down from 10,4% in the previous year.

The national average of consumers who receive such services free is 26%. Honourable MEC, only ten of our municipalities have implemented policies relating to the provision of free water. According to the first Quarterly Labour Force Survey for 2022, Limpopo now has 1 211 000 unemployed individuals. Of our 1 600 000 households, only 198 886 benefit in some way from an indigent support system.

Honourable MEC, why are our statistics on assistance to the indigent the lowest nationally? What will be done to remedy the disproportioned assistance given to indigents? Given the rising number of unemployed individuals provincially and the sad state of municipalities, when can we expect that all municipalities, and not only ten, will have implementable policies and mechanisms in place to provide free water to indigent households?

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN LEPELLE NKUMPI MUNICIPALITY

(Members' Statement)

In Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality money was paid to a contractor without following the proper channels. Furthermore, the Chief Whip of the council ordered the supply chain department to hire a contractor to install a new door for him adjacent to the next office

with the excuse that he does not want to take time to access the next office. The supply chain section did as requested and paid the contractor without following the regulations.

The contractor started breaking down the wall with hammers and grinders so that they can create an opening to install the door for him. While the contractor was busy with the work, the LED department stopped the project saying that the work is being done without their knowledge. The contractor has already been paid, but there was no service delivery, since there is still an opening in the wall at the cultural centre. Money is wasted while the community lacks service delivery.

Disciplinary measures must be taken against the accounting officer who authorised that project without any council resolution. The Economic Freedom Fighters are disgusted with the conduct of the Chief Whip of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality and immediate action must be taken against him. The SCM prescripts and regulations are violated at ease in the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and hold those involved in this fruitless and wasteful expenditure accountable.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Raphela, you are recognised.

MR RAPHELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE EFF CALLS FOR A 24-HR OPERATION OF THE VUWANI POLICE STATION (Members' Statement)

The EFF in Limpopo calls for Vuwani Police Station to operate 24 hours a day, as opposed to its current operating hours which is between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm. The people of Vuwani are stranded and frustrated as they are unable to access the Community Service Centre to certify documents and report crime.

Statistically, areas such as Vyeboom, Davhana, Makhasa and other closer villages have a high rate of crime, but police are not even patrolling the streets. The EFF is deeply concerned and saddened by the lack of policing in Vuwani due to the police station being improperly managed just like many other institutions, despite crime skyrocketing every day.

Women and children are being killed and raped while criminals are not apprehended and brought to book because a police station, that is supposed to serve the community day and night, has trading hours. This is tantamount to a crime against humanity committed by this government whose intention is to indirectly sell our people out to thugs.

We are not surprised that the Minister of Police has not intervened yet. The reason for that is that he would rather wait for people to be massacred by criminals first and then respond with a walkabout.

The EFF demands answers from the station commander of Vuwani Police Station on this undemocratic and nonsensical issue of closing the police station. We call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to investigate this matter and ensure that the station operates 24 hours daily.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other Members' Statement? Thank you, there doesn't seem to be any. Is there any response from the Members of the Executive Council? Hon Moraka, you are recognised, and will be followed by Hon Boshielo.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to Members of this august House and members of the media who are present here today. Hon Speaker, I'm standing in for Hon Makamu who could not join us today due to other pressing matters in the department that he's leading.

I want to take this opportunity and appreciate all the Members' Statements raised by honourable Members, particularly the one referring to the delivery of basic services such as water and sanitation in those areas that were mentioned. Hon Maharaj, it is indeed a depressing picture that you have just painted. As the government of the ANC, we believe that the delivery of basic services is in line with our policies, and we want to make it a point that we restore the dignity of our people regardless of where they stay and their political orientation. We really want to assure you that the matter will receive the necessary attention from the department and in the next Sitting the MEC for CoGHSTA will table measures that they are putting in place to address those issues.

We believe that water is the basic source of life. If our community members must survive without these basic services, you can imagine the inconvenience they are subjected to on daily basis. The issue of fruitless and wasteful expenditure at Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality as reported here, is a regrettable situation in that part of the province. We want to assure our members of the public that we expect our municipalities to utilise the little resources that we are giving them towards expediting services to our people.

We believe that the request for us to institute a forensic investigation into the matter will receive the necessary attention and a report will be brought to this august House regarding the measures that will be put in place to bring all the affected or involved officials to book. We believe that consequence management needs to be implemented irrespective of whether the person involved is a Chief Whip or a leader of the PMT in the

municipality. We will investigate this and make it a point that action is taken against those officials who are in the wrong.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Boshielo, you may proceed.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. You can see I'm wearing red; I'm reclaiming our colours. Good morning honourable Members, Hon Speaker, and Hon Deputy Speaker. We have firmly raised the wellness issue of the SAPS. We had a meeting with them, and we stressed that all our officers, including traffic officers need this wellness assistance. We will keep abreast of this matter, and we will be able to support them in that regard.

Regarding the operating hours of Vuwani Police Station, it is not only Vuwani, honourable Members, we want all the stations to operate 24 hours daily, but because of limited funds, we are unable to do that. I am fully aware of the kind of facilities that we need; the kind of personnel we need, and the budget thereof. Unfortunately, as you know, the budget is limited for all of us, so we need to live within what we have. We are trying our best and we will raise the matter in the correct forum so that we are able to assist our people. Thank you very, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements? There are none.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, before we proceed to item 7, today is the birthday of one of our honourable Members, Hon Funani Jerry Maseko. Let's all rise and sing to him.

[SONG]

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 Transport and Community Safety, 2021/22 first quarter report

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, as the chairperson for the said committee rise to present the 2021/22 first quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption by this august House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report by Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, 2021/22 second quarter report. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2021/22 second quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as tabled by the committee chairperson, Hon Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Consideration and adoption of the 2021/22 third quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2021/22 third quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand to second the tabling of the report by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Consideration and adoption of the 2021/22 fourth quarter report. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2021/22 fourth quarter report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption by the House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS RADZILANI

Ndo livhuwa, Mulangadzulo. Ndi khou takutshela u tikedza muvhigo we wa vhalelwa hei Nnḑu nga mufumakadzi Muhulisei Vho Rebecca Seono. Ndi khou livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Consideration and adoption of the 2020/21 Annual Report. I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the 2020/21 Annual Report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the 2020/21 Annual Report by Hon Seono. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for debate, and the first speaker on the list is Hon Kekana. [APPLAUSE]

MS KEKANA

Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo; Hon Premier, Chupu Mathabatha; Hon Chair of Chairs; the Chief Whip of the majority party, the ANC; Leader of Government Business; honourable MECs; honourable Members; officials and distinguished guests, good morning.

Allow me to take this opportunity to appreciate all who heeded the call to dedicate 67 minutes of their time in honour of the world icon, Tata Nelson Mandela, by making an impact in the lives of those who are in need. We must continue to make every day a Mandela Day.

Hon Speaker, the committee commends the sterling work done by the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, together with her formidable team transport, for obtaining a clean audit, hence we are rated number one across the country in terms of effective administration.

We also acknowledge that the department has achieved 80% of the set targets for the Administration programme, while the remaining 20% could not be met due to the consequences of the hard lockdown restrictions. We believe that going forward, since the relaxation of COVID-19 regulations, we should be able to catch up on the time lost and achieve all the targets.

The committee welcomes the tremendous strides by the department for improving its targets on the processing of operating licenses; compliance inspections conducted; speed operations and weighing of vehicles. However, the committee is concerned about the reports on possible fraud and corruption at the weighbridges and we would like the MEC to follow up on these reports.

We commend the swift action of the MEC to reduce the incidents of spike gangs operating along the N1 north between the Mantsole and Kranskop tollgates, with a few incidents that occurred in May this year. Hon Speaker, in the same breath, the Road Transport Management Cooperation Report highlighted the most dangerous roads with high fatalities registered due to speeding, fatigue and reckless driving across the country. Amongst them is the N1 between Polokwane and Mokopane which is rated as the third highest, followed by Polokwane and Makhado N1, Mokopane and Mookgopong as well as the R71 between Polokwane and Tzaneen and the R40 between Hoedspruit and Hazyview. This requires vigorous safety awareness campaigns and increased traffic officers' visibility along these roads. We can attest that the awareness campaigns have

been conducted and we have been there together with the committee chairperson setting up roadblocks and we are sure that this department is doing well in that regard.

Hon Speaker, with the continuous escalation of the petrol price, it is important that we provide viable, reliable, safer and affordable public transport. This will encourage the people to use public transport instead of their own cars. This will lead to a reduction in traffic congestion as well as gas emissions, which in turn has a ripple effect leading to climate change. This has an impact on the growth of the economy of this country and across the globe.

We welcome the department's innovative measures for monetary punishment imposed on the bus companies that failed to meet their contractual obligations in terms of their kilometres travelled and further recommend that they should be encouraged to subcontract their services to other companies that meet the requirements.

Equally, Madam Speaker, we have noticed the department's inability to spend the GNT inter-governmental funds at the end of the financial year and this should not be repeated in the future. The committee commends the good work carried out by the men and women in blue. We have seen various arrests made across the province relating to crime, gender-based violence and femicide, which is declared as the second pandemic by the President of this country. The mob killings, gangsterism and other forms of vigilantism in the communities are addressed swiftly by the men and women in blue.

However, we are concerned about the underspending of the stipends of the community safety forums, which is R50 million against the allocated R55 million. We should remember, Hon Speaker, that the CPFs are part of the organs of the civil society, and they are playing a pivotal role in being a watchdog between the police and community members. They are staying with and living amongst these perpetrators, socially entertaining one another in the clubs, hence they are regarded as their own liberators, and they must be taken care off.

Hon Speaker, the unfinished project in this department is a matter of concern and derails the progress we have registered so far. We are raising this as a committee precisely because, as the ANC-led government, we are hard at work especially in Limpopo in making sure that we adhere to the President's call on the priorities that he has alluded to during the State of the Nation Address, with special emphasis on priority number two, which said, "we must at all costs accelerate economic reforms, which will then assist with inclusive economic growth and address the triple challenges that we are facing." We urge the department to make sure that all the incomplete projects are completed.

Hon Speaker, we are doing this specifically because when we are addressing the issue of social compact, by making sure that we develop the huge infrastructure to create jobs, transfer skills and reduce unemployment, Cde Phala, we want to reduce the grooming of the lumpen proletariat.

The R1,3 million Collins Chabane Municipality integrated transport plan could not get off the ground and was readvertised for implementation in the 2020/21 financial year. The completion of the traffic college and the resolution of the land issue in Mampakuil

Weighbridge is also a matter of concern and we urge the department to complete its multiyear projects within the stipulated time frames and budgetary allocations to avoid audit queries, maximise service delivery and enhance revenue.

The issue of the Collins Chabane Municipality not finalising the integrated transport plan has a bearing on the economy of this country. If the municipalities are not finalising their integrated transport plan in terms of the spatial development framework in their municipalities, which should give an indication of the number of commuters in the municipalities as well as the growing settlements and the SDFs, which determine the residential areas and the business areas, chances are that more transport would be required to reach those areas which are having economic spinoffs.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, let me reiterate the wise words from Madiba who said, "Poverty is *not* an *accident*. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings." We are certain that the MEC and team transport are equal to the task; and working together we should be able to clear the few challenges identified in this department. Malibongwe! [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The next speaker will be Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker, honourable MECs present, the Leader of the Opposition in absentia, honourable Members of this august House, distinguished guests, good morning.

Hon Speaker, as per the previous resolution, did the department review its decision not to use the National Schools of Government, and if so, has there been a skills development programme which was undertaken with the schools? Harsher actions ought to be meted out on those who continue being reluctant in using the National School of Governance as this matter is recurring.

What are the causes that hinder the department to settle legal disputes timeously, which leads to negative audit outcomes? How much did the department recover from guilty individuals and entities, and how many were affected? The department must present an equitable distribution of bus reports for all districts. What are the intervention strategies in place to support community policing forums and community safety forums?

It is shocking that the police service has underspent almost [inaudible], and this happened in a province where all categories of crime are so high. This is condemned. An underspending of R57 000 million cannot go without consequence. What is the timeline to ensure that 34% of the middle management and deputy managers comply with the directives of eDisclosure, and what does the department plan on doing in a case where there is defiance? What is the departmental plan with regard to the growing air traffic and travel in relation to boosting the economy of the province? Currently travellers are limited to a one-hour single trip to OR Tambo International Airport, and a single return trip to

Polokwane, which is embarrassingly called Polokwane International Airport, with this type of arrangement.

When will the department be trying out other routes in the province such as Mphhephu, Giyani and Lephalale. Will the people of Sekhukhune ever have an airport when you fail to revise their support for this type of transport? The EFF submit to the department to invite other airlines to avoid monopoly by the current service providers. This will include flexibility and availability of flights and times. Hon Speaker, the transport operation must prioritise fixing the shenanigans which brings about taxi battles in the province due to route constraints. The department must tell us what actions were taken against officials who are always involved in perpetrating taxi wars through corrupt activities.

There will never be proper regulation of the transport industry when departmental officials are able to duplicate permits. This must stop with immediate effect. Lack of planning and research cause frustrations such as land disputes, where the department seeks to implement certain projects and this is embarrassing. What are the implications of having freight trucks passing Mampakuil Weighbridge, and what impact does it have on the road and transport regulation?

Hon Speaker, what led to the main contractor refusing to hand over documents to the department? Can we be given a written report on this matter? Increased policing, visibility of traffic officials, including the support of community policing forums will minimise the number of road users who are under the influence of alcohol or driving unroadworthy vehicles.

Did the increase in roadblocks have an impact on COE increase and did it yield the desired results? If so, can we be given the stats? On 9 May 2020, Refiloe Malope was kidnapped and despite having witnesses, the police could not find her, until her body was dumped in a mining shaft. Mapula Letsoalo and Duduzile Masango both from the province were murdered by their partners who were granted bail for gender-based violence crime. Sadly, we learned that over R16 million meant to fight crime and protect vulnerable women has been returned, underspent by the ANC-led government. Worst of all, this department is led by a woman.

Did the department ensure that GAAL is incorporating remedial and corrective actions because of the fruitless and wasteful expenditure due to penalties relating to late payments to service providers? The financial situation of GAAL does not give any hope as the increase in irregular expenditure confirms this assertion, yet you will find managers and the board being comfortable as if everything is satisfactory.

Is there a report on remedial action in relation to people who were appointed without proper procedures? A report on what caused the R22 million lawsuit must be presented in detail to this House. Has the department resolved compliance issues to an extent that they don't reoccur which will lead to the closure of the airport? I will wait for the response from the MEC, and I hope she will not ignore us as the rules of this House expect her to account.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. The next speaker is Hon Katlego Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We met with the department throughout the 2021/22 financial year, and after intense engagement, these were some of the many recommendations that the committee had made to the department after reviewing the quarterly and annual reports, in order for them to improve on their performance and their mandate as a department.

As the committee, we recommend that the department should ensure that corrective measures are applied to employees who fail to comply to disclose their financial interests while doing business with the government. That the department in conjunction with the Provincial Treasury should consider exploring the alignment of its skills development programme with those offered by the National School of Government within the broader objectives of the national development programme.

That the department should develop concrete programmes to address freight trucks which are circumventing national roads, opting for municipal and regional roads to avoid road tolls at weighbridges and could possibly be in transit of contraband, trying to conceal their illegal activities.

That the department should ensure that the requirements for applications are reviewed regularly to prioritise genuine demands, to avoid fragmentation and maintenance of the stability in the taxi industry. The department should consider mobilising intergovernmental and community collaboration to ensure that victim empowerment facilities suitable for trauma treatment is made available in various police stations throughout the province. The department should implement the approved organisational structure and complete the process that is currently underway.

That the department should strengthen its internal controls and ensure that responsible officials are held accountable for audit findings that resulted in fruitless, wasteful, and irregular expenditure. The department should always strive to ensure that over-obtained transport operation programme performance should match results in the reduction of road fatalities and crashes.

The department should consider the formal and permanent appointment of members of community safety and policing forums, in advancing the goal of creating and maintaining safer communities. Regarding GAAL, as the committee, we recommend that the newly appointed board of directors should ensure that the turnaround strategy is aligned with the Annual Performance Plan and implemented in the 2022/23 financial year.

The entity should ensure that its supply chain processes are beefed up and strengthened with the necessary capacity to execute its responsibilities properly.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I now call upon Hon Rebecca Seono.

MS SEONO

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, the Chief Whip of the majority party, chairpersons of various portfolio committees, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this august House, I greet you all. Thank you, Hon Speaker, for affording me the opportunity to debate on the committee report.

We welcome this opportunity as we debate during Mandela month. We should continue to serve our people in the spirit of our late President Nelson Mandela. On the occasion of his 100 days in office, on 18 August 1994, President Mandela addressed parliament in Cape Town. His counsel and observations remain true when he said, "Much can be said about the content of the debate in the current session. On occasion, strong language has been used to drive home strongly held belief. Within the limits of what is befitting of members of this House, this shows that we have at last a robust and vibrant democracy, with broad consensus on the most important national questions. At the end of the day, the yardstick that we shall all be judged by is one and one only, and that is, are we through our endeavours here, creating the basis to better the lives of all South Africans."

The Executive deliver on its mandate and the Legislative arm must play a robust oversight role to ensure that we deliver to our people. Many a times we may start to sound like a broken record repeating matters that carry themselves over quarter after quarter and year after year, Hon Speaker.

We should not despair because it is our mandate to ensure that these matters are addressed, and we cannot move on until they are taken care of. By the same token, we applaud good work because it is through service delivery that we cement the trust that has been placed by the people of this province in the African National Congress.

A number of issues addressed here are matters that roll over from one quarter to the next. Thus, some of the issues raised in the annual report still find expression in the quarterly reports. In terms of administration, overall, we remain pleased by the positive audit outcomes of this department. We want to take this opportunity and congratulate the staff in the department who ensured that public funds are spent efficiently, and service delivery is prioritised.

The department has maintained the singular achievement of having two clean audits in succession in the past two years and three unqualified audit opinions in the three years preceding the clean audits. This talks to good governance and ethical leadership of the highest form.

On liabilities within the department, we remain concerned about claims against the department resulting in contingent liabilities involving impoundment of vehicles, assault,

breach of contract, unlawful arrest, detention by law-enforcement officials and outstanding claims for potholes amounting to a total of R85 million, honourable MEC.

In future, honourable MEC, we should be favoured with reports from the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID), so that we may follow up on any unlawful or wrong conduct by police officials. This will help us to monitor the police as well as to ensure that any rogue elements within the police service are weeded out.

The department is applauded for clean governance. However, we are concerned about reports regarding employees who fail to disclose financial interests while doing business with the department. Corrective actions should be taken against such employees, majority of whom are middle management and deputy directors. On the resuscitation of smaller airports in the province, in the quarter under review, the department was unable to come up with a viable plan for what ought to happen with smaller airports such as Giyani airport, Lephalale airport and Mphephu airport which do not seem to have a market.

The department should look at these airports which are now lying fallow. Perhaps given the challenges observed regarding the overall sustainability of GAAL, there could be serious challenges in hoping that much could be done at Lephalale, Giyani and Mphephu. We however advise the honourable MEC to look at any viable alternatives that could be there or other non-transportation options that should be considered for these airports.

Honourable MEC, we remain concerned about the slow pace of the K-53 project in Thohoyandou, which was reportedly delayed due to land topographic issues. We are pleased that the project in question was reported to be at the adjudication stage and once this stage is finalised, we should see real work taking place there. Members of the public will be better served if we ensure that this service is easily accessible to the public.

We shall not dwell much on the issue of the Thohoyandou intermodal facility because this matter has been raised countless times by various speakers in this House. Suffice it to say, we understand that there is now a litigation process between the department and the main contractor. Honourable MEC, we would really like to see closure on this project that has been a thorn in the flesh of the provincial administration for almost a decade now.

We are worried that the longer this matter drags on, the more dilapidated the structure becomes. We sincerely hope that under your guidance and persistence honourable MEC, we shall eventually close this very long chapter of the department. We are concerned about the irruption of violence between the different taxi associations in the province, particularly Santaco and NTA. We want the office of the honourable MEC to continue facilitating engagements between these associations. We would recommend that the honourable MEC follows up on the resolutions taken in the past engagements with these entities and ensure implementation of what has been agreed upon.

Honourable MEC, this is not a new challenge and there should be a baseline that has been established from which you can work on, moving forward. Hon Speaker, the mandate of the Provincial Secretariat programme is to ensure safer and secured communities. The fact that year in and year out, Limpopo remains the safest province in

the country also talks to the functionality of the policing structure in the province. Thus, the functionality of the community policing forums remains very important in this regard.

We are therefore concerned that by the fourth quarter the department had underspent R16,6 million on this programme, the Provincial Secretariat for Police Services. This challenge was also observed in the annual report where a total underspending of R55 million was reported in the year under review. Clearly honourable MEC, you need all hands on deck on this programme. In essence, this resulted in a failure to pay stipends to community policing forums and community safety forums. The reason given was that the department was struggling with aligning discrepancies between members of community forums and their banking details. We hope that moving forward, this will not happen again.

It is important that this be corrected in future, to ensure that members of the community forums remain motivated and continue with their excellent work. One of the recommendations forwarded was that the department should consider the formal and permanent appointment of community policing – and community safety forums.

In conclusion, we are generally pleased with this department and believe that should the recommendations be taken to heart, we should only see better service delivery despite the challenges. President Mandela said, “Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward.” This is our stance, honourable MEC, to keep moving forward. We wish everybody a good and progressive selfless Mandela Month.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Boshielo, the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, it is now your time to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I just want to put this on record, we are just from the 15th SACP National Congress, which is 100 years old. Not seven years old, so we have reclaimed our colours.

Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to thank Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya and team transport for obtaining a clean audit. I want to assure that House and the committee that we will keep to that, in order to always obtain a clean audit. We have noted the concerns that you have raised, and we will definitely deal with those matters.

Regarding the ITPs for Collins Chabane Municipality, it has been completed honourable Members, and we are busy with the implementation plan. The department is waiting for SANRAL to finalise the legal processes in terms of Mantsole to hand over cameras from Kranskop to Polokwane to minimise accidents on the N1. We continue to deploy officers on critical roads, to ensure safety on those roads.

I want to assure the House, that as the department, we will fight every fraud and corruption, no matter who or what is involved. On that one rest assured, we have noted it, and where there is corruption, please, please give us proof, and not just hearsay, so that we can follow it up.

Regarding the intermodal in Thohoyandou, the chairperson has given answers. The contractor refuses to give us documents, and it has now become a legal matter., We are pursuing it because it's in contempt of court. Regarding Mampakuil Weighbridge, initially, the land was donated to us, but thereafter, the landowner changed his mind and wanted to sell it to us. We refused to pay him for land that was initially donated and approached Transnet. Transnet is going to give us land in Bandelierkop where we can build a weighbridge, we are only waiting for the approval from Transnet.

Regarding the turnaround of GAAL, I think we have said in this House that we are going to step up on the matter, but also consider all the airports in our province. I have made mention about the airlift strategy where we will determine the responsibilities of individual airports. GAAL remains an important airport, although we might build another airport in GaMphahlele if we have money.

The issues that were raised by the South African Civil Aviation Authority have been dealt with and you know that the airport is functional now. We will continue to monitor it, so that we don't slide back and have the same problem. Regarding the community policing forums, some could not do their work due to COVID-19 and some of the coordinators did not send their duty registers, so you can't pay someone if you don't have any report.

It is true, honourable chairperson, that some accounts of the CPF members were not active, so we will try as you have advised, to make sure that we assist, and everything is done. We have noted the concerns regarding fraud of operating licences, and we promise the committee that we will look into it and provide you with a report. We report to the committee, we can't afford to have people standing here giving us instructions. If they attend portfolio committee meetings, they will be able to get their reports from there.

Regarding the SAPS, yes, the crime rate is very high, the GBV is very high, we are very concerned and we raised the matter with the top management of the police. We can assure you our men and women in blue are doing their best to make sure that we are safe. Unfortunately, they need some resources to be able to do their work. We would like to motivate for an increase in our budget, and we hope the committee will support us in that. As mentioned, they are under tremendous pressure, that is why we experienced the loss of lives of police officers, as was the case in Seshego.

Please bear with us and assist us in increasing our budget. It will be to the benefit of our people in blue, and eventually the communities at large. Our aim is to improve public transport in our province. We know that fuel prices are up, and people can't afford it. As mentioned earlier, transport is just a means to an end but not an end itself. It takes people from origin to destination. It can't be that workers utilise all their money on transport. It must take them to work, to school, to a clinic without them breaking an arm in terms of paying for it. Regarding the ITPs and National Land Transport Act, we are talking about

multimodal and not only one mode of transport. One of the solutions will be to substitute freight with rail, so that we can protect our roads, but we don't have the money to do that.

Regarding the claims from potholes, this was discussed yesterday in MINMEC and Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale will be able to shed light in terms of the way forward. We are looking at improving the transport system, starting with Polokwane, so that Polokwane can graduate to a metro. With the Leeto bus service, we will be able to integrate the transport system because that is the kickstart that is needed in order to graduate from a city to a metro. We are working hand in hand with them, and we will make sure that it becomes a reality. We are not only looking at towns and cities, but also at the rural transport strategy, to make sure that we give the correct mode of transport to our people who are in rural areas, so that they are also able to access services and be able to go to work.

Hon Speaker, we have noted other concerns such as improving our audits and keeping the clean audit status, dealing with corruption and fraud, and providing public transport. We will do all of this without hesitation, to improve the lives of our people. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.2.1 Consideration and adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, 2021/22 first quarter report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, hereby present to this august House the 2021/22 first quarter report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ndzi lava ku teka nkarhi lowu mi seketela leswi Manana Mahasela va nga swivula. Inkomu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.2.2 Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, 2021/22 Second Quarter Report

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, hereby present to this august House the 2021/22 second quarter report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the second quarter report, as presented by the committee chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.2.3 Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, 2021/22 Third Quarter Report

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, hereby present to this august House the 2021/22 third quarter report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa Xandla xa Xipikara, ku va mi ndzi nyikile nkari lowu, ku va ndzi seketela leswi nga vuriwa hi Manana Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela. Inkomu

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.2.4 Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, 2021/22 Fourth Quarter Report

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, hereby present to this august House the 2021/22 fourth quarter report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, stand to second the tabling of the fourth quarter report. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you for seconding.

7.2.5 Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, 2021/22 Annual Report

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, hereby present to this august House the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Radzilani, you are recognised.

MS RADZILANI

Ke a leboga Mospiraka. Ke le Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani ke rata go thekga tšhišinyo yeo e beilwego ke Mohlomphegi ke Mahasela Caroline, modulasetulo wa komiti. Ke a leboga Mospikara yo a hlomphegilego.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List, and call our first speaker, Hon David Selane. Your time starts now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Deputy Speaker, honourable Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, the Chairperson of Committees in absentia, the Hon Premier in absentia, and the honourable chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, the honourable Members in this majestic ...
[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Selane, please take your seat. Hon Seshoka you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I think you need to call Hon Monama to order because he is taking a video in this House and that has been prohibited. Unless there were changes made to this regulation, and we were not informed. If there are no changes, please call to him order. We can't afford a situation where videos are taken in the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Monama, are you taking a video in this House?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

He is not, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Selane, I was not asking you. Hon Seshoka, he says he is not taking a video. Continue Hon Selane. Hon Seshoka, can we have order now please?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I greet all the honourable Members in this majestic and august House. Hon Speaker, we are gathered here this month during which a legend and a gallant fighter of our revolution was born. A month where the whole world celebrates the enormous contribution made by Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela in the struggle for the attainment of political freedom.

His role cannot go unnoticed, especially his love for world sport, arts, and culture. Mandela, unlike many imposters and self-proclaimed politicians who behave as if they live in an evil forest, believed that sport has the power to change the world. His idea was premised on the basis that, "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 the

youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair.”

This idea confirms the fact that sport, arts, and culture are an integral part of youth development. In the spirit of unity amongst the African people and black people in general, Tata Nelson Mandela believed that. “No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

Tata Nelson Mandela knew that African people and black people, in general, have natural love. What President Mandela conscientised us about, is the fact that the colonial masters have divided our people along racial and tribal lines. In this democratic terrain of struggle, this freedom fighter and martyr of our revolution believed that it is not our diversity, which divided our people, neither ethnicity nor religion, but our failure to appreciate the current system that we are in now, which is democracy.

We have entered the democratic terrain, we must join hands and unite our people in diversity to build a better nation, by addressing the imbalances of the previous discrimination. Hon Speaker, let it be known that the trigonometrical nature of our problems, particularly in sport, arts and culture were deliberately and systematically designed by the yoke of colonialism to undermine the African people and black people in general.

This must be understood by all leaders or Members of this Legislature as we are the catalysts for political, socioeconomic, and cultural transformation. As the portfolio committee on sport, arts, and culture, we have over the years, since our inception into office, played an oversight role over the Executive in their respective departments. Hon Speaker, there is nothing new in our endeavour to perform our oversight work because the department want the status quo to remain in the audit report findings. However, the very same unqualified report finding never deterred the portfolio committee from performing an oversight role as mandated by the Constitution and by other legislative prescripts.

In the same spirit Hon Speaker, the committee wishes that the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture must continue to obtain a clean audit, especially in the next financial year. After careful consideration, the portfolio committee investigated the trigonometrical nature of the problem that caused the stagnation of the department to receive a clean audit opinion.

What the portfolio committee revealed, is the same revelation that was also observed by the Auditor-General and Scopa obiter dictum. The biggest problem in the failure or non-obtainment of a clean audit, is as a result of a lack of adequate skills in capital asset management and a lack of proper internal control measures.

However, the department has developed the radio frequency identification system, which will assist them in the maintenance of library material for the asset register. This system will assist the department in asset verification and management. The department has also indicated that some of the personnel will be skilled and trained for them to mitigate asset management in the department.

We must appreciate this department for doing very well in terms of paying invoices within the 30 days prescribed period. However, we must indicate that non-tax compliance and changing of banking details by service providers have tremendously contributed to this department not obtaining 100% in compliance. We must appreciate the honourable MEC, Thandi Moraka, that at least 99% of compliance was reached by this department.

At the same time, we must encourage service providers, the members in our community, to get their house in order, for effective implementation of certain resolutions, particularly the paying of invoices within 30 days. We must also raise concerns regarding the recruitment and selection strategy. Almost 95% of the librarian posts were on a contractual basis. However, the department has indicated that the library staff were remunerated under the conditional grant which was approved in March 2022 by the Minister for six months, but also on a contractual basis.

The department indicated that these conditional grants will be converted into an Equitable Share budget, which will later be converted into permanent posts and the department must comply with certain processes. At the centre of all this progress that was accomplished by the department, we must not forget to be critical as a committee or Legislature on matters of particular significance. We must not at any stage behave like the head of a department who gives a progress report on the developments in the areas of responsibility. Our mandate is to provide answers to the many questions that arise in the execution of our tasks. If we don't ask these questions, we are bound to be lamented if we don't ask the same question next year.

This question relates to the following: why does the Provincial Treasury cut spending on sport, arts, and culture; why do we always have to get approval from the Provincial Treasury for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to advertise certain posts? Why is the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture not responsible for or playing a role in the building of the stadium, but these responsibilities are given to the municipalities? Why are the construction of libraries and certain buildings not done by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, but the responsibility is delegated to a particular agency through the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure.

What is the politics around centralising the construction agency under the Department of Public Works? Does this department have the capacity to execute all the tasks in the 11 departments?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Your ten minutes have expired.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Mara ke maaka.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Selane, please come back to the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

We apologise, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Selane, please withdraw.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

An apology means withdrawal, unless you are giving me another ten minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Selane, I'm asking you to withdraw what you have said.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I withdraw, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Mohlala you are our next speaker.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings, Hon Speaker, colleagues and everybody in this House. Hon Speaker, there are a lot of wrongdoing in this department and clearly, the political leadership and management are failing the people of Limpopo.

The honourable MEC is not equal to the task, and she's clearly not fit for the purpose. Maybe she's good at other things but leading the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture is not one of them. The political authority and management are sleeping on duty especially when it comes to the financial performance of the department.

There are no internal controls in the department which is the root cause of all their problems. Their problem is that they don't pay attention to detail, and they place no value and principles on good governance. The application of a laissez-faire leadership system in the department is failing the people of Limpopo because wrong things continue to happen under their watch unabated.

There is a complete disregard for legislation and noncompliance with legislation is direct constitutional delinquency. It is a direct violation of the Constitution of the republic. Sadly, most of the departments in the provincial government are constitutional delinquents. They break every law in the book to quench their chronic corruption headaches. Hon Speaker, it should be known that in this department, management does not prepare a regular, accurate and complete financial report that is supported and evidenced by reliable information.

It should also be known that oversight responsibility regarding performance reporting and compliance and related internal controls are not adequately exercised by the accounting officer. The total irregular expenditure identified is [inaudible] million. This is appalling and completely unacceptable. About R1,448 million, which is 33% in total was incurred in the prior year but only identified in the 2020/21 financial year. Furthermore, for those who know this notorious department very well, it is not surprising that some irregular expenditure relates to the Mapungubwe Arts Festival.

The Mapungubwe Arts Festival is being used as a vehicle and conduit for stealing money on an annual basis. There is no irregular expenditure in this department without Mapungubwe being mentioned. Mapungubwe has become a national anthem in the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. The Limpopo Provincial Treasury has instituted a forensic investigation into the Mapungubwe Arts Festival and the investigation is completed.

Honourable MEC, tell us where the report for implementation of the recommendations on the investigation is. Is there any single official who has been arrested? If not, we need to know why? Hon Speaker, how do they even incur irregular expenditure on Mandela Day celebrations? Instead of celebrating the legacy of Nelson Mandela, they use this legacy to steal. You people will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The total wasteful and fruitless expenditure identified is R2,4 million and it is concerning. Contravention of key legislation related to goods that have been delivered but prescribed processes not followed, is worrying. Hon Speaker, it should also be known that implementing recommendations by the AG is a serious challenge in this department. Chapter 9 institutions are being undermined and violated on a daily basis. This Constitution only exists to make others account, but not ANC politicians. Furthermore, it is highly unfortunate and regrettable that the department had a total of 45 annual targets and achieved only 13 at the end of the financial year.

This is clearly evident that we have no political leadership and management in this department. The filling of critical SCM positions is still a challenge, for it brings about instability and inconsistency in the department. Officials in an acting capacity can't take decisions because they are afraid that they may not get the position when the post is finally advertised.

There was a delay in the delivery of library materials amounting to R3,5 million. While the EFF has made education fashionable, the ANC-led government is fighting this legacy by trying to erode it. This is the level of hate by the ANC towards our people and it is shocking. Your political demise awaits you in 2024. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We would like to encourage Members to keep to the time allotment. Members are aware that the time allocation is agreed upon by the Programming Committee where all political parties are represented. The Chairperson of Committees, the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip, and all other party representatives agree on the time allocation. Although we are not very strict, speakers go beyond their allotted time, being fully aware of the amount of time allocated to them.

We have a timekeeper here, who has the responsibility to inform me whether a speaker's time has lapsed or not. May we please respect that. Hon Phala, your time starts now.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Due to the inadequacy of record keeping of people who are participating in sports and recreation events, people in the Mopani and Sekhukhune Districts did not sufficiently benefit compared to people in other districts. During the first quarter, as the committee, we recommended that targets not achieved during that quarter should be given priority during the remaining quarters to avoid negative findings by the Auditor-General.

Hon Speaker, the recommendations made by the committee throughout the quarters were as follows:

- In the second quarter, the recurrence of slow spending on Conditional Grants and infrastructure projects, which resulted in under-expenditure during this quarter, should be avoided through proper planning.
- The department should utilise the services of professionals in the field of social media when streaming events such as Heritage Day to avoid technical glitches.
- The department should ensure that proper feasibility studies remain key to ensure that infrastructure projects are of excellent quality.
- The supply of equipment or attire to schools, clubs and hubs which were not done during the quarter under review, should be prioritised during the third quarter.
- The opening of libraries which were completed should be done as soon as possible since the delaying and construction thereof denied people living in those areas access to such facilities.
- All outstanding targets not achieved during the quarter under review should be prioritised in the remaining two quarters.
- For the third quarter, the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture did not achieve several targets during the quarter under review as outlined in the analysis report,

and as a committee we recommended that they should prioritise some of the programmes to achieve those targets.

- We further recommended that the department should provide us with a list of the NPOs which benefited from the lottery. The delivery of library materials on time is of paramount importance and the department should on a continuous basis follow up on service providers to be punctual.
- The department should enhance sporting activities since the government relaxed COVID-19 restrictions and regulations. This was important for social cohesion, nation building as well as connecting communities.
- In the fourth quarter we recommended that the department provides the committee with a report on Zamani Library, indicating the relocation budget for its construction, commencement, completion, and opening date, and further indicating the nature of the maintenance budgeted for.
- The department should further give a breakdown of the R188 million budgeted for the provincial theatre, indicating its location, a feasibility study conducted and designs.
- The department should provide reasons why some libraries were not opened and why some were opened but did not allow entrance by users.
- The department should furnish the committee with a detailed report on the Mulamula library, indicating how they dealt with the service provider who was struggling to complete the project, what actions were taken and the current progress.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The next speaker is Hon Mahasela.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo; Hon Deputy Speaker, Jerry Ndou; Hon Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, Essob Mokgonyana; Hon Deputy Chief Whip, Monicca Mochadi; Hon Deputy Chairperson of Committees, Che Selane; honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable chairpersons of committees; honourable Members of this august House; administrators, and officials from the department. Thobela.

Hon Speaker, allow me to join the rest of the world in commemorating the life of the former President Mandela, on what would have been his 104th birthday. This year, the Mandela theme is, “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” This resonates deeply

with the ANC and our founding principles of humility, selfless dedication to the struggle of a non-racial, non-sexist, and democratic society, and concern for the will and interest of the people captured in the principles of Batho Pele.

The theme also speaks to the ANC values and fight against the triple challenges, often referred to as the situation of the high level of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. Hon Speaker, during this Mandela month, let us work together as South Africans to improve the lives of our fellow citizens and uplift communities in need. For those of us carrying the mantle of leadership, let's always remember Tata and what he did for the human race.

Hon Speaker, our honourable MEC is equal to the task, as the department managed, under her leadership, to obtain an unqualified audit opinion, after it was getting a qualified audit opinion for seven consecutive years. So as the committee we are steadfast behind her, and we are supporting her so that the department can move from an unqualified- to a clean audit opinion.

The Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts, and Culture executed its constitutional mandate by meeting with the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture with the view of holding the department accountable. That is why they managed to get that unqualified audit opinion. The committee met with the department for a briefing on all the 2021/22 quarterly performance reports for their consideration and oversight, subsequently in making sure that the emphasis highlighted as envisioned in the 2030 National Development Plan, on the use of sport to promote social cohesion and nation-building is executed.

Hon Speaker, the department spent 64% of its Annual Budget on various programmes at the end of the third quarter, amounting to R329 million. On Administration, the department spent 73% of its annual budget and on Cultural Affairs, the department spent 63%, on Libraries, they spent 57% and on Sport and Recreation they spent 60%.

On Administration, the third quarter target as per APP is 75% and the 11% deviation as indicated in the report is due to the slow spending on infrastructure projects and the postponement of sporting activities to comply with COVID-19 alert levels. The Coronavirus continued to have a negative impact on sport and the creative industry due to various restrictions emanating from well-established and researched alert levels of the National Command Council.

This has impacted negatively on athletes and artists as they were unable to make livelihoods and generate an income. The department was adversely affected in executing its vision of a socially cohesive and active citizenry for sustainable economic growth through its mission to champion sport, arts, culture, and heritage. The quarterly targets to perform on asset management reconciliation were achieved at the end of the third quarter.

Regarding Cultural Affairs, it is indicated that our historic days, such as Africa Day, Freedom Day, and Heritage Day will be celebrated virtually in compliance with COVID-19 regulations that limit the number of participants and audience in an open public gathering. Social cohesion and nation-building programmes were organised, but it has

been reported that programmes were not conducted due to partnership with LEDET and LTA to orchestrate the programmes in the fourth quarter.

Honourable Members, it is further reported by the department that the Mapungubwe Arts Festival has been deferred to 2022 due to COVID-19 regulations. With the powers vested on us as the committee, we took a resolution that the department should fast-track all outstanding forensic investigations and it was also recommended to the department to probe all NPOs who benefited from the National Lottery during the previous Mapungubwe Arts Festival.

The government believes that to defeat the scourge of corruption we need all hands on deck. In pursuit of good governance, clean administration, and quality service delivery, we need to implement training programmes that promote a culture and ethics of service delivery in the public service and offer a viable career path for the individuals.

The Limpopo Province continues to call on all citizens to become the ears and eyes of government in the fight against corruption. Honourable MEC, we applaud the development and promotion of 226 artists out of the quarterly target of 175. Honourable Members, artists were promoted during the following events: Sapa Yopa 19, Sepedi Music Awards 91, World Disability Day 63, and Limpopo Fashion Week 53.

On the Museum Services programme, as it was highlighted by the MEC during the Budget Speech and APP for the financial year 2022/23, "Heritage and culture tourism is undeveloped, and focus should be shifted to the rural areas, where these resources, if marketed and promoted correctly, have the potential for education, job creation and expansion of local tourism."

There are nine museums in the province which fall under the jurisdiction of authorities. Three falls under the provincial government and are referred to as provincial museums. Most museums have cultural central themes, besides the Art Museum and Hugh Exton Photograph Museum found in Polokwane.

Regarding Heritage Resource Services, as the committee, we appreciate the positive response on the Charlotte Maxeke statue at Motumo Trading Post and the revenue collection reported on Mapungubwe since its inception indicating the budget allocated and the revenue collected. As part of the recommendations, the department should further strengthen the security of the museum with an electric fence in the whole area to avoid the poaching of animals and stealing of artefacts in both Dzata and Muti wa Vatsonga museums.

Hon Speaker, the committee is continuously making efforts in ensuring transparency of service delivery in government departments and municipalities by adequately and timeously handling challenges from the public. As we continue to celebrate Nelson Mandela Month, let us call on all South Africans to contribute to the social and economic security of Africans by leading the values of the Constitution that provide for the rights of all people living in our country and affirm democratic values of human dignity, equality, and freedom for all.

In conclusion, Tata Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela inspired the world by saying: "Exercise is the key not only to physical health, but also to peace of mind."

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the committee, I move for the adoption of the quarterly reports and the Annual Report of the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson of the committee. Honourable MEC, you now have the opportunity to respond. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS, AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members of this august House, good afternoon. Hon Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the presence of our officials from the department, who are here with the sole mandate of taking in the inputs made by honourable Members, so that when we depart, they can go and ensure that all these issues are responded to. This will guarantee that when we meet with the portfolio committee, all the concerns and comments that were made here by honourable Members, are taken into cognisance.

I want to allay the fears of Members that indeed your valuable inputs are well received. We believe that they are going to help us to take the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture in this province to the next trajectory. Thank you very much, Hon Selane for having raised all those issues that are very important to the delivery of social cohesion and nation-building activities in our communities.

It is high time we appreciate that the young people of this province are looking up to this department for them to be impacted in a positive way by their own government that they have chosen in the recently held national and provincial elections. I want to believe that the issue for us to come up with a mechanism on how we manage our assets is receiving attention, hence you have heard Hon Selane indicating that the department has gone to an extent of meeting with the Provincial Treasury in an endeavour to implement the radio frequency identification system that is helping us to manage our library books. This system can help us detect the number of books that we have in each library in this province.

We believe that the continuation of this kind of initiative will help us address all the issues that are raised by the A-G's office regarding asset management. The reason for the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture being stagnant on a qualified audit opinion for almost seven years, is because of the issue of asset management, precisely the issue of our library books. We believe that since we have employed the RFID system, we have shown a great improvement in terms of our audit outcome, and we are now sitting on an unqualified audit opinion.

We believe that all of us must have confidence in the A-G's office because they are the ones who are auditing our books. We should not be nostalgic about the past because the

department has displayed a great improvement in terms of its audit outcomes. Just yesterday when we were at the Executive Council meeting of this province, which is led by the Hon Premier, the Department of Provincial Treasury has shared a report with the EXCO Members on issues of compliance on the 30 day payment policy, and it was indeed reported in that meeting that the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture has joined the Office of the Premier, Provincial Treasury and LEDET in terms of 100% compliance regarding the 30-day payment policy, that is expected from all of us. [APPLAUSE]

Where we are at present, Hon Mohlala, the 30-day payment deadline to service providers is no longer an issue to us. It is a thing of the past. Approvals that are requested from Treasury, Hon Selane, are basically around issues of Conditional Grants, to utilise for other activities within library services. We need to seek approval from Treasury, otherwise it is going to be termed irregular expenditure, where you utilise Conditional Grants on issues of the compensation of employees.

Conditional Grants are coming with conditions that are earmarked for the delivery of services, and we need to always adhere to the Conditional Grants' framework. The only way for us to manage these issues in an appropriate way, in line with the Public Finance Management Act, is to go through that rigorous exercise with Treasury where we seek approval to utilise the conditional grants to deal with issues of compensation of employees. If we don't do that, when we are being audited by the A-G, we might be exposed as people who disregard the Public Finance Management Act.

Regarding infrastructure delivery, I want to deal with the confusion around this issue. The mandate of the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture is more on the delivery of social cohesion and nation-building-related programmes. We are not mandated by any law in this country to deal with issues of infrastructure – hence there is this arrangement with the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure countrywide, to deal with infrastructure on our behalf.

There is no political agenda that we are supporting. We are just striving to adhere to the national arrangement of our government, wherein the Department of Public Works must deliver infrastructure-related projects on behalf of some of us. We can't be dealing with infrastructure as a Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, because we are not mandated to manage it.

Regarding the MIG grant for sport and recreation infrastructure that is now endowed to municipalities, honourable Members, this issue is receiving the necessary attention from the Minister. We know that it is a policy issue because municipalities on their own are a sphere of government, wherein infrastructure-related grants are taken to those municipalities for the development of sports infrastructure and the maintenance part of it.

As the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture we are engaging with the Minister regarding those policy issues, because it's something that is not only affecting Limpopo, but all of us, countrywide. SALGA is also on board because even they are frustrated by the dilapidating sport and recreation infrastructure that is found in our municipalities.

On the issue of financial misstatements, as raised by Hon Mohlala, I want to indicate that the reason the department was receiving qualified audit reports was because the previous CFO was not equal to the task and we have acted against that CFO. She has been suspended; and is no longer employed by the department. We have appointed a financial officer who is ensuring that we submit financial statements that are accurate every time we are expected to do so.

I want to assure you that these are the issues that we have looked into, and we came up with a mechanism on how we are going to address all those irregularities that were highlighted by the A-G. We believe that the reason why we moved from a qualified audit opinion to an unqualified audit opinion, is because the A-G is satisfied that, indeed, the department is now submitting financial statements that are accurate and are in line with the Public Finance Management Act.

Regarding the Mapungubwe Forensic Report, I want to allay the fears of Members that, indeed, the Provincial Treasury has instituted a forensic investigation into the wrongdoing around the Mapungubwe Arts Festival. As a department, we have taken the portfolio committee into confidence regarding the steps that we have taken against all the officials that are found to be on the wrong side of the law. As I am speaking here, our officials have implemented consequence management on them. We appeared before Scopa, and it was happy with the progress that we have made in terms of implementing consequence management.

I want to indicate to you that ever since we implemented the Mapungubwe Arts Festival in 2019, there were no matters of irregularities that were detected by the A-G. I want to assure you that, going forward, our intention as the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is to host a Mapungubwe Arts Festival that is incident free. Incidents of corruption must not find expression within our festival. We believe that the Mapungubwe Arts Festival is for the people of Limpopo, for us to enhance the issues of social cohesion amongst our people.

It doesn't mean that because the Mapungubwe Arts Festival was marred with irregularities in the past, we should not continue to effectuate this festival. We will continue to administer it, for the benefit of our people who are in the creative arts space. Hon Phala, regarding the recurrence of underspending on Conditional Grants, I fully share your sentiments. While as the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture we fail to spend on the Conditional Grant, we run a risk of having those Conditional Grants being taken to other provinces that are utilising them effectively. As a rural province of Limpopo, we can't afford a situation where those little resources that we are given by the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture are now taken to a province that is spending in line with their request.

Regarding Zamani Library and its maintenance budget, I believe that in our last interaction with the portfolio committee we have taken members into confidence that the maintenance budget for Zamani Library was misallocated because Zamani Library is a modular library. You can't budget for maintenance on a modular library.

A modular library is a structure that is movable, and it does not require building maintenance. We have moved the assets of that modular library into a newly built, fully fledged library in Nkuri village, and even had an opening ceremony for the library. We therefore no longer speak about issues of Zamani but are now focussing on the maintenance of Nkuri Library which was built by IDT and handed over to the community of Nkuri village.

Regarding Mulamula Library, the delays that we have incurred in the construction of that library are as a result of a service provider who underquoted when they were bidding for the construction of that library. In terms of the PFMA, the department is allowed to implement and introduce a termination clause. We can't be delayed in the delivery of that facility because a service provider has underquoted out of desperation for that opportunity, but when it's time to deliver the library, there are many stories brought under our attention.

The IDT has dealt with the issue and as the department, we are reliably informed that construction of the library is towards completion. I want to request honourable Members to go there and ascertain themselves that, indeed, what we are saying here is a true reflection of what is happening on the ground. Regarding the non-infrastructure delivery issues, I fully agree with you, Hon Mahasela, that indeed, where we are underspending, we need to up our game in terms of infrastructure delivery because the underspending on conditional grants as I have already indicated will lead to those resources being taken to other provinces.

Regarding the NPOs and NGOs who have benefitted from the National Lottery Commission, the issue has been shared with honourable Members. The department has compiled a list of all the NPOs and NGOs who have benefited from the lottery in relation to the Mapungubwe Arts Festival. The issue is now under investigation by the Hawks, who are looking into the wrongdoing in the management of funds that were given to the NGOs.

I want to plead with Members to allow the law enforcement agencies to conclude their work. We will update honourable Members once a report from the Hawks has been shared with us as the department, and we have shared that information with the members of the portfolio committee.

The issue regarding Motumo Trading Post; indeed, we need to look into the issue of safeguarding the facility. Through our intergovernmental relations with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, we need to make it a point that Motumo Trading Post is well managed and all the assets that are there are accounted for. We need to expedite the refurbishing of that trading post if we want to attract more tourists to the Limpopo province.

Thank you for the opportunity, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

7.3. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, 2021/22 first quarter report

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke le Makoma Grace Makhurupetje ke be ke kgopela gore bjale ka Ntlo ya Lekgotlatheramelao ke bee pego ya go tšwa Komiti ya Mešomo ya Setšhaba, Ditsela le Mananeokgoparara mo kotareng ya pele ya 2021/2022.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga mosepetšamošomo. Nna ke le Matlou Leswafo Joshua ke thekga seo Makoma Makhurupetje a se bolelago. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.4 Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure 2021/22 Second Quarter Report

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, hereby present to this august House, the 2021/22 Second Quarter Report of the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure for consideration and adoption. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Just to remind the chairperson, the House is considering and adopting the reports of the department and its entity RAL. Is there any seconder? Hon Mathye, you are recognised.

MS MATHYE

Inkomu. Mina Mathye Susan Violet, ndzi yimela ku seketela ku susumetiwa ko amukeriwa ka xiviko xa kotara yo sungula ya lembe ximali ya 2021/22 xa Ndzawulo ya Mitorho ya Vaaki, Magondzo na Miako lexi vikiweke hi Mutshamaxitulu Manana Mutshamiseksi Makhurupetje. Inkomu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.5 Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, 2021/22 Third Quarter Report

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, Ndzi yimile laha ku vika xibiko xa Komiti ya hina ya Mfumo wa Milawu xa 2021/22 xa kotara ya vunharhu xa Ndzawulo ya Mitirho ya Vaaki na nhlangano wa RAL ku va xitekeriwa enhlokweni na ku amukeriwa ku va xiviko xa Yindlu leyi hloniphekeke. Inkomu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana, you are recognised.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Ke a leboga Mospikara. Ke le Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana, ke ema go thekga Mohlomphegi Makhurupetje Makoma ka seo a se boletšego. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.6 Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, 2021/22 Fourth Quarter Report

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to present the 2021/22 fourth quarter report of the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure and its entity RAL for consideration and adoption by this House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Siyabonga Somlomo. I rise to second the tabling of the report by Hon Makhurupetje. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.7 Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure and its entity RAL, for the financial year 2020/21 Annual Report

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here, Mohlomphegi ke ema mo ke le Makoma Grace Makhurupetje go bega pego ye ya Komiti ya Kgoro ya tša Mešomo, Ditsela le Dikgerekgere le RAL wa ngwaga wa 2021/22 gore Ntlokogo ye e lebelela le go dumela bjale ka pego ya yona. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS APHIRI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, rise to second the tabling of the report by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Makhurupetje.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and call upon Hon Falaza Mdaka to open the debate.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, for this opportunity. Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, honourable MECs present, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party and this honourable House, the Deputy Chief Whip, honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

I stand before you on behalf of the ANC to contribute towards the debate on the first, second, third, and fourth quarter reports for the 2021/22 financial year and the 2020/21 Annual Report, for both the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure as well as Road Agency Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, before I proceed, you are aware that the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure is the custodian of all government properties. You may have noticed the dismay because this House is not conducive in assisting honourable Members when they must deal with issues that are related to the debate, including the utilisation of power points. There are no plugs available in this House and one has to go out when devices has run out of battery life, to try and get it plugged in somewhere.

That is a matter the department should look into. That, however, is not the only point of concern, the ablution facilities are also posing a serious challenge. We can't be called honourable Members when there's nothing honourable in these facilities. It's an issue that needs to be dealt with, and I am raising it here and not necessarily going through the committee because this is what all of us are experiencing in this House. We are aware that this House was built a long time ago, during a time when there were no gadgets or other electronic devices, but now we must be able to charge whatever that we need to charge in this House.

Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to proceed with this debate and remind honourable Members of this august House that the freedom that we enjoy today, was secured through the great sacrifices and determination by our people, under the leadership of selfless leaders such as President Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govern Mbeki, Lillian Ngoyi, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Chris Hani, Peter Mokaba, Mark Shope and many others.

They fought for a South Africa that is united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist, and prosperous. We should therefore always remember to be guided by the aspirations of those fallen giants in our everyday activity as we work for the betterment of our people—including how we behave when we are inside the House; we can't behave like we are in a shebeen ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Can you please wait, Hon Mdaka? Honourable Members, when you were debating Members were listening to you attentively. Can we restrain ourselves from interrupting the speaker addressing the House? Let us refrain from interjecting one another when a Member is on the podium, so that we respect the debate. Hon Mdaka, you can continue.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for that intervention which was not really necessary because we are dealing with honourable Members ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

On what point are you rising Hon Seshoka?

MR SESHOKA

I am rising on a point of order, Hon Speaker, because you seem to be shying away from the truth. Hon Phala is disruptive in this Sitting, and is the one who started this disorder,

but you are generalising because you want to protect him. I call on you, Hon Speaker, to call Hon Phala to order because he is the one who is causing the disruption.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, that is not a point of order, because I saw about three people ... Hon Phala, can you listen to me please? Let us allow Hon Mdaka to continue with the debate.

MR MDAKA

Maybe I should also greet the Leader of the Opposition in absentia, since I have omitted that, and it might be the reason why there are challenges from the left. All the Members on the opposition benches, you are recognised. You don't have to act in an indecorous manner to gain recognition. After the ANC-led government has taken over, we see villages turning into semi-urban settlements. The poor and people from the rural areas are no longer expected to travel long distances to buy food for their families.

Commodities that were never thought of as priority needs in our communities are suddenly very urgent. During the apartheid era, a normal village could only afford to have one car. If there were to be many cars, there could be three. In those days the need for a tar road was not there. Today the situation has changed. Today the same could not be said as I indicated, the country developed under the ANC government.

The size of the economy of our country has tripled in the last few years. Every community, whether urban or rural, indeed, needs tar roads to connect them with other communities. Those who have access roads are now in need of tarred ring roads and streets so that they can access their homes which sometimes are not traversable during rainy days.

Therefore, the department and the democratic government are chasing a moving target. It is against this background that the challenges experienced by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure including RAL should be scrutinised. The budget is just not enough to cater for everyone over a period of 12 months. However, our people need services, not tomorrow, but today. Therefore, proper communication with our people is key for them to understand the reality of prioritising what is possible within the constraints of the available budget.

The IDP is there to make sure that when municipalities plan, they interact with provincial government departments. It has never been very successful. There has not been any form of cohesion in terms of dealing with those issues. In August 2019, a District Development Model was launched. It is now almost three years that we are trying to deal with this challenge of poor planning. Indeed, if we are to stop our communities from jumping up and down, protesting and sending petitions concerning the lack of services, there is a need for us to improve in making sure that we plan under one roof as government.

We can't be planning in silos; or dealing with issues in silos as government departments. I don't want to go back to the issue that was raised in the previous debate on the challenges that are facing us and how we roll out infrastructure. Public works is

responsible for our infrastructure programme, be it the building of schools, clinics, or roads through RAL, and at the same time, it is the custodian of all government properties, as I have already indicated.

Hon Speaker, the committee met with the department and RAL to receive a detailed briefing on the quarterly performance of the department on 17 May 2022. Our concerns remain the same, and we do not want to reiterate what Hon Phala once said. In those days when we had 33 LPs and 78 LPs, it was like a scratched record, repeating the same thing. We don't want to talk about those challenges here.

We are all aware of what challenges need to be dealt with. It can't be a sing song, where we complain about the same issues here. Issues of compliance are issues that must be done as per regulation, making sure that the law is observed. Why do you break the law? We can't come here and claim that we are doing very well but these types of issues are still being raised, yet regulations to solve these issues are in place.

We just have to make sure that those who are not following those regulations, whether at leadership level or any other level, are dealt with. There must be consequence management. Whether it is a deployed leader at the highest position in the department or the lowest member of the department. We can't always punish officials who are in the lower ranks of leadership, whilst they get instructions and are supposed to be supervised by those at the top. Those who are not implementing proper leadership, must be dealt with because they are failing to lead.

As I conclude, we are aware that RAL is responsible for the construction and maintenance of our provincial road network, the so-called "D" roads. However, communities direct all their request for road upgrades to RAL, even if it relates to municipal roads. This is prevalent especially in the rural communities because they can't differentiate between provincial and municipal roads. We therefore must make sure that we follow the District Development Model. It is our responsibility to communicate with and educate them, in order to stop the protests.

Sometimes it is not clear whether a specific road belongs to a district, municipality, or whether it is a provincial road, but you will find communities up in arms demanding that the road be upgraded from gravel to tar. Proper planning and the attendance of meetings with municipalities to resolve these issues are therefore important. The initial budget of R1,109 billion which was increased to R1,49 billion and later further increased to R1,79 billion is still not enough to cater for the needs of our communities.

Maybe proper planning needs to be done to increase RAL's budget to at least R3 billion right from the start, to avoid requests for additional funding every now and then. Why don't you give them this money so that can plan properly? If you delay their funds, it gets withdrawn, like the R120 million that was rolled over to the following year because it was not spent opportunely, and now it cannot be rolled over again. We are therefore going to lose it. I thank you, Hon Speaker, for this opportunity. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I now call upon Hon Lilian Managa. Your seven minutes start now.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo, Vho Jerry Ndou. Ndi masiari vhathu vhothe vha re fano. Vhege yo fhelaho kha khanedzano dzashu, ho vha na tshiwe tshiambi tsho fhiraho tshe tsha do vhudzisa mbudziso yauri zwi no khou ita uri hu vhe na non-compliance kha muhasho ndi mini. Ndi do fhindula nga u tou angaredza. A si kha muhasho wa Zwifhatwa zwa Muvhuso fhedzi, ndi kha mihasho minzhi nyana ine ya vha na thaidzo.

Tshithu tshine tsha khou ita uri hu vhe na thaidzo ndi cadre deployment. Ndi a tenda uri ndo i fhindula. Hon Speaker, it must be noted and made clear that some of the contracts in this department were awarded to bidders based on preference points that were not allocated in accordance with the requirements of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act 2000 (Act 5 of 2000) and its regulations. The procurement process in this department is flawed and it is used as a conduit for corruption and fraud. It should also be noted that some of the tenders which failed to achieve the minimum qualifying score for functionality criteria were not disqualified as expected. This is unacceptable in accordance with the Preferential Procurement Regulations.

For example, a contract was awarded to a bidder that did not score the highest points in the evaluation process as required by section 2(1)(f) of the PPPFA and Preferential Procurement Regulations. Some of the tenders which achieve the minimum qualifying score for functionality criteria were not evaluated further in accordance with the Preferential Procurement Regulations. The House should also be made aware that disciplinary steps were not taken against officials who had incurred unauthorised expenditure as required by section 38(1)(h) of the PFMA.

Furthermore, investigations into unauthorised expenditure were not performed during the year under review and it has been a norm for this department to play a naughty boy game. It is clear that in the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, investigations are not conducted because this is a deliberate strategy to conceal corruption and general wrongdoing. It is also embarrassing and concerning that the management does not adequately review annual financial statements before submitting them to the auditors.

Internal control systems for recording, processing, and reporting of financial information were found to be inadequate. There are inadequate controls to prevent non-compliance with the procurement legislation and management to develop and monitor the implementation of an action plan. The department is also sitting on serious contingency liabilities, wherein the department is a defendant in numerous claims for pothole damage, legal claims and disputing certain rates and tax charges by municipalities.

Potholes form the biggest portion of the government's legacy and they have become synonymous with them. There is no implementation of consequence management for the lack of compliance with the supply chain management's prescripts. In the SCM units, everyone does as they please. The department has become a banana department. There is a complete disregard for the prescripts and regulations without any fear of consequence management because it doesn't exist.

Furthermore, the reduction of debt accounts remains a serious challenge in the department. It should also be noted by this House that the debt was irrecoverably attributed to a lack of supporting documents for all debts, which includes disease debts, bursary holders dropping out, administrative debts, clerks committing administrative mistakes and those leaving the department through attrition. The fact that the clerks commit administrative mistakes in this department, signals that the officials sleep on duty. That is the reason why the department is in such a mess.

Hon Speaker, there was also an under achievement regarding the percentage of payment of suppliers within the period of 30 days during the period under review. This is an attempt to kill emerging black businesses demonstrating the level of hate towards our people. Companies that do business with the state have workers to pay, and they must be paid within the legal prescribed period because these contractors have families to feed.

The CFO at RAL does not have the capacity to deal with SCM and financial management. The entity recruits people with no capacity to perform their functions, and later on lease the services of consultants to do the same job. Risk management and internal control units at RAL are dead and completely dysfunctional to the core. It is not surprising that this entity is currently in a serious mess. Record management is appalling, even spaza shop owners are much better in record keeping and management than the people employed by this department, let alone the vendors on the streets.

Hon Speaker, I hope that I have answered the question posed by one of our honourable Members previously. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Hon Maharaj, you now have the opportunity to debate.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The portfolio committee has recommended that the chief financial officer's office be capacitated with the relevant skills and personnel in overcoming the financial and supply chain management challenges. This in lieu of reducing the number of unresolved year-end audits and operational expenditure spending within the allocated budgets. It is imperative that the department designs and implements a system for internal controls, which ensure that the reported performance is complete, valid, and accurate. This must be accompanied by documentation which must be maintained and available on request to support the reported performance information.

The department needs to look at forward-planning and succession planning. Part of this planning must be to look at its ageing staff as this could be a risk in the years to come if there is not 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 reliably generate reports against the various indicators in enabling the source information, evidence, and methods of calculation for achieving the planned projects.

Honourable MEC, I have asked this question previously in a speech, and I'm going to ask it again. What is the progress with "Operation Bring Back" in the province regarding state properties that have been invaded and or in instances identified, where private individuals have taken possession or ownership of state assets unlawfully? Honourable MEC, here again, is an example where the state-owned property could be utilised for provincial departments, yet we still embark on a practice of leasing property from landlords at exorbitant rental agreements. It goes without saying that millions of rands could be saved by utilising our own properties and the savings could be channelled towards filling potholes and tarring roads.

Hon Speaker, there must be greater visual conditional assessments done on our roads. There should be a planned schedule as to when these roads will be due for maintenance and the relevant budgets must be planned accordingly. With the proper planning in place, the province will not be subjected to the numerous protests due to the lack of service delivery in addressing road challenges.

The department needs to fast-track addressing the backlog on road rehabilitation in all districts. A maintenance plan must be urgently implemented to address these issues. One of the biggest challenges facing the department is the non-completion and inaccuracy and updating of the asset register. We can no longer allow this to be acceptable, given the constrained resources. It is imperative that as a government we are able to track, monitor, and take care of our assets. This must be attended to as a priority for both the fixed asset register as well as the non-infrastructure asset register.

Part of the maintenance must be the assessment as well as regular maintenance of the stormwater drainage. There seems to be some confusion as to which department this falls under, the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure or RAL. As a committee, we believe that these two parties should meet and conclude this and thus advise on the accountability thereof. These become extremely dangerous for pedestrians and motorists, especially during the rainy seasons. A report must also be generated in terms of the achievements on work opportunities created through the EPWP programme.

In conclusion, it is critical and of utmost importance that the honourable MEC, the department, the entities, and the board work jointly for the benefit of turning around the failed and failing entities and for the people of Limpopo province. We should never have a repeat of the breakdown we witnessed during Scopa between the MEC and the board. This does not serve anyone well and is regressive to the upliftment of this province. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I now call upon Hon Makoma Grace Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am just disappointed that Hon Maharaj is referring to challenges experienced in 2019 but two years down the line, many things have changed

in that department. Hon Deputy Speaker, Azwindini Jeremiah Dingaan Ndou; MECs present here; the Chief Whip; honourable Members of this august House, thobela.

Hon Speaker, I stand here today, joined by my colleagues, and we have listened to the presentation of Hon Mdaka, as we presented the portfolio committee's report on the first, second, third and fourth quarter for the 2021/22 financial year as well as the 2020/21 Annual Report for Vote 9, the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure as well as its entity, RAL.

Hon Speaker, I'm not going to waste time by repeating what has already been said by other honourable Members, except to comment again that some of the issues raised are what happened in the past. As we are standing here, this department has come a long way. There is a huge improvement in this department. This is the department that took many years to obtain a qualified audit opinion and it was due to its assets. At this present moment, the department and its entity are sitting on an unqualified audit opinion.

The tangent that they are taking, makes them one of the candidates that can obtain a clean audit. For that reason, we have welcomed the new MEC. We have said so many things when we were debating the APP and there is no need for us to repeat that. We are aware that you have hit the ground running, and we want to appreciate the good work that you are doing for our people.

Therefore, without wasting time, I will just emphasise a few things that we, as a committee, will continue to monitor in the department, as and when the need arises. The department should ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of systems in debt collection, to reduce the debt account quarterly. It should motivate users directly to submit the debts of rent in time to avoid irrecoverable debts. Management intervention should be strengthened to deal with ineffective debt collection mechanisms to avoid material impairment and accrued departmental revenue, which remains a recurring challenge to ensure maximisation of the estimated amount of revenue that is supposed to be collected. This is one of the departments where, if there can be more debt collection, the provincial government will be able to do more.

Synergy on timeous submission of infrastructure planning documents and service delivery agreements should be executed for proper infrastructure planning processes and implementation. Ensuring the realisation of a comprehensive, reliable, and credible immovable asset register; and that you already doing, so continue with the good work there.

Continuous filling of critical positions. We know that it was a nightmare but continue to implement what you have started. You however need to focus on road maintenance so that we don't rely on hired plants due to shortages of construction operators for the blading of roads. Ensure continuous cost analysis in respect of hiring machinery and equipment, and continuous assessment of the capacity of cost centres to deliver services on machinery, equipment, and personnel. Develop a plan to deal with ageing staff, especially at the cost centres. Quarterly updates irrespective of the designing of systems of processes to enable reliable reporting, especially on the achievement against performance indicators. Keep the evidence as it will always be required.

Ensure continuous assistance of public bodies in the internalisation of EPWP through work opportunities and full-time equitable jobs that yield the desired results for poverty alleviation. A cost analysis was done to determine the viability of outright purchasing the leased buildings instead of continuing to rent upon the completed proposal. Out of ten buildings, seven were found to be providing value for money for the provincial government if they were to be purchased rather than continuing with monthly rentals.

Ensure that the department and other provincial departments continue to pay rates to municipalities on a continuous basis and deal with queries outside the processes. There is also a delay in the transfer of R293 towns to municipalities. The process is taking too long. We hope that you will be able to come up with a plan that can help with fast-tracking the process.

Regarding RAL, the committee will continue to monitor the entity. We don't expect reports indicating that some of the appointed staff are lacking the necessary skills. In that agency we can only appoint people with the required skills to deliver proper road infrastructure. RAL must ensure the capacitation of the office of the chief financial officer, to overcome most of the supply chain management challenges and make sure that they achieve their targets.

RAL must also work on an audit action plan to achieve a clean audit. We are not happy when we see the honourable MEC officially opening a 3 km road, because as far as we are concerned, that 3 km road remains a bermuda road. If a road is 10 km long, and for the record this year you tarred only three kilometres, what is the point of celebrating when there is still 7 km to be tarred. Such roads must be continuously budgeted for so that the remaining kilometres can also be completed.

RAL must consider revisiting the cost of road upgrades per kilometre. As the portfolio committee, when we did our oversight, it came to our attention that there is a possibility of collusion in pricing per kilometre in the province. The price per kilometre is already set, and it is high above the rates in other provinces. The department therefore must look at that. The department must also look at the matter relating to the 30% procurement policy of communities to receive government contracts. This delays road construction because SMMEs deliberately want to overcharge contractors and sub-contractors.

There should be strict consequence management for project managers. You can't have a road like the road to Mohlabaeng, where it gets upgraded, but within six months the road is defunct. It has happened in Makhado, as well as several municipalities. We want consequence management on project managers who were monitoring those roads because we can't continuously pay money for the upgrading of roads that do not last in accordance with its expected lifespan.

RAL must ensure appropriate reporting on work opportunities created by them and the private sector, to ensure that quarterly reports are done accordingly. Hon Speaker, after the committee has scrutinised the 2021/22 first, second, third and fourth quarter reports and the 2020/21 Annual Report of the Department of Public Works, Roads, and

Infrastructure and its entity RAL, we recommend that this House adopts the committee reports as its report. I move accordingly. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I now call upon Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale, the MEC for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to you, honourable Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Whip of the ruling party, members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, led by the chairperson Hon Grace Makhurupetje, and honourable Members of the Legislature, ndi masiari.

We are in the Legislature today, just three days after the country and the world celebrated Nelson Mandela International Day in honour of the first democratically elected President of our country. In Limpopo we have seen MECs, ordinary community members and leaders of the ANC on the ground doing their sixty-seven minutes of community service.

This was a demonstration and appreciation of the work done by the world icon Tata Madiba who contributed immensely to the attainment of the freedom we are all enjoying today. As we all know, 18 July has been declared Nelson Mandela International Day, but as South Africans we embrace the chance to celebrate Nelson Mandela's life throughout this month. This gives everyone an opportunity to heed the call to action for people to recognise their individual power to make an imprint and change the world around them.

The Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure is therefore committed to making every day a Mandela Day, as a way of striving for better service delivery to our people. The reality of the matter is that each one of us here is affected, in one way or the other, by the potholes in the roads of our province. Please allow me to also appreciate the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure as chaired by Hon Makoma Makhurupetje for having tabled the first, second, third, and fourth quarter reports for 2021/22 and the 2020/21 Annual Report of the department and its entity Roads Agency Limpopo.

I must indicate that as the department we continue to welcome the guidance and advice we constantly get from the portfolio committee as well as the constructive criticism from some Members seated on the opposition benches. The department does not regard the comments from the portfolio committee and Members of the Legislature as criticism, but as guidance which is aimed at ensuring that the Legislature holds all provincial executive organs of state accountable and maintains oversight over the Executive Authority. What is also of paramount importance is to ensure that there is proper implementation of legislation.

I'm saying constructive criticism because Hon Managa does not have the power to respond to Hon Mdaka. In the year under review, the government was dealing with the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which also resulted in budget cuts of

R68,479 million. The department was also not spared from the effects that impacted service delivery. The department has made significant strides in achieving the set plans and strategies despite some serious challenges experienced as a result of COVID-19.

A few interventions were therefore proposed to make provisions for the funding of PPEs, shelters, and the availability of quarantine sites. The reduction of funds also necessitated the department to reprioritise its plans for the 2020/21 financial year in line with the reductions, and a revised APP was developed and re-tabled. This impacted the finances of the department and the smooth running of some programmes. I must say that despite all this, we were compelled to make sure that we continue to render services to our people.

During our constant engagements with the portfolio committee, we committed that we will work tirelessly to ensure that we deal with all matters of emphasis as raised by the Auditor-General. One other critical issue is that we must not allow for the underspending by programmes to recur, because this has a direct impact on service delivery. We all agree that the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure is at the coalface of service delivery, and that should remain if all recommendations are adhered to.

Our Premier, Hon Chupu Stan Mathabatha has already said it several times that government needs notable improvements in its audit outcomes. This is not negotiable, and it must just happen. Reacting to the recent local government audit outcomes for the 2020/21 financial year, Premier Mathabatha said, "Positive audit outcomes help to ensure that the people of the province receive quality services to improve their living conditions."

Guided by this, the department has developed an audit action plan and clean audit strategies that will assist us in having improved audit outcomes. The strategy includes among others building capacity in record management, the establishment of the internal audit steering committee which reviews the annual financial statements, asset management, verifications for movable assets, updated asset register and the establishment of an effective governance structure.

This will assist us to realise improved service delivery to our people, who are guaranteed these services by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The audit action plans must assist the department to deal with the demon of non-compliance on its expenditure management, asset management, supply chain management, consequence management and material misstatements identified in the financial statements submitted for auditing. A sound audit action plan will really assist the department to deal with the recurrence of irregular and unauthorised expenditure by the department and its agency, RAL.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to indicate that the department is in the process of filling critical vacant posts to inculcate the spirit of accountability and consequence management, as well as ensuring that we improve on our service delivery efforts. The department will also find ways of improving working relations with IDT and DBSA to deliver on infrastructure projects in the province. Let me also indicate that we have listened to all that has been said during the debates and we will make sure that we improve as a department. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for that comprehensive response, honourable MEC.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. Ndzi lava ku teka nkarhi lowu ndzi tsundzuxa vanhu lava ngopfu ngopfu Swirho swo Xiximeka ku ri swakudya swikona ebhodurhumu. Va yi tiva bodurhumu ya kona. Inkomu. Ke re dijo di gona ka go boardroom; ba a e tseba.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Sitting is adjourned to Tuesday, 26 July 2022 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 26 JULY 2022
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]

Thank you very much. Please be seated. Good morning, honourable Members.

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 Rule 201? There are none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Is there any tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers? There is none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

**7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the report of the Oversight Mechanism 2021/22
Second Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature**

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby present the 2021/22 Second Quarter Report for Limpopo Legislature in order for this House to consider and adopt it. I thank you. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, the committee chairperson. Thank you very much, Hon Phala. Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

I rise to second the motion as tabled by the honourable committee chairperson. Thanks.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Adv Phala.

7.1.1 Consideration and adoption of 2021/22 Second Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature

I call upon the committee chair.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. It must be 7.1.2. They have repeated the numbering 7.1.1 twice. Therefore, it is 7.1.2.

Hon Speaker, I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby present the 2021/22 Third Quarter Report in this House for consideration and adoption. I thank you. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I second Hon Lekganyane on the tabling of the report of the committee. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Seono. Item 7.1.3 is the 2021/22 Fourth Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature. I call upon the committee chair.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby present the 2021/22 fourth quarter report to this House for consideration and adoption. I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

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

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmabogahla Masekoameng, stand to second the chairperson of the committee, Hon Maria Lekganyane. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, the honourable Member. Item 7.1.4 is the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature. I call upon the committee chair.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby present the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature to this House for consideration and adoption. I so move, Hon Speaker. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Can we call for a 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 tabling of the report presented by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mochadi. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. We appeal that all the speakers need to adhere to the time allocated. The first speaker on the list, we have got Hon Nakedi Kekana. You have seven minutes.

MS KEKANA

Thank you so much. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Hon Chair of Chairs, Chief Whip of the House; Leader of Government Business, honourable MECs, honourable Members, officials and distinguished guests, good morning.

Hon Speaker, this Sitting is taking place at the time when the Limpopo provincial government is saddened by the brutal murder of the Mayor of Collins Chabane Municipality, Cllr Moses Maluleke. Cllr Maluleke was brutally murdered in his home last week on Thursday.

On behalf of all in this august House, we condemn this murder in the strongest possible terms and we urge the law enforcement agencies to ensure that the perpetrators of this terrible crime are brought to book.

We are also meeting here at the time when the Reserve Bank has increased the repo rate by 75 points which is an increase in percentage of 5,5 and that in itself has an impact on the motive forces of the National Democratic Revolution, especially the rural poor, the proletariat and downtrodden.

We also welcome the arrival Wafcon Champions, Banyana Banyana, back home after winning the 2022 Women Africa Cup of Nations by beating Morocco 2-1, and also lobby for an equal amount of incentives with Bafana Bafana. We also welcome all the people of South Africa who are now at the airport to welcome Banyana Banyana as part of a course of nation building and social cohesion.

Hon Speaker, the committee welcomes the audit outcomes achieved by Limpopo Legislature. We have noted that the Limpopo Legislature had regressed from a clean audit to an unqualified audit with emphasis made on assets and most of them on IT. The accounting officer must work hard in this financial year to address all the audit findings to ensure that the Legislature goes back to its roots of attaining a clean audit and maintain stable with that.

We are concerned, however, about the labour related lawsuit against the institution and the collective agreements, insufficient furniture for political staff and a comprehensive security system both in the Parliamentary Village and the Legislature precinct. We urge the Speaker to speed up the meeting with the Public Works; Police; and Treasury.

At the same time, we also want to commend the Office of the Speaker for the developments made during COVID-19 restrictions, such as hybrid sessions and Virtual meetings, which have actually modernised the way we communicate and exchange information.

However, the committee is concerned with the expenditure pattern, which is the under expenditure and over expenditure observed in some of the programmes during the period under review. The trend which is also recurring in all the provincial departments because of the misalignment between the Annual Performance Plan and Budget. We believe that same will be corrected in the next financial year.

We also noted the minimal publicity of events and the poor quality of pictures on social network. The non-availability of wellness awareness programmes in the fourth quarter, Hon Speaker, is also a call for concern. We know for a fact that during the time of the pandemic, people were affected either by endogenous and exogenous factors like poverty, unemployment and loss of jobs.

Regarding library service, we believe that the Legislature will move with the times in terms of digitisation of documents in line with the fourth industrial revolution. We believe that the library services should be able to move with the times and ensure that eBooks are also available in the library of the Legislature.

Hon Speaker, we are concerned about the facilitation of Bills from provincial departments. The majority of Bills facilitated were from the NCOP. We are rightfully concerned, Hon Speaker, because the provincial administration itself should be able to facilitate the proposal of Bills in response to a particular legislative needs in this province. We should be able to review the provincial Bills to ensure that they are on par with the economic, political and social development of Limpopo province.

The oversight meetings and oversight reports were not conducted as expected due to the Scopa, Cde Rodgers, Public Hearings, and the Legislature must ensure that the programmes of Scopa public hearing are aligned with the approved APP and achieved as planned.

Hon Speaker, we acknowledge the challenges brought by COVID-19, especially with regards to public participation and educational workshops. Some could not be conducted due to the imposed restrictions. Again, we believe that moving forward, we should also be able to take advantage of hybrid and virtual sessions in improving our work.

We congratulate the work done by the Legislature and hope that it could move to higher ground. The recommendations made by the committee should be implemented, and the Legislature should be exemplary to other departments because its functionality cannot be underestimated.

As I conclude, I would like to say all cadres to the front and also quote the words of Tata Nelson Mandela, who said, "A leader ... is like a shepherd, he stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the other follows, not realising that all along they are being directed from behind."

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. I call upon Hon Mohlala. You have five minutes.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings Hon Speaker and the House. Hon Speaker, we submit that in future Local Government Elections should not deter this House from performing its normal duties. The House could not sit as expected, and the reason for underperformance is Local Government Elections.

Training of employees should be prioritised based on their skills needs, and nonattendance should not be permitted. All training sessions must be reprioritised, and we need a report on training targets for the last two financial years.

Having said this, we do want to strongly register a concern. There are some staff members of the Legislature who are members of the ANC. Who cannot differentiate their responsibilities as staff of the Legislature and as members of the ANC. They come to

work as and when they want with no consequence management applied. When they are at work as staff of the Legislature, they continue to behave like the members of the ANC to the extent that they are not doing their work as expected because they think that Legislature is Frans Mohlala house.

This is the same group that holds the view that they are untouchable as they continue to privatise the Legislature. Unfortunately, this includes some members of management who continue to display arrogance in their interaction with junior staff members. These gatekeepers have a sense of entitlement on everything.

Let it be known today that the Legislature belongs to the people of Limpopo, not the ANC. It is drunkenness and madness to think that Legislature belongs to the ANC. They cannot differentiate between the Legislature and their own private kitchens. Some women are in the management unashamedly go to extend of purging other women under their supervision.

What is the reason for the non-award of bursaries to the staff or does it mean that the Legislature is full of academics who have fulfilled their learning thirst? The bursaries should be given to staff members who need them instead of returning the budget. In fact, it is criminal to return budget because it means that all Legislature staff members do not need continuous training and new skills for the benefit of the institution.

Planned workshops must take place, including on policy training, and this will capacitate this institution which has more work in ensuring that the people of Limpopo are served accordingly.

The Legislature must be able to produce its own maintenance report as it has maintenance teams in-house. Why wait for a service provider to help with a report? The envisaged analysis on APPs and targeted 30 research reports could not be met due to work volume. Therefore, this important office must be beefed up as failure or delay to analyse reports from the department and entities could lead to a collapse of governance.

Hon Speaker, adjudication of petitions should be a matter of priority for this House. Any delay negatively affects communities which are already suffering. Therefore, all petitions must be processed within 30 days of presentation. Furthermore, the allocated budget does not correspond with the amount spent. Therefore, an explanation is necessary on this matter in the 2020/21 financial year.

The Legislature must always strive for a clean audit. How do we expect entities and departments to perform and improve their audit outcomes when the Legislature is regressing? The Legislature must explore the possibilities of including electronic assets verification. This will enable assets are verified even when there are pandemics or any situation which may hamper physical verification.

This House must ensure that there is budget provision for interns. Graduates cannot be stranded to find a real work exposure when the House blames budget constraints.

Wellness awareness programme must include financial literacy and gender-based violence for all Members and support teams.

Equipping the library must be a matter of priority, and we urge Members to utilise library services to enhance knowledge.

As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, we need more public hearings, surely our communities are waiting for an opportunity to engage this House.

Is there any assessment report on the impact caused by a moratorium on not filling funded positions on service delivery? More awareness of the Legislature's work is required. Therefore, communications must develop a solid plan to make the Legislature's work a household brand. The Legislature must consider even transport arrangement for support staff on committee oversight visits instead of fitting personal cars with blue lights. The end result of fitting blue lights to individual cars may defeat the actual goal.

Hon Speaker, ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can you conclude, honourable Member.

MR MOHLALA

What is the actual value of the Legislature's precinct as this led to A-G making it an issue with such nondisclosure? We need answers on all the issues raised and please do not thumb suck, gives us proper answers. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, honourable Member. I call upon Hon Phala Katlego. I must indicate that Katlego because we have got two Hon Phala in this House.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We met with the Legislature for the past few quarters engaging them, and after a thorough engagement during the second quarter of the 2021/22 financial year. The committee recommended that:

- The Legislature diaries must be delivered to Members of the Provincial Legislature before the end of the year 2021.
- By then, the committee recommended that the website of the Limpopo Legislature must be updated and should reflect the current business of the institution.

In the third quarter, by then as the committee, we recommended that:

- There was a need for a joint meeting comprising of the Deputy Speaker, Members of the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism and Department of Public Works and South African Police Service to be arranged to discuss all the challenges that were raised in the report of the security services at the Parliamentary Village.

In the fourth quarter, by then, the committee recommended that:

- The Office of the Secretary must always ensure that their outputs on the development of the administrative policies are aligned with the approved Annual Performance Plan to avoid audit queries.
- The Office of the Speaker must always ensure that their outputs of the number of sittings are aligned with the approved Annual Performance Plan to avoid audit queries.
- The Legislature must improve on the performance of the assets management.
- The Legislature must concentrate on the issues of the under expenditure more on the financial and nonfinancial performances.
- By then, we recommended that the fleet management and logistics must always ensure that their output on how transport and logistical services are provided are aligned with the approved Annual Performance Plan and achieved.
- By then, the committee recommended that the human resource management must always ensure that their output on the rollout of employees' trainings is aligned with the approved Annual Performance Plan and actually achieved.
- By then, we recommended that the Legislature must improve on the implementation of wellness programme of the staff and Members of the provincial Legislature.
- By then, as the committee, we recommended that the communication services must always ensure that their output on the publicising of events is aligned with the approved Annual Performance Plan and achieved.
- By then, as the committee, we recommended that the internal audit must always ensure that their target on producing the internal audit report is aligned with the approved Annual Performance Plan to avoid audit queries.
- As the Committee by then, we recommended that the members safety and security must always ensure that their output on producing the security system maintenance report is aligned with the approved Annual Performance Plan.

- As the Committee by then, we recommended that the political support services must always ensure that their output on the political party's trips is aligned with the approved Annual Performance Plan.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much for that cooperation. I call upon Hon Lekganyane. You have seven minutes. [APPLAUSE]

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. Hon Speaker, Ms Molapo, in absentia, the Speaker of the day, Hon Che Selane; Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou; our Hon Premier in absentia, Hon Chair of Chairs, honourable Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, honourable chairpersons of different portfolio committees, all honourable MECs present here, all honourable Members of this august House, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Kgotso ya Modimo a e be le rena.

Hon Speaker, I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, rise to present 2021/22 financial year second quarter report, 2021/22 financial year third quarter report, 2021/22 financial year fourth quarter report and 2020/21 Annual Report of the oversight mechanism for consideration and adoption by this House.

The Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism, met with the Legislature on the 12 July 2022 to deal with the 2021/22 financial year fourth quarter report of the Legislature. The presentation was centred on the overall Budget and Performance Plans for 2021/22 financial year. It is that spirit that, Hon Speaker, we debate the quarters under review and the Annual Report of this committee to ensure that we play the important role of an effective peoples government.

We have raised a concern with regards to tabling and debating of this report. We know very well that there were challenges on COVID-19 pandemic regulations, hence it was business unusual.

We are, however, concerned about the efficacy of our oversight where we now have a tendency to debate multiple quarterly reports in one Sitting as it is the case for instance today. Of lately, due to the challenges mostly related to COVID-19 restrictions, we have not been able to debate our reports in correlation with their presentations in committees. We find ourselves debating all quarterly reports and annual reports in one Sitting, and that is unfair. We should strive at all times to debate within time frames and that allow the departments to take necessary corrective actions where recommendations are been made in the House.

As we continue to play our oversight role, we will continue to demand accountability for the spending of public funds through committees such as Scopa. We would continue to recommend corrective actions to be taken against those who continue to act contrary to what is in the best interest of our public.

It is important that as the Legislature, our role as overseers should continue to support any action taken by law enforcement agencies where serious transgressions have taken place.

In the year under review, the Legislature underperformed on bursaries and training for staff. We understand that due to COVID-19 restrictions, some of the set targets were not achieved. We believe that moving forward this matter shall be attended to. It is important that the staff of the Legislature is continuously capacitated to ensure that they perform their duties to best of their abilities.

The committee noted with a concern that the finance management targeted to conduct one assets verification. However, no assets verification was conducted because the assets verification was deferred to 2022/23 financial year on the first quarter due to some renovation work of a building in the Legislature.

On under-expenditure, the committee noted with a concern that under-expenditure was observed during the 2021/22 financial year in the third quarter, and it was also cited in the committee resolutions of the 2021/22 financial year in the third quarter report. The under-expenditure is recurring in all departments, because of the misalignment between the Annual Performance Plan and the 2021/22 financial year in the fourth quarter report. The committee has also observed the overspending, particularly on the subprogramme of administration and worse with under-expenditure in the cooperate services.

The committee noted with concern that the fleet management and logistics targeted to have one event wherein transport and logistical services will be provided. However, none was undertaken because events are dependent on the requests.

The committee also noted with a concern that human resources management targeted to facilitate one collective agreement. However, no collective agreement was facilitated because it was concluded following a moratorium dated the 14 January 2022.

The committee noted with a concern that a system of the Legislature ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY OF CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

You have one minute left.

MS LEKGANYANE

I have one minute left, ok. Thank you, Hon Speaker. The recommendation is that the Legislature must ensure that they put measures in place to address mitigation of the under-spending.

Hon Speaker, the Committee on Oversight Mechanism recommends that the House adopt the 2021/22 Second Quarter, Third Quarter and Fourth Quarter Reports, and the 2020/21 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature.

I move that this report be adopted as the report of this august House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you. Ke a leboga. A e be kgotso. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Before you proceed, let be the House also note that you were supposed to have tendered the apology. Probably you see that the Premier and The Leader of Government Business are not present in the House. We must send an apology on their behalf that they are committed with the auditors, the A-G. So, that is the reason, and honourable Members must be surprised by their absence in the House. The A-G is here in the province, and they are committed to those kinds of meetings. You can proceed, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker of the day. [LAUGHTER] Yes, indeed, even the Speaker also apologised. She had to rush home and attend to some family matter.

Thank you very much for the inputs that Members have made, recommendations and comments on the working of the Legislature. I think it continues to enhance our work and continue to make us aware of where we falter, and we should be able to improve.

There are several issues that have been raised by Members. If you allow me to just comment on the key ones and the others are more of the recommendations that we can be able to take and see how we can improve

I think there are matters of labour, Public Works; Police; and Treasury which have been raised I think it is a meeting. This matter of the meeting between the three departments and Legislature relates mainly to issues that are more of security. Now, we have met the police. We have been meeting the police several times. We have met the police, and we have met the Public Works. Now one of the issues that was raised in the last meeting with had with police, they came from Pretoria, which then led us to get worried, was that the National Key Point is only the Legislature precinct, and I will explain the difficulty they are having in trying to implement that National Key Point requirements. Initially, we were told that it includes the Parliamentary Village, but in that meeting, we discovered that Parliamentary Village is not included on that decision of a National Key Point; we still have to apply. I am raising this thing of meeting because it seems people think that we are not having engagements with these stakeholders.

The difficulty in the parliamentary precinct is that the parliamentary precinct is within a government complex. We have to separate the parliamentary precinct from the government complex so that they are able then to work within, because it is only this building of the parliamentary precinct that has been declared the National Key Point, not the other structures. The arrangement was that we were going to have another entrance, a separate entrance to the Legislature, but the other difficulty is that we do not have a perimeter fence which protects this area. Now all these are issues that needs to be done before an effective security plan is being put in place by the police for them to be able to implement.

Now, of course, you will know that these buildings are under the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. They have to budget for them. There is no money for us within the budget of the Public Works to be able to do those things. Until those things are done, police cannot do anything. That is why the meeting that is being proposed by the committee and by all of us it is important so that all of us are in one place to discuss this matter, so that we do not meet Public Works and say go and talk to the Legislature. The Legislature says no, go and talk to the Police.

It is a meeting that is important that we must have, so that we able to deal with this issue. I thought I must raise that this discussion would have to continue, but for the Parliamentary Village, if we want it to be National Key Point, we are told that we need to apply for it to be National Key Point. The impression previously by the police and everybody was that it had been declared the National Key Point. That is why they were doing the guard house; they were doing all these things. We thought they were doing it with the understanding the decision of granting a National Key Point was for both, but we discovered that it was not. I say that we agree that this meeting must take place. We will raise it with the Speaker when she comes that this recommendation, we think is important. We must pursue it.

I think the other ones, publicity, poor quality of pictures, those are issues that we will take and ensure that we improve them. Yes, we agree that Local Government Elections must not impede the work of the Legislature, and we should continue working. I think it is a point taken. Proposals on training, yes. I think are key, and we should take them.

I think we all agree that when you are employed by any institution, whether government or Legislature, you are there as an employee of that institution. We expect everyone, whether you are a member of a whatever political party, when you are in a department or you are in the Legislature, you are working for that department, not for your political party. It is matter that, of course, we have got to continue emphasising through programmes that we might develop to make sure that people understand that when they are in public institutions, they work for the public, they are not running their political parties.

On bursaries, every staff member is entitled to get the bursary to pursue their studies, and if there are problems, these are issues that we should raise and make sure that they are attended to.

The library yes, we agreed that people must be able to use the library, and we encourage that people have to access the library and use it effectively because it assists us to

broaden our horizon in terms of knowledge, Hon Phala, and ensure that we effectively participate in the functionality of the Legislature. Probably the assessment report on the vacancies is something that we might have to look at on its impact on the service delivery. I think it is an important matter but also to look at why are those posts vacant and how long had they been vacant, and what are the difficulties in ensuring that we fill them. We agreed that diaries and other instruments that Members require for the following financial year needs to be delivered before the end of the year because it does not make sense for dairies to come midyear for Members to be able to utilise them.

The others, I think they were more of the recommendations. The number of Sittings for the A-G to be able to make a proper opinion, fleet management and logistics to align the output. I think it is more on the recommendation side which we take.

The under expenditure, this thing we have been explaining it during COVID-19 that we could not do certain things which were in the APP, formal meetings, committee meetings, outreach and oversight. It was not easy, but that is how the underspending came about.

I think, Presiding Officer, I have tried to answer everything. If there are other outstanding issues that we did not, we will follow them up and make sure that the Members get proper responses, Hon Mohlala. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We shall now move to item 7.2 which is the consideration and adoption of the following reports: 7.2.1 2021/22 Second Quarter Report of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development by the committee chairperson.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, I, Masekoameng Mmabogahla Isaiah, hereby move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of 2021/22 Second Quarter financial and performance report of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as it appears on the ATC be adopted as a report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Is there any seconder? Adv Phala, you are recognised. Phala, the man.

ADV PHALA

Ke be ke lebelela gore Mohlomphegi Seshoka, o gona naa; gore a kgone go bona Mohlomphegi Masekoameng "Messina" ge a tliša tšhišinyo. I second the motion, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thobela. 7.2.2, the 2021/22 third quarter report of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you again, Hon Speaker and the honourable Members with Hon Seshoka. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee of Agriculture and Rural Development, I, Masekoameng Mmabogahla Isaiah, hereby move that the report on the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the 2021/22 Third Quarter financial and performance report of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as it appear on the ATC be adopted as a report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, committee chairperson. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, honourable Chairperson. I, Falaza Mdaka, rise to second the motion as raised by Hon Masekoameng. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. 7.2.3, the 2021/22 fourth quarter report. I call upon the committee.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you again, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, I, Masekoameng Mmabogahla Isaiah, hereby move that the report on the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of 2021/22 fourth quarter financial performance report of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as it appears on the ATC be adopted as a report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable chair. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the people responsible for managing the soil of this province, I stand to second the proposed report as put forward by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Item 7.2.4 is the 2020/21 Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you again, Hon Speaker and honourable Members including Hon Seshoka. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, I, Masekoameng Mmabogahla Isaiah, hereby move that the report on the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of 2020/21 Annual Report of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as it appears on the ATC be adopted as a report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable chairperson. Hon Seshoka, is that a hand? No, I wanted to check because I saw the hand. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Mathye Violet, you are recognised.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Seshoka, the Acting Speaker. The Hon Speaker, I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise to second the tabling of the report on Agriculture by the chairperson, Hon Masekoameng. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mathye. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Each speaker is allocated time, and the Whips in the Programming Committee they have agreed upon the time which is allocated. I hope and believe that the honourable Members will strictly adhere to the time allocated. The first speaker on the list is Hon Simon Mathe, who has seven minutes.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Manana Xipikara. I need assistance; I cannot see anything. I do not see anything. Switch off this thing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I think you are now fine, Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Selane and Members of this House. As it is a procedure, the committee executed its constitutional mandate as part of oversight function on whether the programmes of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development unfolded as planned and to an extent which the department has performed on its 2020/21 Budget.

Hon Speaker, the agricultural sector is critical for the economic development of the rural areas and the country as a whole. Therefore, our programme of rural development, land reform and agrarian reform must be integrated into a clear strategy that seeks to empower the poor. The higher food prices are impacting negatively on the purchasing power of the poorest of the poor in our province. Thus, it is important that this budget should also speak to providing solutions to cushion the poor.

Our short-term intervention measures should ensure that they provide safety nets for the poor. Having said that, the disparities that still exist within our country, especially between the urban and rural areas, after almost more than 28 years of democracy are startling. The development of our rural areas has not taken place at a fast enough pace, and people who live in these areas are still plagued by extreme poverty and lack of food security. This is an unacceptable situation, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development must do more to correct the situation and afford the rural areas the required attention, funding and expertise that they need to escape the cycle of poverty in which they are trapped.

As a portfolio committee, we recommend that the department's initiatives and programmes aimed at achieving rural development must be re-examined, and if needs be, modified or changed in order to speed up the pace of development in the rural areas.

The Annual Performance Plan for the 2020/21 financial year, the department was allocated the total adjusted Budget of R1,698 billion to eight key programmes. Looking at the departmental performance, it is worth noting with concern that only one black farmer instead of the targeted seven farmers was supported; also, 1580 instead of 4887 black producers were supported with agricultural inputs. The underachievement was because of project completion as delayed due to skewed progress of work by contractors.

The department also reported that 180 instead of the targeted 350 farmers were trained on the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), and the underachievement was due to COVID-19 protocols, which affected training of farmers owing to restriction on gatherings. Members, in the same vein, the department is encouraged to accelerate the sustainability of irrigation schemes and productivity thereof, considering a large amount of money pumped into these farmers support programmes. Agricultural productivity in the province has declined as the result of challenges of collapsed, unproductive farms and irrigation schemes which are largely due to unresolved conflicts among beneficiaries. An example of such is Makgoba Tea Estate.

As the remedial plan, the department should ensure that a programme of action is designed and implemented for the restoration of the collapsed irrigation schemes and ensure other necessary interventions through investigations in relation to illegal dams and ensure stability in the land reform farms in the province.

In terms of job creation, the committee noted the report that the department could not place the targeted 120 graduates in agricultural enterprise for practical skills development which was initially planned for quarter three. The underachievement is reported to be due

to the recruitment process, which took longer as COVID-19 regulations had to be adhered to with regards to gathering of people and social distancing.

The department is encouraged to paddle down the provision of support to unemployed graduates through skills development. Members must bear in mind that education plays a crucial role in developing our mental strength which is the hallmark for success ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

May you conclude.

MR MATHE

As I conclude, without indicating others. Hon Speaker, it is recommended that the department should work with private sector partners and communities to identify gaps in farmer support size that could be developed with the aim to promote sector of our interests. We believe 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 among all the province's citizens. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. We shall now call upon Hon Jetrick, not Cetrick; Jetrick Seshoka. It must be pronounced properly because I know honourable Members will always say Cedrick. It is not C it is J, Jetrick Seshoka. Thank you, Hon Jetrick Seshoka. You have five minutes.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to EFF caucus, the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Members of this august House.

Hon Speaker, the EFF in Limpopo dispel the myth that the food security in this country is only attributed to white farmers. Black farmers too, if given the necessary support can ensure that there is food security in South Africa, particularly in Limpopo Province. The importance of food security cannot be over-emphasised. We have got lots of people who are willing to be active participants in the value chain of agriculture. However, a lack of support is discouraging them.

The EFF is disappointed that smallholder farmers continue to be marginalised by irrigation scheme support, resulting in the total collapse of their farming operations. Many of them had to close shop because government support is not forthcoming; hence the local economy is going through serious difficulties.

It is a fallacy of generalisation that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have a farmers' support unit. Instead, the department through CASP, Letsema, Land Care

programme and other conditional grants, is engaging in cash distribution to politically connected individuals, friends of politicians and officials who are masquerading as businesspeople.

The EFF in Limpopo is disappointed that in the midst of inadequate food security in this country and the narrow participation of previously marginalised farmers, the department opted to underspend on Farmers' Support Programme. The above should be regarded as a treason, primarily that without proper consistent farmer support, there shall be no food security and participation of emerging farmers in the mainstream aspects in agriculture.

In the financial year under review, programme 3, which is agriculture producer support, which is allocated 58% of the total budget of the department and regarded as a core business of the department recorded under expenditure of 12%, that is R160 million in value money. This department surrendered this money for programme three to national coffers, which was allocated to support emerging farmers while young farmers like Vincent Rapeta of Nkukeng Farming in Molemole were still struggling with incomplete infrastructure. Farmers of Tswelopele in Fetakgomo-Tubatse struggling with the infrastructure; livestock farmers are battling with fencing to prevent the spreading of foot-and-mouth disease in Vhembe, and many more other farmers that are still in need of agricultural support.

The most disgusting thing in that is the department has overspent on programmes 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to the tune of R26 million but the same programmes recorded underperformance on their targets. This lack of correlation between expenditure and actual performance is a call of concern MEC. The MEC must explain to this august House this mismatch between expenditure and actual performance. What is the strategy department having to improve the bad situation in programme three?

This House and the people of Limpopo must know that the Department of Agriculture in the previous financial year has surrendered almost R100 million back to the National Treasury. The money that was allocated to support the emerging farmers. Since 2019, the department has underspent almost R500 million. This figure will continue to increase as the department does not have the capacity to meet its target and such failure goes unpunished. The trend has been that in 2019/20, the department has spent 96% of its budget. In 2022/21, it has spent 95% of its budget. In 2021/22, the current budget that is under review, the department's underspending is sitting at 94%.

The EFF needs an explanation from the Premier and the MEC. Why do they hate the black farmers so much? With all these revelations, the HOD and senior management are still enjoying their benefits as if all is well. Truth be told, the cadre deployment is not a problem; the problem is the ANC for putting wrong people who are relatives and friends to both politicians and officials.

The agriparks concept remains a pipe dream, and the people of Limpopo were promised lies by the lying government of the ANC, which is led by a group of liars. In the 2020/21 financial year, Vleischboom Farmer Production Support Unit (FPSU) was completed, only waiting electricity connection. Still in this financial year, this FPSU is yet to be operational

because of the same problem with electricity. It took old whole liberation movement, two years, for the old liberation movement to connect a mere electricity in a project that it has been targeted or used as a catalyst to the development. Tše tšona e no ba dilo tša batho. The question we ask the MEC is, how far is the department with the implementation of our agriparks? How many FPSUs were planned in 2017, and how many are operational?

The R100 million to Norjax Tomato Paste Project remain one of the biggest scandals in the department, and the portfolio committee has resolved that a forensic investigation to be done to unearth the truth in this project. The EFF will continue to pursue this matter until those who are responsible for this fruitless and wasteful expenditure are brought to book in the interest of our accountability and promotion of good governance. Hon Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

The time is up.

MR SESHOKA

In conclusion, the EFF call for MEC to pull up her socks and get her hands dirty in this department, because she presides the department that is harbouring laziness, incompetency and high-level of ill-discipline. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. I call upon Hon Jacobus Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Not even my mother calls me with that name but thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The department was allocated a total original budget of R1,68 billion to seven key programmes for the financial year.

The Veterinary Programme of the department only managed to conduct 1 575 instead of 3 750 visits to epidemiological units for veterinary interventions because there were fewer requests from clients. The department further reported that the department conducted 420 instead of the targeted 940 dipping sessions due to low turnout by farmers for dipping the cattle.

The department should be concerned by the lack of commitments by farmers, and more must be done as this is a critical part of safeguarding animals against diseases and other outbreaks like FMD. Cattle in the vaccinated portion of the FMD protected zone should routinely be vaccinated every four months, including vaccination of first-time vaccinated cattle after three-four weeks if applicable. These vaccinations must be recorded on the owners' stock card as well as in the cattle registers kept by animal health technicians and state veterinarians, and in electronic records kept at provincial level.

The agricultural engineering subprogramme must provide support to small-scale farmers according to industry standards regarding irrigation, mechanisation, value-adding, farm structures and resource conservation management.

In terms of infrastructure, the department will establish 48 agricultural infrastructures and equip 255 hectares with infield irrigation systems, while 22 efficient water use systems will be developed. The department has also planned to establish nine livestock infrastructures and to develop one norms and standards document for infrastructure projects.

In terms of climate smart agriculture technologies, the department will construct nine environmentally controlled production centres. We are, however, concerned about the progress of the revitalisation of these irrigation schemes. The progress report on the irrigation schemes in the programme, including other irrigation schemes such as Setlaboswane, Elandskraal and Apel, was also worrisome.

An investigation into the procurement process by the SIU followed in the 2016/17 financial year on the fencing project was still in progress on the date of the A-Gs report. The investigation included whether the procurement in awarding the fencing tender was fair, equitable, competitive and cost-effective and in line with applicable legislation. The report has now indicated instances of maladministration that has led to unwanted expenditure.

A total of R62 727 166.00 of irregular expenditure was incurred, and the then chief financial officer and former supply chain management director were allegedly found wanting in the performance of their duties. We are also very concerned that 47 employees of government did business with the department without disclosing their personal interests. Nine direct ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

May you conclude, honourable Member.

MR SMALLE

In conclusion, nine direct employees of the department did business with the department, and we expect that the HOD and the MEC to implement the necessary disciplinary processes. We need to do much more for our agricultural colleges so that they do become the first choice of entry for our young learners who wants to study agriculture in our province. Thank you, Hon Speaker and the MEC.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Jacobus Smalle. I call upon Hon Marcelle Maritz. This one is two minutes, and you are the whip representing there. You know exactly the time allocated. Thank you very much.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The report shows that the dipping project was a failure as the farmers did not have graze for their cattle. The department should have assisted these farmers. If this is part of the project of young upcoming farmers, then they are set up for failure. Small farmers need assistance to grow and become part of the market for the future of Limpopo's agricultural and red meat product.

The department is quick to report on how many new farmers they have assisted, but they could have done more. The under expenditure of R99 million could have helped those farmers who did not have graze for their cattle which means the cattle that they are not in good condition can still spread the foot-and-mouth disease as they could be given the vaccination.

It is a great concern to see that 112 graduates were not employed because personal suitable checks were not made in time. However, the department should do suitable checks before the programme to ensure that the graduates are employable because there are other young people that could have gotten these opportunities, and it is wasted resources.

Urgent attention is required to computers and livestock that were stolen and should have been held to accountable. It is time for the department to step up and make sure that the contractors are staying on schedule as this is difficult to meet targets and delaying production. There should be penalties implemented against the contractors that did not fulfil the contractual agreements.

Hon Speaker, as we know that the Department of Agriculture is a very good and important division for the province as they feed the province and the nation, and we need to keep on securing the food security. If you have eaten today, thank the farmer. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Maritz. You are the first person after all the speakers, who have just strictly complied with time, without being told 'any conclusion', thanks. I hope other speakers who will be coming must follow in your footsteps. You are the best person who has complied with time. We shall now call upon Hon Isaiah Masekoameng, you have seven minutes.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you, Hon Speaker of the day, Deputy Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable chairperson, you are allowed to come forth.

MR MASEKOAMENG

I am allowed, Deputy Speaker, but I will be here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable chairperson, I think it is advisable as the chairperson of the portfolio committee and for proper capturing and recording.

MR MASEKOAMENG

No, I am here. Is it this thing is working, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Speaker of the day, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Chief Whip, Hon Deputy Chief Whip, Honourable MEC, Ndalane; honourable Members and guests in the gallery, greetings to you all.

Hon Speaker, we appreciate the good work this department is doing in farmer support, development and veterinary services. We also encourage this department to prioritise youth, disabled and women farmers in the key commodities such as citrus, avocado, fishery and cattle farming.

We appreciate that this department received an unqualified audit opinion. However, this department should be receiving a clean audit. The reason that they do not get clean audit is that they do not seriously follow the advice from the Auditor-General and the recommendations from this portfolio committee. The irregular expenditures are occurring in every financial year. This will never stop until such time the accounting officer and the MEC take serious action or sanctions against officials committing such anormal.

Imagine an official channelling over R5 million to his or her friend or family members and getting a punishment of a final written warning. This amount to encouraging officials to act in a corrupt manner because the punishment itself encourages officials to continue with such irregular and wasteful expenditure.

Based on the above scenario, we urge the MEC and the accounting officer to ensure that they implement corrective and consequence management actions proportional to the offences.

The Norjax Tomato Paste Project is a pain in the heart of this portfolio committee. We cannot understand why in the first place, this department invested over R75 million on a private land? Compounding the pain is the fact that the department also paid a contractor in full for a job that is not completed. For this, we do not need to wait for an investigation, the department must deal with the officials and the contractor that is involved or be prosecuted, or sued people must start to pay back the money or else it will be business as usual in this department.

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development with relevant stakeholders must ensure that land ownership is resolved and that this project becomes operational as a matter of urgency. If this department can avoid deviation from supply chain management procedures, it will receive a clean audit and refrain from audit queries. As reported in one engagement with this department, we are further concerned by the delays in procurement of productions inputs aimed at supporting farmers and appointment of contractors. The department must improve the process to secure

effectiveness in the supply chain management to prevent delays in infrastructure development and appointment of contractors ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable chairperson, can you wait. I see the hand. What is that hand for?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, Presiding Officer. We have just received the message from the transcribers. They say they can hear from that mic, and they cannot be able transcribe, if the speaker can come and use the mic in front. They say they have difficulty to here from that mic. They cannot transcribe. So, they are requesting that you use this mic.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Like I said, honourable chairperson, perhaps it is advisable that you come in front so that they are able to capture properly.

MR MASEKOAMENG

In that case, it is okay.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Okay.

MR MASEKOAMENG

I beg for it, eish. Should I start afresh, Hon Speaker? Can I start afresh?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

You can proceed where you have left.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Can I proceed?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Yes.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Have you recorded it?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

You can proceed.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Let's start afresh, it is better to start afresh.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

All right, start afresh.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Chief Whip, Hon Deputy Chief Whip, MEC Ndalane; honourable Members and guests in the gallery, greetings to you all this morning.

Hon Speaker, we are appreciating the good work this department is doing in farmers' support and development, and veterinary services. We also encourage this department to prioritise youth, disabled persons and women farmers in key commodities such as citrus, avocado, fishery and cattle farming. We appreciate that this department received an unqualified audit opinion. However, this department should be receiving a clean audit. The reason that they do not get clean audit is that they do not seriously follow the advice from the Auditor-General and the recommendations from this portfolio committee.

The irregular expenditures are occurring in every financial year, and this will never stop until such time the accounting officer, and the MEC take serious actions or sanctions against officials committing such anormal. Imagine an official channelling over R5 million to his or her friend or family members and getting a punishment of a final written warning. This amount to encouraging officials to act in a corrupt manner because the punishment itself encourages officials to continue with such irregular and wasteful expenditure.

Based on the above scenario, we urge the MEC and accounting officer to ensure that they implement corrective and consequence management actions proportional to the offences.

The Norjax Tomato Paste Project is a pain in the heart of this portfolio committee. We cannot understand why in the first place, this department invested over R75 million on private land? Compounding the pain is the fact that the department also fully paid a contractor for the job that was not completed. For this, we do not need to wait for an investigation. The department must deal with the officials, and the contractor involved. If prosecuted or sued, people must start to pay back the money or else it will be business as usual in this department.

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development with relevant stakeholders must ensure that land ownership is resolved and that this project becomes operational as a matter of urgency. If this department can avoid deviation from supply chain management procedure, it will receive a clean audit and refrain from audit queries.

As reported in one of our engagements with the department, we are further concerned by the delays in procurement of production inputs aimed at supporting farmers and the appointment of contractors. The department must improve the processes to ensure effectiveness in the supply chain management to prevent delays in infrastructure development and the appointment of contractors.

In our engagement with this department, the portfolio committee advised this department to stop recurring audit matters of emphasis, particularly the executive management, including failure to monitor internal controls; financial statement full of material, misstatement, noncompliance to supply chain procedures, under spending and a tendency of submitting financial statements that does not comply with the legal requirements.

In conclusion, honourable MEC, through you, Hon Speaker, we are saying all these because we are confident that this department can achieve a clean audit opinion. It is our wish that this department must receive a clean audit opinion with such a matter of emphasis. We are longing to observe a standing ovation for this department should they receive a clean audit opinion. We believe this is more possible, especially in this department. Amend the unwanted audit findings and implement the recommendations by the portfolio committee. Amen, thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Masekoameng. You are the second person. In actual fact, because of time management, you are the first person now to comply strictly with the time allocated. You could not even finish, the time was still galore. Maybe Hon Seshoka is also thinking that time should be added to his time so that he can complete the speech, but that was also on the lighter note, honourable Members. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC to respond to the observations made by the honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Speaker, inhlikanhi. Honourable Members of the Legislature, chairperson of the portfolio committee, honourable Members in this House, honourable Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, and the Deputy Speaker I am sorry for the omission, I bring you greeting as we are wrapping up the event of Mandela as you will recall that his day it is celebrated through the whole world. As a department, we also had a several activities to honour the first democratically elected President, Tata Nelson Mandela.

Hon Speaker, from the bottom of our heart, we must thank the portfolio committee for the role of oversight they are conducting. This is really helping us to accelerate service delivery. As the department, we shall make sure that there is a monitoring mechanism and enforcing the agreement. We have a plan in place to make sure that the training of farmers should never clash with agricultural production of the same farmers.

The activities that were targeted for the second quarter of 2021/22 will be reported in the next quarter report. Through the intervention from the Office of the Premier, Treasury and

the national department, we shall try by all means to curb the spread and further outbreaks of the foot-and-mouth diseases. We need to indicate that we have been doing that through the various roadblocks in our province, and I hope you have seen that.

As the department, we shall make sure that there should be no delays in the appointment of the contractors. The under expenditure on infrastructure projects will be avoided at all costs. Although electricity is a competency of Eskom, we shall try by all means to assist the farmers.

The observations by the portfolio committee on the issue of Norjax is a serious cause for concern. It is worthy reporting that the Provincial Treasury has recently appointed a forensic team to look on the issue. As per Annual Plan, we shall support the youth farmers. As part of the clean governance, we shall make sure that the officials should never temper with supply chain regulations.

I must assure Members of this House that disciplinary actions will be taken against any official who deviate from supply chain policies. Hon Speaker, on the issue of transfers of the colleges as raised by the committee, we must reiterate that although it is the competency of the national department, we shall in the meantime assist the students in getting bursaries.

As I conclude, I will round up the debate. We should once more appreciate the role of the portfolio committee in conducting oversight. Let us continue doing it for Mandela, and I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.3 Consideration and adoption of the following reports for the Portfolio Committee on Social Development

7.3.1 2021/22 second quarter report

I call upon the committee chair.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Social Development Portfolio Committee, I, Sarah Monyamane, present the second quarter report of 2021/22 for consideration and adoption by this House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can we call for a seconder? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I second Hon Monyamane. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Seono. 7.3.2 the 2021/22 third quarter report. I call upon the committee chair.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Social Development Portfolio Committee, I, Sarah Monyamane, present the Third Quarter Report of 2021/22 for consideration and adoption by this House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can we now for a seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga Modulasetulo. Nna, Joshua Leswafo Matlou, ke e ma go thekga se ba se bolelago gore a ebe sona se se dirwago. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. We shall refer to the Speakers' List. Like what I have said, time has been allocated the same. We shall then call upon Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the committee met with the department and received accountability on the reports we are debating today. We welcome the spending of 51% by the department during the second quarter for 2021/22 financial year. However, the department had overspent by 51% of the 50% norm of its total expenditure for the period under review. We must indicate that even during the quarter under review, there was underspending on the Restorative Services programme. The department spent 40% on the same programme of the allocated budget. The department must ensure that money is spent according to its target. This overspending on other programmes might cause a shortfall of other targets to be achieved in the other quarters.

We have observed that the department is still behind in achieving its employment equity in the positions of senior management. The department regressed on the performance of 2021/22 second quarter by 1,6% of 46% against the 47,6% of the first quarter. We are aware that the year 2020 and 2021, the country entered uncharted water of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that would be unreasonable for the department to state as a reason for not achieving the targets. The department must work hard to ensure that this financial year the employment equity is achieved.

We commend the department for maintaining the target for 2% of people living with disability. We hope that this achievement could be increased in case anything happens to the department's target.

We are concerned that the department is unable to absorb social work graduates. During our sight visit to Mankweng Social Services offices, we have discovered that $\pm 50\%$ of the social workers was still not absorbed. The department presented that the matter is unable to be resolved because of financial constraints. The ANC manifesto emphasises that there must be the creation of quality jobs and the improvement of the lives of the citizens of this country. Therefore, it is important for the department ensures that quality jobs are created more so that these social work studies were funded by the department. We believe that the moratorium on filling of posts will be lifted, and funds for funded positions will be made available. Treasury could assist in this regard because we cannot assist people with our own funds and do not create employment for them. We further believe that when they were funded, there was a plan to ensure that upon completion, they will use their knowledge and skills for the betterment of the lives of the people of this province.

In the second quarter Saselamani Infrastructure Project was still not completed, and the project started during the 2017/18 financial year. The project was planned to be completed in the financial year 2019/20, and it was implemented by the IDT. It is of great concern that the implementing agencies are not implementing projects according to schedule, and they are failing the department to meet their targets and to spend on their allocated budget. The department must ensure that projects are monitored from the beginning to the last so that whenever there are challenges, they are able to address them immediately. We hope and believe that in the financial year 2022/23, the problem will be addressed.

We are concerned that the department could not implement the grade progression. When briefing the committee, they said there were challenges of liability in terms of accelerating the grade progression during the quarter under review. However, they reported that the preliminary financial implication amounting to R80 million was presented to the Treasury so as to secure funds for this matter. They indicated that all affected employees will receive payment before the 25 December 2021. The committee welcomed progress made and expressed that these employees have waited for payment since 2013. We will play an oversight role to confirm if indeed employees received what they deserve before the set date.

The committee noted with appreciation that challenge regarding lack of a supply chain management system controller had been resolved. It was further noted that LOGIS system controllers were appointed in all five districts of the province, and officials were trained for functional system control by the Treasury.

We observed that in the third quarter, the department could not procure the water tanks for 51 funded ECD centres in the Vhembe Region. They reported that they would be delivered in January 2022. The committee will play its oversight role to make sure that they are delivered. However, it was reported that the tank stands for the 50 sites where manufactured, and they are ready for installation.

We are concerned about the longstanding matter of GaPhasha-Selatole One-Stop-Centre. It does not make sense that a huge amount of money is spent on such a huge infrastructure only to find that it is built on private property. The implementing department must take responsibility on the loss of money. The House should be furnished with a progress report concerning this matter, and the department must institute consequence management against officials who were reckless from the beginning of the erection of this project.

In conclusion, we encourage the department to implement all the recommendations as per the committee report of the second and third quarter of 2021/22 financial year. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Aphiri. [APPLAUSE] We shall now call Hon Manamane “Charlie” Charles Mohlala. You have five minutes.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings once more, Hon Speaker, and the House. Hon Speaker, just like other departments in this province, the Department of Social Development is on autopilot. It is even more shocking that there are permanent staff that this department pays on a monthly basis for doing nothing. Our people must not look forward to service delivery from this department anytime soon because it is honestly not going to happen now or in the future. We want to know, what is the status of 21 existing infrastructure of departmental offices or one-stop-centres in relation to maintenance?

There were some serious delays with regard to Waterberg Cluster 2. What is the cause of these delays, and what is the current status of this infrastructure? What is the current status in relation to the water shortage and hot water reticulation challenge at Shiluvana Frail Care Centre?

The EFF is concerned over delayed payments of some Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres. This is completely unacceptable. It can never be that ECD centres are not paid on time. This affects the day-to-day operations of the centres. It is clear that this government does not care about the future of our children as much as they do not care about all of us.

The same things can be said about the underspending on ECD Presidential Employment Initiatives. Why do you underspend on this programme when most of our people, especially the young needs jobs? Why this department is not sensitive to the socio-economic needs of our people when they have pronounced themselves that they are a caring government? Clearly, these are not the actions of the caring government. Furthermore, a payment of 1719 ECDs and 8506 employees was outstanding in the second quarter of 2021/22 financial year. It is clear that the ECD practitioners continue to earn slavery wages with no benefits at all. They continue to receive this stipend late because it would be wrong to call it peanut salaries. The MEC for Social Development

receives his salary on a monthly basis without failure. Why should the poor receive their stipend late?

Furthermore, a department underperformed on victims of crime and violence accessing support. Meaning that they do not care about the plight of the crime of the victims of crime and violence. Where must the victims go for support if you are not willing to support them? Who must support them, and at what expense? Is it not the responsibility of the department to support victims of crime and violence? If the answer is yes, why are you not performing your duties as expected? Underperformance is the buzz word in the department, and they seem to be comfortable and unshaken by the governance approach. They are convinced that they are applying the right leadership style and governance principles when things are getting out of hand.

The committee expressed concern about the delays in transferring funds to NPOs during the 2021/22 financial year. What is the status of the installation of 37 outstanding water tanks and in funded ECDs in the fourth quarter? Surely you cannot expect the ECDs to operate smoothly and perform without water. Children and employees at the centres need water to drink. Can the MEC update us about unauthorised expenditure amounting to R10,4 million incurred on Seshego Treatment Centre? This is the thorn in the flesh of the department as this longstanding issue continues to torment them. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mohlala, for compliance with time, and this must be registered as for the first time. I call upon Hon Phala Katlego.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Having interacted with the department on its 2021/2022 second quarter performance report, the committee recommends that the department should:

- Provide progress report with regards to addressing Employment Equity Act in relation to women in senior management positions.
- Prioritise the employment of social workers graduated upon receiving additional funding.
- That the department should provide a progress report in relation to the filling of critical funded posts.
- That the Saselamani Infrastructure Project should be expedited and handed over to the end-users. This will address the issue of lack of office space to social services officials.
- That the department should conduct a thorough investigation on Dzumeri land prior to the infrastructure construction to avoid GaPhasha-Selatole One-Stop-Centre matter.
- That the department should provide a progress report with regards to grade progression upon receipt by affected employees in the third quarter.
- That the department should resolve 38 outstanding A-G audit findings and strive for a unqualified report.

- Provide progress report on Shiluvana Frail Care Centre, water shortage and procuring of medication at the Seshego Depot Centre.
- Provide progress on infrastructure maintenance on office buildings on a quarterly basis.
- Provide progress on the procuring of school uniforms by NPOs on a quarterly basis. List of the schools that the uniform was distributed and a number of school uniforms per school.
- Victim Empowerment Programmes (VEPs) were a critical role in communities and the necessary support and resources to perform their duties effectively. Therefore, the department was recommended to address the matters raised by VEPs as a matter of urgency.
- The department was recommended to provide a progress report with regards to the supply of 51 outstanding water tanks in Vhembe District in its third quarter.
- Report progress regarding the implementation of the gender-based violence (GBV) action plan on a quarterly basis.
- Provide progress in relation to the outstanding 251 NPOs payment transfers.
- The department was recommended to update the committee regarding the delayed maintenance of existing departmental offices or one-stop-centres in Waterberg District, Cluster 2.
- Resolve 28 outstanding A-G audit findings and strive for a clean audit report.
- Provide progress report on Shiluvana Frail Care Centre again in its third quarter.
- The department was recommended to provide on 1 170 outstanding transfers of payments on NPOs.

The department was recommended to provide a quarterly report on the long outstanding issues listed below, as a solution should be found by the end of the financial year which were:

- Unauthorised expenditure amounting to R10,4 million incurred on Seshego Treatment Centre,
- Filling of critical funded posts,
- Progress on Shiluvana Frail Care Centre, and
- Resolution on the land issue regarding GaPhasha One-Stop-Centre.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Phala. I call upon Hon Sarah Monyamane, the committee chairperson.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Premier in absentia, the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Chair of Chairs, Hon Mashamaite; Deputy Chairs of Chairs, as the Acting Speaker for today, honourable Members of this august House.

Hon Speaker, we commend the department for spending within its financial capacity in the second quarter. We will work together with the department during our oversight role to ensure that the budget is spent according to approved targets. The department should

ensure that when their quarterly expenditure exceeds the norm, it will not affect their annual budget. We are saying this, because the department in the second quarter had overspent by 1%.

The department had capacity challenges at the level of senior management in the second quarter. We appreciated the report from the department that filling critical posts which were funded was underway. The department reported that the post of chief financial officer, chief director for social services, deputy director for acquisition and demand, an assistant director for expenditure and account were advertised and will be filled before the end of the 2021/22 financial year. It was also reported that the recruitment plan was approved by the Provincial Treasury. The filling of these posts will go a long way in addressing the lack of capacity in the department. We believe that the department will also improve on the audit opinion. However, the department should ensure that the new staff to be employed should be trained to increase their capacity.

We have noted that the department was behind in transferring funds to victim empowerment centres. Those centres also required assistance regarding training on management and other resources, and such late payments deprive them of an opportunity to make improvement, and some of them become helpless. We will work with the department to ensure that these challenges are addressed as a matter of urgency.

We have observed that the department is well on course in terms of spending the budget in the third quarter. Given its budget, the expenditure of R1,671 million, which was 72% of the total allocation, it was slightly below the 75% expenditure norm by 3%. The department must ensure that it spends money according to its key performance indicators. We commend the department for making a commitment to pay the occupational specific dispensation before December 2021. The department reported that payment was implemented for outstanding accelerated pay progression. We will make a follow-up to ensure that payment was effected.

We have noted a delay in terms of maintenance of one-stop-centres in Waterberg Cluster 2. While other one-stop-centres are being refurbished. The department reported that the delay was due to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure not appointing the service provider on time. The department committed that the service provider will be appointed in November 2021. The committee will make a follow-up during its oversight in ensuring that, indeed, the one-stop-centre in Waterberg Cluster 2 is maintained.

We noticed that there were challenges regarding the transitional process of Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. The department committed that the challenges will be resolved by Social Development and the Department of Health. We believe that in the fourth quarter the department would be able to provide progress report concerning the centre.

We were concerned about the stoppage by Seshego Pharmaceutical Depot in terms of providing Life Esidimeni with medication. The challenge was reported in the second quarter and remained unresolved in the third quarter. The department should provide a plan in the fourth quarter on how the challenge will be resolved because people who stay in the centre required medical attention.

Hon Speaker, we are also concerned about the nonattendance of HOD in this House while we engage on serious matters concerning the department. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable chairperson, to be the one amongst those who are complying with time. We shall now call upon the MEC to respond to the observations by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT]

Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, honourable Members of the Legislature, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, I greet you all. On behalf of the MEC Dr Masemola, who is in a meeting with the A-G on the matters of audit, I hereby acknowledge the inputs made by honourable Members on matters of importance relating to service delivery to the people of the province. The issues will receive the attention of the department as we continue to perfect and sharpen the system. We appreciate the advice and oversight given by the by the portfolio committee led by Hon Monyamane. What is pleasing to us as the department is the fact that we are meeting when the COVID-19 restrictions have been relaxed.

Hon Speaker, you will recall that our bigger portion of our budget was focusing mainly on assisting people who were in dire need for food. We are taking note of the outstanding payments of ECD staff members. We shall make sure that we have a clean audit by trying to resolve the 28 outstanding A-G findings.

The following had been taken care of:

- The filling of vacant posts, and
- Provide progress on Shiluvana Frail Care Centre.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.4 Consideration and adoption of the following report on the Portfolio Committee for Health

7.4.1 2021/22 second quarter report of the Department of Health

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga Mosepediši wa Modiro, Mospikara wa lehono, Mohlomphegi Selane. Bjalo ka Modulasetulo wa Komiti ya Kgoro ya Maphelo mo Limpopo ke be ke kgopela Ngwako wo gore o lebeledišišwe pego ya ngwaga wa 2021/22 ya Kotara ya 2. Ke kgopela gore e lebeledišišwe e be e amogelwe. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable chairperson. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Selamolela, Doso Donald Selelo, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Ke a leboga Mospikara wa lehono. Ke ema go thekga pego ye e tlišitšwego ke Modulasetulo wa Komiti ya Maphelo mo profenseng.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. 7.4.2 The 2021/22 third quarter report. I call upon the committee chair.

MR MATLOU

Ndza khensa mufambisi wa ntirho, Muchaviseki Xipikara. Ndzi ri mutshamaxitulu wa Komiti ya Rihanyu laha xifundzeninkulu xa Limpopo, ndzi lava ku kombela Yindlu leyi leswaku yi languta mhaka ya xiviko xa kotara ya vunharhu xa lembeximali ra 2021/22 leswaku xi amukeriwa. Inkomu.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Ha khensa. Can we call for a seconder? Adv Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Ha khensa swinene mufambisi wa ntirho. Ndzi lava ku seketela mutshamaxitulu wa komiti eka xiviko lexi tisiweke eNdlwini leyi. [APPLAUSE] [LAUGHTER]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Adv Phala. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. I call upon Hon Rebecca Mmaishibe Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Hon Chief Whip of the ruling party, Deputy Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, MEC Hon Ndalane, chairpersons of portfolio committees and honourable Members of this august House, I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, the year 2021 was a difficult year in which we had entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. We commend the department for the sterling work done on how they managed the pandemic. We also commend and thank the people of Limpopo for their patience and observation of COVID-19 protocols. It was not an easy task, and indeed perseverance and observation of those protocols saved millions of lives.

The department operated under reduced budget allocation and still managed to pull through the mammoth task of implementing some of the services. At the end of quarter two, the department was expected to have spent 50% of its budget allocation of R21,9 billion. However, the overall expenditure was 42,9%. The under expenditure that was reported was on programme six, which is health science and training, where the department spent 38,1%. Another underspending occurred in healthcare support at 27% and health facility management at 21,6%. The department must work hard to improve its implementation of services and according to the Annual Performance Plan targets. Underspending by the department will always lead to undesirable audit opinion.

We commanded the department on reducing its accruals during the quarter under review, which was a recurrence from the previous financial years. The department reported that the payment of suppliers within 30 days was at 95% during the second quarter of the 2021/22 financial year. However, the department reported that it did not have human capital and ICT solution system that can manage the high number of invoices brought by the introduction of the direct delivery model.

We have noted that the department had a challenge of human capital at the pharmaceutical depot that caused the non-payment of invoices. We noted also that the department was inconsistent with its reporting about delays in the payments of invoices of the past financial years. In the first quarter 2021/22 financial year, it was reported that the delays in payments were due to poor connectivity, which affects BAS and LOGIS. This was a concern which impressed on the committee that the real reason was hidden, and it should be addressed. The department should investigate the real reason that caused accruals. If there are accruals involved, consequence management should be instituted. Small businesses cannot suffer because of officials who derelict their duties.

In healthcare services, the department deals with patients experience of care satisfaction rate, which was reported to be at 81% in the second quarter from the 65% targeted. We commend the department for achieving and exceeding its target in the second quarter.

The department reported that this was due to improvement in cleanliness through the infection, prevention and control, which is IPC programme. However, the department had not yet achieved an ideal clinic status during the quarter under review. We will be hard during our oversight role to ensure that the targets set in the Annual Performance Plan are achieved.

We have noted that the district hospital services purpose is to provide level one hospital services and support the PAC facilities within the catchment area.

The department could not achieve its target during the third quarter. It was reported that the maternal mortality in-facility ratio would be reported in the fourth quarter of the 2021/22

financial year. The fatality rate of children under five years with five diarrhoea cases was at 2,4% from the target of 5,5%. The rate of children under five years with pneumonia cases was at 1,7% from the targeted 3,5%. The achievement was reportedly due to capacity building by specialists from regional or tertiary hospitals through outreach services. We commend the department for this achievement.

The rate of children under five years with severe acute malnutrition cases was at 12,4% instead of the targeted of 7,5%. The underachievement was reportedly due to delays in switching healthcare and that plans are in place to involve the community health workers in giving health education. The department must ensure that the health workers receive the necessary training to help the department in improving the lives of the citizens of Limpopo.

In conclusion, during our oversight role, we will ensure that the department implements all the recommendations and report back to the august House. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member, also for complying with the time. We shall now call upon Hon Manganye. You have five minutes.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, this department has over a period of time become notorious for underspending on the budget allocations. This underspending is evident on key programmes of the department, which have a direct bearing on service delivery. The under expenditure in this department is spiralling out of control under the watch of MEC, Dr Ramathuba. In this period under review is not different and we will demonstrate this with facts as reported.

It is reported that the department reported an under expenditure in programme six, health science and training, with only 38,1% of the budget spent during the second quarter. Furthermore, low expenditure was reported in programme seven, healthcare support, and programme eight, health facilities management, in which the department spent 27,5% and 21,6% of its budget respectively during the second quarter. All these are critical programmes which our people have not benefitted from them because of the underspending.

Hon Speaker, the emergency medical services of the department is in shambles, and this has been the case for ages. In both urban and rural areas, the response time were reportedly not been achieved because of the reduction in the number of operational vehicles due to long vehicle downtime. How do you reduce operational vehicles when there is a need for them to collect our people when they are in medical distress? It is quite bizarre that instead of increasing the number of operational vehicles, you reduce them with the deliberate intention to slow down service delivery.

Delays in authorisation ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

May you conclude, honourable Member.

MS MANGANYE

In conclusion, about two weeks ago, we visited Mankweng Hospital. When you enter the hospital, you are greeted by the deep stench. The hospital is so filthy that patients get infections and sicker instead of getting healed. The hospital was so dirty that one of the visitors who was pressed refused to use the toilet. Honourable Members do not be fooled by those in our midst who love media attention deliberately misrepresenting facts, giving the impression that they are working while they are not. This is the real state of our health facilities in Limpopo. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member, for that progressive move. I see that Hon Maharaj is not here. I then call upon Hon Marcelle Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, thank you. The Freedom Front Plus has a challenge concerning the R21,9 billion allocated for the financial year 2021/22. Only 38,1% of the set budget was spent in the first quarter. This is not a site to see, it is horrible really.

Lastly but also very importantly, we also plead with the department and the MEC to please look into the infrastructure of the hospitals. The conditions are a serious hygiene problem. This is not how a hospital should be like; this can cause other health issues. The health of each vulnerable patient is at risk from germs when they visit a hospital. This should be attended to. It is a very serious matter. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Maritz. You are indeed an epitome of hope, especially when it comes to time management. Honourable Members have tried, but when it comes to you, they must just clap hands for you. [APPLAUSE] Thank you, honourable Members. We shall now call upon the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health, Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Deputy Speaker present here, Members of the Executives present here, colleagues and all honourable Members. Before I could start my speech, let me wish Pitso "Jingles" Mosimane a happy birthday today. A young man who was born in Kagiso, now at the age of 58. One of the successful black footballer managers and coaches in the world. A father of two and married to Moira.

Secondly, let me take this opportunity also to wish a birthday to one of the anti-apartheid activists, Elias Motsoaledi, who was born on 26 May 1924. He passed away on 09 May 1994, the day in which the first black president of the Republic of South Africa was inaugurated. Father of seven and married Caroline. He was born in Phokoane, Nebo in the Sekhukhune land in Limpopo. Lastly, happy birthday to the Official Opposition, the EFF. It was born today in 2013.

We observed that the department was faced with the challenges of filling the critical posts during the second quarter of the 2021/22 financial year. This was during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the budget of most services were reduced to focus on the pandemic. For the department to fill those posts, it has made a submission to the Treasury and received disapproval. And usually when people talk about Treasury, it is what we call the provincial personnel management committee where the department presents, engages and interrogates requests and recommends to the executive council. The executive council is the final arbiter. The department should develop a plan on how those posts should be filled and report to the House.

The department should also engage as set out in the Annual Performance Plan and achieved in each quarter. This will help the department not to underspend and overspend. The target of the ART in adult and children viral load suppressed rate at 12 months was not met due to a high loss of follow-up rate of 34,4% amongst and the cohort between April and June 2021. The same target of the TB treatment rate was also not met. The high death rate of 2,4% especially in Capricorn District, 44,4% in Vhembe district and 37,7%, was reported due to the advance of TB, especially in coinfecting patient. The department reported on the press to identify the none suppressing patient of TIER.Net and link them to support platforms, and clients who interrupted treatment will be traced.

Furthermore, the department reported that it will now rollout the implementation of Urine TB diagnostic test (U-LAM) in all primary healthcare facilities for early TB diagnosis from HIV positive patients with CD4 count of 200 and below, and HIV patients who are very sick regardless of the CD4 count. We will work with the department during our oversight role to make sure that the rollout programme is implemented. The department is encouraged to increase its capacity in terms of making follow-ups to reduce the monthly mortality rate.

Although we observed that during the period under review, that the department faced the challenge of BCGs syringe stock-out. As such, the department could not immunise the children under the age of one year, and this was because of the lapse of the national contract. Also, in the second quarter, it was reported that the two targets of the immunisation of children under the age of one year coverage and the measles dose coverage were not met due to COVID-19 third wave. The only target that was reported to be met was Vitamin A, for 12 to 15 months coverage. We are concerned with the continuous challenge of shortage of vaccine, and we request the department also to provide the progress report regarding the renewal of a contract for the supply of vaccine, and whether the shortage of syringes as reported in the second quarter was resolved. The department should provide a report on how the shortage of medicine will be addressed. We will play an oversight role in the department in order to ensure that the lives of children of Limpopo are saved.

We are concerned about the state of ambulances, and patient transport that is used to make inter-transfers. The department was faced with the challenge of ambulances whereby some are no longer in a state where they could be used. Rural areas are the most affected by the shortage of ambulances. The department has failed to meet two of its targets on urban-rural response time during the third quarter. This was not achieved because of the reduction in the number of operational vehicles during the long vehicle downtime, in that the authority was approved for minor repairs dealt with from the district level as part of the intervention. The staff also take time to approve the repairs whereby an ambulance can stay for a month or more in a repair. The department should send a report on how many ambulances were repaired since the delegation was approved. The department should also account on how new ambulances were distributed in rural and urban areas.

We have observed that the establishment of the Limpopo Academic Hospital has been dragging for a long time. The committee is concerned with the building of the hospital might diminish and might never resurface. The department should report in the House about the progress in terms of the hospital.

We have noticed also that the infrastructure of the nursing colleges stays idle for a long time and dilapidated. There is also a shortage of nurses in our province, and some that are in the employ of the department are also ageing. The department should clarify why there is no plan to train the nurses and other health professionals. The department should also report the intervention in place for the funding of the nursing colleges. We will work together with the department to ensure that these nursing colleges are funded and functional.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Health has a duty to save the lives of the people of Limpopo province through the provisional medical care, training of health professionals and nurses as well as other services.

The department should also improve its financial health through training of staff in the financial section in consultation with the Office of the Auditor-General. The audit opinion cannot remain stagnant for many years without improvement. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Matlou, for complying with time. We just wished that the time that you have left was supposed to be allocated to Hon Seshoka, but it is quiet unfortunate. Thank you for such compliance. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC to come and respond to the observations made by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL AND DEVELOPMENT [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR HEALTH]

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba, who is on the way to Canada, hereby acknowledge the inputs made by honourable Members. The issues will receive the attention of the department.

The COVID-19 numbers are decreasing, but we must also warn the public that COVID-19 is still with us. We urge our honourable Members to continue to stay safe. As a department in the province, it is a public knowledge that our national Minister has just tested positive.

We appreciate the advice and oversight played by the portfolio committee. Hon Speaker, as a department, we are making plans to deal with underspending. The committee shall be updated in the implementation of an audit action plan.

Hon Speaker, as part of accountability, quarterly reports on the infrastructure project will be submitted to the portfolio committee. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Honourable Members, I think we must just note that there was an incident of another councillor who was shot in our province, was gun down in his home, and his son was injured around Malamulele. A councillor who is a mayor of Collins Chabane. Thank you for the information, Hon Jetrick. We would then allow the honourable Members to just rise for a few minutes to observe the moment of silence.

[SILENCE]

May his revolutionary soul rest in eternal peace! Thank you very much.

Honourable Members, again, we have already submitted the apology long before for The Premier and Hon Leader of Government Business for the A-G long ago, but we are taking notice of the absent, honourable MEC for Agriculture, that department today was presenting and the officials for the department none of them they are here.

I can't see because here is the Secretary to the Legislature, and it seems that the honourable Members are talking to themselves because all these things that are being discussed and debated here, honourable Members are aware, and they know. They are debating the element where we indirectly or directly telling them what they must do in order for them to attain a clean audit. This is a new tendency, if I have to put it, especially for all the officials of the department which did not give notice either on the Leader of the Government Business or in the Office of the Speaker, but we are taking the matter very much seriously.

We will try to find a way on how to deal with it. I just thought that Hon Smalle was here because, by the time when we were sending an apology, he was the one complaining at the back of Hon Seshoka. Unfortunately, he is not here. The same applies to them that immediately after presenting, they decided to leave without notice.

Honourable Members, let us encourage one another to remain seated and try by all means to maintain the decorum of the House without further much ado.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT

Is there any announcement? The Hon Speaker, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, no, Presiding Officer. There is no announcement. Those who are hungry can go to the boardroom. There is food served.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

[LAUGHTER] Thank you for that announcement.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, this Sitting will be adjourned until Tuesday, 02 August 2022. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 16 AUGUST 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you. 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 Lebea, you are recognised.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO MISS SOUTH AFRICA 2022
(Motion without Notice)

I rise without notice on behalf of the African National Congress that this House notes that:

- The recently crowned Miss South Africa is a young graduate who hails from this province of Limpopo. The newly crowned Miss South Africa, Ndavi Nokeri is from Gavaza village which is within the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. As Limpopo we have successfully produced a total number of three Miss South Africa to date.
- Her crowning happens hot on the heels of Shudufhadzo Musida who reigned in 2020. This is another statement that you don't have to come from the affluent suburbs in order to achieve insurmountable feat.
- This achievement means a lot of things to the rural children in Limpopo and many parts of the world and must be seen as a motivation that everything is possible as long as you put your mind to it. Ndavi's win must motivate a young aspirant athlete from Segopje, GaMamabolo, Moletji or Bochum, that they can also participate in the Commonwealth Games or the Olympics and be counted among the best in the world as long as they work hard towards their goals.
- For a young girl who hails from the rural areas to become Miss South Africa is a demonstration that the ANC-led government has levelled the playground and opportunities are now available for all citizens of the country on an equal footing.

I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mohlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Lebea.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**TRIBUTE IN HONOUR OF MOSES MALULEKE, THE FORMER MAYOR OF THE
COLLINS CHABANE MUNICIPALITY**
(Motion without Notice)

I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to pay homage to Cde Moses Maluleke, the former Mayor of the Collins Chabane Municipality and deputy secretary of the ANC in the Vhembe region who died in the hands of criminals a few weeks ago. Cde Moses Maluleke, fondly known as “Big Moss” because of his imposing stature, was a great leader of the people who was popular amongst the residents of the Collins Chabane Municipality as he was always with them.

Cde Big Moss was a true leader of the people whose life was cut short in an act of criminality. He dedicated his life to the emancipation of his people and has served them with distinction. We are saddened by his untimely death but have been comforted in the knowledge that his killers have been accosted and are now facing criminal charges, for cutting short the life of this great leader of the people. We commend the police for the swift and timeous arrest of these criminals, and we can only hope that the family, friends and comrades of Cde Big Moss will finally find closure on this unfortunate chapter of their lives.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second Hon Seono’s motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker for affording me this opportunity.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO BENNI MCCARTHY FOR BEING APPOINTED
AS A PART OF MANCHESTER UNITED’S TECHNICAL TEAM AND TO BANYANA
BANYANA FOR WINNING THE WOMEN’S AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes the remarkable strides that happened in the past few weeks on the sporting front. The appointment of Benni McCarthy as a part

of Manchester United's technical team is a great sign of South Africa's potential as an exporter of football talent. This is the same player who has played soccer at the highest level with a career that started to play in this country.

Hon Speaker, in the same breath, allow me to also wish our sincerest gratitude to Banyana Banyana, our golden girls, for ascending the continent's pinnacle by beating Morocco in the final of the Women's Africa Cup of Nations. All these things are well worth mentioning. As we chart forward towards nation-building, we should appreciate that sport is an important tool to help us achieve this all-important goal.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. Nna, Joshua Leswafo Matlou, ke ema mo go thekga se se boletšwego ke Mohlomphegi Caroline Mahasela. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice? There is none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 201? MEC, Hon Moraka, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

A SERIES OF HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES FOR MISS SOUTH AFRICA 2022, NDAVI NOKERI

(Executive Statement)

Deputy Speaker, Hon Azwindini Ndou; Members of this august House; ladies and gentlemen, ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni. Thobela.

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC-led government, in this august House to congratulate the newly crowned Miss South Africa 2022, Ndavi Nokeri. Ndavi who was born and bred at Gavaza village in the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality in the Mopani District Municipality was the only contestant from the Limpopo province to have made it to the finals of the pageant.

To show dedication to her quest of becoming Miss SA, Ndavi had to leave her job in Cape Town where she was working for an asset management firm. She is now a University of Pretoria graduate with a degree in BCom Investment Management and she is now pursuing her studies with an Honours Degree in Economics and Investment ...
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, the very same motion you are reading was read by Hon Lebea.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

This is a Statement, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Yes. It is the same content. We cannot repeat the same content in the same Sitting.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

I want to take it further with regard to the plans that we have as a province regarding her homecoming, and I think it is what the public wants to hear.

THE SPEAKER

You can proceed but skip the part that was mentioned in the first motion.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Hon Speaker, Ndavi is the third contestant from the province to bring the title home after Bokang Montjane who has won it in 2010, followed by Shudufhadzo Musida in 2020 and now we are speaking about the crown being back in the province of Limpopo. This confirms that Limpopo is the province of champions.

To celebrate her achievement and as a way of bringing her to the people of Limpopo, the ANC-led government will host a series of homecoming activities at the end of this coming week. Ndavi will be received by the Premier of this province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, and will also go on a street parade in Polokwane, Tzaneen and Nkowankowa township. She will conclude her homecoming activities by celebrating with her family, relatives and friends at Gavaza, her home village.

As the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, we are busy in talks with Miss SA as an organisation to have a modelling academy in the province. That is because this is the only way that we can plough back to the people of Limpopo. We saw it fit that we need to have this academy, looking at how our young women are performing at Miss SA pageant of late. The academy will be of key assistance to all the young girls who are from the rural areas who want to pursue a career in this field of beauty pageant, and don't know where to go to seek for information.

This is a big moment for us as a province and we want to say we are proud of Ndavi's achievement. She has done well and gave courage to as many young girls from the rural areas by winning this title. We are truly proud and humbled at the same time because this puts the province of Limpopo on the national map.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's proceed.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports and papers? If there are none, let us proceed to item 7. Yes, Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am rising on procedural point. You should have requested political parties to comment on the Executive Statement by the MEC. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Chief Whip, I did it deliberately. That is why I am saying, let us proceed, because I have indicated earlier on to say that no Member will be allowed to raise any issue in this House if that issue has been raised and approved by this House. Can we proceed, Hon Chief Whip? Yes, Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

I think as a matter of procedure you should have stopped the honourable MEC then and there. For the fact that you allowed her to present, I think procedurally you must allow political parties to proceed with their messages after the MEC.

THE SPEAKER

I don't have a problem with that. If you have something to say as political parties, you are allowed to do so.

MR SESHOKA

That is what I wanted to correct. It's not like we ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

I am saying, you are allowed to come and say something.

MR SESHOKA

Okay. That is fine.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any political party that wants to say something? Hon Mohlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke nnete re a leboga re le ba Economic Freedom Fighters go bona bommasebotsana ba rena ba kgona go re emela; ba araba dipotšišo tše ba di botšišwago go bontšha gore megopolo ya bona e edile gore ba re boele le kgare mo Limpopo ba re iše godimo go swana le Banyana Banyana ka mokgwa wo le bona ba re dirilego gore re ikgantšhe ka gona. Re re le mmušo wa rena a nke o tšee malebiša ka gobane setšhaba sa Limpopo le bona ba nyaka gore ka letšatši le lengwe ba thabe le rena e le ge re bontšha gore di-audit opinion tša rena le tšona di swana le bommasebotsana ba rena le Banyana Banyana. Re a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Democratic Alliance shares the very same sentiments as the ANC, the MEC, and the EFF and the people of this province; the excitement, the joy and the pride that the new Miss South Africa has brought to this province. We also second the programme of action that the MEC is bringing about. We wish her very well in her stand and in the time frame that she has been elected. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We presented a motion with a similar subject, and we want to applaud the action plan by the MEC as presented here today. We, therefore, support the

MEC in her endeavours to support this young woman from our province. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration; the 2021/22 Second Quarter Report.

Committee chair, it is your turn.

MR MATIBE

Ndi khou livhuwa Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. Nhe ndi pfi Tshitereke Matibe. Ndi khou nekedza Ndu i thonifheaho muvhigo wa Kotara ya Vhuvhili ya nwaha wa muvhalelano wa 2021/22 kha Ndu ino uri I sedzane nawo. Ndi khou livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am here to second Hon Tshitereke Matibe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We come to the 2021/22 Third Quarter Report, Office of the Premier. Committee chair, it's over to you.

MR MATIBE

Ndi khou livhuwa Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. Ndi khou nekedza muvhigo wa Kotara ya Vhuraru wa Ofisi ya Mulangavundu uri Ndu hei I sedzane nawo na u u tangedza.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the chairperson, Hon Matibe on the motion for the adoption of the report. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

We come to the 2021/22 Fourth Quarter Report. Committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MATIBE

Ndi khou livhuwa hafhu Muhulisei Mulangadzulo na Ndu yotha I thonifheaho. Ri khou nekedza hei Ndu muvhigo wa Kotara ya Vhuna wa Ofisi ya Mulangavundu uri hei Ndu I sedzane nawo na u u tangedza.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. 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 the honourable chair. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

We come to the 2020/21 Annual Report for the Office of the Premier. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Ri khou livhuwa hafhu Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. Ri khou nekedza hei Ndu uri I sedzane na muvhigo wa nwaha wa muvhalelano wa 2021/22 kha Ofisi ya Mulangavundu. Ndi khou livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Ke a leboga, Mhlophegi Mospikara. Ke ema mo go thekga modulasetulo wa Komiti ya Public Administration. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to all the people who have convened in this majestic and august House. In the absence of the Premier, we have noted the potential of the

Department of Education and GAAL to get out of the qualified audit opinion. We must first take this colossal opportunity to congratulate the Office of the Premier for having sustained a clean audit outcome. This happened after the Auditor-General had taken the Office of the Premier into task concerning their performance over the public service and administration in Limpopo.

In order for us to unlock the bottlenecks of service delivery in our province, we must inject capacity over the Office of the Premier to resolve the administrative confusion over departments in terms of their rules and functions. We have witnessed instances where the National Department of Transport met two MECs in our province over road infrastructure development. This situation must be decisively resolved so as to fast-track road construction and maintenance in our province.

The committee heard and considered that the departments are not doing well in terms of complying with resolving cases within the prescribed time frame. The Office of the Premier has put the provincial task team in order to monitor compliance within the time frame of the department. As the Committee on Public Administration, we also heard and considered that the Department of CoGHSTA is the highest with vacancy rate followed by the Department of Education; the Department of Social Development; the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the Department of Public Works. The most common reason is that the departments did not have organisational structures that are approved by the DPSA (Department of Public Service and Administration), and we have also recommended that the departments must fill all funded post to reduce the level of unemployment in our province.

The committee also heard and considered that there is still delay in the finalisation of vetting process by the Stats SA. The Office of the Premier should urgently establish a vetting unit to assist in dealing with the backlogs and ensuring that the vetting process gets finalised. Most of these particular departments are not disclosing their cases referred to external law enforcement agencies in their monthly reports. These departments must, of course, as per our recommendation, ensure that they submit their monthly reports to include those cases and make them public.

Hon Speaker, we have also noted the potential, like I have indicated that the Department of Education and GAAL have the potential to get out of the qualified audit opinion. The Department of Education incurred irregular expenditure during the 2020/21 financial year, and they are unable to improve their audit outcomes. GAAL has also appointed a board and we must see improvement in this particular institution. The Office of the Premier also committed itself to convene the HODs forum to meet and discuss amongst others the turnaround strategy of this institution with the sole intention of improving their performance. We must urgently hire competent and skilled personnel in order to assist this particular institution to improve their performance. GAAL must put our provincial economy on the map by ensuring that it attracts investors, build more infrastructure and create more jobs for our province.

We cannot Hon Speaker, have people who continue to enjoy having pregnant salaries and forget about the development of our people and our economy. At some point we must take stock and engage on special economic zones in our province. The critical question

which we must ask remains, to what extent do these SEZs help the people of this province economically? We note that a lot of work has been done so far regarding the Musina-Makhado SEZ, but most of the funds used were to ensure that the relevant plans are in place and to ensure that the environmental assessment impact is finalised.

This must happen urgently, Hon Speaker, given the interest of the investors and future economic challenges. In the process of doing that we must ensure that young people are accommodated in the majority both in terms of business and employment. We have noted that some of the officials are doing business with the state organs, and we must ensure that consequence management is implemented with financial recovery and at the same time this must happen with those who engage in corruption generally, and cases must be opened thereof.

Without wasting time, we must urgently build more infrastructure for our SAPS garages and hire more technicians and engineers to fix the problems of SAPS garages in our province. We must find a way in our MinMec meetings to help the Department of Transport and Community Safety in our province to improve. Our vehicles take time to be repaired because of shortages of personnel, and poor infrastructure in the SAPS terrain. These I think, it can be fixed.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selane. The next speaker is Hon Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings to you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to you Members of the House, colleagues, officials and everyone in the gallery. We are here today to debate or respond to the reports from the Office of the Premier. We would also like to put it on record that we are doing this in his absence.

Hon Speaker, it is reported that the Office of the Premier was not performing well in the condition of labour cases and within the prescribed time due to a lack of cooperation by supervisors, witnesses and the complainant's availability. It seems to us supervisors are more powerful and untouchable in this Office. They decide when to cooperate and when not to cooperate with the department. They are allowed to behave like this without any consequence management. There is definitely no accountability in the Office of the Premier.

Some officials are a law unto themselves for they know that nothing will happen to them. They choose to sabotage the department and they get away with it. How far is the establishment of the vetting unit that would be able to assist in dealing with the backlog and making sure that the vetting process gets finalised? Despite the existence of the anti-corruption strategy, corruption still raises its ugly face across all government departments, entities and municipalities. The so-called strategy is just meant to disguise and pull wool over the eyes of citizens that something has been done to uproot corruption, while the

opposite is the case. Despite the existence of all plans to deal with unwanted expenditure they still persist compromising service delivery and good governance.

You see Hon Speaker, the problem with the ANC-led government is that they make all these promises and commitments, but they never deliver. They have all these plans which never come to pass. They are just there to decorate the papers. Why are departments not disclosing their cases referred to external law enforcement agencies in their monthly reports? What are these departments hiding if not criminality or corruption? Instead of dealing with corruption, they sweep it under the carpet. Despite the government's commitment that they will assist both the Department of Education and GAAL to move towards receiving clean audits, they still don't inspire confidence with regard to their overall performance.

Furthermore, departments are not adhering to the forward planning time frames in terms of infrastructure delivery so that their projects can be enrolled before the beginning of the financial year and be implemented. How can they realise departmental goals without forward planning? How can they ensure good governance and effective service delivery without forward planning. Lack of forward planning is tantamount to lack of vision and laziness and such administration cannot be trusted with power.

Hon Speaker, let us ask this government that lacks forward planning; when is the actual work on Musina-Makhado SEZ going to commence on the ground? By the look of things this project, like many others, will never take off the ground. Is the money set aside for this project still available? Our suspicion is that the money meant for the implementation of this project has been hijacked by the corrupt elements within the government and the ruling party.

Hon Speaker, the Office of the Premier has dismally failed to coordinate departments in this province, hence we continue to see departments and municipalities performing poorly. The failure to deliver services to our people must be put squarely on the door of the Office of the Premier. The only logical conclusion we have is that there is no political leadership in this province. There is lack of depth skills and talent in the ruling party to take this province to greater heights and out of misery.

The ANC-led government is responsible for the socioeconomic challenges we find ourselves in today and they are unable to take us out of the mess they created. They are a bad weak government that runs around like headless chickens with no cogent and workable ideas. Truth be told, we have the wrong people in the echelons of government, and they are not adding value to the citizens of this country. They have just occupied space for nothing. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Mohlala, it is not true to say the Office of the Premier is not here. It is only the Premier who is not present today. But, the Office of the Premier is here, and the Premier has forwarded his apology and appointed MEC, Hon Sekoati to come and respond on his behalf. Can you proceed, Hon ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

But that cannot be a fact. The Premier is not here. That must be registered as such.

THE SPEAKER

I am responding to Hon Mohlala.

MR SESHOKA

Okay. I am rising on a point of order. Hon Speaker, I am raising a hand to be recognised.

THE SPEAKER

Yes. You are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I do not know why you want to take it to be your responsibility to respond to the question that has been raised by Hon Mohlala, because it is a fact that, apparently the Premier has sent a permanent apology to this House. It is a fact that he is not here. For you to try to spin and tell us that the Office is here, we are talking about the Premier, not the Office. The Premier himself, because he is the one that is accountable not the Office. It is him who is not here, and that must be registered as such.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. I want to repeat myself. I was saying, I want to correct Hon Mohlala. Hon Mohlala said the Office of the Premier is not here. I wanted to correct him. Only that.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Point of order, Chair. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER.

No. I am not going to allow that. Can we proceed to the third speaker?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Point of order, Chair. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Can we proceed?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Point of order, Chair.

THE SPEAKER

No. Can we proceed to the third speaker? [INTERJECTION]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

But, I have a point of order, Chair. It is allowed.

THE SPEAKER

I think I did ... [INTERJECTION]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

There is a hand, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I think I did correct Hon Mohlala. Can we proceed.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Hon Speaker, let him speak because you are putting words in his mouth. Let him speak.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Point of order, chair. Chair, can we raise a point of order?

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mohlala, can we proceed?

MR SESHOKA

I just need to clarify on what he said.

THE SPEAKER

I don't need clarity, Hon Mohlala. I was not clarifying.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Point of order, Chair.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maharaj, you may take the podium.

MR SESHOKA

Speaker, the Premier is not here.

THE SPEAKER

It's fine. Let's proceed. Hon Maharaj, please take the podium.

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members!

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It is concerning that despite several requests the administrative arm from the Office of the Premier has failed to submit a list of employees doing business with the organs of state timeously to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration. This is exacerbated by the fact that very little or no action has been taken against these individuals. This has never been seen as a deliberate stain on the Office of the Premier who have done well in achieving a good audit. There have been several investigations conducted within the Office of the Premier and it is imperative that these criminal investigations are concluded soonest with the report back on the findings and the action taken. Where investigations are still underway, a status or progress report on how far the investigations are must be tabled to the portfolio committee.

There are still cases of unauthorised, irregular and wasteful expenditure, that occurred within the departments. We call upon the Premier to conduct oversight in these departments and show them from the experience of attaining clean audits that it can be done. Delivering quality services to the people of our province is paramount; and budgeted vacant posts must urgently be filled and where departments are overstaffed there must be skills transfer. The portfolio committee recommended that a target of not more than 10% of funded vacancy posts should be the goal within each department.

Premier, in your absence, let me indicate that your continued utterances and announcements on the fight against corruption must be accompanied by action. Consequence management and recovery of funds that have been lost because of looting, theft, fraud, maladministration, and wasteful expenditure must be recovered. The punitive action must be aligned with misconduct and monetary loss.

Outstanding disciplinary hearings must be concluded urgently, and a report must be tabled with the committee on the status of these cases. The audit outcomes

recommendations must be closely monitored and where corrective steps have not been addressed there should be consequences management as well as repeat offences where the recommendations have been ignored. Hon Speaker, we call upon the Premier to undertake unannounced oversights to long outstanding projects, projects that have surpassed the budgets and those that display poor workmanship. I assure you, Premier, you will be astonished by what you hear and what you see.

The Premier must also conduct oversight in municipalities that are in financial distress just as much as those that are underspending on the MIG. In conclusion, Premier, an analysis must be conducted on all litigations within the departments. The fiscus gets depleted to enrich lawyers in some of these baseless litigations, and we as a province cannot afford that with the minimal funding that we have.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Matibe, the committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MATIBE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, honourable Members ladies and gentlemen. Hon Speaker, the objective of providing a better life for all is intricately linked to the task of building a capable developmental state. The ANC in the 2019 election manifesto had correctly identified issues such as technical and administrative capacity across all spheres of government as a major impediment to the thoroughgoing transformation project in this country.

Hon Speaker, we committed ourselves to improve the way government works and interacts with people to realise this goal. We must give true meaning to the concept of the social compact that President Cyril Ramaphosa has so eloquently spoken about. In this regard, the President emphasised that there must be full agreement on common objectives, the plan to achieve it and the commitment by all partners to the plan's implementation. As partners, we are therefore called upon to unite around common programmes and challenges that the government is faced with. We must reach important compacts around issues of prolonged labour disputes and disciplinary cases, as Hon Maharaj and Hon Selane have indicated.

The issues are the functioning of the vetting unit within the provincial administration, reconfiguration of state-owned entities, operationalisation of the ICT steering committee and the issues around the District Development Model (DDM). The issues around municipal infrastructure grant spending and other pressing issues continue to bedevil the provincial administration. Currently, in our province, the vacancy rate across all several departments stands below the 10% national average. We commend the Office of the Premier for exceeding the national average of 0,8% in this regard. This implies that the ANC-led government in this province has moved faster to implement commitments made to our people in the 2019 elections.

We call upon the Office of the Premier to work together with other departments to fast-track the issue of filling all vacant funded posts so that we can reduce unemployment in our province which is a serious concern. We welcome the establishment of the integrity security and vetting directorate within the Office of the Premier. This is at the centre of our resolve to fight corruption and promote integrity. The 2019 election manifesto puts it that we are committed to consolidating our resolve to crack down on corruption and actively promote a culture of integrity throughout the state and society. The directorate will among others, coordinate, monitor and evaluate anti-corruption programmes within the provincial departments; manage the implementation of whistleblowing mechanisms because whistleblowing is an area that we need to assist in terms of coordinating information, security and vetting services.

We hope that the relevant authorities will fast-track the filling of positions in this directorate so that this directorate can start to implement the work that it is required to do. There are various recommendations that as the committee we are making to the Office of the Premier to go and look into and other issues have already been raised in relation to vacancy rate, the issue of audit as raised by Hon Selane. There are quite a number of other issues that we need to look at. As a committee, we recommend that issues of procurement must also benefit young people, women and people living with disability so that we are able to deal with issues of unemployment in our province.

We also recommend that the Office of the Premier together with CoGHSTA assist in the follow-up in relation to the underspending of municipal infrastructure grant so that whenever those grants are being spent, we also deal with the issue of unemployment and improve the infrastructure in our province. The committee also looked at the issues of IGR (Inter-governmental Relations) forums in relation to the DDM and the fact that departments need to be encouraged through the Office of the Premier to send officials who will be able to take decisions in those forums as they go and move away from the issues of sending junior officials in that regard.

In lieu of conclusion, Hon Speaker, I must conclude by quoting the last two lines from the poet Roberts Frost in his poem, *The Road Not Taken*:

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I---
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.”

As we look at this provincial administration, Hon Speaker, the road less travelled which the provincial administration chose was the road to fight corruption and maladministration. The road less travelled was the road to ensure accountability and good governance. And we can see the difference because as we speak there are many departments that are now having clean audits. In conclusion, Hon Speaker we are putting to this august House the 2021/22 Second, Third and Fourth Quarter reports and the Annual Report for this august House to consider and adopt. I move accordingly.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Matibe. We shall now call upon MEC, Hon Sekoati to come and respond on behalf of the Premier.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER]

Thanks, Madam Speaker. To the august House and those who are noise makers in the House, I greet you. [LAUGHTER] Madam Speaker, allow me to respond on behalf of the Hon Premier who has followed the proper procedure in apologising and also in appointing a person who will respond to the issues that are being raised by the committee.

Let me as well, Madam Speaker pass my revolutionary greetings to the chairperson of the committee, Hon Tshitereke Matibe, and the team that is constantly providing support and guidance to the Office of the Premier with regard to the work and the mandate that it has to execute.

We have listened attentively to the issues that have been raised by committee Members on areas that are lagging behind in terms of expected progress by the committee. Such matters are related to the filling of vacant posts which we believe that now that we have gone past this fiscal consolidation, we have seen that a number of departments have started to advertise their vacant posts. Therefore, we should be able to make enormous progress in terms of filling those posts and also ensuring that government is capacitated to carry out its mandate.

Yes, it is going to alleviate unemployment. What we are looking at is to ensure that the government is empowered to carry out its mandate by ensuring that it is able to provide services to our communities and also to bring about transformation for the people of this province.

With regard to the issue of improving on audit opinions, let me indicate that we are grateful that we have seen a lot of progress in the departments in the province that have come out of a very difficult position in terms of audit outcomes where we have enormously reduced matters of emphasis. If you look at the audit outcomes at the present moment you will realise that most of the departments that did not manage to get clean audits are reducing their matters of emphasis.

Most of the departments might be having less than three matters of emphasis and as a matter of fact, they only relate to issues of technicalities in terms of dealing with those audits. So, we believe that we have come a long way and we are therefore, going to ensure that all departments are able to do as expected in terms of good governance and are also able to go beyond what they have done so far. I believe that through the coordination that is there from the Office of the Premier, we should be able to ensure that those that are lagging behind with regard to dealing with issues that are raised by the A-G are able to do so in time. The fact that those departments are made to give progress reports to the Executive Council sittings, we should be able to make sure that those matters are attended to and are also cleared.

The issue of coordination of departments that has been raised, I am not sure what is the basis for Members in raising it because as far as the Office of the Premier is concerned everything is running as smooth as possible in terms of coordination. All cluster coordination is proper, and they are sitting as expected. Reports are being generated and sent to the Executive Council which is sitting timeously as expected. I don't understand what that coordination is all about. Yes, there are weaknesses in government that we have to deal with in terms of ensuring that we improve towards good governance and also deal with areas where we are not doing well. Therefore, it should not be said that there is no coordination in the provincial government by the Office of the Premier because that would suggest something else. I don't think that exists. Unless it's the issue of the English language colleagues, if the English language is giving us problems let's use our mother tongue which is also an official language to be able to express ourselves and give meaning to what we are saying because what you are saying is non-existent. It cannot be scientifically proven that there is a lack of coordination in the Office of the Premier.

When coming to the issues of vetting, let me highlight that, yes, we have issues as raised by the chairperson and other committee Members in terms of ensuring that there is a speedy outcome of those investigations especially with regard to vetting. As a matter of fact, we have agreed with the law enforcement agencies that are responsible for vetting, in terms of various processes in which we are going to strengthen vetting and make sure that it is timeous so that when people are appointed, already their vetting should be out. The issue of ensuring that vetting is expedited in those processes should be able to assist us to ensure that results are out timeously.

With regard to the issues of procurement let me indicate that, yes, indeed we have to make sure that those young people, women and people living with disability are empowered. Of late, we have seen that the Office of the President through the Deputy President has also put immense progress in ensuring that all those special groupings are empowered. The Office of the Premier is coordinating such through the Provincial Treasury.

We know that we have exceeded the numbers or the expectancy in terms of empowerment of young people. However, we believe that we can do more and make sure that women, people living with disability and military veterans are also part of that inclusive economy that we are building as a province. We believe that through the support of various departments we should be able to exceed expectations and ensure that all those groupings that have been identified are empowered.

Once again, let me thank the chairperson of the committee for his able leadership for continuously supporting us and giving us council. We hope that the work that you are doing will continue to strengthen the work that the Office of the Premier is currently undertaking. I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People living with Disability, 2021/22 First Quarter Report

Committee chair, it's your turn.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mokaba, rise to move that the Reports on the 2021/22 First, Second and Third Quarters on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability be adopted as the reports of this House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to colleagues. I stand here being Donald Selamolela to second the motion by the chair of the standing committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We come to 2021/22 Second Quarter Report. Honourable committee chair, you may take the podium.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mokaba, rise to move that the 2021/22 Second 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 so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga Mosepediši wa Mošomo, Mospikara wa rena. Ke ema go thekga se Mohlomphegi Mokaba a se bolelago gore Kotara ya Bobedi ya Pego Special Programme go Ofisi ya Tonakgolo re e amogele. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's move to the 2021/22 Third Quarter Report. Honourable committee chair, you may take the podium.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mokaba, rise to move that the 2021/22 Third 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 so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmabogahla Masekoameng from the Mankweng cluster, stand to support the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members, good morning. The widening gap on gender parity continues to grow in perpetuation. This government has an obligation of narrowing this worrying trend and create a society where both men and women enjoy equal economic opportunities.

However, the redress measures that we have implemented of creating a level playing field for the economic emancipation of all genders are moving at a snail's pace. We have engaged with the Office of the Premier as a Standing Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability to interface with the reports of the first, second and third quarter of the 2021/22 financial year. We are encouraged by sector departments' continued cooperation and timeous submission of reports. But there are occurrences where some departments do not address the committee's concerns adequately. Our oversight role compels us to ensure that we constantly monitor how various departments are discharging this function of improving the quality and status of women, youth and people living with disability.

We are always vigilant that this function is discharged with diligence in an accountable manner and remains within the confines of the law. Our endeavours towards economic recovery from the novel COVID-19 must also be cognisant of our attempt to address the quality of life and status of women, youth and people with disability. The two processes should be implemented concurrently without the one undermining the other. We are also conscious of the immense pressure and strain that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on government's budgetary processes, and we support all measures put in place to ameliorate this situation. We are also alive to the fact that the reprioritisation of funds should be done without compromising the department's core function of providing basic services to the people of this province.

The committee has received a report about progress made at Rivoni special school where 17 classrooms, an admin block, a dining hall and hostel facilities for over 160 learners are in construction. We have also received news about the work that has just been completed at the Tshilwavhusiku Razwimisani Special School. It is a fact that the country's economic and social development trajectory is directly dependent on its infrastructure. Many developed countries make a lot of progress because of the enormous investment they make on economic and infrastructure growth.

We commend the efforts made to address infrastructure challenges at Rivoni and Thusanang special schools, but we are concerned that they are still faced with the challenges of dry boreholes and collapsed kitchen facilities. A meaningful participation by women in the economic sector is still lacking despite the continuous rhetoric used in the economic development discourse in the country.

Honourable Members, we have not reached our anticipated targets on the goals that we have set for ourselves on women empowerment, but there are some significant signs of improvement in the second quarter as compared to the first quarter. It was further observed that a 70% achievement was maintained for women as compared to the second quarter of the 2020/21 financial year. Our government has been taking measures of ending poverty and accelerating sustainable economic growth as stated in the National Development Plan 2030 agenda.

One of the key interventions in terms of the recently published National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide involves the impact of GBV on women's economic status. One of the objectives with regard to this, is to raise awareness of women's unpaid labour and initiative interventions. The need for an urgent establishment of the national council on GBV and femicide cannot be overemphasised, Hon Speaker. It was reported that the Department of Social Development has partnered with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to identify sites where GBV shelters will be established in each district.

The committee welcomes this initiative and there is already work that will be carried out in the 2022/23 financial year to build a victim-friendly house in the Vhembe District. The committee is concerned about the plight of children with disability who are loitering the streets whilst their peers are attending lessons at school. This is prevalent with girl children who are mostly blind and are also exposed to an assortment of practices of abuse because of their inability to identify the perpetrators. These victims are at a heightened risk of sexual abuse and gender-based violence and this exacerbates their exposure to contracting sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/Aids. It is our fair view that the Office of the Premier needs to encourage the government to make concerted efforts to protect these women and young girls against all forms of violence and abuse.

Traditional leaders must also play a role in changing perceptions about persons with disability and encourage their inclusion in society. It is imperative that people with disability must play a meaningful role in all decision-making processes that affect them directly. People with physical disability are fully capable of articulating their views and they must be fully consulted on legislative matters that affect their wellbeing. The committee recommends that the Office of the Premier must ensure that cases of abuse

amongst people with disability must be prioritised by the justice system and transgressors must meet the full wrath of the law.

The Office of the Premier has reported that the only department that has complied with 50% employment equity status is Transport and Community Safety. The committee raised displeasure about the continuous noncompliance by other departments. However, we note the intervention by the Office of the Premier of enforcing employment equity on all the funded posts within various sector departments. It was also reported that as part of the gender mainstreaming, all departments have appointed gender-focal persons whose primary duties are to popularise and mainstream gender programmes and projects. It is worth noting that the goals of equity and inclusive economic growth cannot be achieved without ensuring women's full participation in the economy.

Recent statistics show that even though women are making up half of the population, their representation in strategic sectors of the economy and positions of authority is still found wanting. Before the democratic dispensation, there were institutionalised processes that included cultural and religious practices in South Africa that promoted the oppression of women. All these have been repudiated as the ANC-led government continues to forge ahead with its endeavours of building a nonsexist society. However, the committee took courage in the knowledge that the women of the Limpopo province are in a far much better space than they were in the period before 1994. This is attested by the number of women who continue to occupy top positions in both the political and the administrative wing of this ANC-led government. We thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Mphahele, please take the podium.

MS MPHAHELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, honourable MECs present here, and Members of this august House, good morning. Hon Speaker, what has been the role of this institution in ensuring that its mandate is executed and realised without fail? The fact is the ANC-led government with all its beneficiaries of failed cadre deployment is ruining the lives of the Limpopo citizens. All the five target groups designated under this department are under severe attack on various fronts. This includes departments in the province negating their responsibility of reaching targets as per legislation. When departments fail to take the empowerment of women and people living with disability seriously, what do you expect society to do?

The state has neglected the care and the wellbeing of aged people and reduced its mandate to the distribution of social grants, whilst the elderly are being raped, killed and abused. Young people are victims drug dens and cults. There are no developmental or tangible empowerment initiatives. The oversight of this department must be interdepartmental, and noncompliance must be a punishable offence if we are to ensure that there is promotion, facilitation, coordination and monitoring of the realisation of the rights, inclusion and empowerment of the five designated groups.

Hon Speaker, disposal of sanitary towels utilising incinerators and disposal bins must be encouraged. However, noting the societal perception and niche, more education on hygiene and related aspects ought to be undertaken to ensure better understanding within the schools and communities. Women and people living with disability must be empowered to produce sanitary towels as part of job creation and ensure their participation in the industrial value chain and economy.

Hon Speaker, what causes delay and backlog in the provision of assistive devices? What then becomes the role of the Department of Health in this regard? A timetable detailing how this backlog will be resolved must be presented to this House. The report must be categorically clear on which assistive devices are on backlog and their quantities thereof. Failure to make provision of assistive devices creates a nightmare for caregivers and further isolation of those in need of such devices for normal lives.

Why is the government not providing a borehole at Rivoni special school instead of relying on school fundraising? Hon Speaker, at Thusanang, Asiphumelele and Rethuseng special schools, for how long will they be subjected to mobile or temporary hostels? Are there plans in place to build permanent structures? The department must ensure that occupational health therapists in special schools are employed without fail. The empowerment of women must be made a reality. It must not be limited to seminars which are often for the beneficiaries of the elite or those with close proximity to politicians and senior government officials. As the EFF, we will never rest until we see women in mining and in other strategic sectors of our economy.

The Department of Home Affairs must, together with the Department of Education ensure that it is a joint programme to make sure that all learners have birth documents. Limpopo is amongst the top areas nationally when it comes to GBV misfortune. However, we rarely hear from the Office, and the province's lack of awareness initiatives which will empower communities and police as to how matters of GBV are handled.

Hon Speaker, this department must develop programmes to ensure that SAPS officers are sensitive towards GBV cases. Their duty is to register cases and arrest suspects, not mediation. This will minimise instances where people who were supposed to be in prison cells end up killing those they were abusing.

The failure by the department to reach 2% employment of persons living with disability must be taken seriously. It can't be that progress will be monitored when departments fail for many years to deliver on this promise. Women of this province deserve to know that the ANC-led government does not value them hence, the continuous failure to comply with women empowerment equity.

Hon Speaker, what informed the department's conclusion that persons with disability and women are mad because most entrepreneurs with disability and women lack the required skill on how to assess tenders within government procurement space? If the above is scientifically confirmed, what measures did the department undertake to correct this abnormality and ensure there is maximum participation of women and people living with disability including encouraging joint ventures with experienced businesses and skills transfer?

Hon Speaker, this government must learn from the EFF. We have established solid GBV desks in all the regions of the province. Matters of GBV and the trauma victims are subjected to are of serious concern to us. In most cases it is the EFF that forces police to open cases as victims are met with resistance and refusal to help them open cases. There is no constitutional justice in Limpopo ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

As you conclude, Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

... all we have are constitutional delinquents who know nothing about governance and service delivery. That means they know nothing about having the interest of their communities at heart.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Mokaba, the committee chair, you may take the podium. [APPLAUSE]

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Premier in absentia; the Chief Whip of the majority party, Essob Mokgonyana; Members of the provincial Legislature and all protocol observed, dumelang.

Madam Speaker, the Office of the Premier is the administrative and political principal of the provincial administration, to that extent we expect the Office of the Premier to set an example for all the other departments to follow. This special programme in the Office of the Premier should therefore not be found wanting in implementing its own set targets. As per procedure, the Standing Committee on Quality of life and Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability interacted with the Office of the Premier on the special programme on the 2021/22 First and Second Quarter Reports. The meeting was scheduled to execute the constitutional mandate tabled in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 [Act No 108 of 1996] as amended, provides in section 114, guidelines on meeting the 2% employment targets of people living with disability.

We still have not reached the set targets that the Premier Chupu Stan Mathabatha has committed to meet with regard to the employment of people living with disability at senior management level as promised during the International Disability Day held at the Sir Val Duncan campus in Namakgale seven years back, on 09 December 2015. Indeed, this talks more to will than the availability of posts. It is all well to have disability focal programmes but if these programmes are not brought to fruition, it all becomes pointless. We commend the fact that all departments with exception of the Department of Health

have a dedicated disability focal person to assist in the implementation of disability programmes.

We commend the departments that have met the disability equity target but remain concerned about major departments like Health, Education and CoGHSTA which still fail to meet the equity target. Madam Speaker, it seems as though there is no will at all in these departments to meet this target and there is an even lesser effort by the Office of the Premier to enforce compliance. The departments which fail to implement have been reported to cite budget strain in compensation of employees as the main reason why they fail to meet set targets. This cannot be an acceptable reason, to claim that meeting disability target will bear negatively on the provincial purse. It cannot be accepted. As part of the intervention strategy, the Office of the Premier together with sector departments have developed a revised structure which includes the posts of disability focal points to address this particular challenge. We believe that moving forward this will no longer be an issue.

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

On assistive device response, let me indicate that it has been reported that the Office of the Premier lacks information on the assistive device and this backlog poses as a challenge emanating from the 2020/21 fourth quarter. Honourable Members, the use of assistive devices is safe and contributes to healthcare workers' injuries. By identifying and improving on this backlog, it will play a vital role in the healthcare facility and prevent occupational injuries. The assistive devices with a backlog were recorded as; working aids, crutches and spectacles with a total of 4 252 and 2 340 required respectively.

With regard to the rights of women in all departments, let me indicate that the Office has reported that only the Department of Transport and Community Safety has complied with the 50% employment equity status. The committee raised displeasure in the continuous noncompliance by the other departments. However, the Office of the Premier has come up with the reprioritisation of funded posts to comply with the employment equity plan of sector departments as an intervention strategy.

Madam Speaker, during the third quarter of the previous financial year, several measures were put in place to improve the overall provincial equity employment compliance which includes the development and implementation of equity employment plans by departments. Equal opportunities for growth and promotion that completely cleansed corporate policy of any discriminatory bias providing an inclusive and meritocratic platform of progress for all require a larger shift in the mindset of employees.

On employment equity, it was reported that as part of gender mainstreaming in sector departments, all the departments have appointed gender focal persons whose responsibility is to popularise and mainstream gender programmes and projects. The

empowerment of women is not a favour but is central to our equity projects. It does not make sense to have programmes on woman empowerment when these are not met by actual representatives of women in the workplace. In one of his speeches, former President Thabo Mbeki stated that: “No government in South Africa could ever claim to represent the will of the people if it fails to address the central task of emancipation of women in all its elements, and that includes the government we are privileged to lead.”

The presence of women in the workplace more so occupying senior roles goes a long way in advancing the gain of our revolution. The presence of women in leadership positions goes a long way in affirming the rightful space that women should occupy in society. We, therefore, encourage the Office to ensure compliance by departments.

Madam Speaker, the Office of the Premier has reported that the Department of Education as the implementing agent for the Limpopo Sanitary Dignity Programme has undertaken to provide sanitary dignity packs to all children in quintiles 1 to 3 and the implementation plans are readily available. Whilst it is all well to have an implementation plan, we need to see this programme running in schools already. The dignity of girl children should be protected at all times. We therefore urge the Office to hasten in ensuring that this programme is duly implemented.

On gender-based violence, let me highlight that much of our efforts as South Africans has to be focused on response, however, our response efforts need to be supported and complimented by presenting, programming and policy development. By addressing the underlining interlinked causes of GBV, we can work towards preventing it from happening in the first place. Whilst Limpopo has a high level of GBV, we have also led in the field of prevention intervention in low-and middle-income regions. We need to identify a model which works to respond to and prevent violence and we can work on scaling those up to reach more people. At the same time as a society, we can work together to find new ways to address GBV building the current evidence base and responding to this national crisis.

Madam Speaker, we must be worried about what has happened in our psyche as a society. We need to intergrade 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 neighbourhoods. Freedom will be meaningless if a home is no longer a safe place to be for women and children.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, we have highlighted what ought to be done. We believe that the Premier as the principal will ensure that implementation takes place. Having considered the First and Second Quarter Reports on special programmes, the committee recommends that the House adopts the report and that the Office of the Premier should comply with the recommendations of the committee as indicated.

Hon Speaker, I, therefore, move on behalf of the committee that this report be adopted as the report of this august House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC to come and respond on behalf of the Premier.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER]

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Once again, let me thank you Hon Speaker, for this opportunity to come and respond to the issues that are being raised by the standing committee as led by Hon Mapula Mokaba. We do take into account all the matters that have been raised, and also Madam Speaker, it is important to note that for us to build a new society that is democratic, that is non-racial and non-sexist, we should be able to take into account all the matters that have been raised. All the vulnerable groups need to be taken care of and make sure that we are able to truly create a base to move from in terms of building that new society and also laying a foundation for that transformation that we are talking about. That is because those areas that have been raised are measures that would be able to tell us as to whether we are able to move a step forward in terms of the transformation of society. Those are the matters that are integral in terms of transformation, particularly for those groups that we have spoken about.

I should say, Madam Speaker, that various departments are taking into account the fact that matters of employment equity are non-negotiable. It is part of the contract and agreement that the Premier of the province has signed with executing authorities in this province to make sure that all departments are compliant and are able to be part of that transformation that we are talking about; and also become the driving force of bringing about that transformation within the society and within the government itself.

The issues of people living with disability, I think the Department of Education has moved a step further. I think we have made some strides in terms of addressing some of those issues that special schools of young people living with disability are dealing with. Yes, there are still concerns, particularly, in terms of Rivoni special school with the issues of water and the borehole. We are taking that into consideration, and I think the MEC for Education is also taking that into account that we should be able to with immediate effect, look into those challenges that are faced by those special schools so that we are able to ultimately alleviate such challenges that they are faced with. We should also take into account that there are a number of programmes, particularly infrastructure programmes that are targeted at those special schools in the province to be able to improve their plight. We believe that with the reports that should be going to various portfolio committees and to this august House, we should be informed about the progress that is being made, particularly, in those special schools from the Department of Education.

The issue of GBV shelters that are supposed to be established in the province, let me indicate that they are very much important, particularly for women who are at risk and women who are faced with violence within their families and so on. However, on the issue of GBV, I think we should be able to also take into account that it should not be the responsibility of the government only, particularly when we start saying it is the government that must deal with that, it becomes a challenge. The issue of GBV which is meted against women and children is a societal challenge that all components of society should deal with. That is because these are matters of socialisation and they are matters

that you cannot be reliant on the police because these are matters of socialisation of our society. It tells you what the makeup of our society is all about. Therefore, we need to make it a point that the family becomes that base that is able to start dealing with those matters in terms of socialisation. Indeed, we need to make sure that the campaigns that are carried out by Social Development and other stakeholders should be able to educate not only men but society in general in terms of these challenges that are faced by society.

Therefore, there should be efforts from all sectors of society to try and deal with these matters because this has become a menace to society. Unfortunately, you cannot be able to have a policeman in each and every house. We need to make sure that, particularly, our Social Development is able to up its game and make sure that we are able to deal with this. We know that they are still faced with various challenges in terms of social worker shortages and so on, but it is a matter that we needed to make sure that at least as a government we play our part. We need all stakeholders to bring their hands on deck so that we are able to ultimately put this matter under control. We have to ensure that our society is moving with times; and it is also working towards a transformation that we are talking about. That is because as long as we do not respect women, as long as we do not respect our children and protect them, it would mean that we will still remain a step back in ensuring that we are able to yield that transformative new society that we are talking about of women and children. We need to create that place for them to be able to be protected at all times and be supported in terms of ensuring that their full potential can be realised.

The issue of the participation of women, young people and people with disability in the economy is a matter of ensuring that as we become, we live in that dream of creating a new society which is not only democratic and non-racial but also a society that is developing in its economy and becoming prosperous. It would mean that we need to take into account the issues of empowerment of women because women form the biggest part of our society. It would mean that as long as we continue to leave them outside of development and new opportunities, our society will never become inclusive, and our economy will never be inclusive in ensuring that there is equity within our society. Therefore, it remains important and very strategic for the Office of the Premier to ensure that all the matters that the standing committee has raised are looked at.

There are other issues that form part of that transformation that I will not speak to; issues of assistive devices, issues of sanitary towels and issues of gender mainstreaming. Yes, gender mainstreaming is important, and we believe that it should be in place. However, they are all encapsulated in ensuring that we take care of the needs and aspirations of those vulnerable groups. We believe that we should be able to ultimately deal with the tenets that go with them and are also inherent as we are continuously changing the lives of those special groups. Once again, thank you, chairperson of the committee, and Members of the committee. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Thank you for the response. We shall now proceed to Item 7.3: Consideration and Adoption of the following report: 2021/22 First Quarter Report of the Department of CoGHSTA. Committee chair, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, Modulasetulo. Bjalo ka Modulasetulo wa nakwana wa Komiti ya CoGHSTA, ke be ke kgopela Ngwako wo gore o tšee Pego ya Kotara ya Mathomo ya Ngwaga wa 2021/22 bjalo ka Pego Ngwako wo. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

A ke go leboga, Mospikara. Nna, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, ke emelela go tlatša pego ye e tlišitšwego ke yena yo a swaretšego Modulasetulo wa Komiti ya rena ya CoGHSTA.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We come to 2021/22 Second Quarter Report of the Department of CoGHSTA. Committee chair, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. Mina, Joshua Matlou, hi ku yimela Manana Aphiri, ndzi yima ku ri ndzi seketela xiviko xa lembe ra 2021/22, xa Kotara ya Vumbirhi ya Ndzawulo ya CoGHSTA. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. Nna, Selelo Donald Selamolela, ke ema mo go thekga pego ye e tlišitšwego ke Modulasetulo wa mo-na-o-latswa wa Komiti ya Pušo Tirišano, Bodulo bja Batho le Merero ya Magoši, ke re ke thekga go amogelwa ga pego ye. Thobela.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We come to 2021/22 Third Quarter Report of the Department of CoGHSTA. Committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, Mosepetša Mošomo, Mospikara wa rena. Gapegape, Kotara ya Boraro ya Ngwaga wa 2021/22; bjalo ka moswaredi wa modulasetulo ke re ke tliša pego ka mo go Ngwako wo gore e amogelwe. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, is there any seconder? Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Ndi khou livhuwa Mulangadzulo. Ndi khou imela u tikedza zwe zwa ambiwa nga mufareli wa tshidzulo Vho Joshua Matlou. Ndi khou livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We come to 2021/22 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of CoGHSTA. Committee chair, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, on behalf of the chairperson, Hon Aphiri, hereby stand to present the 2021/22 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of CoGHSTA. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MONYAMANE

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. Ke ema go tlatša Modulasetulo wa motšwaoswere wa Komiti ya CoGHSTA. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We come to the 2020/21 Annual Report of the Department of CoGHSTA. Committee chair.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, on behalf of the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Aphiri, hereby stand to present the 2020/21 Annual Report for the Department of CoGHSTA for this honourable House to adopt and consider. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to second the 2020/21 Annual Report as brought forth by Hon Matlou on behalf of Hon Aphiri. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Mochadi. Please take the podium. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Madam Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Premier in absentia, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of the august House, ngithanda ukunilotjhisa noke ngebizo elihle nelikhulu leKosi yethu uJesu Krestu.

USomlomo oHloniphekileko, namhlanje sijamile sibomma ngombana iphrovinsi yethu yeLimpopo yasilethela abomma ababili, omunye uvela e-Botlokwa, ungowakwa-Mannya begodu omunye uvela Ga-Mphahlele ungowakwa-Matabane. Njeke sibusiseke khulu thina ngombana uZimu usithandile wasinikela abomma laba abajamela amalungelo wabantu. Somlomo oHloniphekileko, thina njengeKomidi ye-CoGHSTA, siqale kuhle imibiko yethu yekota yokuthoma, yesibili, yesithathu neyesine.

Ikomidi ibonile bona ekotareni yokuthoma sibe nomraro wokuthi umnyango lo ukhuphe imali wayinikela usokontraga malungana nezindlu zeMarapong

Madam Speaker, I say the committee observed in the first quarter that the department had 23 litigations in Capricorn and eight litigations in Vhembe region. The litigations arose from the Kgatla Commission report. The department should provide a progress report on how they are being resolved. Ilizwi leKosi encwadini yabeKolose 3:23 lithi: "Nanyana yini eniyenzako, yenzeni ngihliziyo, kwangasuthi nenzela uZimu, ingasi abantu nje." Umsebenzi eniwenzako, wenzeleni uZimu ukuze sibusiseke. Njeke, umnyango lo, awusebenzele uZimu ukuze izinto zikhambe kuhle.

Madam Speaker, the contractor in the construction of Marapong CRUs (Community Residential Units) Sithi usokontraga wabhadelwa imali engange-R33 miliyoni malungana nokwakhwa izindlu e-Marapong, eLephalale, angakathomi ukwenza umsebenzi. I-Freedom Charter ithi, boke abantu abatlahgileko bazokuba nezindlu.

We are making a follow up as the portfolio committee regarding this anomaly with the department. The department should report in every committee meeting on how the anomaly is being addressed and whether it will not affect the audit outcome of the department. Honourable Members, the department should also institute an investigation regarding the advanced payment. During the committee's oversight visit to Marapong, we found that the project has stalled, and vandalism began to take place. There was also a greater likelihood that the cost of the project may rise when construction begins. The department should report progress on a quarterly basis.

Madam Speaker, also in the first quarter, we observed as the portfolio committee that the municipalities received the MIG funds (Municipal Infrastructure Grant), and most of the

municipalities did not spend the money. There should be a progress report to the House concerning quarterly data on MIG spending. We noticed that land acquisition was budgeted for in the past financial years and money was not spent accordingly. The department should report to the House on what the money was spent for since land was not acquired.

Honourable Members, during the first quarter the department planned to achieve 29 performance targets but managed to achieve only 23 targets in terms of the APP that was approved. There was certainty that the targets would be achieved as planned and in line with the approved budget. The underachievement of the target implied poor planning by the department. There was also an underspending by 7,6% of the budget. The department managed to spend only 17,4% of the first quarter allocation. Madam Speaker, in the second quarter we received a briefing on the integrated sustainable human settlement that its purpose is to ensure the provision of housing developments, access to adequate accommodation in well allocated areas, access to basic services, and access to social infrastructure and economic opportunities.

The department had planned to achieve five targets. None of these targets were achieved. Some of those targets are part of job creation which is in one of the key priorities for the ANC-led government; and is in the manifesto of the government also. The reason presented by the department that contractors are not reporting on the number of jobs created and that difficult terrains made it difficult to service sites was not acceptable to the portfolio committee. We are under the impression that when planning was done, it was found to be feasible to implement the projects.

The department should ensure that the accounting officer accounts for the non-achievement of approved targets. The department must provide a plan to the House on how the challenges faced in the human settlements would be dealt with.

Honourable Members, we observed as a portfolio committee that there was an unauthorised expenditure of R1,117 billion incurred by the Mogalakwena Municipality. There should be investigations and the final report must be submitted to the House. The department must also provide plans on how municipalities that invested money with VBS are going to be supported in relation to service delivery. Many municipalities in the province are struggling to spend the allocated Municipal Infrastructure Grant. There are municipalities that are affected by stopping the MIG funds every year. The department must develop a plan on how those municipalities could be assisted before they are affected by the stoppage.

Madam Speaker, municipalities must work according to their constitutional and legislative obligations. Chief financial officers must stop relying on consultants to prepare their annual financial statements. These officials are saying to us that they do not have the capacity. So why did we hire them to take care of the finances of our municipalities? They are in fact abdicating their responsibilities in accordance with the Municipal Finance Management Act. The preparation of annual financial statements by some municipalities is outsourced and this comes at a huge cost to municipalities. The department must assist these officials by ensuring that they are trained. If they are under-capacitated, let capacity be addressed. The department cannot continue to allow municipalities to lose service

delivery funds to consultants. Most of our municipalities could not achieve favourable audit outcomes as a result of poor work done by consultants.

Madam Speaker, the department must report on a quarterly basis how municipalities are assisted to move out of this unfavourable situation. Honourable Members, we will continue to play our oversight role to ensure that we focus our attention on departments with audits that are qualified always. We will demand of our Executive Authority that they report quarterly to their councils on what achievements they are making in their audit plans to overcome the qualifications in their findings.

Madam Speaker, as I am concluding, let me indicate that the department received an allocation of R529,201 million to provide support to traditional leaders within the context of cooperative governance during the last quarter of the year under review. The department planned three targets and only two of those targets were achieved. The expenditure meant to the programme was at 21,9% which was an underachievement. The department must work hard to spend the budget in line with the approved annual performance plan. The department must ensure that communities receive services as planned.

In the analysis of the annual report of the department, the committee observed that the department is struggling with the building and completion of mixed housing units, CRUs, as I have already alluded to that. The department is also failing to update the House on the 50/50 mixed housing units on ... [INTERJECTION]

BACKGROUND

[inaudible]

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Don't disturb me because when you interject me you are disturbing me and then I am going to lose my minutes. Honourable Members, the department cites delayed completion of proclamation of townships due to COVID-19 pandemic as a reason for non-achievement. There is a challenge in the department of failing to institute consequence management when officials fail to deliver services to the people of the province.

Madam Speaker, we support the adoption of the reports of the first quarter, second quarter, third quarter, fourth quarter and the Annual Report of the department.

I so move, Madam Speaker. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Raphela, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Go na le koša ye nngwe, e re “*Thina sicela imbeko ebantwini abadala*”, Hon Selamolela. Thank you, Hon Speaker. Before we can start our debate, on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition; re be re gopotša boMohlomphegi Matitze gore ka mo o boletše “The Permanent Acting Premier” go re sekgowa le dikakanyo di ka go gakantšha. Ka dinako tše dingwe re swanetše re bolele dipolelo tša reana. What is a developmental state in relation to what is happening here. Maybe “development” ga re e tsebe gabotse. Mohlongwe ge re ka bolela ka dipolelo tša rena tša letswele re ka kwešiša tše dingwe tša dikakanyo tše.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned that there seems to be some competition of underexpenditure in the Limpopo province by departments. If it is not underexpenditure, it is irregular expenditure. I am not sure if this concept is of a developmental state or what. From the first quarter, the spending patterns were worrisome. It is not a surprise that the department continues to underspend. Who authorises the payment of operating leases which are above 4% threshold whereas the increase is more than double the guidelines. A detailed report must be presented to this House on this matter.

In the last two financial years, the department had underspent by over R615 million while people are subjected to harsh conditions of squatter camps and overcrowding. Is this developmental, Hon Matitze? The amount could have built a new township with over 500 low-cost houses, eradicating squatter camps and improving the living conditions of our people. Embarrassingly, the department is even unable to spend on grants as mentioned here. People want to come here and claim to be the provincial leadership. Anyway, we are raising these issues because the person who is supposed to be here and monitor when we are raising issues is permanently not here. So, we are just speaking.

In all four types of grants received by the department, there was underperformance with emerging housing grants being at 100% unspent. In addition to over R600 million unspent, the department incurred irregular expenditure of R452 191 977 and wasteful expenditure of R109 444 000 in the province. The person who initiated the ANC into corruption has committed the biggest injustice to humankind as the people of this province continue to suffer when the so-called leaders swim with accumulative billions worth of irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, Hon Matitze. Is this developmental?

BACKGROUND

He is Hon Matibe, not Matitze.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Matibe? Ja, that's why! So, this is developmental. Hon Speaker, the departmental leadership should be ashamed of this mess. This is just to get salaries and interfere with tenders and nothing for service delivery, which is what our people are longing for. The department is underperforming in all programmes. This underperformance is becoming a departmental image hence all units are joining in this fiasco of non-delivery. Eupša le a ba kgetha. That is why we are saying the ANC is corrupt, at its best.

The department must give concrete dates as to when are they going to meet the target of 2% threshold on people living with disability and 50% on women at SMS Level. How do you expect the empowerment of women and people living with disability to be achieved when the sitting government has been oppressing this marginalised section of the people for over 26 years without fail? Hon Speaker, harsh actions must be meted out against this department which represents failure. This department represents pain unto our people. But he is not here, the person that we were supposed to be raising these issues with. By the way, even last August when you were not here, Hon Selamolela, we raised the issue of the absenteeism of the Premier. So, he is used to this thing. So, we are raising it officially again, and we will raise it again politically. He is permanently not here, leadership in absentia.

The failure by the department to spend the budget and execute plans reversed the democratic gains and perpetuated the apartheid colonial setup as ordinary people are still subjected to this abject poverty whilst the ANC elite is glowing unashamedly. The department must not be biased when dealing with matters of traditional leaders in the province. Le arogantšha le magoši. In his recent politically confused restructuring move, the Premier of Limpopo, Hon Mathabatha failed to seize an opportunity to change the leadership of this department, so, the people of Limpopo must embrace themselves for more suffering. In fact, you must change this thing of having a Limpopo Premier. We must have a “Permanent Acting Premier”, Hon Charles. The department needs to seriously cleanse community residential units’ contractors that cannot deliver the promised jobs, and the department play games blaming contractors who have a contractual obligation to deliver on a set target.

It is clear that everyone has joined the lawless train both internally and externally. We suspect that the delays in the acquisition of land might be due to the unavailability of those who seek to participate in a similar fraudulent scheme. Just like what happened in Tubatse as mentioned here, and we are yet to see action taken against those who were involved, and some are amongst us here today. Given the history of doing illegal activities using taxpayer’s money, the department must report to this House before such land acquisition can be concluded. The EFF will never rest until the residents of Marapong see the completion of CRUs which were paid for in advance, as mentioned here.

The people of Limpopo are still shocked as to how the ANC managed to cover up those implicated on VBS saga and also went on and elected them again. This is why they worship corruption in this province and mislead society that actions are being taken against those involved in this activity. Until the department presents the list of officials who collaborated under PFMA and other illegal prescripts governing public resources and actions with their illegal activities which amount to the betrayal of Limpopo citizens, as the EFF, we will never rest on that. The EFF will never rest until all those who qualify for those houses receive quality-built houses which will have enough space for furniture. E se go mekhukhu yela le ilego la ya le ilo e bula. Le yona le be le ka se kgone go e gana. Eupša le kgethile ka moka akere?

The EFF demands that the department submits a list of the number of houses which must be rectified and the cost thereof. Failure and lack of leadership are causing mental breakdown which negatively affects the well-being of the department, Hon “Permanent

Acting Premier". The report must be rejected until we see consequence management, heads rolling and real service delivery taking place, Hon "Permanent Acting Premier".

We hope that heads will roll on this one. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maharaj, you may take the podium.

MR MAHARAJ

Ngiyathokoza Somlomo. Hon Speaker, oversight and accountability remain two critical concepts that cannot be separated in the financial management and public accountability process. These two concepts ensure that there is adequate spending of public funds by those entrusted with the political power to govern. Whilst Limpopo had over the past five years seen an improvement in municipal audit outcomes, it will only be a meaningful improvement once we do not rely on consultants.

Simply, our goal must be to attain 25, not just 01 clean audit outcome. Only then, can we truly celebrate. Honourable MEC, your department has a gigantic task ahead to achieve this. The Cooperative Governance Programme has been allocated R281 352 000 to support and provide oversight to our municipalities. Your department has a constitutional obligation to support municipalities to focus on the strategic alignment of developmental strategies and plans, policies and programmes as well as assistance on strategic budgeting based on previous year IDP priority needs and sector departmental key APP deliverables. Currently, there is a lack of implementation of joint-up government projects in the municipal areas; on sector developmental projects that will be implemented in a specific locality in a municipality and a lack of assistance on an agreement on time frames; support needs and resource allocations; pragmatic budget alignment and alignment with municipal planning on IDP cycle. Municipalities are entrusted with the responsibility of changing the lives of people for the better, therefore, the need for improvement in service delivery and the promotion of accountable and transparent governance arrangement is crucial.

This esteemed House recently passed a DA motion for CoGHSTA to aggressively intervene in our distressed municipalities, but we have yet to date to see if these bear any fruits. Most of our municipalities are struggling to cope. Poor infrastructure maintenance and regular upgrading have resulted in sewage leaks in almost all local municipalities which have serious health implications for residents. Marble Hall is just but one example where urgent intervention is required. Poor planning around electrical infrastructure maintenance results in unplanned outages which is detrimental to local economies, and I am sure the MEC for Treasury will understand the implications of that.

Our municipal roads are in bad shape which negatively impacts investment and poorly maintained water infrastructure results in severe water losses. There are signs of companies and major factories that are looking at relocating because of the water situation. These deficiencies in service delivery can directly be ascribed to the poor public

financial management and lack of accountability in our municipalities as well as lack of active intervention by the department on the municipal reports.

Honourable MEC, if your department by legislative and other measures does not aggressively support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage its own affairs, to exercise its powers and to perform its functions, there is a real danger of a complete collapse of services at local level which will have catastrophic implementations on our economy. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Matlou, the acting chair, it's over to you. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. USomlomo is a spokesperson, Hon Maharaj. U-Speaker nguSihlalo. Including that she is chairing now. But uSomlomo is a spokesperson. Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker, 'Ambassador' Ndou; honourable Members of the Executive Council present here led by the Leader of Government Business, honourable Members of the opposition and leaders of the opposition present here, once more, I greet you.

Hon Speaker, the department has severe challenges in financial management. It failed to pay some of the undisputed invoices submitted by the service providers. In the 2020/21 financial year, by this time, the department was sitting at less than 70% of payments. We can report now that they have improved to 97% payment in terms of goods and services within 30 days. It is critical for the department to ensure that businesses are paid on time because delays in payment will make them collapse, and these have played a role in job creation. They will lay off some of the workers, hence, it would increase the rate of unemployment in our province.

Honourable MEC, we need 100% compliance. We are at 97% and it is remarkable but, we need 100% compliance so that it effectively contributes to building small businesses in Limpopo and to make them show that they are able to be sustainable. The department must move swiftly in making sure that the CRUs at Marapong in Lephalale Local Municipality, Waterberg District Municipality, Tshikota at Makhado Local Municipality under Vhembe District Municipality and Talana in Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality under Mopani District Municipality have commenced and completed, particularly the Marapong CRUs.

The department must ensure that officials involved in the mismanagement of funds, lack of monitoring and abdicating of responsibilities on Marapong CRUs are brought to book. That project will reach 10 years being in the state that it is in, and funds that were erroneously paid must be recovered. The department must play a bigger role in ensuring that municipalities that could not recover the monies from the VBS are supported to enable them to deliver services to our communities. Where it is possible to recover the money, let it happen and let the money be returned to municipal accounts.

The department must ensure that the municipal councils act against officials who invested municipal money into the VBS accounts. Training must also be provided to the accounting officers and financial officers to ensure that irregularities do not occur in the next future. We might have seen some moves in the municipalities in terms of the VBS saga but more needs to be done. The training will also assist in capacitating municipalities which have challenges in spending municipal infrastructure grants as alluded to by honourable Members. The committee will intensify its oversight role in ensuring that irregularities are mitigated, and good financial governance is exercised.

Hon Speaker, the committee observed that the department must refurbish 19 traditional councils, provide furniture, construct 185 traditional councils, appoint 638 headmen and headwomen and the filling of vacancies at traditional offices. The department must avoid delays in implementing these programmes. The department must also update the House on the Kgatla Commission outstanding matters. We will be hard on the department to ensure that the decisions taken by this House are also implemented without any delay. The institution of traditional leadership should continuously be supported to enhance the spirit of cooperative governance and we should do it across the entire province so that other areas do not feel left out.

Hon Speaker, the committee received a brief from the department that there is an investigation going on in the Sekhukhune District Municipality involving R5,425 million of payments made to unscrupulous accounts. We commend the department for appointing a forensic investigation to investigate the fraud committed by these officials. Furthermore, the committee is concerned that the investigation is not brought to its finality. We wish the department could bring it to its finality as a matter of extreme urgency. The department must ensure that as a matter of urgency, it concludes the forensic investigation and those found to have committed fraud must face the might of the law and funds be recovered without delay.

Lastly, as a portfolio committee, we want to pursue this House to consider and also adopt the 2021/22 First Quarter, Second Quarter, Third Quarter and Fourth Quarter reports and further also adopt the 2020/21 Annual Report to be documents of this House and to continue to make sure that all decisions in those particular documents are implemented.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for CoGHSTA to come and respond to the debate. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Madam Speaker; Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou; Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha in absentia; honourable colleagues in the Executive Council led by the Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati; Hon Chief Whip of the majority party; honourable chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA; Members and leaders of opposition parties; honourable Members of the august House; officials present

here including the acting HOD for CoGHSTA, I greet you all. Firstly, I must accept and acknowledge the oversight report given by the portfolio committee. One of the things that I should accept upfront is the fact that there is poor forward planning in the department and as a result of that, we have poor spending. On the issue raised about Marapong CRUs project that should have brought about 514 units and which was started in the 2016/17 financial year, as we speak, it has not yet been completed.

I must update the House that as we are speaking, today being Tuesday, 16 August 2022, there are people on the ground. The project has resumed, and we have resolved a number of challenges which were there at the inception of the project. Regarding the R33 million advance payment, an investigation has been commissioned. The people whom the House is requesting that they should be brought to book, I can confirm that the investigation report is clear, and a disciplinary process has taken place in the department. It is only people who were fingered there, and some of them even resigned before we could conclude the disciplinary processes. So, we have started with that.

The matter that has been raised about the Kgatla Commission, the issue of litigation, I must update the House that it is the responsibility of the Department of CoGHSTA to assist the Office of the Premier in the implementation of the Kgatla Commission. We are on course with the implementation. Where does litigation come from? It comes from the royal families themselves; it is not the department that is involved. We don't have control when the family has appointed senior traditional leaders as a result of the outcomes of the Kgatla Commission. Ours as CoGHSTA and Office of the Premier, is to allow the families to battle it out in the court of law and we support the court order which is there. So, the litigations that are coming out of the Kgatla Commission are not necessarily out of our interest.

Also, you will understand from the history of this country that the issue of traditional leadership during the apartheid government, it was those that agreed with the apartheid government who were always supported and uplifted even if they were headmen because they agreed with it. Once the ANC-led government came into power, they changed that, and they are bringing history to its original state. That is why we are implementing the Kgatla Commission. Those that were promoted in some ways they are the ones who are fighting in the courts. As we speak, there is not a single one who has won against the decisions of the Kgatla Commission.

Of course, the issue that we did not spend the money on the acquisition of land is a fact. The question is, what is it that made us not to have spent or achieved our targets? I will respond to this and club it with the wasteful expenditure of R109 million. That is what affected the Tubatse land acquisition. We started making sure that all the land that had been acquired by the department for the municipalities, we had to service it without necessarily continuing to have land that is just lying fallow without being used.

The issue of the R108 million Tubatse land acquisition constitutes that wasteful expenditure and the remaining expenditure which is just interests at some point and cancellation of bookings for officials and other things. With regard to the R108 million, it is a matter that is before the House. We have updated the House that we have got a report that has not fingered officials, but the matter has been handed over to the Hawks

for them to look at the criminality side of the matter. That process is outside us as a department and we won't be able to see when they are going to start making arrests. But as a department, because it is our money, we continue to have engagements with the Hawks to try and find out how are they finalising the matter.

I think I should speak about the VBS saga. As the ANC-led government, we can safely say in this Legislature today that where people invested money in the VBS, where the reports came from the forensic investigation, MEC Sekoati, we have made sure that all councils should be able to adopt the reports and act on them. Hence, if you go to our performance in terms of the appointment of senior management, we did not perform simply because we fired a lot of those who were in the senior management. There were a lot of vacant positions in that aspect. There is no area where we did not fire senior managers.

The issue was to ask ourselves; what is it that we are doing to help the municipalities that have lost money in the VBS? We are assisting these municipalities to make sure that through liquidation they reclaim the money. At the same time, all municipalities who invested were requested to develop financial recovery plans which were approved by the MEC to make sure that are implemented so that we can be able to recover. All municipalities are supported to make sure that they go for liquidation and try to claim their share. Whatever they will get will be what we are doing as municipalities.

There is an allegation that most of our municipalities got unfavourable audit outcomes. I may want to agree to a particular extent with MEC Sekoati about the issue of the English language. Out of the 27 municipalities we have in the province, it is only two municipalities that got negative audit outcomes. They are Bela-Bela Local Municipality and Mopani District Municipality, which got a disclaimer. We no longer have a single municipality in this province with an adverse audit opinion. All the remaining municipalities fall under the category of a qualified, unqualified and clean audit. The majority of the municipalities, about 16 of them are on unqualified audit opinion; six are on qualified audit opinion and only one municipality is in the clean audit category.

When you use the word most favourable audit outcomes, it is only two which is the least, not the most. Maybe that is what I wanted to clarify to say, we are not necessarily having most of the municipalities. Of course, if you go and look at other provinces the situation looks different. Even when the Auditor-General spoke about audits for MFMA (Municipal Finance Management Act), she singled out Limpopo as one of the provinces which has got the most improved audit outcomes for municipalities. Not that we don't agree with you in terms of the use of consultants. MEC Sekoati, my colleague is here to attest to the fact that it is a matter that we have taken, both of us because we both support municipalities and we want to build capacity within municipalities to reduce the use of consultants. It is a matter that the department is not happy about and we are working on the issue of the use of consultants.

I have accepted the issue raised by Hon Matlou understanding that for this financial year already we have appointed contractors before the beginning of the financial year. That is why we were able to resolve the issue of the CRUs you are speaking about; the Marapong, Tshikota and Talana. All of these three CRUs, in terms of how we want to

implement them, we are going to make sure that those projects commence, because they were the ones that were also causing us not to spend as planned.

We are not biased toward traditional leadership in this province. Where traditional leaders have to get their dues, they do get them. We have assisted to refurbish traditional offices. We bought furniture for traditional offices. We are building traditional council offices for our traditional councils, but there were two that delayed us to implement because of the fights within the traditional councils themselves, who to start with could not necessarily decide where they should be located. That is one of the things that affect us.

I know the portfolio committee will continue to conduct oversight. The challenge we have with regard to meeting the 2% target in terms of hiring people living with disability, we agree, we are focusing and will try our best. But it should be commended, Hon Sekoati, that it is a department that in the senior management, it is women who are leading. The two DDGs there were women, the HOD was a woman and only one was a man in the senior management of the department. So, we also consider other areas. It is only with the disability, but we can confirm that with the recruitment that is taking place in the department we are going to focus and make sure that we don't become biased toward disabled people so that they can be part of that.

There is much that the portfolio committee has raised. We will always have time to engage but I must appreciate as the executing authority to say the guidance that the portfolio committee is giving us, we are not taking it lightly. The consequence management that has been raised by the portfolio committee that it should be implemented in the department, we are not taking it lightly. Hence, there are forensic investigations in order to follow any poor performance, and any irregular expenditure that took place.

With those words, Hon Speaker, I must thank the portfolio committee and this House for the opportunity and commit that what they raised which we have to improve on, we are going to work hard and improve so that the people of this province get services. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

8.1. Motion for the Ratification of the Appointment of Special Delegates who attended NOCP Plenaries

Hon Chief Whip, you may take the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Deputy Speaker, Premier, Leader of Government Business, Members of the Executive, Deputy Chair of Chairs and honourable Members, let me greet you once more.

**THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES WHO
ATTENDED THE NCOP PLENARIES**
(Motion without Notice)

Madam Speaker, section 61(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa read together with House Rule 226, section 3 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House, provides for the designation and appointment of special delegate as required from time to time. In line with these provisions, I, hereby move that these august House resolve the appointment of the following honourable Members who attended the National Council of Provinces Plenaries as follows:

- 03 August 2022: Questions for Cluster 3A, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Public Service and Administration: Hon M J Aphiri, Hon N S Monyamane and Hon T B Matibe;
- 04 August 2022: Questions to Cluster 3B Governance Minister in the Presidency, Women, Youth and Persons with Disability: Dr Namane Masemola, Hon M A Mokaba-Phukwana, Hon C B D Selane, and Dr S M Mochadi;
- 10 August 2022: Debate on Women's Day: Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow: Hon M A Mokaba-Phukwana, Hon C B D Selane and Dr S M Mochadi;

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby stand to second the presentation as done by Hon Mochadi. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's proceed to item 9.

9. SNAP DEBATE ON WOMEN'S MONTH

The first speaker to debate is Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

WOMEN'S MONTH
(Snap Debate)

Thank you, Hon Speaker; and greetings to everyone who is present in this House today. Hon Speaker, women and children in South Africa are confronted by hostility and permanent hatred by those who do not appreciate the diversity of God's creation. It cannot be that as women and children we are endangered species in our own country. Our constitutional rights and freedom are being violated on daily basis under the watchful eye of the ANC-led government.

In South Africa, women are faced with challenges such as: domestic violence, unemployment, intimate partner violence (IPV), gender discrimination as well as poverty. We grapple with all these challenges alone without the government's intervention. The women of 1956 protested against the introduction of the apartheid pass laws for black women. Ours is a different struggle. Hon Speaker, what is different with us, and the women of 1956 is that they owned their revolution. The revolution and the struggle we face today as women are; gender-based violence, IPV, discrimination, economic injustices, and unequal opportunities.

In Waterberg, Thabazimbi, for example, mine workers and residents face gender-based violence on daily basis and nothing is being done about it. Early this year the EFF opened a case against a SAPS official in Thabazimbi. This follows a video that has been doing rounds where a woman is sitting at the back of a car, and she has a conversation with what appears to be a police officer. This woman had laid a charge of rape against the man she is sitting next to. The policeman is heard in the video telling this woman to leave the man alone and to stop lying. She was also asked by this policeman to simply not raise this issue.

In 2019, a 51-year-old Thabazimbi pastor was arrested for raping a 12-year-old girl. The pastor was at the victim's house for a prayer meeting when he claimed the girl should go with him to the nearest river to receive healing, saying the girl was sick. Women must be aware of some in this religious fraternity who call themselves men of the cloth and yet rape women and children. These are wolves in sheep skin who have no place in this society. Furthermore, just recently in Thabazimbi, in June this year a 55-year-old man was arrested for stabbing his 50-year-old wife to death at their home in Spitskop. These sorts of cases happen every day and everywhere across the Limpopo province under the watchful eye of Stan Mathabatha.

The two speakers in the former debate, Hon Speaker, on the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability, said a mouthful about issues affecting women and children. However, Hon Speaker, allow me to add because as women we are facing a lot of challenges today. We are faced with a situation where most male police officers sympathise with men who violate women by beating and rapping them.

It is tragic that the police sympathise with perpetrators instead of sympathising with the victims who need their support the most. The majority of women are turned back when they go to police stations to open gender-based violence cases. Women are being told to negotiate with perpetrators instead of assisting them to open cases whilst their cases are not followed through. Police officers who discourage women from opening gender-based

violence cases including rape, they condone it and are rapists themselves. They do not see anything wrong with the rape culture that is being perpetuated by weak and barbaric men in our society.

We must debunk the myth that when women get violated and raped by heartless men, they invite it on themselves. This is nonsensical and a stereotype of the highest order that shouldn't be tolerated. Hon Speaker, we must name and shame police officers who are reluctant and refuse to open gender-based violence cases for the victims. Furthermore, we must report them to the EFF who will take drastic actions so that those cases should be followed up. We condemn in the strongest terms the objectification of women and children by those who use their masculine advantage to violate vulnerable groups in society, in particular women, children and the disabled.

The victims' support centres are also rendered useless, why because they are underfunded and do not have enough human resources to assist victims of gender-based violence. Victim empowerment centres play a central role in the prevention of domestic violence and intimate partner violence. The provision of victim empowerment programmes, counselling services and provision of shelters for victims of abuse are essential and yet they are being underfunded. These centres need more support from the department to fulfil their functions and for the Department of Social Development to achieve one of its apex priorities of social cohesion and safe communities.

Hon Speaker, the parole system must be abolished for perpetrators of gender-based violence and IPV because when these hardened criminals come out of prison, they rape, and they kill. Cases of girls being abducted, raped, and killed are reported on a daily basis while on the other hand, the notion of corrective rape is a reality. There should be specialised courts for gender-based violence cases for the swift prosecution of offenders. Each police station should have dedicated officers to process, collect evidence and also investigate such cases. Many don't even reach the courts because police officers are not sympathetic to the victims and have stereotyped attitudes about this issue. There have been many hearings and summits on gender-based violence but there must be legislation passed to effectively deal with the crime. There should be a harsher sentence for unrepentant individuals. They must be locked in jails and the keys thrown away. They must never see sunlight again.

Hon Speaker, it's our view that women must be fully empowered to determine their own future. Thomas Sankara once said: "The revolution cannot triumph without the emancipation of women." The advancement of issues faced by women cannot be an August-only event, it needs to be a genuine all-year-round process. Why? In order to achieve the full emancipation of all women in this country.

As I conclude, allow me to say this; there is no political will by the current government to provide lasting solutions to all the challenges confronting society today. Like Steve Biko once said: "Black man, you are on your own." The current government is suffering from a poverty of ideas. The state is on autopilot, nonresponsive to community issues and has no consequences for the transgressors. The Economic Freedom Fighters is the only hope and the future for South Africa.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Maharaj, you may take the podium.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it has been 66 years since South African women marched to the Union Buildings against the apartheid pass laws. We pay tribute to those women who put their differences aside and fought bravely against an oppressive regime. In 2022, South African women have a different fight on their hands. A war has been declared against the women of this country and the war rages on. Their bodies are used as battlefields. While the rest of the world is grappling with issues of gender representation or equal pay, women are stuck in a hell loop begging for their lives to be spared.

In January 2022, the family violence, child protection and sexual offences (FCS) units in Limpopo had 88 vehicles to investigate 6 710 cases. The Seshego unit has 12 investigating officers, five vehicles and a caseload of 627 dockets, which means it is a caseload of 52 dockets per investigating officer. Secondary victimisation does not only occur because of the lack of a comfortable waiting room at a police station. Lack of regular updates by investigating officers, slow progress on the investigations, and lengthy trials cause anxiety and therefore many victims withdraw cases as a result.

This House should find it concerning that the Commission for Gender Equality only visited the Mankweng, Seshego and Westernburg police stations in June 2021 to assess the conditions that victims of gender-based violence are subjected to. The high withdrawal rate of rape cases at the three stations visited is a real cause for concern but, without the reasons for withdrawal or who withdrew the case, no inferences can be drawn.

The DA in Limpopo has been calling for increased resources and implementable action plans to combat gender-based violence for years. The DNA sample backlogs must be cleared now. There is nothing to celebrate if women cannot be safe in their homes and in their communities. The DA in the National Assembly has introduced a bill to deal with this very issue of DNA backlogs. We want to ensure that those who commit these crimes do not become repeat offenders at the expense of the women in our communities.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Mokaba, you may take the podium. [APPLAUSE]

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Hon Speaker, honourable Members, MECs present here, and all protocol observed, good afternoon. Hon Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak in this august House today on this occasion of Women's Month. This month, National Women's Day in

South Africa is celebrated by drawing attention to many of the important issues that women in South Africa and across the world still face. Issues such as: gender-based violence, discrimination, unequal pay, harassment at the workplace, access to sanitary products and fair access to education are still dominant in our country.

Hon Speaker, on realising women's right for an equal future on Women's Month, let me indicate that women's courage was a huge step in the movement for women's equality. It is truly shocking to imagine that today. Before we get into that, I want to make it a little more realistic for all of us here. I want to go back to the beginning of our nation and review who was allowed to vote historically. Do you think you were included? Most of us would not have been allowed to vote in the early days when we were still a young nation still figuring out how we will build our democracy.

If you will, I ask you to play along with me for a few minutes as we explore who would have been allowed to vote. We must remember today that although we have come a long way towards equality there is still much to be done. It has been, particularly distressing years full of chaos, heartbreak, and loss. Those circumstances are tough and constantly striving for a better nation can be exhausting. It is crucial that women and men too, continue in the fight for gender equality.

On gender equality, Hon Speaker, there is no doubt that as we celebrate the 66th year of Women's Month, South Africa has made significant progress towards achieving gender equality since 1956 when 20 000 women marched to the Union Building on 09 August in protest against the extension of pass laws to women. The women were led by Lillian Ngoyi; a trade unionist and a political activist; Helen Joseph, Albertina Sisulu and Sophia Williams-de Bruyn. As part of the global movement towards achieving gender equality by 2030 South Africa celebrate this year's Women's Month under the theme: "Generation Equality: Realising women's rights for an equal future."

Hon Speaker, as long as women are underrepresented or misrepresented in this place and other places in our society there is still work to be done. As long as women around the country and the continent fight for equal rights, the struggle continues. I would like to remind you all of a thought from a modern-day leader of the women's rights movement, Malala Yousafzai. Malala is a Pakistani girl who was shot by the Taliban for fighting for girls' rights to access education. She is also the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Malala said: "I speak not for myself but for those without voice ... those who have fought for their rights ... their right to live in peace, their right to be treated with dignity, their right to equality of opportunity, their right to be educated."

We are fortunate to live in a place where women have a voice, and that voice is counted in our democratic process. That opportunity did not come free and many struggled for years in order to get that right.

On women and gender, let me indicate that an inclusive and integrated rural economy in South Africa's rural communities, should have greater opportunity to participate fully in the economic, social and political life of the country, supported by good quality education, health care, transport and other basic services. Successful land reform and rising agricultural production must contribute to the development of an inclusive rural economy.

South Africa's hinterland is marked by high levels of poverty and joblessness, with limited employment in all spheres of government. The apartheid system forced much of the African population into barren rural reserves. To change this, we propose a multi-faceted approach to creating more jobs through agricultural development based on effective land reform and the growth of irrigated agriculture and land production; providing basic services that enable people to develop capabilities to take advantage of opportunities around the country whilst enabling them to contribute to the communities through remittances and skills transfer.

Hon Speaker, it was South Africans from all walks of life in 1954 who in issuing a call for convening The Congress of the People and the drafting of The Freedom Charter said: "We call the people of South Africa black and white – let us speak together of freedom!" He said: "We call the housewives and mothers. Let us speak of the fine children that we bear, and of their stunted lives. Let us speak of the many illnesses and deaths, and of the few clinics and schools. Let us speak of high prices and of shanty towns. Let us speak of freedom."

Hon Speaker, 67 years ago, about 3000 delegates from all racial groups and every corner of our country gathered in Kliptown between 25 and 26 June and adopted The Freedom Charter. In adopting The Freedom Charter as the blueprint of the future of our country our forebears said that these freedom delegates declare in the first clause of The Freedom Charter that: "The people shall govern!" And it stated that: "All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country." And it goes on to say: "That the rights of the people shall be the same, regardless of race, colour or sex." We salute the generations of women who were in the forefront of our heroic struggle for their contribution in ending racial tyranny in our beloved country.

Hon Speaker, and honourable Members, on gender-based violence, let me indicate that South Africa, sometimes known as the destination of femicide, more than 2 700 women have been murdered as a result of gender-based violence since the year 2000. Although grassroots organisations have persistently campaigned to end GBV many women in South Africa continue to suffer abuse. That is according to Statistics South Africa 2022. Many around the world still struggle to secure that right for themselves and for their daughters. As we celebrate this month remember those women who still struggle for their voices to be heard and for their right to be treated with dignity. Thankfully, a whole lot of strong women role models are out there to help lift us up and lead the way. Let us be inspired by the vision we seek to emancipate the women of our province from the clutches of patriarchy, economic exclusion and disease. Let us unite and end this shame of gender-based violence and femicide which deprive the woman of our country of their human rights, dignity and freedom.

Honourable Members, after many years of struggle against the apartheid regime in 1994, our country achieved a democratic breakthrough, and two years later in 1996 adopted the Constitution as the supreme law of the land. Our Constitution reminds us as public representatives that we serve at the behest of the people and that we are here for the sole reason to improve their lives. In the words of Maureen Reagan, daughter of the former President of the United States of America, said: "I will feel equality has arrived

when we can elect to office women who are as incompetent as some of the men who are already there.”

Women’s Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Before that, it is hard to imagine that women could not participate in one of the most basic freedoms that we have, which is, the right to make your voice heard. Half of the people in our nation were silenced and not allowed to participate in making decisions for our democracy.

In closing, Hon Speaker, in line with the theme of 2022 Women’s Month, let us be counted as the generation that will bring equality before men and women. It is in our hands to bring to life the vision of a South Africa which is at peace with itself and the world. A South Africa that is truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, equal and prosperous. Let us roll our sleeves and get to work for a future that celebrates and honour all the women of our land.

I thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. Have a lovely day.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokaba.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? Hon Ndou, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. There are two announcements. The first one is for the people who live in the Parliamentary Village. We have allowed Members to keep pets. Of course, with regard to pets, we normally check which ones are allowed. You can’t keep a lion as a pet. You can’t keep a tiger. Snakes, maybe we can allow them. There is a problem there which has been reported by Members. There are chickens that are running amok, and some Members feel traumatised. Those people who are keeping chickens as pets, we beg you to create a space in your yards so that those chickens don’t run amok. [LAUGHTER] This is a serious announcement, because Members have complained formally. If that does not happen, we will call the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) to come and take the chickens away.

The second one is that lunch is served.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Order, honourable Members! The Sitting is adjourned until Thursday, 18 August 2022 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 18 AUGUST 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may all be seated. Honourable Members from the Executive and Members of this august House, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. Can we proceed?

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. Hon Speaker, I do have a motion without notice, but before that, I have noticed that we do not quorate and, as a result, the House cannot proceed.

THE SPEAKER

The person who deals with the quorum is the Chief Whip. Maybe we can check from the office.

UNDENFIED MEMBER

He himself is not here.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I will adjourn this House for 10 minutes and check other logistics. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE ADJOURNS FOR 10 MINUTES]

[THE HOUSE RESUMES AFTER 10 MINUTES]

THE SPEAKER

We have adjourned this House, honourable Members, for a period of 10 minutes. Now we are back.

Honourable Members, in terms of Rule 32(2), "If a quorum is still not present at the expiration of 30 minutes after the time prescribed for the meeting, the Presiding Officer must take the Chair and adjourn the House."

3. ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, the Sitting is adjourned until further notice. Members will be informed when we will be reconvening the Sitting. Thank you very much, honourable Members.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER TUESDAY, 30 AUGUST 2022 MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

2. 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, the Executive Council, Members of this august House, members of staff, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

3. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Manganye, you may take the floor.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

RAGING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CASES IN LIMPOPO (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes that the Economic Freedom Fighters in Limpopo condemns in the strongest possible terms the alleged killing of Patricia Ngoben, aged 45, by her 71-year-old husband at their family home Biko in Lulekani on Tuesday, 16 August 2022.

Her untimely death sends shockwaves across the province and takes us back in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide, especially at a time when we are observing Women's Month.

The EFF notes with utter dismay that the victim was found with multiple stab wounds, with a sharp object believed to be a weapon used in the murder found at the scene. The swift arrest of the perpetrator by the police is commendable.

We call on the state not to grant the suspect bail until he is meted with a harsher sentence. In addition, we urge men to desist from their wickedness and instead protect women against abuse and violence.

Equally, the police and the MEC for Community Safety must roll up their sleeves and unleash a rigorous programme aimed at addressing the prevalence of GBV in the province.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Manganye. Is there any seconder? Hon Mphahlele, you may take the floor.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Selaelo Mphahlele, rise to second the motion as tabled by Hon Manganye. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Seono, you may take the floor.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO KABELO LEDWABA FOR REPRESENTING
SOUTH AFRICA AT THE JUNIOR MOTOCROSS WORLD CUP**

(Motion without Notice)

I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to congratulate 11-year-old Kabelo Ledwaba, from GaMashashane outside Polokwane for representing South Africa at the FIM Junior Motocross World Cup in the MX 65cc class which took place in Finland this past weekend. According to his profile, the 11-year-old Kabelo Jnr, started racing when he was only 8 years old and today with only three years racing experience, he represented the country on an international stage.

We are encouraged by this news, and we know that this, and many other achievements of having black children taking part in what was previously seen as white men's sporting activities are the result of a levelled playing field, because of an ANC rule.

We hope Kabelo's achievement will open a world of opportunities to many other young children who only see some sporting codes as exclusively reserved for a certain race and not for themselves.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you may take the floor.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as raised by Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mdaka. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Chief Whip, you may take the floor.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

WELL WISHES FOR MATRICULANTS DURING THEIR TRIAL EXAMINATIONS

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, our matric learners are busy with their trial examinations which are a precursor for the final examinations. We wish them well and we are hopeful that the trials will assist our learners to be prepared fully and improve Limpopo's position in the country.

Hon Speaker, as parents and leaders of society we must also play our part to ensure that our children are able to study in environment that is amenable to them. We cannot have taverns and liquor trading outlets that accommodate children of school going age and play their music until the late hours while our learners are engaged with their examinations.

We make a humble plea to our parents to also play their part to assist these learners by encouraging them to study and not overburden them with household chores while they have to study.

We are also making an appeal to the department to make concerted efforts and institute intervention mechanisms to assist our worst performing schools for the 2022 academic year. We cannot continuously be embarrassed by the same group of people without any consequences.

We wish them all of the best for this trial examination and remain hopeful that they will make us proud at the end of this year.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder? Hon Mathye, you may take the floor.

MS MATHYE

Inkomu Muchaviseki Xipikara, mina Susani Violet Mathye ndzi yimela ku seketela ku hundzisiwa ka kungu ra ku navelela vadyondzi va ka ntangha khume lava ya ka eku tsaleni ka xikambelo xa le xikarhi ka lembe, leri ri hundzisiweke hi Muchaviseki Ximokonkulu xa vandla leri fumaka, Tatana Mokgonyana. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mathye. Are there any further motions without notice? 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 Rule 200? Hon Seshoka, you may take the floor.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to all Members of the Executive Council that are here and Members of this august House.

**COCNCERN OVER REPORTS OF NEPOTISM AND CORRUPTION AT THE
LEGISLATURE**

(Members' Statement)

The EFF is dismayed by the revelations of nepotism and corruption in the filling of posts in the Limpopo Legislature. We have long raised concerns in the House about the actions of some rogue elements within the senior management of this institution. This report of nepotism and corruption does not come as a shock to us, because the EFF is exonerated in its view that there is deep-seated corruption in the Legislature which has been ignored over the years.

The Limpopo Legislature has been turned into a family institution and a dumping ground for ANC cadres who have failed elsewhere compromising service delivery. If it is not ANC cadres, it is family members who are appointed to fill positions in the Legislature. These revelations confirm our long-held view that the Legislature is corrupt to the core. This shameful and nonsensical gatekeeping must come to an end now.

When posts are advertised, there are people already earmarked to occupy them. Advertisement is just a formality and an exercise to pull a wool on the face of the public. Allegations of nepotism in favour for family members who do not meet the requirements of advertised posts in the IT Section are serious and must be investigated with immediate effect. No stone must be left unturned as we get to the bottom of this matter.

There is an attempt by some in senior management to privatise, personalise and capture the Legislature for their own selfish gain. These are officials who think that they own the Legislature, and they hold a misguided view that they are untouchable because of their proximity to ANC leaders.

We call upon the Speaker to investigate this matter and table a report in this House. We will also raise these matters in the portfolio committee tasked with the responsibility to deal with such matters. We will further look into the possibility of how such matters can be raised with structures outside the Legislature's processes and hope that this time these matters can be given the attention they deserve.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Do we have any further Members' Statement? Hon Managa, you may take the floor.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulanga Buthano Vho Rosemarry Molapo. Ndi na jidzinginywa u bva kha jihoro la Economic Freedom Fighters.

STATE OF THE POLOKWANE WELLNESS CENTRE
(Members' Statement)

We have learned with dismay of the poor and defective security measures at the Polokwane Wellness Centre which was previously administered by the infamous Bosasa.

Notably, the centre is currently operating with a bogus certificate of accreditation as a provider of service for victims of human trafficking after the valid certificate expired on 30 June 2022. To make the situation even worse, Hon Speaker, the centre does not have CCTV cameras or a panic button security system. Meanwhile the security personnel deployed at the centre do not have the necessary qualifications such as Professional Assault Response Training qualifications. The control room is also not being monitored, meanwhile the incidents could take place and go unnoticed.

It is also difficult for the centre's managers to supervise the care workers attached to the centre, because they are not qualified healthcare professionals. In the wake of these damning findings, we are very critical of safety of the staff members who are working at the unsecured facility, which is housing victims of GBV and human trafficking, including hardened criminals who are still on trial for different types of crimes.

The EFF strongly condemns the systematic non-compliance of the centre, because one of the caregivers had risked his life and apprehended a child offender who broke windows at the centre, owing to the incompetency of the security personnel, lawlessness, and mismanagement at the facility.

We call on the MEC for Social Development to intervene with immediate effect and enforce compliance at the centre before all hell breaks loose, before staff members get endangered, before the victims of gender-based violence who are housed there get injured, and before the community at large gets endangered.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. Do we have any response on the Members' Statements?

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Masemola. Hon Seshoka on the issue pertaining to the Legislature, we are not going to respond to the allegations, until we receive a substantive motion from your good self. Maybe we could then respond to the motion. We will wait until we receive a substantive motion that will support your statement. We are not going to respond to the allegations. According to what you are saying, these are mere allegations. Can we move to the Executive Statements? Are there any Executive Statements?

BACKGROUND

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

I am not. That is the procedure, Hon Seshoka.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements? MEC, Dr Ramathuba, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Chief Whip, honourable colleagues from the Executive Council, honourable Members of the Legislature, I greet you.

THE IMPACT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ON THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM OF SOUTH AFRICA

(Executive Statement)

We rise as the Department of Health to share with you the impact of illegal immigrants on our healthcare system. The Democratic Alliance and the Economic Freedom Fighters have launched a scathing attack on the person of the MEC following a video that was taken at a hospital in Bela-Bela. The DA has evoked its pretentious love for foreign nationals merely to seek relevance in the political landscape and impress on matters of international relations.

It is this DA, Hon Speaker, to be precise, which, on 13 May 2022, went on an inspection in loco at Philadelphia Hospital in the Sekhukhune District. They came out with a statement that the staff was burnt out, resources were stretched because of treating patients from the neighbouring Mpumalanga province. In its desperate charade, the DA blamed the ballooning medicolegal cases on the Mpumalanga patients.

Again, it is the very same DA that is today engaged in populist politics devoid of any tangible solutions that has been turning away patients from the Eastern Cape from accessing healthcare services in the Western Cape.

We need to register upfront that the ANC-led government has not and will never be xenophobic. We have responded at that time to say that as the Limpopo Department of Health, we will never turn away or demand payment from a patient who is coming from

Mpumalanga. They are part of the system, and they will be assessed as per Limpopo citizens.

We are not a federal state. We are a single government led by President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa. This grand standing, coupled with sheer opportunism, cannot be expected from an organisation that has proven itself to be anti-black in its position. It is also important to register to this august House that the patient in question had already undergone the full treatment including surgery. The patient was on her way to be discharged and go back home when the interaction took place.

Discussions regarding fee payment with patients before discharge is a required norm before and after receiving treatment. Those of you that have visited private hospitals, before they touch you, you should produce your medical aid and there should have been authorisation. Otherwise, you must pay upfront. After receiving treatment, they will still come to you and tell you how much you are owing. There is nothing wrong with that.

Unfortunately, this is hardly a practice in our public facilities wherein we have wrongly normalised that public health services are for free regardless of your economic classification and status. This has resulted in the huge patient debt which we have requested Treasury to assist with writing it off, because we cannot trace these patients once they exit our facilities. We must also share with this august House that the Treasury in its wisdom appointed a service provider to help us with debt collection. The service provider has up to date raised serious concerns to say out of an estimation of R500 million, 90% of which is R450 million they cannot trace any number that they were given. This is a service provider that is paid based on the amount of money that they will recover. From the 10% remaining they were able to raise 5%, they are still hoping for the remaining 5%.

We can see this is a service provider that is spending his or her money to assist the department while he is not going to get anything. That is why we need to cultivate a culture of paying for services we receive in the health facilities. Our budget structures also provide for own revenue which is collected through this intervention in billing immigrants using our facilities and including citizens. The irony of it all is when you are a South African and when you are entering our public hospitals, we can classify you whether you are an H0, these are Sassa patients; H1 below the R35 000; below R72 000 just like that. We will tell you what to pay. This also applies to those who are legal foreign nationals in our country.

However, when it comes to undocumented and illegal foreigners, they come with false names. They do not have any identification in their pockets. We are not refusing them healthcare services, that is why we are sitting with the R500 million debt that we cannot even recover. When we go to Treasury, they want proof that these people cannot pay. The proof means that you must go to the police and get an affidavit. An illegal or undocumented immigrant will never go to the police, because of what happened recently in Gauteng this week. They will arrest you and deport you. The staff at the hospital and many other hospitals that we visit during our Rural Health Matters Campaign continue to complain about the sudden rise in illegal immigrants.

Their reasoning and concern make sense, because we have been up with this initiative of Rural Health Matters Campaign, where we are saying let us go and look for specialists and take them to rural hospitals so that they can clear the surgical backlog. Despite month after month of doing this work, we are worried as a department, because there is no progress. Therefore, we have started an investigation working with other government departments to investigate this syndicate that has been alleged to be happening. The moment foreign illegal immigrants or foreign nationals hear that the Department of Health will be on a Rural Health Matters Campaign; they are quick to enter the country. As we speak the management of Letaba Hospital just sent me a list of undocumented immigrants who have gone there, because in the next coming week, we will be in Mopani District to clear orthopaedics. We are talking about an operation that does not cost you less than R200 000. You can go and see the current implants that we are buying and providing to these patients. It is a lot of money that we cannot afford. After doing orthopaedic surgeries, you are expected to issue a wheelchair for temporary use and expect these patients to bring them back. The reason we have a huge backlog on these wheelchairs and crutches is because when you immediately issue them, forget about getting them back.

The primary aim of the Rural Health Matters Campaign was to reduce the surgical backlog. We do this on a shoestring budget and hence we say we even invite specialists from outside the province to come and help us with this work.

The criterion for elective surgeries is administered on a first come first serve basis. There are already illegal immigrants who are in Letaba now as I speak, 11 in the ward. It means they have already taken the positions and the spots that could have been taken by a fellow South African or Limpopo citizen who needs that. The reason we are saying this is because that citizen of our province or of our country does not have any other place to go to for that service. The service can only be acquired within our public service. They do not have the money, nor do they have any other country to go to. That is why, Hon Speaker, we are emphasising that there are no instances where a patient in an emergency has not been treated because they are not South African.

The Constitution provides that no one may be refused emergency medical treatment. We are equally saying there is no patient who presented themselves for elective or a planned surgery who was turned back even though our Constitution is clear, and our National Health Act is clear that they must pay, but they are not paying. It is unfortunate that the influx of immigrants in our facilities is felt by our vulnerable pregnant women in labour wards who are forced to be progressed while sitting on a chair or lying on the floor because the bed is occupied, and we do not have space.

It is unfortunate that our mortuaries, as we speak today, are overcrowded due to unclaimed bodies. Many of our illegal foreign nationals unfortunately are not assisting the system; but continue to overburden and at times abuse it. They usually register with false names, because they do not bring any form of identification when they are presenting themselves at our facilities. They do not have passports or at least use their cards from their country of origin. We are not stopping from giving them services because of that. When they die, unfortunately under our care in our facilities, we are unable to trace their next of kin.

Today, honourable Members, we have 346 paupers' funerals, just a sample, in forensic cases only. We are not including those who died of natural causes in our facilities. The number can shock you. Honourable Members must also remember that these paupers' funerals are paid for by the very same state which is already overburdened. I am fighting with councillors every day, because in a number of municipalities, councillors have taken a resolution that they are no longer going to be involved in paupers' funerals. This, therefore, leaves municipalities like Polokwane which is in town to be the municipality that we always negotiate with to assist us with paupers' funerals.

We recently had a case in the Vhembe District, at Tshilidzini Hospital, where a family member came to present to the management that "our son died seven years ago. We might have been told that he died in this facility." When they produced the name, there was nothing that matched that name. The reason they are back was because everybody at home was sick and their ancestors said they must go and get his spirit. We could not prove and show them where the spirit of their loved one was. It is our culture that for the soul to rest in peace we should appease our ancestors. When we are raising some of these things, we are equally assisting even in future challenges that we would continue to face.

Hon Speaker, one of the reasons we are pushing for a paperless hospital information system is to put an end to this abuse. For an individual to enter the country illegally, move from one clinic to another collecting ARVs, using false identification is a criminal offence. It reflects the selfishness and they do not care about the lives of other people. We have never refused any foreign national, legal or not, to access our ARVs or our contraceptives, but our generosity is being abused. Our nurses in Mopani District are saying, how they picked up is when the patient refused injectables, because they will inject on a person, but insisted on oral contraceptives. They now started to trace that they collect all these oral contraceptives from one clinic to another.

We dismiss the contempt of the DA assertion, and the issue of illegal immigrants has indeed substantially impacted negatively on our provision of healthcare. It is important that we are today having this important debate on the impact of illegal immigrants on our healthcare system.

The 2017 ANC conference resolution and directive to the national Health Ministry and the Department of National Treasury and other relevant departments to resolve problems relating to undue access by foreign nationals ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Please conclude, MEC.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Hon Speaker, the Department of Health has raised this matter in our portfolio committee meetings during Scopa meetings, during EXCO even SADC Ministry we were engaged by our former Minister. But up to so far, we have not received what we want.

Hon Speaker, as I am concluding we might differ on the question of who, how, why where, when was this matter raised. It does not mean that we have an elephant in the room which needs to be dealt with. We have avoided this matter for far too long. We have sugar-coated this issue for long and unfortunately South African citizens are looking at us for solutions. We all agree that the impact is not only felt by our healthcare sphere, but also hospitality, transport, and education sectors. If we do not have this debate, our little resources are going to fall through the cracks and it will be South Africans who will be worst affected, especially 91% of people in this province.

Public health is for all of us, its stability and success mean that the healthcare of South African citizens is safe, especially among the professionals in health continue to attack our ethical posture in this matter. Unfortunately, some of them are hypocrites. On a daily basis, Hon Speaker, if I am concluding especially this month of August when many of us, our medical aid funds have been exhausted, patients are removed from ICU, because their funds are being depleted. An accident can happen at a doorstep at a private facility if you do not pay upfront there must be pre-authorisation of a medical aid otherwise, they will not touch you. We have our own challenges as a Department of Health and some of these initiatives are meant to address these challenges like the surgical backlog campaign.

We refuse for the Rural Healthcare Matter Campaign to be hijacked by illegal foreign nationals and their syndicates. It must benefit the people of South Africa. One opinion maker, Malaika Mahlatsi, wrote: Access to basic services in Zimbabwe are also important to reflect upon. Access to public healthcare, for example, is restricted to the Zimbabwean citizens and permanent residents. This is perilously expressed in section 76 in the country's Constitution.

Hon Speaker, in our engagement we need to be frank if we are to build a better South Africa for all. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

BACKGROUND

Malibongwe!

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Are there any comments from the political parties? Hon Maharaj, you may take the floor.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The DA notes with concern the unacceptable conduct of the MEC for Health, Phophi Ramathuba, in the treatment of a foreign national on a viral video while the over subscription or strain of undocumented foreign nationals on an ailing health system is a challenge ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members!

MR MAHARAJ

... it is not the biggest challenge in our healthcare system ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, can you allow Hon Maharaj to continue?

MR MAHARAJ

... neither is it appropriate to humiliate a vulnerable patient. The MEC must blame the ANC policy failures on poor border controls that have led to a porous border where people come into this country undocumented and not on a patient. As a doctor, she also upholds ethical standards and treatment that is expected of a healthcare worker treating a patient.

This House must further note as a political leader, the MEC should have put her position on the matter forward on platforms that it can be discussed provincially, nationally and with other nations to ensure our healthcare system is not strained. She should not imply that undocumented foreign nationals are the sole cause of the poor healthcare system in Limpopo and disregard larger, long-established issues like rampant corruption, incompetent senior officials in the department, understaffing and being under-resourced. In the same manner when we have patients that come from other provinces into this province and neutralise the healthcare system the MEC and the crowd that entertained the humiliation of this patient never once addressed that issue.

I also want to remind you, MEC, of the preamble of this Constitution in South Africa. Something that you swore an oath to: "We the people of South Africa recognise the injustices of our past honour those who also suffered for justice and freedom in our land, respect those who have worked to build and develop our country and belief that South Africa belongs to all who live it in united in our diversity." Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I am told that your mics are not audible enough, so we are proposing that you use the mic at the podium. Hon Managa, you may take the floor.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa, Mulangadzulo. The Department of Health goes for soft targets which are the illegal immigrants. The reality and the fact of the matter is that the healthcare system in the province is on the verge of collapsing. In the province, we have no healthcare facilities that we can call ideal, honourable MEC. Out of four hundred and something, we might be having forty or less. It should be noted that the EFF did not launch a scathing attack on the MEC. However, it is the MEC who is launching a scathing attack on illegal immigrants.

As the EFF in the province, we still maintain our stance that we condemn the behaviour the MEC has displayed in the video that went viral. That behaviour should never repeat itself. The honourable MEC must know where to address the policy matters as a legislator or as a policy maker herself. Unless if the department's boardrooms are no longer functional or are dilapidated like many other infrastructures we are seeing in the department. Policy matters should not be addressed at the bedside of the patients. Patients should not be burdened by the constraints of the Department of Health. Let us feel for each other as Africans. Honourable MEC, how many institutions were built in this province since the dawn of democracy? How many infrastructures did your department renovate or refurbish in the province?

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, which legacy, honourable MEC, are you going to leave for this province? As a take home message, I would like you to go home with this question: Which legacy are you going to leave for the people of Limpopo? Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members of the Legislature, honourable Members of the Executive Council present here ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members!

MR MATLOU

... the leader of the opposition, members of the opposition present here. It is quite interesting, Hon Speaker, that all Members who spoke from the opposition are members of the portfolio committee. Most of these experiences they have experienced them firsthand. I will take upon Members to remember that when we visited Musina Hospital, we were faced with the same problem and honourable Members who were there were frustrated. The same thing happened when we were in Sekhukhune. We faced the same problem and honourable Members who were there were frustrated in terms of the medical facilities, particularly medication being taken by illegal foreign immigrants.

We are not saying people who are illegal should not get medical care, but we are saying as a committee we should make sure that the budget that is budgeted for the people of Limpopo is utilised to its maximum for the people of Limpopo. I think the other part that is quite frustrating is in relation to the budgetary constraints facing us as a province. It is correct that we are sitting with a R14 billion in terms of medicolegal costs, however, it does not mean that some of them were caused by illegal immigrants. The fact of the matter is that the department is under this duress because of just what the honourable MEC said just now – eleven of our patients are from outside the country. They were not here in the country initially. They skipped the border. We are expected to operate on them as a province; we cannot chase them away. The crux of the matter is: What the honourable MEC is alleged to have said was said at a particular point where people least expected it to be said. If you would remember even the then Minister of Health, Dr Aaron

Motsoaledi, raised the same concerns when he was the Minister of Health by then. Our healthcare systems, honourable Members, cannot be sustainable if we are not going to help them become sustainable. It is important that this House comes up with a piece of legislation that will assist in dealing with the matter.

We cannot afford to be banana province where people do as they wish. You might have heard the clause that was quoted in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of Zimbabwe. It speaks clearly about healthcare facilities only to residents of Zimbabwe. Those of us who often travel beyond the borders of the country and those of us who might have visited other countries, on arrival in such countries, we are asked by the authorities in those countries if we have a medical aid. If you get sick in that country, you should be able to afford paying your own bills. We have become a laughingstock and it cannot be acceptable that we allow the little resources we have to be depleted. We cannot allow that to happen.

On the legacy that Hon Managa spoke about, the honourable MEC will be remembered for the Rural Lives Matter Campaign. There is no province in the entire country where surgical operations – either orthopaedic or any surgical operations – are done in a manner that Limpopo does. We should not only raise negative things about this department. There are positive things that the department is doing.

On issues of infrastructure, I do not know whether colleagues are not aware of their own policies, because infrastructure development in the entire country is a national competency. The responsibility of building infrastructure is done by the national Department of Health in terms of its powers and functions.

On issues of renovation, I think we went as far as Phalaborwa when we visited a hospital there that was renovated internally by our own department. I do not have figures in terms of how many clinics we have renovated; but the fact of the matter is that infrastructure development is the key function of the national department. This includes the issues raised on Tshilidzini and Vhembe. It is the same portfolio committee that had an engagement with our counterparts at national level to clear out some misunderstanding about where the buck stops and how should things be done moving forward.

We should be honest with ourselves that on issues that relate to healthcare in our province we might not be experts and we might not be perfect, but Limpopo is a shining example in the entire country in terms of issues of health. We commend the MEC for being so brave and for making sure that she rises above all challenges and raise issues that people did not want to hear. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Matlou. Order, honourable Members! Can we proceed with our programme.

- 6.1 Tabling of the following Departmental/Institutional Annual Reports for the financial year ending 2021/22

Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati, you may take the floor.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Madam Speaker, the august House, and my colleagues in the Executive Council. Madam Speaker, 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 its activities.

Madam Speaker, section 65 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 01 of 1999) as amended provides that the executive authority responsible for a department or public entity must table in the provincial legislature the annual report and financial statements and the audit report of those statements within one month after the accounting officer of the department or the public entity received the audit report.

Based on that, I, Sekoati Seaparo Charles, as the Leader of Government Business in this House and on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Council, do hereby table the departmental and institutional annual reports for the following departments for consideration by this august House:

- Department of Health,
- Department of Education,
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development,
- Department of Provincial Treasury,
- Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, and its entities, namely, Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Tourism Agency,
- Department of Transport and Community Safety,
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and its entity Roads Agency Limpopo,
- Department of CoGHSTA, and
- Department of Social Development.

Madam Speaker, the outstanding annual reports are for the following departments and entities:

- Office of the Premier,
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture,
- Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), and
- Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL).

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The tabled annual reports for the 2021/22 financial year are referred to the relevant portfolio committees and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House.

Let us proceed. We are on the tabling of the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature by the Deputy Chair of Chairs.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Bonnie David Selane, rise to table the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature for consideration by this august 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 statements 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.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Chair. The 2021/22 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature is referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration

Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin, hereby table the report from the portfolio committee on the investigation into the allegations of human resource and procurement irregularities at Provincial Treasury for consideration by this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you may take the floor.

ADV PHALA

Hon Speaker, I rise to second the committee chairperson, Hon Matibe Baldwin Tshitereke, on the motion that he has tabled in this House. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much. I, Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe, I hereby present the report on the irregular precautionary suspension and payment of salary without work at F H Odendaal Hospital by the Department of Health. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you may take the floor.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. As Selamolela Selelo Donald of the ANC, I stand here to second Hon T B Matibe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I present the report on the investigation into allegation of procurement irregularities at the Department of Agriculture – Khoame Media House. I so present.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Is there any seconder? Hon Mahasela, you may take the floor.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand here to second the presentation by Hon Matibe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mahasela. Chairperson, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much. I hereby present the report on the investigation into allegations of irregular recruitment process for the post of the External Risk Management Chairperson for the Provincial Treasury. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala K A, you may take the floor.

ADV PHALA

I rise again to second the committee chairperson, Hon Matibe Baldwin Tshitereke, on the report that he has tabled in this House. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the report on the investigation into allegations of failure to pay rural incentives to educators at Makhwese Secondary School by the Department of Education. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Is there any seconder? Hon Seono, you may take the floor.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second Hon Matibe on the report he has tabled. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the report from the portfolio committee on the investigation into the allegations of appointment outside the approved structure by the Department Health.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Is there any seconder? Hon Sibanda-Kekana, you may take the floor.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to support Hon Matibe on the report as brought forward and tabled. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Kekana. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I am still the same Matibe Tshitereke rising to present the report on the investigation into allegations of appointment outside of the approved structure by the Department of Public Works.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Hon Monama, you may take the floor.

MR MONAMA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The essence of the absence of the presence, I, Monama Rodgers, rise to second Hon Matibe Tshitereke.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the investigation into allegations of nepotism and tribalism in the recruitment process at the Department of Health. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Is there any seconder? Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, you may take the floor.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to second Hon Matibe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am still here. I hereby rise to present the report on the investigation into allegations of irregular transfer by the Department of Public Works.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane, you may take the floor.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second Hon Matibe, the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monyamane. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Hon Seshoka, you must also second. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the report on the investigation into allegations of fraudulent and corrupt activities at the Department of Agriculture in the Sekhukhune District. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Is there any seconder? Hon Lekganyane, you may take the floor.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, rise to second the motion as presented by the honourable chairperson. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Over to you again, committee chairperson.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much. I rise to present the report on the investigation into allegations of an irregular recruitment process in the Department of Social Development.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Is any there a seconder? Hon Selane, you may take the floor.

MR SELANE

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. E re ke tšee sebaka se ke thekge se modulasetulo, Mohlomphegi Tshitereke Matibe a se bolelago.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. This one will be our last report that we present as the portfolio committee. It is the report on the investigation into allegations of irregular appointment into the post of Manager: Finance at Philadelphia Hospital by the Department of Health. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you may take the floor.

MR MDAKA

I, Falaza Mdaka, rise to second the motion as raised by the chairperson, Hon Matibe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mdaka. The reports will be debated jointly. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members of the Executive Council, chairpersons of various portfolio committees, honourable Members of the Limpopo Legislature, please receive warm greetings on behalf of all the women of our province.

The commemoration of Women's Month continues unabated even beyond August month, Hon Speaker. The August House must take a moment and reflect on the major strides that the ANC-led government has made and continues to make in supporting women in all spheres especially in leadership echelons. It is common knowledge that the ANC remains committed to gender transformation and equal representation of women in leadership. We welcome the various investigative reports on alleged irregular appointments in various government departments, alleged acts of wrongful or irregular suspension of employees, the alleged irregular appointments of employees outside the approved organisational structures, alleged nepotism and tribalism in the recruitment process by the Department of Health and the alleged failure by the Department of Education to pay rural incentives to educators of Makhwese Secondary School. We are equally elated that in most cases all the alleged irregularities were found to be unsubstantiated. We can now find closure on these matters and move on to deal with the equally important issues that confront us.

One of this is the extent to which we have moved to ensure that there is gender parity at the top management levels of our departments and government entities. What is the impact of unapproved organisational structures on upward mobility of women? This Women's Month presents us with ample opportunities to reflect on this matter. We know that several departments notably those of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs; Agriculture; Education; and Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure are having vacancy rates of above 20% on funded posts. The immediate

reason for this kind of anomaly is said to be organisational review process which took long.

Madam Speaker, this is an important matter that requires our immediate attention. We can infer that a lack of progress in filling posts in these departments and other entities is having a negative impact on women's ascension into higher echelons of leadership in the province, especially because the trends are increasing. Hon Speaker, a 2021 census by the Businesswomen's Association of South Africa on South African Women in Leadership shows that progress in women's leadership in government workplaces remains steady, if not slow.

Women make up more than 60% of the government workforce in South Africa, yet their representation at higher levels remains unacceptably low. We, therefore, urge the leadership of these departments to prioritise this matter and ensure that we move with speed towards the realisation of the goal of 50% women representation across all sectors starting with our own, the public sector.

Hon Speaker, while most of the allegations that were made against individuals in various departments were found to be unsubstantiated, others were found to hold water. For example, the investigation into alleged fraudulent and corrupt activities at the Department of Agriculture in Sekhukhune District revealed shocking findings. The investigation into alleged irregular precautionary suspension and payment of salary without work at the Department of Health at FH Odendaal Hospital also revealed weaknesses in our internal controls.

The issue of weak internal controls was raised by the Auditor-General as one of the factors that led to the regression of several government entities in the province. We take this opportunity to call upon the affected departments to learn from the Office of the Premier, the Provincial Treasury, the Department of Transport and Community Safety and imbue themselves with the culture of accounting disciplines prevalent in these institutions to drive improved adherence to prescripts and legislation when conducting their business, including recruitment and procurement.

As we conclude, Hon Speaker, the 2019 ANC Elections Manifesto enjoins us to fight corruption and maladministration, promote a culture of integrity and hold people accountable. All these measures will help the government regain public trust.

We call upon our people to soldier on with us on our journey to build a capable developmental, transparent, and responsive state. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Hon Seshoka, you may take the floor.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the ever absent Premier of Limpopo and the MECs present here and all Members here.

Hon Speaker, the rot and corruption in the administration of Premier Mathabatha is grossly despicable. It has now become a norm in this administration to steal and get away with it. They break every law in the book insofar as governance is concerned. Maladministration, nepotism, and corruption in the filling of the post of the manager in the Secure Day Care Centre reign supreme in the Department of Social Development. This happens with ease and without any fear of consequence management because it does not exist in anyway.

In the Department of Agriculture, preferential treatment was given to Metric Industrial as a service provider to the detriment of others. The nepotism and corruption are carefully crafted in order that officials who committed this crime get a cut from the preferential treatment deal. Nepotism practised in government denies competent and skillful candidates with experience and expertise to serve the people of the province. It does not come as a surprise that the provincial government performs so poorly in terms of service delivery and its financials. This gatekeeping to the exclusion of deserving candidates to the expense of unskilled, incompetent, and lazy cadre deployment of comrades must be exposed, and it must come to an end. This is what they normally call javelin throwing. Politicians and officials allocate tenders to their family members and friends in order to get cuts or a share. They have mastered the art of stealing to an extent that it is difficult to notice corruption when it happens.

In the Department of Health, ward attendants at Mukula Clinic were appointed ahead of other candidates who had relevant experience than the appointed candidates. This is the department of the loudest MEC in the province who claims and disguises to be striving for good governance while she is not. The media attention-seeking MEC does nothing but uses every opportunity to get the limelight for self-glory. Furthermore, the post of Finance Manager at Philadelphia Hospital was not in line with the prescripts, and this was done under the watchful eye of the same MEC. The truth of the matter is that there is no consequence management in the administration of Premier Mathabatha and we have said it many times in this House.

We are in a banana province where people do as they please. The Premier and his Executive are not improving at all. They are not teachable, but we cannot give up on them. We need to continue exposing their scams and shenanigans until the people of Limpopo see them for who they are. Perhaps we need to give you these words of advice: You do not only listen to the advice of those you agree with. It is advisable and wise to listen to those who differ with you. The mistake the ANC does, not only in this House, but in the National Assembly as well, is that they took a misguided position that they will not take advice from opposition parties. Take advice from even those you differ with ideologically; they will build you.

The ANC is on the path of self-destruction, and no one will stop them in their determination to commit suicide. At first, they were dying a slow death, but now they are moving with speed towards the ultimate death like all former liberation movements on the continent. No one will rescue the ANC. They also cannot save them from themselves.

The laissez-faire leadership style practised by the Premier is the root cause of bad governance in the province. The plane is about to crash with the passengers inside and the pilot is not making any effort to rescue them and save the situation, because he is still asleep.

Unlike the biblical story, the disciples woke Jesus up when the boat was about to sink, and he saved the situation. In the course of his sleep, his comrades who know what is wrong are deliberately setting him up for failure. Wake up sleeper! The plane is crashing. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Hon Maharaj, you may take the floor.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I must firstly advise that I find the situation of this debate response to be a futile exercise as the time allocated to provide a constructive and meaningful response on 12 oversight visits in three minutes will not do justice to what the intention of the oversight visits are. Nevertheless, I will however give a broad overview of the oversight visits undertaken.

The 12 oversight visits comprised issues within sites of the following departments: 4 by the Department of Health; 2 by Treasury, 2 by Agriculture, 1 by Education, 2 by Public Works, and 1 by Social Development. The concerns raised by employees and the public can be broken down into HR-related matters of failure to comply with recruitment processes, nepotism, tribalism, the processes around transferring of staff, performance management of employees, failure to pay incentives, allegations of fraud and corruption, irregular tender approvals and finally, procurement irregularities.

Hon Speaker, the concerns around some of these reports and investigations are that some go back a while. It is also commendable to note that the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration has recommended that four of the twelve reports or investigations be closed as they are unsubstantiated. In addition, the committee found that with regards to the issue around the irregular precautionary suspension and payment of salary at F H Odendaal Hospital, that these must follow the circulars issued by the Public Service Commissioner.

The committee further recommends that Treasury proceed with the recruitment process in respect of the post of the External Independent Risk Management Committee Chairperson. With regards to the Mukula Clinic situation, the committee recommended that the shortlisting panel be instituted with corrective action for placing a candidate above other more qualified candidates who had the relevant experience instead of Mr A R Khotisa.

In the Department of Public Works, the case regarding the incumbent, the committee recommended, that they be transferred to the post of accounting clerk which is equivalent

to the post recognised in terms of the 2010 approved structure. In addition to this, the Department of Public Works must institute corrective measures and consequence management against the Director: Human Resource Management, for failure in exercising due diligence prior to the post being vacant and after the post became vacant. The Portfolio Committee on Public Administration further recommends that all departments embark on an exercise to clean up the PERSAL database and to conduct an organisational structure analysis.

The Department of Social Development Report recommends that the Child and Youth Care Supervisor appointment be nullified due to the process being tainted. In this instance, the committee also concluded that the HOD institutes disciplinary action against the shortlisting and interviewing panels for gross failure and negligence in performing their functions. In addition, the applicant had misrepresented her CV when applying for the post and the HOD should institute disciplinary action against the individual. In conclusion with this report, the department must furnish the portfolio committee with a report after initiating an investigation, as to what happened to Mr Phasha's application, which was misplaced.

Hon Speaker, the report on the Department of Agriculture in Sekhukhune, recommended that Metric Industrial repay the overpayment of R1 204.00. It is also concerned that tender processes have been flawed and in future ensure that there is more than one service provider appointed. Mr Kgopa must face a disciplinary enquiry for giving preferential treatment to Metric Industrial as a service provider to the detriment of other service providers. In addition, no purchase order was provided, and goods were received.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, it was also agreed that a criminal case be opened against Mr Mathebula, the former District Director, as well as Mr Kgopa for the alleged criminal conduct in respect of the seeds tender. All these outcomes of the recommendations and report backs were to be submitted to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration by 30 June 2022. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Committee chair, Hon Tshitereke Matibe, you may take the floor.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings once again to the honourable Members. Hon Seshoka, we are not on a plane, we are not going to crash. You will crash alone; we are not on the plane with you. You said we will crash; you will crash alone. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, we really appreciate the inputs by all other honourable Members. Hon Seono, you were indeed debating what we are supposed to debate, which are the reports. Whatever reports that we are debating here in this august House, we are debating reports that come from the Public Service Commission that conducted an investigation. Section 196 of the Constitution says that the Public Service Commission must be established and that:

- The commission is independent and must be impartial;
- The Commission must exercise its powers and perform its powers without fear, favour, or prejudice in the interest of the maintenance of effective and efficient public administration and a high standard of professional ethics in the public service;
- The Commission must be regulated by national legislation; and
- No person or organ of state may interfere in the functioning of the Commission.

Whatever report we present here on behalf of the committee, we expect that the Executive should go and implement those recommendations as put forward by the Public Service Commission and the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration. The ANC's 2019 national and provincial election manifesto was accepted by the people of this province, and we are the ones that must go and implement it. It committed itself to strengthening governance intervention in both public entities, security agencies and to ensure transparency, accountability, consequence management, responsiveness to the needs and concerns of the people.

To realise these goals, honourable Members, the ANC-led government established various agencies amongst them the Public Service Commission whose reports we are considering today. This Commission is mandated to ensure that personnel procedures relating to recruitment, transfer, promotion, and dismissal comply with values and principles enshrined in our various legislation dealing with similar matters.

As Members are aware, the PSC received complaints regarding alleged irregularities in recruitment and appointment of staff in the Department of Health; Social Development; Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure; as well as Provincial Treasury. There are also allegations of fraudulent and corrupt procurement activities at the Department of Agriculture. We hasten to thank all members of the public who have anonymously reported the alleged irregularities. It is quite important that members of public who blow the whistle are allowed to do that so that whatever irregularities are happening in various departments, we can investigate them and take people to account. This is in line with the ANC's resolve to succinctly pronounce in the ANC 2019 Election Manifesto to crack down of corruption, promote a culture of integrity within all state organs.

The provincial government has made progress in broadening vetting and financial monitoring to curb corruption by establishing the much-awaited integrity, security, and vetting directorate. Tasked amongst others to manage the implementation of whistle blowing mechanism, because without whistle blowers, we will never be able to establish the corrupt activities in various departments.

We want those whistle blowers to be protected so that they can assist us to ensure accountability. Working with other institutions like the Public Service Commission the directorate will ensure transparency and fairness in the recruitment processes in all state

institutions. As the portfolio committee, we welcome the investigation reports and believe that the implementation of consequence management and the recommendations will go a long way in buttressing similar occurrences in future. The investigation reports as pronounced by Hon Maharaj went a long way to indicate all the recommendations that are there. We will ensure that all these recommendations must ensure that actions after allegations were substantiated are taken.

There are some areas where the allegations are unsubstantiated and in those areas those cases are closed. Of course, these reports were tabled to the committee and the previous timeframe for bringing back the reports had already lapsed. We expect that in each quarter we will be meeting with the portfolio committee and the Office of the Premier and we will request that all these reports and recommendations as put forward be then implemented. We will also check the progress in the implementation of these reports.

The only way to restore integrity and public trust in the ANC-led government and its institutions is to move with speed to implement consequence management on those who have abused the position of authority to recover moneys wrongly paid and to cancel contracts that were irregularly awarded. As the 2019 ANC Election Manifesto directs, we must hold people accountable. Those who loot public resources or abuse their position of authority must then face the full might of the law.

All recommendations as put forward by Hon Maharaj – I do not want to repeat them – we are putting them to this House and the Executive for them to go and implement them. We will monitor the implementation of all these reports quarterly.

As I conclude, honourable MEC for Health, besides what you have raised, we must look at what is the root cause of that migration. It is very important because it affects our people. One of the root causes that we did not discuss here are sanctions that have been meted out to the Republic of Zimbabwe. We must debate it because those sanctions affect the whole SADC region. They are also affecting us in South Africa. It is one area that we need to look forward to and debate upon it as this House to see what we can do.

As I conclude, I therefore move that all these reports be adopted by this august House. I thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe, committee chairperson. Hon Seshoka, order! Honourable Members! Hon Seshoka! Hon Seshoka! We shall now call upon the MEC, Dr Ramathuba, to come and respond on behalf of the Premier. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC OF HEALTH [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER]

Thank you, Hon Speaker, honourable Members. The Executive has noted on behalf of the Premier. We welcome and note the comments that are made by honourable Members starting with you, honourable chairperson as the committee that oversees the work that the government and the Executive does. We also want to appreciate the work that was done by the Public Service Commission on these cases. As you have rightfully said Hon

Maharaj has summarised all those cases. He was focusing on the brief and the debate that was here unlike some of the honourable Members who came and have a different script of the work that this committee and this august House are supposed to do.

Honourable Members, we do not oppose for the sake of opposing. It is important when the committees have done their work, that they are able to come here and present to us and as the Executive, we make sure we implement. Therefore, we do not want to waste your time. The Office of the Premier has noted. Recommendations as stipulated will be implemented and on a quarterly basis the committee will be briefed on the progress that we would have made in terms of making sure that we implement all the recommendations without fail. The ANC-led government is in charge and will continue to lead, because the people of this province and this country have confidence in us. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

7.2. Consideration and adoption of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life; Status of Women; Youth and People living with Disability.

Committee chair, you may take the floor. Hon Mokaba-Phukwana the mic is here if you can come forward, please.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life; Status of Women; Youth and People Living with Disability on the 2021 Parliament of People Living with Disability be adopted as a report of this House. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana. Is there any seconder? Hon Aphiri, you may take the floor.

MS APHIRI

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise to support the proposal as raised by Hon Mokaba. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Chair. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for debate. Hon Mathye V, you may take the floor.

MS MATHYE

Hon Speaker, Ms Rosemarry Molapo; Hon Premier in absentia, Chief Whip of the majority party, honourable MECs that are present today, chairpersons of the different portfolio

committees, Members of the Provincial Legislature, officials from different departments, all protocol observed.

We are gathered here today a month after Bayana Banyana made us proud by bringing the trophy home from winning the WAFCOM 2022 tournament where the two winning goals were scored by girls from Limpopo. As this was not enough two weeks back, we woke up to receive good news that one of our own girls in Limpopo by the name of Ndavi Nokeri from Gabaza village under Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality was crowned Miss South Africa 2022. This makes me, Hon Speaker, support Master KG in one of his songs “Di Boya Limpopo” when he says *ge o nyaka go kwa go tsefa namela o ye Limpopo*. [APPLAUSE] Indeed, Limpopo is the best province to be.

Hon Speaker, we all know and understand that disability is one of the most important issues in contemporary society, because of stigmatisation of people with disability which contributed to the formation of biasness and prejudice which put them in a disadvantageous position compared to people who do not have problems with disability. Nevertheless, today the problem with the people with disability and discrimination persists because many biasness and prejudices are resilient. In this regard education is particularly vulnerable to the problem of integration of students with disability into the learning process since the modern education system attempts to provide equal opportunities for all students illuminating the discrimination of students with disability.

As procedural in carrying out its constitutional mandate the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability succeeded in conducting 2021 Parliament of People with Disability.

Madam Speaker, many people are surprised to learn how much of the population live with disability. According to Statistics South Africa 2022, the national disability prevalence rate is 7,5% in South Africa. Disability is more prevalent amongst females compared to males with 8,3% and 6,5% respectively.

Persons with disability increase with age more than half which is 53,2% of persons 85 plus reported having disabilities. The prevalence of a specific type of disability shows that:

- 11% of persons aged 5 years and older had sight difficulties,
- 4,2% have cognitive difficulties, which means remembering and concentration,
- 3,6% have hearing difficulties,
- and about 2% had communication, selfcare and walking difficulties.

Households headed by person with disability were found to have less access to basic services compared to households headed by persons without disability. There were also disparities in terms of access to assistive devices across the population groups and geography. People with disability can be at higher risk of injury and abuse. It is important for parents and other family members to teach their loved ones how to stay safe and what do if they feel threatened or have been hurt in any way.

On disability and employment, empowerment has meant a lot to disabled people by enabling them to take better control of their lives. Informing policies and selling provisions and helping us recognise what should be obvious. The individuals must be valued for who they are and not despite an impairment. As a result, government and business need to ensure that they are prepared to fully accommodate people with disability as digital technologies become more important in society. Organisations must ensure that their websites, Apps, and all digital properties are accessible.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability having scrutinised the 2021 Parliament for People with Disability, we recommend that this period be the most important in ensuring progress and quality of services and curbing fiscal dumping to special cases such as availability of assistive devices, education, access to healthcare and employment. While much progress is necessary in societal attitude towards issues relating to impairment, advances in empowerment of disabled persons have been changing our fields fundamentally for the better. As the committee, we believe that further progress will continue to improve the quality and effectiveness of diagnostic and therapeutic relationships meaningful outcomes and organisation in the society as a whole.

On disability income and poverty, those who have a disability have a higher probability that they will live in poverty. If you live in poverty, there is an increased likelihood that you may have or at some point in your life have disability. This is one of primary reasons to focus on low- and middle-income earners as a country.

While not all people with disability are poor, it is increasingly recognised that disability is an important issue in poverty reduction and poverty alleviation efforts. A small but growing body of evidence is provided specific information about the association between disability and poverty, especially multi-dimensional poverty. On disability and education, disability can be so harsh that to many families their own disabled relative is a hero. Please take time to listen to and spend time with a disabled person. Understand them for just like you and me, we all need friends.

Persons with severe disabilities experience difficulty in accessing education and employment opportunities. However, we need to ensure that outreach programmes on persons with disability should be intensified especially in rural communities. Members let our paralympic team in South Africa educate us something different about disability.

A few months back the entire country was celebrating the victory of one of our own South African, Ntando Mahlangu scooped gold and broke the world record at Tokyo Paralympics. The man who was born with a condition fibular hemi-melia. Ntando Mahlangu spent a large portion of his young life in a wheelchair, At the age of 10, the year of the London Paralympics Games, things changed. A decision was made to amputate both Ntando's legs at the knees when the London Paralympics were on TV and the other South African amputees were on the big stage. He was learning how to walk. Two weeks later he could run on his feet, he was fitted with his first set of prosthetics cheetah blades in 2012 and all thanks go to an incredible non-profit organisation, Jumping Kids, and he has not looked back. Let Mahlangu inspire more disabled children to dream big and go for their goals despite the challenge.

By being a good example of what is possible with access to prosthetic mainstream education and sport, we can ensure all stakeholders that disability structures have been created specially to ensure that there is clear communication between spheres of governance. On school infrastructure, just for noting, the Premier should note the fact that the committee is not satisfied with the state of some of the schools for people with special needs. More so with regards to the availability of therapists and assistive devices. We urge the Premier and the first lady to adopt Rethuseng Special School in particular, as a special project where resources should be pumped in. Great work is happening there but a special visit by the Premier and the first lady will do much in elevating the need at the school and co-opting business and civil society to participate. We appreciate the infrastructure at Botlokwa Special School and the ongoing work at Setotolwane High School. Let us not despair.

In conclusion, we wish to reiterate our position that let this sixth administration accelerate this transition from social welfare to social development as we embrace the plight of the most vulnerable in our society. Believing that the ANC-led government will continue to remain firm in providing opportunities for persons with disability to develop skills and earn an income with products that they make in workshops to supplement their disability grants. To this end, let us continue to make every endeavour to ensure that those with disability are given priority and fair treatment. All compatriots and citizens with disability will eventually be fully mainstreamed into an inclusive system where they can play their role in society alongside everyone else. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathye. Hon Mphahlele, you may take the floor. [APPLAUSE]

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker, MECs present, honourable Members of this august House, Leader of the Opposition in absentia, Hon Jossey Buthane; distinguished guests, good morning.

We owe it to ourselves to change the attitudes and mentalities in relation to how we treat persons living with disability. We are yet to experience real equity and equality. Sadly, it is clear those in authority continue moving at snail's pace when it comes to resolving challenges facing people living with disability. The same authorities who move at snail's pace cannot hesitate to change like chameleons when given opportunities to interact with people living with disability. There are lots of disabled people who are being left behind on matters of empowerment and development. This unfortunate situation makes people living with disability to be a vulnerable, a marginalised, and a disempowered community.

Hon Speaker, there is a need for more awareness on how to coexist with people living with disability and such an opportunity will level the playing field. This type of awareness should not be limited to transversal departments but must be inclusive of our communities. With the slowest speed on solving issues of creating an inclusive environment, it will take many years to remove the barriers that create inaccessible conditions in society. We should be ashamed that 27 years into democracy we convene

a parliament to deal with overcoming deeply societal practices such as stigma, prejudice, and discrimination that treat people living with disability as secondary citizens, instead of tracking progress on the empowerment of people living with disability.

Equally, the theme of Parliament: “Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all” came as no surprise as even the departments and parastatals are unable to meet the targets. The department cannot be enjoying the ceremonial monitoring and overseeing implementation of transversal programmes by the executing departments; without clear recourse in case of failure to comply with guiding prescripts. Those who seek to delay or oppose empowerment and integration of people with disability into the economic system must be punished harshly.

All government employees must undergo sign language training with SMS members paying for themselves. As the EFF, we further submit that each department must have a sign language practitioner or interpreter to enable its flow of service delivery. How many institutions are supported or funded by the government? Does the department have provision for assistive devices for those in villages or from disadvantaged households?

What intervention strategies does the department have to ensure that Sassa grants to those beneficiaries with mental health and other forms of disability are not disrupted or stopped whilst not compromising the verification standards? The EFF demands that there be a solid deadline on ensuring that all public buildings are user-friendly to the people living with disability.

Hon Speaker, we need more awareness activities in communities to ensure that no one is left behind. The punishment of those who fail to achieve targets on employment and empowerment of people with disability in both public and private sectors should be implemented. Given the economic situation in the country, we call upon public transport companies such as GNT, Leeto la Polokwane and others to give fare discounts to persons living with disability, aged persons, unemployed youth, and school going youth. There is a need for a paradigm shift to address communication barriers preventing some persons with disability's active participation in education, access to health and employment.

In conclusion, the EFF says the government must ensure that by the beginning of 2023 academic calendar there is an autism school open for the public. Intergovernmental relations on matters of ensuring the developmental goals on persons living with disability should be intensified. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Let us move to the committee chair, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Chief Whip of the majority party, MECs present here, honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, all protocol observed, good afternoon.

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

As procedural, the Standing Committee on the Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disability interacted with the Office of the Premier on special programmes on the 2021/22 first and second quarter reports. The meeting was scheduled to execute the committee's mandate as provided for in section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) as amended.

On meeting the 2% employment target of people living with disability, we still have not reached the set target. The Premier, Mr Mathabatha, has committed to meet the employment of people living with disability at senior management level during the International Disability Day held at Sir Val Duncan Campus in Namakgale on 09 December 2015. It is now seven years since that undertaking was made, but nothing concrete has materialised. Indeed, this talks more to will than availability of posts. It is all well to have disability focal programmes but if these programmes are not brought to fruition, it all becomes pointless.

We commend the fact that all departments, except for the Department of Health, have dedicated Disability Focal Point Persons to assist in the implementation of the disability programmes. We commend the departments that met the disability equity target; but remain concerned by major departments like Health; Education; and CoGHSTA which still fail to meet equity targets.

Madam Speaker, it seems that there is no will at all in these departments to meet these targets and there is an even lesser effort by the Office of the Premier to enforce compliance. Departments which fail to implement have been reported to cite budget constraints on compensation of employee as the main reason they fail to meet set targets. This cannot really be an acceptable reason. To claim that meeting a disability target will bear negatively on the provincial purse cannot be acceptable.

As part of the intervention strategy, the Office of the Premier together with sector departments have developed a revised structure which includes the post of Disability Focal Point to address this challenge. We believe that moving forward this will no longer be an issue.

The Office of the Premier reported that they have monitored government procurement for empowerment of people living with disability. However, non-compliance to the 7% procurement target set aside for people with disability is still a challenge. The Office of the Premier capacitated line function departments on strategies to empower disabled people as an intervention strategy. We cannot be seen to be complacent in such important matters as regard to disability.

On assistive devices, it has been reported that the Office of the Premier lacks information on the assistive devices and this backlog poses a challenge emanating from the previous fourth quarter of the 2020/21 financial year. It has been reported that Assistive Devices

Programme was monitored during the period under review and the backlog seems to be an ongoing thing for the Department of Health due to budgetary constraints.

Taking note that the issue of assistive devices is safe and contributes to the prevention of healthcare worker injuries, by improving on this backlog will play a vital role in healthcare facilities and prevent occupational injuries. The assistive devices sub-programme with the backlog were recorded for walking aids and crutches and spectacles with a total of 4 252 and 2 340 required, respectively.

On the rights of women in all the departments, the Office has reported that only the Department of Transport and Community Safety has complied with the 50% employment equity status. The committee raised its displeasure in the continuous non-compliance by departments. However, the Office of the Premier has come up with an intervention strategy to prioritise the funded posts to comply with employment equity plan of sector departments.

Madam Speaker, during the third quarter of the previous financial year, several measures were kept in place to improve the overall provincial equity employment compliance, which includes the development and implementation of equity employment plans by the department. Equal opportunities for growth and promotion that completely cleanse the corporate policy of any discriminatory bias, providing an inclusive and meritocratic platform of progress for all, require a larger shift in the mindset of employers.

On employment equity, it was also reported that as part of the gender mainstreaming in sector departments, all the departments have appointed gender focal persons whose responsibilities are to popularise and mainstream gender programme and projects. The employment of women is not a favour but is central to our equity project. It does not make sense to have programme on women empowerment when these are not met by actual representatives of women in the workplace. In one of his speeches, former President Thabo Mbeki stated that: "No government in South Africa could ever claim to represent the will of the people if it failed to address the central task of the emancipation of women in all its elements, and that includes the government we are privileged to lead."

The presence of women in the workplace, particularly those occupying senior roles goes a long way in advancing the gains of our revolution. The presence of women in leadership positions goes a long way in affirming the rightful space that women should occupy in society. We therefore encourage the Office to ensure compliance by all departments.

On provision of sanitary pads, the Office of the Premier has reported that the Department of Education, as the implementing agent for the Limpopo Sanitary Dignity Project, has committed itself to provide sanitary dignity packs to all children in quantile 1-3 and that an implementation plan is readily available. Madam Speaker, it is reported that the disposal of sanitary towels was a challenge, and that the subcommittee was working to address the matter. The committee noted the report that the implementation of the Sanitary Dignity Project is monitored monthly and reported quarterly by the Department of Education.

While it is all well to have an implementation plan, we need to see this project running in schools already. The dignity of girl-children should be protected at all times. We therefore

urge the Office to hasten in ensuring that this project is duly implemented. On gender-based violence, much of our effort as South Africans must be focused on response. However, our response efforts need to be supported and complemented by prevention programmes and policy development. By addressing the underlying causes of GBV, we can work towards preventing it from happening in the first place. While Limpopo has high levels of GBV, we must also lead in the field of prevention, interventions in low- and middle-income regions.

We need to identify models which work to respond to and prevent violence, and we can work on scaling those up to reach more people. At the same time, we can work together to find new ways to address GBV, building the current evidence base and responding to the national crisis. Madam Speaker, we must be worried about what has happened in our psyche as a society. We need to integrate values of ubuntu with our democratic values. These values must be reflected in our actions. We need a discourse on the destruction 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 neighbourhoods. Freedom will be meaningless if the home is no longer a safe place for women and children.

In conclusion, we have highlighted what ought to be done. We believe that the Premier as the principal will ensure that implementation takes place. Having considered the first, second and third quarter reports on special programmes, the committee recommends that the House adopts the report and that the Office of the Premier should comply with the recommendations of the committee as indicated.

Hon Speaker, I therefore move on behalf of the committee that this report be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana. We shall now again call upon the MEC, Dr Ramathuba, to come and respond to the debates.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH [ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER]

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We want to appreciate the inputs and debates by honourable Members. Our special thanks go to the chair of this committee that deals with the most vulnerable within our societies – the people with disability – who are continuously discriminated against and stigmatised. We really appreciate the fact that the committee has been very clear on what the Executive Council is supposed to be doing.

On behalf of the Premier of this province, we want to reassure honourable Members that indeed those departments that have the responsibility of supplying with assistive devices, will ensure that such devices are made available.

The backlog, for instance, on your spectacles has currently received a major boost. One of the churches with an NGO LGS has committed itself and has already started donating equipment – the lens cutting machine. Previously, we had to outsource and due to resource constraints, we have not been able to reach the targeted number. It is quite a positive move that will assist. We still need to fast track the issue of e-Health and e-Medicine because once people know that there are these assistive devices, they move from one place to another collecting such spectacles.

We really need to investigate the issue of walking aids and wheelchairs. We also note the desire to establish a school that looks after the children with autism. We believe that our Department of Education will also work together with Social Development and Health to make sure that we have such a school as a province. Those are the issues that the Executive will continue updating this august House on progress.

We agree fully with you that gender-based violence and femicide has become a major pandemic we are supposed to deal with all of us together. It cannot be left to one or two departments in government. It has become a societal challenge which requires all of us to take some action. When we are saying that we are raising our girl-children, we must take along our boy-children and raise them together. The boy-children must understand their responsibilities and how they need to relate with those of the opposite gender.

We really appreciate all the inputs in this debate. No one was outside the scope. The script was clear, and we want to appreciate that. All we are saying as the Executive is that we need to implement your recommendations and update you regularly and ensure that our targets are met. Rome was not built in one day.

They told me last week that they are not people living with disability, but they are people with disability. Therefore, as this august House, let us not call them people living with disability any longer. We must call them people with disability. They are saying we can get employment; we do not need to be dependent on Sassa grants. When you see us with disability, that does not mean that we cannot work. We can work and we can produce just like you. We just have disabilities. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

We are on the Motion for the Ratification of Appointment of Special Delegates who attended NCOP Plenaries. Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, you may take the floor.

THE CHIEF WHIP

THE RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES WHO ATTENDED NCOP PLENARIES (Draft Resolution)

Hon Speaker, House Rule 226(3) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House read together with section 61(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provide for the designation and appointment of special delegates when the House is not sitting. In line with these provisions the following honourable Members were appointed to attend the following virtual NCOP Plenaries when the House was not sitting:

- 03 August 2022: Questions to cluster 3(a) Governance, Corporate Governance, Traditional Affairs and Public Service and Public Administration: Hon M J Aphiri, Hon N S Monyamane and Hon T Matibe.
- 04 August 2022: Questions to Cluster 3(b) Governance, Minister in the Presidency, Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and Minister in the Presidency: Hon N D Masemola, Hon M A Mokaba, Hon C B D Selane, and Hon S M Mochadi.
- 10 August 2022: Debate on Women's Day under the theme "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow": Hon M A Mokaba, Hon C B D Selane, and Hon S M Mochadi.
- 18 August 2022: Questions to the Deputy President: Hon S C Sekoati, Hon R R Molapo, Hon A J D Ndou, and Hon E M Mokgonyana.
- 23 August 2022: Questions to Cluster 1(a) Peace and Security, Police, Justice, and Correctional Services: Hon P S Boshielo, Hon C B D Selane, Hon M N Lekganyane, and Hon M G Sibanda-Kekana.
- 25 August 2022: Debate on Socioeconomic Impact and Treaty of the Production and Trade Counterfeit Products: Hon M R Seono, Hon C B D Selane, and Hon T B Matibe.

I hereby move that this august House resolves to ratify the appointments of the abovementioned Special Delegates in line with the abovementioned provisions.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you may take the floor.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Donald Selamolela of the ANC stands to second the Hon Chief Whip on the ratification of names of the Special Delegates, who attended the NCOP plenaries in line with the prescribed legislation. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selamolela.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The announcement is simple. Lunch will be served in the Committees Boardroom. Thank you.

10. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selane. Indeed, lunch is served in the boardroom. The Sitting is adjourned to Thursday, 01 September 2022 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 01 SEPTEMBER 2022
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 very much. You may all be seated. Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive Council, Members of this august House and support staff, 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 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

Tabling of the 2021/22 Annual Report for the Office of the Premier together with a written explanation for non-submission on time.

Hon Premier, you may table the report.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

TABLING OF THE 2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER FOR THE 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR

Submission of the 2021/22 Annual Report for the 2021/22 financial year as mandated by the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999), we hereby present to this House the 2021/22 Annual Report, for the 2021/22 financial year.

Section 40(1)(d) provides that: “The accounting officer of a department, trading entity or constitutional institution must submit within five months of the end of the financial year to the relevant treasury and, in the case of the department or trading entity; also, to the executive authority responsible for that department or trading entity.” The National Treasury’s Annual Report Guide for National and Provincial Departments dated August 2021, item 1.7, paragraph 4, provides: “The final printed annual report must be tabled in Parliament/ Provincial Legislature by 30 September and be published on the department’s website.”

Accordingly, the Office of the Premier is within the prescribed framework. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Premier. The Annual Report of the Office of the Premier is referred to the Portfolio Committees on Public Administration and Scopa for consideration and to report back to the House.

Tabling of the 2021/22 Annual Report for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture together with a written explanation for non-submission on time.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE]

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning to the Hon Premier, my colleagues, and the honourable Members of the House.

TABLING OF THE 2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE FOR THE 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR

The 2021/22 Annual Report for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is hereby submitted on behalf of the MEC for Sport, Arts, and Culture, and the letter of explanation for non-submission on time has been written to the Office of the Speaker of the Limpopo provincial Legislature.

Hon Speaker, an apology was sent to your office on 30 August 2022. The apology reads as follows: The department was expected to submit an annual report on 29 August 2022 and due to miscommunication between the parliamentary liaison officer and the administration office, the department had to make a follow up with the service provider to get the printed copies where they were found not to ready. The time the matter was clarified, it was the time when the report was needed electronically, and we have since worked out the process with our service provider and requested to send the formatted version to the Legislature as expected.

The late submission is regrettable, and the department will make sure that such an anomaly does not occur in future.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

The Annual Report of the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture is referred to the Portfolio Committees on Sport, Arts, and Culture and Scopa for consideration and to report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, I, Sarah Monyamane, present the 2021/22 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of Social Development. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby support the tabling of the report by Hon Monyamane. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I call upon the committee chair.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, I, Sarah Monyamane, present the 2020/21 Annual Report of the Department of Social Development. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, congratulate Hon Monyamane on her birthday today and I also support the motion that she has presented.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for our debate and the first speaker ... Hon Maseko do you want to say something?

MR MASEKO

Am I audible?

THE SPEAKER

Can we allow Hon Maseko to say what he wants to say? [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker this is not a BGM, you don't just raise a hand, he must say, "I'm rising in terms of this rule, and this is what I want to say." He must not just raise a hand, and you say there is a hand there. What is that? He must tell us what he's rising on.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, you are not the Presiding Officer. Let us allow Hon Maseko to say what he wanted to say.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

But, on what point is he rising?

THE SPEAKER

Can you wait Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

You cannot just stand up here and speak because I'm going to speak here permanently for nothing.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, please sit down and allow Hon Maseko to say what he wants to say.

MR MASEKO

I rise to advise the Speaker that there is an item ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No, but order, Hon Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Let me hear the order from Hon Maseko first.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The advice is on which rule? There is no rule called advice.

THE SPEAKER

Sit down, Hon Buthane. I'm asking you for the second time. He did not even finish. Sit down Hon Buthane, so that we can hear what Hon Maseko wanted to say.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

He said advice, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, he did not even finish what he was saying.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No, but before you finish you must start.

THE SPEAKER

No, no, I'm not operating like that. Hon Buthane, sit down.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

So, this is a BGM of the ANC.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maseko, please continue with your order.

MR MASEKO

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

No, according to my Order Paper, I did not omit anything. Please allow the Presiding Officer to proceed. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development. Keep quiet, Hon Buthane.

Before there was an interjection, I was saying we will refer to the Speakers' List and the first speaker on the list is Hon Jerry Maseko. What do you want Hon Buthane?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Madam Speaker, I'm rising on a point of order and on a very serious note and I would want you to help us because we must also help you to run the House. You said I must allow Hon Maseko to finish. We have allowed Hon Maseko to finish, but Hon Maseko did not fail me on what I wanted to advise you on. He successfully put to me that I was right when I said that he is not rising on anything.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, please sit down.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Let me finish. I have a right to speak in this House.

THE SPEAKER

Speak!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, this is the Limpopo Legislature which is guided by the rules and part of those rules is that when you stand up ... [INTERJECTION]

THE CHIEF WHIP

[inaudible]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I'm on a point of order. I'm on a point of order

THE SPEAKER

Hon Chief Whip, please allow Hon Buthane to finish. Please finish Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you. My order Madam Speaker is that if we allow a culture of people just standing up and speak without quoting from any rule that they want to engage on, we

are going to collapse the House. Because tomorrow I'm going to stand up and you are going to say on what rule am I rising.

THE SPEAKER

Say it and finish Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

What is this, just when I'm in the middle of what I'm talking about you are saying I must finish.

THE SPEAKER

I'm listening.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

O se ke wa ntlhakola ke sa nya.

THE SPEAKER

Say it!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Now I'm going to say, yesterday you did not ask this rule from Hon Maseko. So, you would have allowed a precedent of just standing up and speaking without quoting a rule. I would then say, today you are suppressing me because I'm from a different organisation. So, my advice is that what happened here must not repeat itself so that you rule according to the book, and you are not seen to be taking any side.

No one must stand up here and say I want to talk, or I want to advise. The person must stick to the rules.

THE SPEAKER

Are you done?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Yes, I'm done.

THE SPEAKER

Can I address you, Hon Buthane. Hon Buthane, what you have raised has nothing to do with proceedings of this House. That is why I made a ruling on that matter before. So, I'm wondering why you keep on talking about this thing. Can we proceed with the proceedings of this House, Hon Buthane. Honourable Members let us proceed and I have called Hon Maseko to open the debate. Hon Chief Whip, I have made a ruling on this matter. Let us proceed, please. With all due respect, Hon Chief Whip, let us proceed with the debate.

MR MASEKO

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the majority party, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development and Members of the provincial Legislature, good morning.

During the quarter under review, the 2021/22 fourth quarter, the Portfolio Committee on Social Development observed that the department was struggling to resolve the historical irregular and wasteful expenditure. These unwanted expenditures were the findings of the Auditor-General of South Africa and we further reported as a committee that the matter of irregular and wasteful expenditure was escalated to the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury for a solution.

The committee expressed appreciation that the department reported that 43 of the 48 A-G's findings which are 90% were resolved and 5 were not resolved which recur from the 2020/21 findings. In the Social Welfare Services Programme, the committee noted with concern that for both services to older persons and people with disability, money was unspent in the fourth quarter. The underspending amounted to R2 700 000 for older people and R3 082 000 for people with disability.

Most unfortunately, this is the category of people who are more vulnerable and who really want these resources. We have to learn some lessons, particularly the Department of Social Development that it is very much critical for them to prioritise this vulnerable group so that they make sure that they spend money allocated to them accordingly.

Hon Speaker, we were also concerned about the condition of the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre, which the patients who are there require the services of the Department of Health as well as the Department of Social Development. The committee observed that the contract of the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre is due to expire at the end of September 2022. The department had not reported plans to resolve the challenge, however, the department elucidated that the contract will be extended in September 2022.

We are also noting with concern that the process of appointing the Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC) will not have been concluded at that time. Especially given the scope of work and lengthy processes involving appointing a transaction adviser which will take not less than 18 months according to GTAC. We will work hard as the committee to ensure that the department provides a progress report regarding the extension of the contract.

The committee also observed that in the Annual Report for 2020/21 financial year, the department had an underspending of R59,500 000 under the Child Care and Protection Service Programme. We are also concerned that the department did not spend according to the approved APP. When budgets are cut it becomes a problem that services will not be delivered and when the budget is approved according to the approved targets, it is unspent.

Underspending is a very serious matter that we will not tolerate as the portfolio committee and that poses a challenge, and the department must work hard to spend accordingly because the people who voted for this government require those services

as expected. We however commend the department for achieving targets with respect to early childhood development, conditional and equitable share grants.

The department reported that the number of children subsidised was 78 775 which exceeded the target of 74 958, and we are saying job well done on this one. Furthermore, the number of children subsidised through ECD conditional grants was 12 229 and the target was 10 563 which is an overachievement and a positive development. The committee observed that both targets were exceeded by 3 817 for equitable share and 1 666 for conditional grants. We, therefore, support the move for the adoption of this report.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko. Hon Mohlala, it is your turn now.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings, Hon Speaker. Greetings Hon Premier, Leader of the Official Opposition, and colleagues in the House. Hon Speaker, underspending in this department is the order of the day. There is literal underspending on every programme without fail. The budget gets allocated to programmes and for some funny reasons, officials just choose not to spend them to fast-track service delivery to the people.

The EFF is concerned that both services to older persons and people with disability were underspent in the fourth quarter. These are people whom the ANC-led government does not care about at all. They only pretend to love them during elections. It is reported that the underspending amounts to R2 700 000 in older persons and R3 080 000 in people with disability. Why would you underspend on older persons if you care about them?

Furthermore, there was overspending on programme 3, which is Children and Families. This is a sad reality of the shenanigans of the current administration. The EFF is also worried about the underperformance of the substance abuse prevention and

rehabilitation subprogramme because it derails service delivery. The money meant to deliver services to our people is not spent because officials and politicians think that people do not deserve a better life.

It is noteworthy that the 50% target for women in senior management positions remains constant challenge throughout the financial year. This is a clear indication that the current administration still has a stereotype mentality that women cannot lead and that they are better off led by men. We reject this sexist and barbaric thinking with the contempt it deserves. It has no place in a modern and civilised society. It should be noted by the House that infrastructural maintenance of 21 existing departmental offices also had serious challenges.

For instance, there were delays in completing the Waterberg cluster 2 projects. The delay in completing infrastructure projects is the delay in service delivery. Furthermore, it also implies that more additional money which was not budgeted for this project must now be spent. Hon Speaker, we need to understand why five invoices were captured incorrectly and what consequence management was implemented. There is one simple reason why all this is happening. Invoices are deliberately incorrectly captured to create room for corruption.

They can use all the tricks in the book, we will stop the thieves in their tracks. Furthermore, it is regrettable that the department was constantly not achieving the A-G's findings including historical irregular and wasteful expenditure. This is typical where a failed state that has long thrown in the towel. They are not prepared to either improve or change.

The EFF is concerned about the reported 400 cases of child abuse which is a high number. The abuse of children is regrettable and unacceptable. The government must come up with programmes that deal specifically with cases of child abuse and work with other departments like the Department of Transport and Community Safety. The stipends of caregivers serving in the nonprofit organisations were processed late. This is a heartless act because it affects the livelihood of our people.

The delay in the transfer of funds to NPOs during the 2021/22 financial year has a direct impact on service delivery. This delay is unwarranted and unacceptable because it derails service delivery to the people. Service delivery cannot be delayed or postponed. Our people need services now. They are suffering and they need services delivered now.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. I now call upon Hon Phala. She is not available, let's proceed, and I now call upon the committee chairperson, Hon Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, MECs, Members of the Legislature, Deputy Chairperson of Committees, good morning. Hon Speaker, it is important that the department makes an improvement in achieving the employment of women in senior management. The department remained stagnant at 48% and did not reach the 50% target. In the previous years, the target was the same.

The committee comprehends the fact of natural attrition and retirement on the one hand. However, it is critical that targets are achieved with able-bodied women with the capacity to execute their duties. Employment equity is not just an act on paper, it must be implemented. We commend the department for achieving the target of 2% in terms of employment of people with disability.

We commend the department on its acquisition of tools of trade for social service professionals. The department reported during the quarter under review that those tools of trade were not yet allocated to the social services professionals who were supposed to utilise them for work purposes. The department must provide a detailed report to the House about the delivery and allocation of those tools of trade.

The budgeted amount for the procured tools of trade was R21 800 000 and we will exercise our oversight role to ensure accountability and that our recommendations are complied with in line with our legislative mandate. We were concerned about the delays in completing the refurbishment of Waterberg cluster 2 projects. The matter is recurring from the previous financial year and the department must ensure that it is executed in line with the targets outlined in the annual performance plan.

The department explained that the first service provider had challenges and the contract had to be terminated. The new service provider was appointed in November 2021. We are also concerned that the process of terminating the first contract will not lead to litigations. The department must make certain that the project is rehabilitated and completed within the stipulated period to avoid escalating costs. The new contractor must be monitored timeously.

Hon Speaker, we observed that the Saselamani and Mookgopong infrastructure projects started construction in the 2017/18 financial year. This matter was also reported in the 2020/21 Annual Report. The practical completion was only achieved on 25 November 2019 for Mookgopong and 05 February 2022 for Saselamani. The committee was concerned about a long time it took to complete this project. We were of the view that for this project to take such a long time to complete, there was a lack of monitoring by the department.

The monitoring personnel of the department must do its work properly and if the department does not have such a section, it must relook at its organogram. If the section is in existence, staff must be held responsible for such a long delay. Hon Speaker, the matter of GaPhasha Selatole One-Stop Centre, is a thorny one because it was reported in the 2020/21 Annual Report and is still in the Fourth Quarter Report of the 2021/22 financial year. This matter must be brought to finality, and it requires intervention from the Office of the Premier.

The matter involves the erection of the multipurpose building by the department on private land and the amount involved is R6 million. The committee received unsatisfactory different reports which were not assisting to resolve the matter. We recommend that the matter must be a standing item on the agenda of the committee until it is resolved.

The department must provide a progress report to the House. The department reported that an official from the Office of the Premier, Mr Kabayi, who was assigned to deal with the matter had made an evaluation of the property. Mr Kabayi further indicated that the senior counsel compiled a notice of intention to expropriate and the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure appended his signature. It was reported that notices were served to affected parties for them to make representations of an intention to expropriate and the duration was reported within 30 days. It was reported that the MECs for both Social Development and Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure will sit down with the senior counsel and go through the presentation.

After the meeting, the expropriation would take place. The committee felt that the matter was a long outstanding issue and needed to be finalised urgently. As we are reporting in the House today, 30 days have passed, and the committee will exercise its oversight role on the matter and the House must receive a progress report on the matter. We are concerned as the committee that at the time when the building is going to be utilised, its condition would have changed, and it may require maintenance.

Hon Speaker, the committee commends the department on its achievement of an unqualified audit opinion for the 2020/21 financial year. That was a step in the right direction and the department must be consistent and improve on the audit outcomes. Even though the audit outcomes are favourable, the department must strive for a clean audit.

The department must ensure that the financial statements are prepared according to the financial reporting framework. There were significant internal control deficiencies which affected quarterly financial and performance reporting which must be worked on. The department must develop a plan to follow up on the prior year's external audit findings. Appropriate majors must be implemented to ensure that transfers and subsidies to entities are applied for their intended purposes.

The procurement and contract management must be specific in stipulating the minimum threshold of commodities designed for local content and production in bid documents. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chairperson. We shall now call upon the MEC for Social Development to respond to the debate made by honourable Members.
[INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

A kere ge Mohlomphegi Monyamane ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Which rule are you rising on?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Aowa, ye e tlogele. E tlogele yeo.

THE SPEAKER

I want to know, which rule are you rising on.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Aowa, yeo e tlogele. Efela ke be ke re, Mohlomphegi Monyamane ge a nyaka gore ke bone gore ba rekile two-piece ye mpsha, ba mpotše. Ba se ke ba re ke a ba šitiša. Ke a e bona ke ye mpsha, Mohlomphegi Monyamane.

THE SPEAKER

Sit down. You may continue, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council and Members of this august House, the seat of democracy in our province. Firstly, I would like to clutch to pearls of wisdom from the committee on the inputs that they have made to this august House, considering the reports that are very central to the work that we do as a department.

Secondly, we remain committed as a department to dealing with matters relating to audit findings; the extent to which we deepen good governance; sound administration and therefore prudent use of resources appropriated for us to carry out the functions of

the department as outlined in our APP and our operational plans. We are working very hard to make sure that a clean audit strategy finds expression and going forward we should be able to close on those matters which seem to continue recurring and therefore affecting our ability to graduate to a clean audit.

I think we are hard at work pursuing that strategy. That talks to our commitment to deal with matters raised by members of the committee around irregular and wasteful expenditure, and the extent to which they may impact our financial statements. Those are the matters which we are seized with and are hard at work to try and clear them from our books.

Vulnerable people or social groups in society remain our major focus as a department; the extent to which we look after the social wellbeing of women, children, people with disability and the elderly as well, evidenced by the work that is done through South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) and also a number of programmes that we roll out reaching out to as many as we could to make sure that their socioeconomic conditions are better off because of the comprehensive net of interventions that we provide as a relief to better their living conditions throughout the province.

So, we are hard at work to make sure that these social groupings in society do have comfort under this democratic government of the ANC.

We are very clear and committed, Hon Speaker, on the matter which is very sensitive, and which will not escape our attention relating to the Shiluvana Frail Care Centre. We are very much alive to the complexities and the sensitivities; and the extent to which failure or inadequate attention may result in. That is the reason why we have committed ourselves that we are not going to impact that process negatively but allow an extension of these services that are provided for those occupants to receive the attention they deserve from their government.

So, by 15 September 2022, we shall have extended the contract for another 12 months whilst we are working very hard with the Office of the Premier, Department of Health and of course guided by financial processes through Treasury to have this transactional advisor appointed. This is a matter which we cannot falter on because of possible consequences. So, we are very much alive to that situation.

I would also want to thank Hon Maseko for those encomiums heaped on the department for good performance regarding the ECD and obviously, my colleague from the

Department of Education will be reporting on this matter since it has been transferred to the Department of Education.

Regarding the drugs master plan and as well as substance abuse, we have moved very hard and the money is being utilised appropriately to massify our capacity to deal with this problem which troubles our communities, in villages, townships and urban areas of our province. We have put together a provincial forum in the past two weeks which comprises various stakeholders and almost all government departments in the province and those that are national residents in our province.

We are going to move fast to have the same structures replicated in our districts, in the local municipalities and lastly at the level of wards so that we declare war against drugs. Working with the South African Police Services and the extent to which substance abuse will also profile those centres where they are being offered so that LEDET can make an appropriate decision through liquor boards enforced by police services. The information will be provided by the committees that will be put in place because they do impact social development and, therefore, the capacity of our systems in schools and many other areas of public services get affected by this situation.

We are going to be there in almost every street, every village, and every community to intensify our work around this particular process. We are seeing a new phenomenon which is most probably linked to the same situation where primary school children are being abducted in the province. It is a very sad reality, and we are calling upon communities and parents to be extra vigilant because between their homes and schools this is when and where this matter takes place. We are trying to intensify our awareness campaigns around the safety of our children throughout the province and working together with many structures of civil society in the province.

We are going to be dealing with this matter and of course, we call upon the Members of this august House through their constituency work to help us to redouble information-sharing communication on various platforms. Hon Speaker, we take note of other matters, except lastly to conclude by commenting on the GaPhasha Selatole project which is a very important service point that has been constructed on a private land.

So far, the process between the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and ourselves guided by the legal services in the Office of the Premier, is almost at the point where the process of the expropriation of this land on which this building is constructed, will be concluded because the lawyers have already given my colleague,

the Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure MEC those documents, and through her office, they will go to our bilateral and most probably find a resolution to this matter.

After the resolution on this matter, we can then be able to utilise that building for the good of the communities in that part of the province, the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality. Thank you, Hon Speaker. Those were just a few words. That land will be expropriated without compensation because it is for public use and for public services and we are very determined in that regard. Thank you so much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA

I call upon the committee chairperson.

MS APHIRI

A ke go leboge Mospikara. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA to table the report on the oversight visit that the committee undertook for consideration and adoption by this House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, of the ANC stand here to second the tabling of the oversight report by Hon Aphiri.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for the debate, and the first speaker is Hon Maseko. [APPLAUSE]

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council present here; chairperson of the portfolio committee; the Chief Whip; the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Buthane; and Members of the House I greet you.

Hon Speaker, as the Legislature we have a duty to oversee how public funds are being utilised and we also have an obligation to oversee how regulations are passed and enforced regarding appropriation of money to various units and how such moneys are going to be spent as planned. It is our duty to ensure that quality services are provided to the residents as per the mandate and expectations of the people. In our endeavour to play oversight over government, we took an oversight visit to Motaganeng access road, which is a 2 km long road with a small bridge amounting to R19 450 000 in Fetakgomo-Tubatse which is situated in Rameloke village.

According to the project plan, it was supposed to be implemented within a year and it commenced in June 2021 and was completed in May 2022. According to our observation, there was compliance regarding the time factor, which is a good development. During the oversight, we noted with dismay that there was poor workmanship during the construction process. The road was very low at the level wherein during rainy days it could be easily washed away.

However, we must report that the constructor did the job in terms of the approved designs. Our observation here is that there was poor workmanship in the designs. During our interaction with the stakeholders in that project, we noted that the poor road was due to poor design which seems to have been developed by an inexperienced engineer. We also found that the engineer who designed the road was paid R3,500 000 for the poor workmanship.

It was so difficult to fathom how the municipality could appoint an inexperienced engineer, particularly with regard to road construction. It would be important to note that the municipality wanted to empower an emerging engineer which is also the policy of the government. There was, however, a need to partner that emerging engineer with an

experienced one so that proper skills can be transferred and finally we make sure that our upcoming previously disadvantaged engineers are able to execute their responsibilities accordingly. It would be important that the Department of CoGHSTA plays a role in capacity-building in projects management in municipalities. They must identify that as a gap; skills development in the technical division in its entirety in most municipalities for effective provision of quality services because we really want value for money.

The portfolio committee encourages the consultants to never compromise quality work and should not settle for poor workmanship because that might put their companies at risk in future. We are still saying that the young up-and-coming African consultants and engineers were further encouraged to never lower their standards so that we ensure that even in future they get an opportunity to participate.

The bridge which is part of that major road key construction is also of poor workmanship and it contradicts our commitment to ensure value for money. We recommend that the municipality must relook at its organisational structure and strengthen the technical or infrastructure division of the institution, because we have identified some weaknesses regarding project management.

It is critical that the personnel in that service should be trained to mitigate such types of risks. In conclusion, we must always bear in mind that the public can and should demand that its representatives hold the government institutions and its programmes to a strict standard of accountability on a regular basis.

We are obliged to know what is right and what is wrong. We know what to do about the situation when we come across it. All that is required is the will to perform oversight vigorously. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko. I now call upon Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Greetings to the honourable Members of the House, and the Premier of Limpopo. Hon Speaker, the oversight visits on the MIG project in the Sekhukhune District revealed serious challenges, including the state of infrastructure and lack of human and financial resources. These challenges speak to the governance weakness on the part of the current administration which has been the case since the dawn of democracy.

We do not understand why the transfer of functions and necessary facilities are still incomplete at Mabopo Driving Testing and Licensing Centre because the centre is currently not able to offer vehicle testing functions to the public. What this means in direct and simpler terms is that services are not being delivered to the people and that the station is just a decoration which provides no service delivery at all.

Furthermore, it is worrying that despite sprawling residential developments, the centre is located relatively far from the residential area and as such not easily accessible to the public. Some of the challenges that the Mabopo Driving Testing and Licensing Centre is faced with is that there is no sufficient space for filing and employees were forced to create space for filing in their own offices. Furthermore, there is no storeroom. The centre's cleaning materials are placed on the passage. The centre is completely neglected and as you approach it you are welcomed by long grass and bushes.

The infrastructure meant for testing vehicles was not operational since the inception of the centre. Like many white elephant infrastructure projects around the province, this one too is a white elephant that disguises itself like it is providing people with services while it is not. The people are not benefitting from this centre at all. The centre has two eye testing machines but only one was operational meaning that our people are not being fully serviced, they get half of what they should rightfully get.

The other one's service contract has since expired and has not been renewed. This creates long queues for our people doing eye testing which has a negative impact on fast-tracking eye testing for our people. Elderly people are the most affected by this anomaly by the government because they need to take medicine at a particular pointing time during the day. Many of them end up collapsing on these long devastating queues.

We are led by a heartless government that has no respect for elderly people and regard for human life. The municipality does not have a technical office charged with the responsibility of road marking and general maintenance, hence some roads in the area are so bad. The station was affected by numerous break-ins as it was isolated from the

community more than five years back. By isolating the station from the community, you are making it vulnerable to vandalism and all sorts of criminal activities.

It was reported that money, computers, and other electrical appliances such as microwaves were recently stolen, and these types of incidents occur regularly. Related to this is that the offices are also congested and small. The management of the centre including the chief licensing officer shares an office which is also used for keeping records. Nothing is going right hence something drastic must be done to save the situation.

Furthermore, the centre is having all sorts of challenges like the shortage of computer equipment. This hampers the work of officials as it is difficult to deliver services to the public. Hon Speaker, it is disappointing that the backup generator does not function, and service delivery is affected during loadshedding. It is also worrisome that the centre accepts cash as there is no swiping machines. This is a recipe for corruption. Hon Speaker, Burgersfort Police Station has insufficient space and as a result, some officers do not have offices but squad with those that they supervise, and this compromises the privacy of cases they handle.

Finally, there is no perimeter fence for the police station, and it is open towards the road and further passes just behind cells posing a security risk. We can't be led by a government that poses a security risk to our people. We must be led by people who will see a security risk from afar and defuse it.

Now, Hon Speaker, this is where we end it with our input to the MEC. Hon Speaker, you will remember that at some point we did mention to you that when we speak to this department, we get harassed when we leave this House. So, I just hope and believe that we are not going to be harassed after leaving this House by the security personnel of the MEC leading this department. Because when they harassed you, and you ask them why they are harassing you, they say we don't like what you said about our MEC on the radio. We said we are going to bring the fight to the House, and we want to see how you are going to stop us from talking. Now we are talking, they are not here. So, please MEC, stop discussing our issues in front of your security personnel because it compromises us.

Hon Speaker, we are not going to be scared to raise issues because of some men who are wearing tight trousers, sleeping with shoes in the cars, driving the MEC and some ugly women who harass us and tell us that they are police ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

The debate is on the visit to the Sekhukhune District on the MIG projects.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, that is exactly my point, but, after I said that, I did say I still demand my freedom, because after this Sitting, I am going to be harassed, and I called you personally about that harassment. It happened here, and I want to say to you MEC and through you Speaker that I don't know why they did not stop us from talking to you because the issue is them trying to stop us from talking to you. Why didn't they try to stop us when you told us that you were having a lot of T-shirts in that parliamentary house of yours that you were not going to give Soviet to campaign with for 2021 because he was denying you trucks. Call them to come here today. I told you I am going to put your hands down. Why didn't they stop us when you called us to your house and told us that there is a woman who is frustrating you? Another issue is on the regional administrator of the ANC, and we must not say anything about it. Why didn't they stop us when you lobbied us? I'm talking about my safety here ...
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, you are out of order! Hon Buthane, can I address you?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

I don't think this House has interest to hear what you are raising. You are out of order!
[INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

So, this House has no interest in our safety? The police people, and I called you.

THE SPEAKER

That has nothing to do with today's proceedings.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I called you. It has everything to do with it. When he calls us trying to talk to us that we must not raise things that will embarrass him, they don't harass us. When we are in this House doing our work, they harass us, and you protect him.

THE SPEAKER

Can you sit down, Hon Buthane. You are out of order.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No! If they can protect you properly, they should have protected you from those people who broke into your house and stole an undisclosed amount of money. They should have done that. They should have done that. We are going to raise issues against you without any fear of being harassed by any police. Every time we ascend here, we are going to say everything that you told us, and they will not protect you. We are going to say it.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane can you sit down or leave the House!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I can leave it, I'm done talking. [HE CONTINUED TALKING AWAY FROM THE MIC]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, I don't think you are going to hold this Sitting to ransom. I don't think so. Can you sit down and keep quiet? Keep quiet, Hon Buthane! Can we proceed honourable Members.

MR SELAMOLELA

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Selamolela, can you leave Hon Buthane to talk alone? No, can you keep quiet? Can we proceed with the Sitting honourable Members. I don't have interest in that Hon Buthane. Can we proceed with our proceedings honourable Members? Hon Smalle, it is your turn.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Hon Premier, Members of this august House, I greet you. Following these oversight visits, the question must be put forward on the R19,4 million road projects, although being completed in the time frames, there are some very disturbing questions that have not been answered.

The set guidelines to do that road constructions stands at R3,5 million per kilometre. Taking that over 2 km spent plus a bridge that was not build to specification, one has got to ask if the department or government did receive value for money. The question must be, have we failed in that aspect? Honourable MEC, it is our duty and obligation as government to monitor the expenditure and the progress of this project or any other MIG project.

The failure of doing so, is a clear disregard by officials within that sphere of government to uphold various legislations and to make sure that we do receive value for money. Some of these indicators highlight the systematic failure by the specific sphere of government over that project. There was a lack of planning. There is clearly a lack of capacity. There is clearly a lack of monitoring. There is clearly a lack of implementing the terms of reference to this project and there was a lack of holding the relevant people accountable.

The PFMA clearly stipulates timelines for the conversations and for the actions to be taken by the government. The question is, why did those people deliberately fail to uphold to those standards? Why did the government fail to take actions against those individuals? It clearly stipulates a role where we don't want to step in and hold people accountable.

We have allocated R281 million from your department to support the 27 municipalities across the Limpopo province. In that, we have to monitor and evaluate the progress of the various projects and the outputs of these municipalities. The question must be asked, are we just reading the section 52 and 72 reports on a monthly and quarterly basis? Has it become a tick box exercise? Are we really giving effect to our mandate?

It is our role as Members of this House, to hold government accountable. Honourable MEC, it is your role to hold those that have failed this government accountable. Your inability to hold those people accountable and to live up to the standard, speaks directly

to the ethos of your office. We expect you to stand up and protect the oath that you took in this House and to hold those people accountable. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. The last speaker is the committee chair. [APPLAUSE]

MS APHIRI

A ke go leboge, Mospikara ka sebaka se o mphilego sona. Ntumelele ke tamiše Tonakgolo, Maloko kamoka le baetapele ba Ngwako wo ba ba phuthegilego mo go ya ka kgati. Ke a go leboga, Mosapikara.

Madam Speaker, the true test of democracy is the extent to which the Legislature can ensure that government remains answerable to the people. This is done by maintaining constant monitoring of programmes implemented by the Executive. The Legislature and its committees have power to summon any person or institution to give evidence or produce documents and to report to them.

Hon Speaker, we exercised our oversight role by visiting the projects related to CoGHSTA. We never visited any safety project in that visit. We visited the Mogashoa Dithakaneng Traditional Council office and other infrastructure projects. The projects were built using the municipal infrastructure grant (MIG). The committee initially made an oversight visit to this project in the 2021/22 financial year. The project was incomplete and was abandoned by the service provider. With the initial visit we found that the project inception date was 17 August 2018, and the completion date was targeted to be August 2019.

The service provider who is Grace and Pat Enterprise encountered financial challenges, and an amount of R3,3 million was spent from the budgeted amount of R8,6 million. The municipality retained R5,2 million which caused another challenge when they were supposed to enter into a contract with the new service provider who quoted R7,7 million, which was more than the balance of R2,2 million. It was reported that the difference was due to price escalation and the municipality had to wait for the next financial year's budget for the sourcing of more funds.

On our second visit, we found that the new contractor had started. Hon Speaker, we are reporting to this House that the traditional council was satisfied about the progress in the construction of traditional council office since the new contractor took over. The traditional council thanked the portfolio committee for its concern about the project and the follow-up oversight visit. We commend the municipality for ensuring that the new service provider is appointed.

During the inspection in loco on the project, we received a report from the site manager that the project was due for completion on 21 June 2022. However, due to some delays such as rain, they had applied for another month extension to the municipality, and it was granted. It was also reported that only locals got subcontracts and jobs in the project. The portfolio committee was concerned that the contractor did not commence the project by drilling a borehole although it is in the specification. We were of the view that the borehole would have made the work easy instead of the contractor buying water. However, he indicated that the borehole will be constructed upon completion.

Madam Speaker, the portfolio committee urged the contractor to make sure that the borehole is done and operational before the handing over of the project. The municipality was encouraged to periodically monitor the progress of the project until completion. This will help to identify challenges early for timeously rectification. The portfolio committee was also concerned that the contractor is not registered with the National Home Builders Registration Council. However, the contractor indicated that the project is insured with other insurance companies.

We will continue to exercise an oversight role over the project until it is complete. We must oversee their actions to ensure that services take place as expected so that the traditional council can continue to perform its duties and people around that council receive better quality services.

Madam Speaker, we went further to GaDebeila and Mohlaletse to oversee the access road with a stretch of 19 km long. We found that the project was delayed due to late appointment of the contractor and the delay of the review of design. The review resulted into variation orders which meant that the cost of the project increased. We received a report that the contractor was reluctant to take the consultant's advice. The contractor wanted to take the risk of storm water control and bridge.

We were concerned that the contractor seems to be interested in speedy completion of the project whereby the municipality will pay for the storm water control and the bridge. It was reported that the expenses will be claimed from the contractor for the omission.

The municipality must ensure that an agreement with the contract is entered into regarding the claims to be made against the contractor.

The committee further recommends that municipalities must ensure that contract specifications are adhered to by contractors to mitigate the risks of litigation by contractors against them. We were also concerned that the 2 *km* which was under construction at the time of oversight visit costed R16,7 million not including storm water control and the bridge. The 11 *km* costing R106 million will be affected by storm water control and bridge variation.

The committee encouraged the municipality to ensure that all variations were addressed so that a proper road which will last longer was constructed at the end of the day. We appreciated the 70 local labourers who were appointed and that all contractors will hire local people. The municipality was encouraged to facilitate the process to resolve the complaints by the concerned groups and to ensure that only local people are appointed except in instances of lack of critical skills in that area.

The fact that the municipalities do not have their own engineers to advise council was a cause for concern to the portfolio committee. We found that relying on consultants for engineering services is proving disastrous in almost all the projects visited by the portfolio committee. The municipality must employ its own engineers so that they receive appropriate advice, hold them accountable for the work not done and that they will do monitoring for all projects rather than relying on consultants entirely.

I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC, to come and respond ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Madam Speaker, there is a hand here. Thanks, Hon Speaker. I just want to put it on record that on the oversight visits that we undertook ourselves as official opposition

party in the House, we did that on our own and we felt that it is important that the MEC knows about it, and as part of the issues we are raising ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, you were given an opportunity during your debate. I don't know what you are raising now. You have raised what you wanted to raise. [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

If you listen to me with emotions, you will never hear what I am saying.

THE SPEAKER

No, I am not going to give you an opportunity now. You were given an opportunity. Can you allow the MEC to respond?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I'm done. I'm not even stopping him. I'm saying he must just know that he is not part of the issues that the chairperson made a visit on, it was an oversight from our side. I'm not even stopping him. That is why I am saying you are emotional, and you should calm down.

THE SPEAKER

What I am saying here, is that you were given an opportunity to raise what you want to raise now. Can we give the MEC an opportunity to come and respond?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

You are emotional. There is no problem. I made my point, and this thing has recorded me. I'm raising that because the chairperson wanted to ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Can you sit down, Hon Buthane. Hon Buthane, can I address you? I could see that you are deliberately being out of order because you want to collapse this Sitting, Hon Buthane. I am not going to allow that. I am not going to allow that. Can you sit down and allow the MEC to come and respond?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Can you sit down and allow the MEC to come and respond. Yes, sit down! Yes. Yes. Honourable MEC, can you please come and respond?

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; honourable colleagues in the Executive Council who are here; honourable chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA; Chief Whip of the majority party; leaders of the opposition parties; honourable Members of this august House; ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to appreciate the guidance that the portfolio committee presented after the visits to a number of projects within our municipalities which are projects out of the municipal infrastructure grant. Firstly, I would like to indicate that the municipal infrastructure grant is a grant that has been allocated for 17 years which is being allocated to our municipalities, mainly to make sure that our municipalities provide infrastructure and sustainable basic services to our communities.

I must also update the House that the conditions of the MIG are improving considering the challenges before, as they now allow municipalities to even purchase specialised motor vehicles or trucks which would do refuse removals. Initially, this grant was meant for construction of infrastructure, but now we are taking a particular percentage to allow for the maintenance of the infrastructure that has been constructed so that it is usable to the communities.

Coming specifically to the issues that were raised on projects that were visited, we have already started in the department to make sure that we assist our municipalities to hire technical directors who are registered engineers so that they should be able to assist and monitor projects as they take place. You would have noted that all our municipalities which received MIG, we ensure that they employ or create a unit which is called the Project Management Unit, specifically to consider and support the work of the MIG spending in our municipalities.

We have got the unit in the department that is mainly to capacitate and work with municipalities to ensure that there is a better spending of the MIG. I can confirm to the House that make sure that municipalities spend the MIG because it is the money that has been allocated to municipalities just for infrastructure development. We even try to encourage them by giving some awards to those who achieve 100% on spending of the MIG. As I speak now, most of the municipalities in the province are spending MIG unlike before where a lot of money was returned to the national fiscus.

Specifically on the road in Tubatse-Fetakgomo, I think the observation made by the committee will be followed up for us to hold the municipality accountable. There should be remedial actions to make up for the poor workmanship on the project. I am aware of the project of the testing station which is being implemented by the Tubatse-Fetakgomo Local Municipality with the intention to make sure that they have more than one testing and driving licence testing station so that they can assist the people who are using one testing station as we speak. We will continue to support that municipality by making sure that the project of the testing station becomes realised and it is able to assist the people.

Honourable chair of the portfolio committee, as of the Mogashoa Traditional Council, it is out of the work of the department that we realised the poor performance by the pervious contractor, hence, the previous contract was terminated, and the new contractor was appointed to complete the project. As we speak, the project is about to be completed. We will continue to make sure that traditional councils are a priority to the department so that our traditional leaders have access to the offices. I can confirm that

we are working well. We are getting reports that the traditional council office is going to be completed and handed over to the community to utilise it.

We are doing that not only at Mogashoa Traditional Council, next week Friday also, we will be handing over a well-completed and furnished traditional council offices of Masia Traditional Council, just to show that government is continuing to do the work that we are supposed to do. Another issue that was raised is about the 19 *km* road project. Like I said that the MIG is meant to make our communities have access to better services, we will continue to support the municipality in making sure that the 19 *km* access road that has been planned is completed. That is our work.

Hon Speaker, these are some of the issues which make us appreciate the oversight visits to our MIG projects because this is the core of service delivery in our municipalities. All the inputs that have been made, we will take them and make sure that as the department we support our municipalities so that we can be able to realise the intentions and the conditions of the grant as planned.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Can we proceed honourable Members.

7.3 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

Over to you, committee chair.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table a report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption by this august House. Hon Speaker, thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second Hon Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono on the motion that she has made for the discussion of the said report. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you can proceed.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the report on the oversight visit to police stations and traffic stations in the Sekhukhune District Municipality before this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you. Ngiyathokoza Somlomo. Ngisikimela ukusekela umHlonitjhwa uSeono ngomsebenzi abawenzileko nabasemavakatjhweni wokuyokuhlola ukwenziwa komsebenzi eendaweni ezahlukahlukeneko. Ngiyathokoza.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Over to you, committee chair.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the report on the oversight visit to departmental service points and projects in the Vhembe District before this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mokaba, rise to second the motion raised by Hon Seono, the chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, committee chair.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the report on the oversight visit to departmental service points and projects in the Mopani District. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I notice Hon Radzilani.

MS RADZILANI

Ndo livhuwa, Mulangadzulo. Ndi khou takutshela u tikedza muvhigo we wa pfukisiwa vhukati ha ino Nnḡu nga mudzulatshidulo wa komiti Muhulisei Vho Seono. Ndo livhuwa, Mulangadzulo.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I don't think this House really has interest to hear how well you can throw insults or criticise each other. We don't have interest in that. Can we behave, honourable Members? I am saying it to everyone. We don't have interest to hear such criticisms or insults that you are raising in this House. Can we proceed with the proceedings of this House?

BACKGROUND

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Selamolela and Hon Mathe, can we be in order. If a Member is out ...
[INTERJECTION]

MR SELAMOLELA

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

No, Hon Selamolela. No, no, no. Honourable Members, after I spoke, they kept quiet, and you keep on speaking. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Kekana.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo; Leader of Government Business, Hon Seaparo Sekoati; Chief Whip of the majority party of the ANC; honourable MECs present here; honourable Members; officials and distinguished guests; good morning.

Hon Speaker, allow me to present a report on the committee oversight conducted at Sekhukhune District, focusing on traffic stations and Burgersfort SAPS for the House to note and adopt. Hon Speaker, this is done precisely in line with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) which of course is the supreme law of the country.

Hon Speaker, the following issues were highlighted at Mabopo Driving and Testing Centre; the lack of vehicles testing facilities due to the department's failure to complete and devolve its functions to the municipality resulting in the centre not being able to comply with the necessary regulatory prescripts to perform its functions. Hon Speaker, if we don't address this matter precisely, we are likely to be found wanting in terms of the Auditor-General because if the municipality can perform those municipal powers that are devolved to them, it would be an unfunded mandate and at the same time we will be running the risk of losing the revenue in both the municipality and the department.

Hon Speaker, the ground surrounding the centre was not properly maintained at the time of the visit and the need to increase the parking space for the employees at the traffic centre was also a matter of concern. Shortage of cashiers hampers service delivery, and it impacts negatively on the collection of revenue. Further, the committee found that there is a need to improve security as the centre was once burglarised and valuable equipment such as computers and other electrical appliances were stolen.

Hon Speaker, there is a need to tighten the security measures as we know that most of the traffic centres are targeted by criminals in terms of the need for motor and vehicle registration certificates, even though the station mentioned above is not rendering this service. Equally, the committee applauded the cordial relationship which is prevailing between the local SAPS and the local CPFs. We hope and believe that with the effectiveness of the local CPFs which are the organs of the civil society and also the ambassadors of the people's aspiration, they play a pivotal role on the overall safety and traffic enforcement on the roads.

Hon Speaker, we welcome this and want to encourage the facility to keep this positive relationship strong. With the challenges raised, the committee urged the department to expedite the devolution of functions so that this centre may function to the best of its ability, and however, as the department, to unlock the red tape informed by the legislative prescripts, to offer professional permits as well as learners and driving licences.

Another challenge also highlighted to the committee was the issue of poor network in the area which results in the non-functionality of swiping machines and only cash payments are used, the element which poses a high risk in terms of crime. It is therefore important for the department to look into this matter urgently, to ensure that there is connectivity in the station in order to move in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. I want to indicate as the ANC-led government, that we are doing well, and the government is up and running to make sure that they promote the digital economy.

Hon Buthane, I am saying this precisely because besides the challenges as raised in the said Mabopo Traffic Station, we are also having the e-licencing next door in Lebowakgomo Traffic Centre and other traffic centres. This shows that we are serious to make sure that we promote the digital economy in Limpopo. Hon Speaker, we are equally pleased to report as a committee that the above stations we have visited in *Fetakgomo-Tubatse* Mabopo Traffic Centre, there were no cases of corruption and fraud reported at the time of the visit. This shows that we are moving in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution and make sure that we promote ethical and developmental society.

Hon Speaker, let's not forget that the very same municipality that we are talking about, which is the former Fetakgomo Municipality, once received a clean audit opinion when it was not even fashionable to get a clean audits across the country. We are saying this precisely because we are impressed to report that in cases where there were fraudulent cases reported, those who had been found wanting were swiftly dealt with and consequence management was applied. We hope that this is an indication that a clean and efficient administration is being run at these centres.

The Leader of Government Business, we are not surprised because Limpopo is rated number one across the country in terms of effective administration. This was done under the stewardship of the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha.

Hon Speaker, we further recommend that small matters such as cleaning and ground maintenance should be basic matters to be addressed rather than being elevated to this

level. We recommend that the department must look into the status reports from these centres and attend to easy matters such as boreholes, networks and Wi-Fi challenges.

Another area where we have visited is the Burgersfort SAPS. Hon Speaker, this police station is located within the active mining area of Tubatse, Steelpoort and Burgersfort. There has been a spike up in mining activities resulting in an increase in population size as well as new settlements around the area. The police station therefore finds itself servicing a larger population than what was initially planned for.

We should remember that Burgersfort in the Sekhukhune District is Limpopo's growth point, and it is the area which is earmarked for the special economic zone (SEZ). To the Leader of Government Business, I am saying this because as the ANC-led government, we are doing well in terms of that because the very same area of Burgersfort in Sekhukhune is where we have earmarked the SEZ. We are very much proud that as the ANC-led government we are providing the catalyst project there, which is the mining infrastructure and the bulk water infrastructure that is coming from *De Hoop Dam*.

With the current approval of the environmental impact assessment, we are quite sure that we are likely to commence with the programme of the SEZ in Sekhukhune rather than in Musina-Makhado, hence, I am saying that we need to tighten the issue of safety and security so that we continue to attract our investors. Hon Speaker, challenges raised are the lack of filling of critical posts for both SAPS members and civilian staff. This results in the workload versus the available population being compromised.

At the time of the visit, there were 26 funded vacancies for uniformed members. Given the challenges that occur around the mining areas as well as the mushrooming informal settlements, policing becomes a challenge, and we would like the MEC to quickly look into rectifying this situation. The informal settlement called Extension 10 is especially problematic with various crimes taking place there. The area is estimated to have over 10 000 people living there, including a large number of undocumented foreigners. There is a need to increase visible policing in the area as well as increase the number of resources such as goods on the ground as well as police vehicles to actively combat crime.

We appreciate that there is a functional CPF in the area which has a youth wing also. We support such initiatives and believe the department will continue to provide necessary support to the CPF. Hon Speaker, in conclusion, the department should continue to support police stations with the necessary equipment. We further advise that in future, matters of settlement and spatial planning by CoGHSTA in conjunction with

the Department of Transport and Community Safety should always be considered, to allow settlements that are within the permitted areas to allow police visibility and functioning. Both the department and CoGHSTA should be partners in this regard because safety is mainly a community issue especially in high crime areas such as in the case with Burgersfort.

The issue of vehicles and personnel in this regard should be speedily resolved. The department must work closely with mine security and other private security firms within the area, to ensure that matters of safety become a matter of common interest to combat the scourge of crime. The issues raised regarding the testing centres must be duly noted and addressed by the department.

I so move, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, it is your turn.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the EFF caucus led by the capable leader, Hon Jossey Buthane, Members of the Executive Council present here, and all Members of this august House.

Hon Speaker, the oversight visits to the police stations and government garages in Mopani, Sekhukhune, Vhembe, and Capricorn revealed shocking details of service delivery status. The people of Limpopo feel that their constitutional rights are being violated on a daily basis by the government, hence, they have lost hope for better lives. Government institutions have generally collapsed to make it impossible to deliver services to the people as they continue to suffer.

Hon Speaker, the Lebowakgomo Police Station cells are worn out and they are no longer using them. We are told that the suspects are taken to Magatle, Zebediela and Masemola Police Stations. The failed state has degenerated to an extent that they even fail to repair damaged holding cells. Next time we will be told that they can't even repair

broken toilets. It is going there, only time will tell. Transporting suspects from Lebowakgomo to Magatle, Zebediela or Masemola Police Stations is additional funds to the taxpayers. Simple logic tells us that what they should do is to simply repair the cells and save on the costs of transporting more suspects to the police stations mentioned above.

The majority of police stations and government garages are faced with all sorts of challenges, making it difficult for them to deliver services to our people. Services to the people in the policing sector have collapsed because we are being presided over by the failed state. They do not understand simple government principles and the values that potentially have powers to change the lives of our people. Over and above this, there is no political will by the ANC-led government to change the lives of our people for better.

Generally, SAPS vehicles or vans in particular take long to be fixed at government garages and this has an impact on police visibility and policing in general. Almost all police stations in Limpopo have inadequate vehicles for visibility and patrols while human resources including police are insufficient to service communities.

One of the contributing factors to the poor service delivery is that the acquisition and supply of vehicles as well as vehicle repairs and services is centralised. We say to you now that decentralise the acquisition and supply of vehicles if you want to fast-track service delivery. The construction process at Mankweng Police Station must be expedited and be completed within its original project timelines.

It is the tendency of this government to stall projects or to move in a snail's pace in order to feed their corruption appetite. The Polokwane Municipality and the RTMC (Road Traffic Management Corporation) should ensure that the Telkom lines for LEU and eNaTIS at Mankweng Traffic Centre are upgraded and supported with 4G for continuous and consistent network connection. Of great concern is the fact that the dockets mysteriously get lost, and no one is made to account on this anomaly.

The missing of dockets is part of a carefully planned network of corrupt cops working with criminals. These corrupt police officers are on the payroll of criminals. Hon Speaker, sector policing should be revived so that they can react or respond in time to crime scenes as reported. The police take long to respond when the crime has been reported, hence, the communities have lost confidence on the police. There must be a clear turnaround strategy to correct the status quo for better service delivery.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call upon the committee chair, Hon Seono, to the podium.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Deputy Chair of Chairs, MECs present here, chairpersons of the portfolio committees, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, and all honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, I greet you.

Hon Speaker, the issues as raised by the various speakers who ascended the podium should be duly noted by the department and senior officials in the department. Indeed, we have raised the matter of provision of vehicles to the police stations various times in this honourable House. We would want the MEC to raise this matter sharply in her interactions with the Minister at national level.

Hon Speaker, I would not be able to cover all stations, but we will try to highlight issues common across the oversights that were conducted. Limpopo enjoys the status of being the province with a low crime rate and this is an achievement we would like to sustain. We also need special attention to be paid to Burgersfort SAPS. Plans are advanced to have Burgersfort as one of the major special economic zones in the country.

The development that is envisaged there is of a major scale, therefore, planning should be in accordance with the anticipated development. It is therefore our plea to the MEC to exercise that foresight in equipping the SAPS in that area. As mentioned earlier by other speakers, the department must work closely with CoGHSTA and other stakeholders in the mining sector in particular.

The speakers have highlighted issues as raised with regard to the testing centres, but the common threat is the fact that we should have sectors that are able to service our people efficiently. Honourable MEC, at this level, we should above all be reminding you that the obvious issues such as appointing groundsmen, ensuring there is parking space, employing admin clerks, and ensuring that there is connectivity to eNaTIS in the

traffic centres, are your day-to-day functionalities that honestly should not be elevated to this level.

We are also concerned that there seems to be a syndicate that targets testing stations where they break in and steal valuable equipment. It can't be a coincidence that more than three of the traffic centres that we visited were burglarised. We would like you to rather recommend how we can assist with increasing SAPS and traffic personnel, building of police stations and ensuring safety in communities and so forth.

Hon Speaker, the non-functionality of the vehicles testing centres in Sekhukhune and Lebowakgomo is of serious concern. These centres are no longer serving the function that they were supposed to serve. The vehicle testing centre at Lebowakgomo was degraded as the centre failed to meet the requirements of a vehicle testing centre. It does not seem many efforts have ever been taken to rectify the situation. We once again urge the MEC to look into this matter and ensure that this matter is rectified.

Honourable MEC, we are concerned about the serious shortage of vehicles in Lebowakgomo SAPS to the extent that in some cases SAPS personnel reported using their own vehicles to attend to crime reports. This situation is completely unacceptable. We therefore urge the MEC, to look into what is happening in that particular police station and give a status report to this honourable House.

There is also a lot of general maintenance work that ought to be done at Lebowakgomo SAPS, especially with regard to the cells. Inmates are thus transported to Masemola, Magatle or Zebediela SAPS as the holding cells in Lebowakgomo are effectively non-functional.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the new SAPS garage that has been built in Lebowakgomo and we believe that this will go a long way in easing the challenges of the past with regard to police vehicles. The state-of-the-art garage will offer services to police stations as far as *Leboeng*, Orighstad, and Moutse, amongst others. We hope that this garage will soon be opened to the service of our SAPS vehicles.

Hon Speaker, we were also able to visit the Seshego, Mankweng and Polokwane SAPS which serve quite a significant section of the urban population in the Capricorn area. What has become very clear is that the need of expanding urban population is way above what the police stations can now handle. The influx of people into urban areas has a serious strain on the SAPS infrastructure. Honourable MEC, we have to

appreciate that in all the police stations that we have visited, SAPS personnel have been trained on the Domestic Violence Act.

We want to raise our concern, however, about the incomplete building at Mankweng SAPS. We are concerned that this project has come to a halt. Could the MEC explain what the plan is regarding this particular building which was due for completion in February 2022 and as such is two years behind schedule? The incomplete police station means that currently at Mankweng, there are no holding cells, and inmates must be transported to *Botlokwa* and Morebeng SAPS.

Mankweng also reported a challenge with regard to the number of vehicles and personnel allocated to it, as it is one of the stations in the top 30 crime areas in the country. It is important that this matter is addressed as with areas such as Polokwane and Burgersfort. The rapid influx of people into that area has put pressure on the policing resources there.

Hon Speaker, under Seshego SAPS, we want to highlight the issue of shortage of personnel more so in the detective services. This means that crimes that need further investigations are more often unable to be followed through due to the high workload of the detectives as was reported, for example, Seshego. We want the MEC to also look into the matter of considering those in the reserve force for their availability should permanent work positions become available.

Hon Speaker, the town Polokwane is troubled by rapid growth and an influx of people into the city. The infrastructure does not meet the demands of the people. There is a further challenge of illegal car washes mushrooming all over the city. This, however, must be balanced with the need for people to create viable economic opportunities for themselves. There is also a challenge of personnel and vehicles which we raised time and time again in this committee.

Overall, the SAPS must consider decentralising some minor functions to enable matters to run smoothly, more so with procurement and servicing at the government garages. Otherwise, we take time to appreciate the good work by our service men and women in blue who continue to serve the province with pride and dignity. We are proud that year in and year out Limpopo retains its spot as the home of peace.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, we urge the MEC to ensure that stations with high crime rates are prioritised for resources. Therefore, SAPS in Mankweng, Burgersfort,

Thohoyandou and Seshego should be in the priority list. The SAPS generally has good working relations with the CPFs in the province. We commend this good working relationship, and it should be natured to ensure we continue to build safer communities. We believe that working together we can deliver better services to our people.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Transport and Community Safety, to come and respond.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Ndi masiari. Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, my colleagues in the Executive, chairperson of our committee, Hon Seono; and the honourable members of the committee, Chief Whip, all honourable Members in the House, and the leaders of the opposition parties present here, good afternoon.

Hon Speaker, let me thank you for the time afforded to me. Let me start by appreciating the issues raised by the chair and all members of the committee who took time and participated in the oversight visits. We also note the other issues that were raised under the debate on CoGHSTA which also spoke about the visit by the EFF to the different police stations.

Hon Speaker, let me say that on behalf of the Department of Transport and Community Safety, we want to appreciate the feedback that has been given. We are noting the inputs and the strategies that have been proposed by the committee. Those strategies are going to be part of our new plans each time when new plans for new business or places where people are going to stay safely are drafted. We are going to prioritise the police stations and the extensions, because they have an impact on the challenges and the growth of the population.

However, I need to also indicate that on the progress of the Mankweng and other police stations, in terms of buildings, as the department and the MEC, we will come and table

an Executive Statement where we would be able to update the House on what is happening with regard to the construction programmes.

Madam Speaker, without taking long, we have since had a discussion and an agreement as you would know that Public Works nationally and provincially, is responsible for the renovation of our centres, and we have since had a discussion on the programme. When it comes to the fleet in the police stations, the matter has been raised with our Minister and as the RT46 is a national contract. We have since as the department and the Minister agreed that the target should be on 90% to 10% basis, where 90% of the vehicles should be working and 10% should be at the garages. We are working around the clock to perfect that.

We have also noticed that on the visit by members to our traffic stations, we have since made some progress, and in terms of the shortage of staff where we do not have enough tellers, adverts have been issued to be able to address that. There have been discussions between the Minister and the province that speak to the devolution of power from national ministry to provincial departments and then to municipalities on an 80% to 20% basis. New discussions are on the way to decide which functions can be delegated to the municipality and which functions should remain with the province. That is in the interest of making sure that services go quicker to the people.

There are issues of fences and water that have been raised during the visit to the weighbridge and we have since agreed with the local municipality, especially, in Mopani where Greater Letaba would then with consistency start to supply water to our members of society. Hon Speaker, on behalf of the department, we want to say we welcome the visits and if there are other issues that maybe at this level, we were not able to reply directly to, the committee will raise them with us when we have our sessions, and as a department, we will be able to then attend to them. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC for the response. We shall now move to the motion for the reconstitution of committees and their Members. I call upon the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

RECONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERS

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, the Rules Committee considered the reconstitution of committees and their members in its meeting held on 31 August 2022. These changes emanated after the redeployment of chairpersons and members of committees. The changes in the chairpersons of committees are as follows:

- Hon Monyamane N S has been deployed as the Chairperson of Chairpersons.
- Committee on Ethics and Members Interests will be chaired by Hon Masekoameng Mmabogahla Isaiah.
- Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA will be chaired by Hon Lebea Kedibone.
- Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture will be chaired by Hon Aphiri Mokgadi Johanna.
- Portfolio Committee on Social Development will be chaired by Hon Matlou Leswafo Joshua.
- Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development will be chaired by Hon Mathe Simon Matsobane.
- Portfolio Committee on Health will be chaired by Hon Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin.
- Portfolio Committee on Public Administration will be chaired by Hon Mahasela Mahlodi Caroline.

There were also changes in the composition of members of standing and portfolio committees as indicated in the attached committees list. The Rules Committee hereby submits the attached reconstituted committees and their members before this honourable House for consideration and adoption. I therefore move for the adoption of the reconstituted committee and their members by this honourable House.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Bonnie David Selane, stand here to second the Hon Chief Whip on his motion in this august House. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

8. NCOP BUSINESS

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Again, there is a motion for the appointment of Special Delegates to the NCOP plenary. Over to you, Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Once again, thank you Hon Speaker.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE NCOP PLENARIES

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, 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 honourable Members of this august House to attend the NCOP plenary today, Thursday, 01 September at 14:00.

The business thereof is to deal with the *debate* on the socioeconomic *impact* and threat of the *production* and *trade* in *counterfeit products*. The honourable Members appointed to attend are as follows: Hon Selelo Donald Selamolela, Hon Gannye Rodgers Monama, and Hon Makoma Grace Makhurupetje.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolves to appoint the abovementioned special delegates in line with the abovementioned provisions.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mochadi, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Ngiyathokoza mGcinisihlalo, Somlomo wesiBethamthetho. Ngisikimela ukusekela amaLunga athunyelwa ePalamende ekulu ukuyosijamela. Ngithokoze khulu, mGcinisihlalo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mochadi. Order, Hon George Raphela. Today is the birthday of Hon Monyamane, Hon Managa and Hon Phala. So, I would like to suggest, honourable Members, that we all rise and sing for them.

[SONG]

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may all be seated. Are there any announcements?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Lunch is served in the committees' boardroom.

THE SPEAKER

10. ADJOURNMENT

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. The Sitting is adjourned to Tuesday, 06 September 2022 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 06 SEPTEMBER 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now take this opportunity to observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. You may all be seated. Honourable Members, I think you will tell me when you are done talking.

Honourable Members from the Executive, honourable Members from this august House, members of the staff, good morning 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? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO MS MERCY MASAKONA ON WINNING THE
AWARD FOR THE BEST TRADITIONAL SONG DURING THE 2022 SOUTH
AFRICAN MUSIC AWARDS (SAMAs)**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance for the House to note that:

- One of our own in the province, Ms Mercy Masakona Madzivhandila from Lwamondo, has made Limpopo province proud, especially young girls in the Vhembe communities, and has shown that big dreams can be attained through hard work.
- She has won the 2022 South African Music Awards award in the category for the Best Traditional Song for the title track on her album “Tshihwilili Tshanga”.
- The awards ceremony was held at Sun City in Rustenburg on Sunday, 28 August, and Ms Madzivhandila has once again shown that the province is extremely blessed to possess a multitude of talented people.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you. I stand to second the motion as read by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

**THE SADDENING NEWS ABOUT THE GANG-RAPE INCIDENT OF FIVE WOMEN
AT THE MORTUARY PREMISES IN MAFEFE AREA**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC to move a motion without notice. Hon Speaker, we have received the saddening news of a gang-rape incident that took place at the mortuary premises in Mafeke area outside Lebowakgomo over the weekend.

According to reports, a group of four gun-toting criminals ambushed the premises of the mortuary in the early hours of Saturday and accosted staff members who were busy finalising their preparations to go to work.

Those hoodlums went into this facility with the intention of robbing and stealing money, but as to how the event suddenly turned into a raping spree of five innocent women by four heartless men is mind-boggling. This reportedly did not end there because we heard that as the police were busy with an investigation, it was also discovered that these bootleggers found two ladies who were walking along the R37 road and also assaulted them.

This, Hon Speaker, happened as we concluded the Women's Month activities, a colossal programme that is meant to heighten the plight of women and discourage acts of patriarchy, gender-based violence and femicide, but it looks like our message as government and organs of civil society keeps falling on deaf ears. Our only hope in fighting the scourge will be the police and the justice system. We are confident that the police will work to the best of their ability to find these hooligans to ensure they meet the full might law.

I so move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thank you very much. I, Selamolela Donald of the ANC, stand here in support of the motion by Hon Makhurupetje.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SADDENING NEWS ABOUT THE PASSING OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TOP INTERNATIONAL MODEL, MS TINYIKO MATHUSA (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the DA for this House to note the passing of South Africa's top international model from Limpopo province, Ms Tinyiko Mathusa, who was born and bred in Siyandhani village on the outskirts of Giyani and was buried on Saturday, 03 September 2022.

Her modelling career afforded her awards, endorsements alongside achievements such as being a Fashion TV ambassador, a Billionaire ambassador, featuring in the Guinness commercial and being cast in the movie District 9.

Tinyiko Mathusa has appeared on TV commercials, top fashion runway shows in Africa, Europe and Asia, and she also studied for a law degree at Unisa. This House must acknowledge the role she played in positively representing our province, and she is an example of the amazing talent our province possesses.

May her soul rest in peace!

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Maharaj, you recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as read by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any motions without notice? Hon Lebea, you are recognised.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**EMBARKMENT ON A SERVICE DELIVERY INDABA BY THE PROVINCIAL
LEADERSHIP OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise to move a motion without notice on behalf of the ANC that the provincial leadership of the ANC in this province has, in the past weeks, embarked on a service delivery indaba that placed much emphasis on basic services like roads and water provision.

We welcome this indaba, and we are encouraged that this process was able to detect gaps within our communities, and we will be able to make necessary interventions to that effect.

These sessions were held throughout the province, and we also had the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Cde David Mahlobo, joining these engagements. This is a demonstration of his willingness as the leader of this government to constantly interface with the service delivery struggles that are faced by the majority of our people on the ground.

We are encouraged by the spirit of consultation by the provincial leadership of the ANC. We have also been made aware of some municipal councils who are unable to spend on

their conditional grants, and as the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, we will ensure that this travesty is brought to a halt.

I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, second the motion as a move by Hon Lebea. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

WELCOMING THE COMPLETION OF THE RING ROAD IN MUSINA TOWN
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to note and welcome the ring road, which has been completed in Musina town. A project which has been contracted to alleviate traffic congestion in the central business development (CBD). The road will go a long way in alleviating unnecessary congestion in the Musina CBD, especially during peak periods.

Honourable Members, this development means that traders from the Nancefield community can also have access to the motorists who are travelling between these two countries. Over 275 full-time jobs were created by this project at the cost of R28 million, and a further R51 million was spent by sourcing goods and services from local suppliers.

On behalf of the people of Limpopo, we welcome this development, and we are hopeful that it will go a long way in alleviating congestion in Musina town and will ease the flow of traffic into the border gate.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much. I, Donald Selamolela, on behalf of the ANC, herein stand to second the motion by Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any other motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? There are none. We are done.

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 Mohlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings Hon Speaker, EXCO and all Members of the House.

THE DISRUPTION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING IN SEPEKE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN MAKGANE VILLAGE (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF in Limpopo notes the disruption of teaching and learning at Sefogole Sepeke Secondary School in Makgane village following fainting spells among learners. Although the root cause of the incident remains unknown, it is alleged that the school's acting principal had turned a blind eye to the issue, and he even instructed other educators not to assist the affected learners on 21 August 2022, when the incident first took place.

This led other learners to be unruly and start breaking the school property, such as windows and chalkboards. The following day, the school's acting principal came to the school escorted by the police after he was informed that the parents were at the school and were also angry about his conduct.

The EFF has learnt with shock that the acting principal then left with the police after the meeting and never sat foot at the school to date. The circuit manager, including the SGB, has never taken any steps to address the challenges affecting schooling at the school.

It is untoward and worrisome that the educators sought an intervention from the circuit office and the SGB, but their grievances were shunned away despite submitting a written complaint. To this day, attempts to resolve the problem by the educators have been rejected, and we are equally concerned that schooling has been halted since 22 August 2022. To our surprise, the Department of Education says everything is well at that school, when it is not.

Therefore, the EFF calls on the Department of Education to act with speed and resolve the issues affecting learning and teaching at Sefogole Sepeke Secondary School.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Is there any other Members' Statement? There is none. Is there any response to the Members' Statement? MEC, Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I am in this uniform because there has been a terrible accident at the Mall of the North. Nine people from one family have died, and two are in hospital, so I had to rush from there to come here. May their souls rest in peace!

Hon Speaker, I think we have noted what Hon Mohlala has said, and in terms of our mandate, we want to make sure that each and every child is an asset, and we will be able to get the quality education that they need. So, we will intervene as soon as possible to make sure that the trial examinations and the coming Grade 12 examinations are not disturbed and resolved as such. I will also pass the message on to my colleague, MEC, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Thanks for the response.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements? There are none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

6.1. Tabling of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 [Act 56 of 2003]: In-year Monitoring: Section 71(7) Reporting: June 2022

MEC for Provincial Treasury, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My colleagues in the Executive Council and Members of this august House, I greet you all.

Madam Speaker, in terms of section 71(7) of the MFMA, the Provincial Treasury must, within 30 days after the end of each quarter, make public as may be prescribed, a

consolidated statement in the prescribed format on the state of municipalities' budgets, per municipality and per municipal entity.

Madam Speaker, in line with the provisions of the above-mentioned legislation, I hereby table the state of municipal finance report for the quarter ended 30 June 2022 for consideration by this august House. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The report will be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House.

6.2. Tabling of the Public Service Commission Reports

Deputy Speaker, you may take the podium.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, Ndou A J D, hereby table the investigation reports by the Public Service Commission for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years as they appear in the ATC. The reports are as follows: Section 196(4)(e) 2021/22; and report on financial misconduct 2020/21.

These reports are tabled in terms of section 196(4)(e) of the Constitution, 1996, for consideration by this House.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. The tabled reports are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for consideration and report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY:

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Health

Committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin, hereby present the 2021/22 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of Health for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS APHIRI

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson of Health, Hon Tshitereke. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I, Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin, hereby present the 2020/21 Annual Report by the Department of Health for consideration and adoption by this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as tabled by "Vhamusanda" Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin.

THE SPEAKER.

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the List is Hon Aphiri. Hon Aphiri, you may take the podium.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Let me start my debate with the words of wisdom from Martin Luther King Jr when he said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter."

Madam Speaker, the committee noted with concern that the department did not spend its budget in line with its target. The underspending by the department during the fourth quarter was 94%. This is the quarter where we expect that services that were promised to the citizens of this province would have been delivered.

The department overspent on other programmes like Emergency Medical Services and Provincial Hospital Services. The spending on Emergency Medical Services was exceeded by 106,9%, and on Provincial Hospitals Services was exceeded by 100,5%. The department should provide clarity to the House on why there was overexpenditure while on other programmes there was underspending.

We have also noted that on Health Care Support, there was an underspending by 94,2%. The budget for this programme was reduced from R707 million to R588 million. We have noted that R148 million was either shifted to other programmes or was surrendered to Treasury. The department should explain why the funds were shifted and which services were affected.

We report to the House that the department was not consistent with the Public Finance Management Act in terms of its spending on most of its programmes. We will work hard during our oversight to ensure that the department implements its projects in line with the approved Annual Performance Plan.

We received a report that 58 institutions have developed a credible asset register. However, we noted with concern that the department usually reports that all institutions have a credible asset register; at the end of an audit, the department received material misstatement regarding asset register. The department should develop a uniform asset register to be used in all its institutions.

We commend, Hon Speaker, the work well done on the collection of revenue. The department collected revenue of R59,1 million in the fourth quarter from the R34,3 million collected during the third quarter of the 2021/22 financial year. The department reported that the improvement was due to an engagement with the Road Accident Fund to settle finalised cases, which resulted in some payments received. We encourage the department to work hard on this matter.

It is critical that the health of patients is prioritised by the department in areas where there is congestion in terms of residency and rural areas. We noted that the target for Ideal Clinic was not met by the department. It was reported that only 21,8% of the 45% planned was achieved. The explanation provided by the department was not satisfactory, that it was as a result of a failure of non-negotiable vital elements, and the nonavailability of some surgical and medical items.

During the pre-oversight visits in clinics in April and May 2021/22 financial year, when some of the health practitioners were interviewed on Ideal Clinic status, they alleged that during the assessment, facilities borrowed each other essential equipment to obtain an ideal assessment. The department should submit a report on the missing vital elements to improve the Ideal Clinic outcomes. The department should investigate why such exchange of hospital equipment took place, and if wrongdoing is found, consequence management should be instituted. The officials must be held accountable for such anomaly because they are making it difficult for the plans of the department to be achieved.

For the 2020/21 financial year, we noted with dismay that 1 099 unresolved medicolegal cases were a constant challenge which was incurred since the 2014/15 financial year. We have noted that during the financial year under review, claims amounted to R939 billion. We noted further that medicolegal claims occurred mainly due to medical negligence in health facilities. The department should work hard to ensure that officials who abdicate their responsibilities put the lives of patients in danger and cause the

department to be held responsible. The department must also explore avenues if those litigations could not be solved amicably.

We support the adoption of the 2021/22 financial year Fourth Quarter Report and the 2022/21 financial year Annual Report, Madam Speaker. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri. Hon Mohlala, you may take the podium.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings once more. Hon Speaker, some of the reasons advanced by the department as to why it underspent its 2020/21 Budget in all its eight programmes are ridiculous. It is criminal on the part of the department to underspend while our people are in dire need of services on a daily basis. Even worse, it is underspending on all its eight programmes because the impression created through this immoral conduct is that our people have more than enough services, and therefore, they must slow down service delivery.

We are making an appeal to you today not to slow down service delivery but to slow down corruption with the intention of its total elimination. If suppliers are not fulfilling their commitment on vehicles, laptops and other medical and allied equipment, why don't you terminate their contracts? Where are these suppliers? Are they still doing business with the state? If yes, why?

This department complains about service providers for their failures to underspend on their programmes as if they have no powers to terminate their contracts if they don't deliver, but of course, it will be difficult to terminate such contracts if directors are ANC comrades who masquerade as genuine businesswomen and businessmen.

Hon Speaker, fruitless and wasteful expenditure to the amount of R500 000 was incurred during the 2020/21 financial year. Can we get a proper explanation of why this happened? We are not surprised because unwanted expenditure has long been normalised by this government. They are part of their legacy and the system. What is the current status of BAS and LOGIS in terms of functionality because the two systems seem not to operate as expected? We are being told that they are slow and sometimes unavailable. Is there no way of servicing these systems through the companies that installed them? This is simple and elementary logic that the department fails to apply, but of course, they are suffering from a poverty of ideas. We can't really expect much from them. It is clear that this government can't stretch itself further in terms of thinking capacity. What the citizens get is all they can do and nothing more.

Hon Speaker, the department obtained a qualified audit opinion which was regressed from an unqualified audit opinion obtained in the 2019/20 financial year. We should anticipate further regression to a disclaimer, which would not be surprised about it.

Hospitals like Tshilidzini in Vhembe District continue to provide our people with worse service for more than 27 years since the attainment of democracy. Patients, mostly the

elderly, are subjected to long queues until they are turned back without being attended to. The attitude of nurses towards patients is disappointing, to say the least. Patients are being insulted and ill-treated on a daily basis.

The EFF is concerned about the continuing shortage of vaccines and BCG syringes, especially for the immunisation of children. It is regrettable and unfortunate that the EMS is unable to respond to priority 1 calls within the 30 minutes rate in urban areas and 60 minutes rate in rural areas. We are being told on an annual basis that the department has bought ambulances, and what are they doing? Why is this problem recurring when ambulances are being bought every year, as you claim?

Mankweng and Polokwane are the only two tertiary hospitals in the province, and we are at the top of the list with contingent liabilities and medicolegal cases. The money that should address service delivery needs of the people is now addressing medicolegal cases. We are worried because this will lead to a high child mortality rate in the province, which is something you have the political power to prevent.

The infrastructure of the hospitals is dilapidated, reminding us of the novel by a Nigerian author Chinua Achebe called Things Falls Apart. [INTERJECTION] Thank you so much; then you are listening. Everything about this department is falling apart. Schools, hospital, clinics, and even their moral compass and conscience have fallen apart. There is nothing else for this government. They are finished to the extent that even a soft breeze can just blow them away. They are on a cliffhanger. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. Hon Maharaj, you may take the podium.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Department of Health must urgently table an action plan on how they intend improving the audit outcomes, which the AG reported as qualified in the 2020/21 financial year. Whilst the health system in Limpopo is failing dismally, and on the brink of collapse, it is unfathomable that eight of the department's programmes underspent on their budget. There must be an intensified effort to improve expenditure and achieve its targets in the correct, value-adding manner.

The department is yet to table a report on the systems implemented to increase revenue collection and the successes and challenges of these thus far. The challenge of the huge cost of employees vs vacancy rate remains a problem within the department, and despite numerous requests, a plan detailing how the department intends to resolve this crisis remains absent.

Hon Speaker, the department must provide feedback on how it will prevent future noncompliance of irregular expenditure, as we had seen with the R19,4 million. In addition, what consequence management steps have been taken, or is it just ignored or swept under the carpet to repeat itself again? The portfolio committee requires the department to table a comprehensive report on the number of EMS practitioners trained,

for which qualifications, the nature of the bursaries awarded and the placement of these EMS practitioners. In addition to this, the status quo and the future of the Limpopo Nursing College lie in limbo. Could the department clearly communicate what the strategy with these is and what the timelines will be? Is there any progress on the establishment of Limpopo academic hospital that is annually promised in the SOPAs and the Department of Health Budgets?

Hon Speaker, despite not addressing the ever-increasing and out-of-hand medical negligence claims, which are at about R14 billion, and were around R8 billion when I joined the Legislature in 2019, as well as the consistent yet contradictory promises by the department that they have a firm grip on it, can the department share the status on their new strategy and whether this is yielding any positive results?

The portfolio committee awaits a tabled report on the comprehensive expenditure of the COVID-19 budget allocations at the beginning of the financial year, as well as the tabling of the investigation reports, which should have been done ages ago. Why there is a delay and hesitation by the department to table these is a mystery. After all, we were advised on many occasions and platforms that there is nothing wrong or there are no investigations and that the Limpopo Department of Health is above board with the PPE scandals etc.

Hon Speaker, it cannot be acceptable that after all these years, the department still has deficiencies in its systems, where senior management does not have the relevant internal controls to detect errors in financial misstatements. Once again, there must be consequence management effected, and the quality of the submitted financial statements must improve to ensure that there is credible performance reporting.

A list of disciplinary actions taken, as well as outcomes, must be provided to the committee. This must also include the lease of the radiology equipment at Polokwane Hospital. The report must also include the disciplinary action and/or consequence management of employees and officials in incurring the fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

In conclusion, the department must explain why there was underspending on the following conditional grants: Antiretroviral Treatment Programme, Mental Health and Oncology Services and the Health Facility Revitalisation Programme. Surely, given the limited or constrained budget, these funds would have benefitted the people of Limpopo drastically. Should this underspend be because of inefficiencies within the department, what disciplinary action or consequence management has been taken against those responsible? The department must also table a comprehensive report on all infrastructure projects in the year under review.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Matibe, the committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. The Department of Health or health in general, remains one of the apex priorities of the ANC-led government. For the purpose of our oversight, Hon Speaker, we have resolved that issues reported in this august House will serve as standing items in our meetings as the portfolio committee until we are satisfied that the department is able to reduce the risk the department is facing.

For the items to serve as standing items, we will be able to make follow-ups and receive progress reports. The first issue that we can report to this august House is about irregular expenditure, which poses a threat for this department, honourable MEC. The expenditure is at R701 million as an opening balance during the audit processes. We have noted that this huge amount of irregular expenditure consists of R84 million relating to noncompliance with procurement processes of the implementing agent identified by the AG. The R414 million relates to tenders being advertised for a shorter period. The department that the transaction has been submitted to Limpopo Treasury for further action. We will work with the department during our oversight to ensure that this irregular expenditure does not recur further and that the report from Treasury is submitted to the House.

The department must have the capacity to institute consequence management where transgression has been committed by its personnel because it's one area, honourable MEC, that we will follow up on consequence management in relation to people who are not spending the money according to the PFMA.

We have observed fruitless and wasteful expenditures as at 31 March 2022 amounted to R5,321 million. The department further reported that the fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred during the 2020/21 financial year amounted to R403 000. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure was due to interest that has been charged by Eskom, telephone utilities, accommodation, service providers and municipalities due to slowness and unavailability of the BAS system, as well as delay in the reconciliation of service providers.

However, the department reported that, which is positive, they have recovered R5,024 million which has been recovered from officials and suppliers. We applaud the department for that. Where there is expenditure which is not in line with the PFMA and where there is a need to recover the money to the purse of the department, it needs to happen like that.

Fruitless and wasteful expenditures incurred in the 2021/22 financial year are still under investigation. We will ensure that the department submits the report to the House pertaining to the investigation. Where wrongdoing has been committed, honourable MEC, we expect the consequence management to be instituted.

We noted that the amount of R336 million emanating from claims was sourced from contingent liabilities. It was reported by the department that the initial batch of 24 matters was referred to mediation with a combined value of R336 million. It was further reported by the department that 12 matters had been successfully concluded as the claims bore no feasible merits and were not statutory complaint. It was reported that R105 million of

the claims was avoided within the time frame of five months, amounting to 30% of the referred claim value. The department must improve and strengthen its internal controls, honourable MEC, and submit a plan that identifies the gaps in the internal control for the committee to do oversight.

We noted that the establishment of the Limpopo academic hospital, and it's long overdue. The longer it prolongs, the project might end up not being implemented. During our engagement with the department on the Fourth Quarter Report, the department reported that the project manager was appointed to oversee and fast-track the project. We will do our oversight as the committee to ensure that the establishment of the hospital is ultimately realised.

We observed that the department had targeted 59 clinics to be scaled up as Ideal Clinics. The department reported that about 41 facilities obtained the Ideal Clinics through peer review updates during the 2021/22 financial year. It was also reported that the status determination of the 2022/23 financial year was due for completion at the end of the first quarter.

The department presented to the committee the strategic development plan to increase the number of facilities to obtain the Ideal Clinic status and reported that it planned to implement this by 01 September 2022. We will work with the department during our oversight to ensure that we monitor the implementation of the Ideal Clinics.

We were concerned, Hon Speaker, about the state of infrastructure in hospitals and clinics, and the department reported on plans to reprioritise its critical infrastructure priorities, and this included the maintenance of crisis point projects, standby generators, laundry, autoclaves, theatres and buildings. The department must explain and expedite the maintenance process within their means as the delays affect health patients in Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, we are aware that in the 2020/21 financial year, the country had entered uncharted waters. The country was overwhelmed by the scourge of coronavirus, and we are happy that the department worked very well in terms of dealing with the issue of coronavirus in our province. We are sure that the reprioritisation, which was done, honourable MEC, because of the coronavirus, will now be reprioritised back to ensure that we reduce all the risks that are there.

As the portfolio committee, we, therefore, move that this House adopts the Fourth Quarter Report and the Annual Report. I so move. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health.

Committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin, as called “vhamusanda” by Adv Phala, hereby present the oversight report on Veritas Digital for this House to adopt.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby stand to support the report as presented by the chair of the Portfolio Committee on Health, Hon Matibe.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers’ List for the debate. The first speaker on the list is Hon Lebea. Hon Lebea, you may take the podium.

MS LEBEA

Hon Speaker, section 27 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa clearly states:

“(1) Everyone has the right to access to–

- (a) health care services, including reproductive health care;
- (b) sufficient food and water; and
- (c) social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance.”

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this august House, distinguished guests in the House and virtual platform, a very blessed morning to you all.

In his Marxist theory, Karl said, “health and ill-health has to be viewed as a social class problem that is linked to inequality – if people had a good standard of living, there would be no ill-health. The population from the upper class have a longer life expectancy and they enjoy better levels of health.”

Hon Speaker, it was in this august House that, as a portfolio committee, we came and rebuked in the strong terms the exorbitant amounts of medicolegal cases – the cases that, Hon Speaker, if they were to see the light of day, not only the Department of Health but this province of Limpopo that is known as Africa’s Eden, would be liquidated.

Hon Speaker, not only did we caution the department, but we further urged the department to thoroughly investigate the possible internal collusion of some health professionals, patients and external legal services providers. Hon Speaker, we then came to know about the R14 billion medicolegal burden of the department.

When cases had to go to court, the department at times found itself unable to produce the records needed to defend itself, to prove that there was no negligence where there wasn't any. This leads to the department losing cases unnecessarily because the files are stolen on behalf of some law tsotsi-turned lawyers.

We are satisfied that the department is on the correct digital part, and it will move into an era where the use of paper is minimised with massive savings from the cost of paper in the medium to long term. A digital era is also an era of efficiency in the delivery of services. On 18 July 2022, we went to learn and witness the security and development of information and technology by the Department of Health at the Veritas Digital site. The development that the department is presenting will be a long-lasting solution to address challenges that arose as its personnel became more sophisticated in the treatment and manipulation of information.

What does this mean, Hon Speaker? I will tell you what it means. It means that patients will no longer have to wait for a long period of time for the employees to search for their files to be retrieved before they can be serviced. The waiting time at these facilities will be reduced, and that is where the Department of Health is going. When the staff cannot find the patient file at this moment, Hon Speaker, the reality is that they will open a new one.

The scanning of these documents means that the work of doctors will also be made easy. They will know the history of the patient and what treatment was given to the patient before, accurate, up-to-date and complete information about the patient at the point of care. This, Hon Speaker, will no doubt contribute to improving health outcomes in the province.

Doctors will further be able to share electronic information with patients and other clinicians in a secure way and be able to complement one another in providing care to one patient because the information about that patient would be easily accessible by the doctor in any other workplace, in the province and beyond the province. Other health professionals will also provide better services to patients when they are able to instantly access the patient's record for various reasons. Over and above that, the confidentiality that is needed about the patient's medical status is measurable in a society where human dignity is paramount and enshrined in the law of the land, which is the Constitution. This initiative will go a long way in delivering quality and adequate health services to the people of Limpopo through resources that will be spared through curbing or putting a stop on medicolegal cases, which will also be spared in the supply and procurement of stationery.

This initiative will be a step in the right direction towards total attainment of universal access to quality healthcare services and the NHI (National Health Insurance) as it is designed to provide access to quality and affordable personnel health services to all South Africans based on their health needs irrespective of their social or economic status.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, "Health is the greatest gift, contentment is the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship," as Buddha stated, and I thank you.
[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. Hon Mohlala, you may take the podium.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings once more. Hon Speaker, Veritas Digital, a company contracted by the department to digitalise files in all Limpopo hospitals, is a scam. There are many unanswered questions which relate to this contract, and we need to get genuine and honest responses today in this House.

It seems like everything about this service provider is a mystery. No one seems to know how they got the contract and which processes were followed in selecting them. The things of darkness are always concealed and hidden away from the public so that people should not ask difficult questions, for example, not much is known about when this company was contracted and how much the value of the contract was. This is basic information that should be made available for public consumption because taxpayers should not be struggling to have access to such key information in the interest of accountability and transparency.

First and foremost, what is the profile of this company in terms of executing such responsibility? Who is the director or directors, and where is it based? Hon Speaker, is there any research or vetting that was conducted before enlisting the services of this company? What work of the same magnitude did they do previously, and where? If the reports that Veritas Digital is paid R1 million per day are true, then this is the worse form of corruption to be experienced in the past 10 years in this province. What warrants or justifies the company to be paid such a lot of money per day? Even if they were to bring a specialised skill in terms of digitalising our hospitals' files, it would not justify R1 million in a day. We need answers here. How do you pay one company such an exorbitant amount of money when our people languish in poverty and hunger every day? Government allocates controversial contracts like this through politicians in order to satisfy their corruption appetite by colluding with service providers to share profits.

It is time to expose and stop javelin throwing because it is part of the strategy by politicians to siphon money from government into their pockets through service providers.

Hon Speaker, we also need to know whether this service provider covers all the hospitals in the province or just the selected few. If it is the selected few, which hospitals have been selected for this programme? It must be clear whether we are dealing with a pilot project or something else. What is going to happen to the staff once the company completes its contract and leaves? Is there any skills transfer agreement between the department and Veritas Digital?

Hon Speaker, we are alarmed that only records of the past 10 years were considered. What is the rationale for this, and how is it contributing to service delivery? The department argues that by digitalising hospital files, they are reducing medico claims, and yet these claims continue to rise on a daily basis. Can the MEC tell us what the total

medicolegal bill in the department is and what the department is having as we speak? Where will the money to pay come from?

A lot of these contingent liabilities can be reduced by not being negligent. Those who are negligent, resulting in huge contingent liabilities, must pay with their pension moneys. The government must cut unwanted expenditure at all costs because it compromises service delivery to the people. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Hon Maharaj, you may take the podium.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker

Hon Speaker, the committee took a resolution to conduct an urgent site visit on 18 July 2022, to the scanning and storage facilities of Veritas Digital, in Polokwane. This was as a result of media reports that the department had contracted Veritas Digital to digitise its hospital files and that it was paid an amount of R1 million per day.

This speaks to the lack of accountability and transparency displayed by the MEC and her department when a portfolio committee must receive details of such a massive contract from the media and concerned members of the public on social media.

The committee visited the scanning warehouse and discovered they were dealing with inactive files. The files are barcoded with digital labelling, and the labelled files are then captured by a data capturer who also ensures the file to be captured contains the correct information. Capturing included the patient's name, reference number, ID number, or date of birth. The committee also visited the cutting section, preparation section and refiling section, as well as the area responsible for the actual scanning of the files, and I repeat my words to the portfolio committee, this is not rocket science.

Hon Speaker, the visit to the storage warehouse where all the scanned documents are stored was also concerning because we were informed that only 30% of the active files had been digitised and stored so far. The department needs to fast-track the archiving and disposal of digitised archives.

It is, however, encouraging at least that the intention is to get to a point where doctors, nurses and all staff in hospitals will start using desktops, laptops and tablets to electronically capture files and any other pertinent information instead of using paper.

The committee asked questions and requested written responses. Some have been received, and some are still outstanding. What is of great concern is that the department has already paid over R516 million to the contractor, Veritas Digital, since its appointment till 15 June 2022. The department further estimates that it will need an additional R600 million for the remainder of the contract period, and R280 million will be

needed to complete the scanning of outstanding inactive records and a further R320 million for active medical records.

Hon Speaker, it shows how little the MEC and her poorly run department care about providing healthcare to Limpopo residents when there are vacant posts for doctors and nurses across the province, no medical equipment, not enough hospital beds and dilapidated health infrastructure, but we spend R1 billion to scan and photocopy files. The department utilises about 70% of its budget on compensating employees, and this leaves very little resources for services.

This expenditure on digitising files is unacceptably excessive. Instead of addressing issues like this that affect our people's healthcare system, the MEC would rather spend her days taking cowardly videos berating and humiliating vulnerable patients than doing her job in earnest.

The digitising of records is important and will help improve services, but not at this cost. Even in the references of previous work, this company had been doing similar work for various companies for amounts that are less than R12 million, and even though this contract will require them to do much more work and deal with larger volumes, R1 billion is simply too much.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, we must also note that medico negligent claims are prescribed after three years. So that begs the question, what is the cost versus benefit analysis of these digitised files versus medical negligence claims that have been paid, and can there be a report tabled on this? Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Matibe, the committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. In the early 2016, the world learnt a term coined Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) by a person called Klaus, and most industries, including some government departments, converted their information into digital. This revolution is characterised by the convergence and complementarity of emerging technologies domains, including nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, new materials and advanced digital productions. This technology is already transforming the digital industrial landscape.

I must indicate, Hon Speaker, that the Third Industrial Revolution triggered the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the 1960s that was chiefly the product of advances in computing. South Africa did not see itself immune to this system. I must indicate that our Department of Health, as a way of ensuring security and management of information it used in the form of files, is exploring digitalised patient information. We recommend that, honourable MEC, because if there are medicolegal challenges that we are facing of R14 billion, and we are doing something to address them in terms of the loss of files, I think it is something

that is commendable and we say, continue to do that so that we don't experience challenges and increase in the medicolegal bill.

We took an oversight visit on 18 July 2022 to verify the existence of digitalising these files. The reason we took that visit, honourable MEC, is because we were told that you could even use a phone to scan a file. When we got there, we realised that thing we were told of using a phone to scan a file is neither here nor there, but we were very happy. We can report to this House that, indeed, in Polokwane Ext 8, Mafhedza Street, there is a company working on digitalising the files there.

On our arrival, we found that there were people working, and the contractor was working in a professional manner, Hon Speaker. The files that are being digitalised are more than 10 years old and are inactive. What we can encourage, honourable MEC, is that as much as we look at the inactive files, we must also look at the active files so that whenever a patient comes to the hospital, we are able to use the digitalised ways of getting information. So, the department, instead of prioritising inactive files, must also prioritise the active files. Start with the district hospitals that are around the province then you can cascade to other hospitals and clinics. If we do that, then all the challenges in terms of files that are stolen by unscrupulous lawyers, and everyone will come to an end.

We are also happy, honourable MEC, that there are young people who are there, who are being trained in terms of capturing and digitalising the files. We urge the department not to lose that knowledge that those young people are acquiring from that contractor and the transfer of the skills which is happening there. Let those young people who have acquired those skills be appointed in hospitals to continue the work in terms of labelling, capturing, resizing and scanning all the files that will be coming as and when the contract is done.

We found that the validation section was where the scanned files were, checking for quality control and human errors against the physical files. So, all the work that has been happening there is the work that we really commend. If we want to be part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, I think we should go the route that the department has gone in terms of digitalising these files.

The young people who are working there possess a lot of knowledge and qualifications. When we asked them about their qualifications and where they come from, we realised that they come from across the whole province, and they are not permanently employed.

We urge you, honourable MEC, to absorb those young people into the system of the Department of Health. We really want to thank you for that. We commend the initiatives taken by the department to align our government with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We are hopeful that in future, the department will rely on this information to carry out and manage its operations and interact with internal human capital to support the patients.

This type of information is a client management system that will help to provide services to our people, and we move accordingly, Hon Speaker, that this report be adopted by this august House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Health to come and respond to the debate made by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip, honourable Members of the Executive Council, Members of the opposition parties, and honourable Members, let me start by joining my colleague, the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, to send a message of condolences. Unfortunately, the number of fatalities has risen. The EMS operation report that we have received indicates that they have just attended, this morning, to a motor vehicle accident involving an SUV and a heavy-duty truck, which collided on the N1 bypass just next to Mall of the North. Two patients were transported from the scene, one of whom died on arrival at the hospital. EMS has now extricated the trapped patients from the SUV.

In summary, Hon Speaker, nine patients died on the scene, one died on arrival at the hospital, and one is currently in critical care at Polokwane Provincial Hospital. The initial report that we had indicated that this a family, and they were in a convoy of three vehicles to Thohoyandou when the accident occurred. The traffic flow has now returned to normal. Our teams, together with social workers and police forensics, are trying to provide psychosocial support. It's not a scene that honourable Members want or wish anyone to be in. So, among those who perished, the P4, we have two children. May their souls rest in peace!

Honourable Members, these are some of the issues that we have to deal with as the Department of Health on a daily basis. These are those incidents that we would not have planned or wished to see happening, but at the end of the day, they will require an expenditure from the very same department.

Honourable Members have raised a lot of questions about our EMS, and we want to indicate that yes, indeed, we are procuring EMS vehicles on a daily basis, but it appears as if the rate of replacement of ambulances is not at the same rate as when we lose our ambulances. Only 57 out of over 300 ambulances are the ones you can comfortably say should be on the road. Now, our province, because of the number of issues that includes the geographic spread and the type of roads that we have, is making it difficult for us to be able to arrive where we want in terms of the ambulances' replacement. Ambulances in Limpopo move from Musina or Madimbo on a daily basis to Petersburg Hospital, which is over ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker ...

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege because I want to, through you, request you, Hon Speaker, to ask the MEC for Health to sincerely apologise to the people of Limpopo for the utterances that she has made in Bela-Bela because the reality of the matter is that ... [INTERJECTION] ... Are you going to protect me, Hon Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

I am listening, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am saying the utterances that she made were really not true because if you were to listen to the debate and everything that has been said today, it would tell you that the problem of the healthcare centres or facilities in the province has got nothing to do with immigrants. So, the MEC lied to the people of Limpopo ... [CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, can you sit down.

MR SESHOKA

I am not done.

THE SPEAKER

Can you listen? Can I address you?

MR SESHOKA

I'm listening to you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, I have allowed you to raise your point of order, but you are not addressing this House. What you are doing now is not a point of order. Can you sit down so that I can respond to your point of order ... [INTERJECTION].

MR SESHOKA

You cannot say that it is not a point of order because that's what I rose on. You can only say you are going to respond to it [INTERJECTION].

THE SPEAKER

No, you have made your point. Can you sit down so that I can respond to ...
[INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

That is the directive that I wanted from you, but she lied.

THE SPEAKER

Can you sit down?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

On a point of order, Hon Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, can I respond to the point of order before I recognise you because in terms of the rules, if a Member raises a point of order, you allow the Presiding Officer to respond first, and then you will come after. I want to respond to the point of order.

Hon Seshoka, you know very well that you are out of order ... [INTERJECTION] Can I respond, honourable Members? Hon Seshoka, can you listen? I want to respond.

MR SESHOKA

I was just disturbed by these disruptors.

THE SPEAKER

No, can you listen? Hon Seshoka is out of order because he knows very well that in terms of the rules, no Member is allowed to interject any Member who is on the platform. So, you are out of order, Hon Seshoka. You know very well. Can you sit down and allow the MEC to proceed? You are out of order, Hon Seshoka! [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

You can't be misrepresenting the rules of the House ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No, I'm not denying that ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

I rose on a point of order; I was not interjecting. You must not say I was interjecting ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No, you know very well that you are not allowed for now. You know very well how to raise the motion ... [INTERJECTION].

MR SESHOKA

I rose on a point of order and asked you about the people of Limpopo ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Can you sit down for the first time, Hon Seshoka?

MR SESHOKA

Mathe, o ka se re ke a gafa, monna. Mathe o ka se re ka a gafa.

THE SPEAKER

Sit down, Hon Seshoka!

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I think this is an unethical conduct that you cannot condone. In the first place, Hon Speaker, it was not a point of order but a point of privilege. That's where we raise the issue of the point of order precisely because we have allowed all the opposition Members to debate. They have debated, and now they are interrupting the honourable MEC when she tries to respond. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable MEC, can you proceed?

MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No, can you be in order? Honourable Members, can you assist this Sitting to proceed? Honourable MEC, proceed. Honourable Members, you are disturbing. Hon Mathe, no. No, no, we can't do that, honourable Members! Proceed, honourable MEC. Hon Seshoka, keep quiet.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Hon Speaker, I was indicating that, indeed, the challenge of the replacement of our EMS vehicles is noted, and we have already indicated the challenges that are facing our province, i.e., one EMS vehicle is forced on a day to travel from Musina to Petersburg or from Thabazimbi or from Lephalale, which results in them and their life span being affected. Unfortunately, more than 80% of the province is rural, and the type of roads that our EMS vehicles are subjected to becomes a serious challenge. That is why we will continue to procure EMS vehicles on an annual basis, but it will appear as if we are doing nothing.

The question is, if we were not procuring them, what could have been the situation that we find ourselves in? Our N1 road is accident-prone, as I have just indicated this morning, we are always on the weekend. If we follow the Department of Transport and Community Safety, we will hear about their reports in terms of the accidents that have occurred on our roads, and as the Department of Health, while they report about fatalities, we also attend to those who have not been reported, but have been taken to our facilities for operations, and that is having an impact on the expenditure.

We will continue to work with the portfolio committee and our sister departments to make sure that we address all these challenges. There are serious issues that were raised by honourable Members, especially on underspending, which we have taken note of. Yes, for the year under review, we had to deal with the issues of COVID-19. We must also indicate that the underexpenditure, especially in that year, could be attributed to COVID-19 conditional grant spending efficiencies.

As the department, we have now put systems in place that have made it to contain COVID-19. Therefore, we have now agreed with the Treasury and the national government that for us to avoid underexpenditure, the money that has been set aside for COVID-19 must be moved to where it is needed. On the COE, honourable Members, we do regret the fact that certain benefits that were due to be paid to workers were not honoured on time because at that time, there was insufficient information that we received at the end of the financial year.

It was going to be another irregular or another audit query had we paid these without satisfying ourselves that, indeed, these employees meet the requirements. That is what has led to underexpenditure on the COE.

We should also note that in terms of the Oncology Grant, we had a serious challenge when it came to equipment that was only delivered now, which we do not even have in the country. That is where the underexpenditure occurred, but the equipment is now here.

With regard to issues of the HIV Grant, we also had to come up with the catch-up plan because when we were dealing with COVID-19, we realised that some of the pandemics and some of the burden of diseases that we were dealing with previously ended up being neglected because everybody had put all their energies into fighting COVID-19. So, honourable Members, we are noting that, and we will never accept the issues of underexpenditure.

In terms of consequence management, we are reassuring this House that, as we have presented to the portfolio committee, we are working on that to address those issues.

Honourable Members, on the last issue, which is the medicolegal issue, we have been given an opportunity in this august House previously to come and present our plans on that, and we have done that. We will continue to work with the portfolio committee on the issues of contingent liabilities. Our strategic plans were presented to the committee and were adopted, and they will be monitoring through their oversight whether we are implementing.

We might not see the benefits now, but we believe that once the whole plan starts to be rolled out, we will be able to see them. So, honourable Members, the issue of medicolegal and medical negligence cases is top in terms of our list because for us as the department, when somebody claims, we don't only look at the monetary loss, but we also look at the fact that life could have been lost or someone did not receive quality care. So, we are alive to all those. That's why we are not only worried about the R14,4 billion that is out there, but we are also worried about how many people visited our facilities and did not receive joy. So, we will be reporting to this House in terms of the progress that we will have made in curbing medicolegal cases.

On the second matter, Hon Speaker, that has been raised about the digitalisation of our information, we need to welcome the inputs that were made, especially by our chairperson of the committee and some of the members of the committee. Hon Tshitereke Matibe gave the background on why as a country or province, we cannot be left outside. Hon Lebea also assisted us in trying to share with all of us why it is important to have digitalisation.

To respond to some of the questions that were asked here, we should indicate that there is no company that was picked on the street. The first tender was advertised on 02 August 2019 and closed on 30 August 2019. Unfortunately, they couldn't find a suitable bidder. The second tender was readvertised on 13 December 2019 and closed on 13 February 2020. Honourable Members, the processes were followed. We have had two audits since this service provider started. There is no finding from the Auditor-General. To me as the executing authority, the first person that must flag any irregularity is the Auditor-General. Once it is flagged, we will, therefore, refer it to institutions like the SIU to investigate. According to the report that we have for now, this matter has not been flagged.

The processes where we are sitting have been followed. Listening to the debate here, Hon Speaker, I'm not hearing even those who are against this digitalisation say they have gone to the warehouse, and they couldn't find anybody; money has just been paid for work that cannot be proven. Everybody is saying, yes, we need to, but we are not satisfied with why this company has been appointed. It has been more than two and half years since they have been working. There is work that they are doing, and nobody can challenge that there is no work that is being done, meaning the company is doing the work.

Honourable Members, I must raise in this House something that I have never seen happening: Maybe we are not happy because when we were appearing before the

portfolio committee, the member of the DA said we should have appointed Metrofile, which could have been far much cheaper; for interest's sake, I went to dig up what is happening with this Metrofile.

We need to be honest; only to find that it was a competitive bidder... [INTERJECTION]

MR MAHARAJ

On a point of order!

THE SPEAKER

I am not going to allow you.

MR SESHOKA

No, no, Hon Speaker, that's wrong ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You are not Hon Maharaj.

MR SESHOKA

No, no, but you can't be saying ... [INTERJECTION] Hon Speaker, when a point of order has been raised, you can't be saying, you are not going to allow us ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

I am going to chase you out, Hon Seshoka ... [INTERJECTION]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

On a point of order, Hon Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

You can't be threatening us. You must give him an opportunity to raise his point of order and rule on that. You can't be doing that ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Can you sit down? I want to deal with Hon Seshoka first. I will allow you. Hon Seshoka, can you leave this House ... [INTERJECTION] You are not Hon Maharaj. You are intentionally undermining this House. Number 1, can you please leave this House, Hon Seshoka? Number 2, can you leave this House? Number 3, you don't want to leave, and I will assist you, Hon Seshoka. Serjeant-at-Arms, can you assist me to remove Hon Seshoka? Hon Seshoka, can you go out? They will assist you.

MR MAHARAJ

Hon Speaker, on a point of order!

THE SPEAKER

I was saying, can you sit down? I want to deal with Hon Seshoka first. Can you wait, Hon Maharaj. Hon Maharaj, I'm saying just wait. I want to deal with Hon Seshoka first. Hon Seshoka, can you go out? Sergeant-at-Arms, I'm saying can you assist Hon Seshoka to go out. If it is not possible, I will call the bouncers to come and assist the Sergeant-at-Arms. The bouncers will come and assist you. Okay, I will call the bouncers to come and assist. Bouncers, may you please come in and assist Hon Seshoka to go out? Just go out. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

You are not going to intimidate us. There is no way.

THE SPEAKER

Bouncers will come ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

You cannot intimidate us.

THE SPEAKER

All right, you are intentionally provoking ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

You can't intimidate us ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No, I have made a ruling.

MR SESHOKA

No, you can't be saying a person should not raise a point of order.

THE SPEAKER

You are not Hon Maharaj.

MR SESHOKA

No, these are not your rules.

THE SPEAKER

I have made a ruling. You are going out, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

You can abuse your powers as much as you want.

THE SPEAKER

The bouncers will come and assist you. You are not Hon Maharaj. You wanted this to happen. The Protection Service will come and assist me. We are still waiting for them. Just sit down, MEC.

MR SESHOKA

You are not above the rules of this House.

THE SPEAKER

Why are you standing, honourable Member? Hon Manganye, why are you standing? Can you sit down? [PAUSE] No, he will go out. Just go out, Hon Seshoka. Bye-bye.

Let's proceed, honourable Members. Hon Maharaj, I want to repeat. You are out of order [INTERJECTION]

MR MAHARAJ

Am I out of order?

THE SPEAKER

Can I finish? You are out of order, Hon Maharaj. You know very well that you are not allowed to respond to the response. What the MEC is doing now, she is responding. So, can you sit down ... [INTERJECTION]

MR MAHARAJ

I raised a point of order ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No, you are not allowed to do that ... [INTERJECTION]

MR MAHARAJ

How can I not raise a point of order? [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No, you are not allowed to raise a point of order while the MEC is trying to respond to a debate. Can you sit down? [INTERJECTION]

MR MAHARAJ

So, can't I raise a point of order?

THE SPEAKER

No, that is not the procedure. You know very well. Can I say this, Hon Phala can assist you in interpreting the rules. You are not allowed. Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The point of order by Hon Maharaj was not a response to the honourable MEC. We were merely just asking her to address Hon Maharaj through you, and not address him directly.

THE SPEAKER

That is taken, Hon Phala. Can you proceed ... [INTERJECTION]

MR MAHARAJ

[MIC OFF]

THE SPEAKER

You are not allowed to interject the MEC. You are not allowed, Hon Maharaj. Proceed and finish, honourable MEC. [NOISE] Honourable Members, can we allow the honourable MEC to conclude here responses?

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Hon Speaker and honourable Members of the House, I was indicating that for me, it was for the first that I would hear honourable members of the portfolio committee asking the department and even suggesting that it could have appointed company X. In this instance, because that was an official meeting on record, Metrofile was indicated. That did not sit well with us because I also can under no circumstances suggest to the HOD or CFO or any administrator that this company or the other one should be appointed. That is why even today, we have taken the matter up with the Committee on Ethics because when we went back to even check our whole tender process, Metrofile was found to be a competitive bidder.

I believe that something is not on, that honourable Members of the committee who are given the responsibility by the people of Limpopo through votes to protect their resources must entangle themselves in the supply chain and procurement processes. So, we will await the process that the Committee on Ethics will embark on regarding this particular matter.

Hon Speaker, we have listened carefully, and we have heard some advice on how to move forward. We can indicate that we started with the active files on 03 September after the advice of the committee. Furthermore, let me also explain that the current Act doesn't allow us to destroy medical records. That is why we have to start with the inactive files until we prove that we have a backup system for medical records. We will then go to the archives through the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and request permission to destroy those inactive files, but before we do that, we could not be allowed to create space.

The current process is not only for selected hospitals. It's for all our hospitals. This is not a pilot programme. This work that is being done. We are saying the next phase will be after all our active files have been digitalised. Let's then move to make sure that every doctor and nurse consults the patient using 4IR, something that we have always been talking about.

Lastly, Hon Speaker, change is painful. Whenever there is change, we will have a lot of people with uncertainty. This is what we have been talking about. In 2016, six months after my appointment, Adv Langa Bodlani, who was a Member of this Legislature, visited some of our facilities. I can still share with you the articles with the pictures he took about how bad our filing system is. We can still go back to the Public Service Commission that visited our facilities also and came up with a very damning report that the reason our medicolegal and negligence cases and contingent liabilities are high is because of our failure to file. In responding to that public outcry, we had to come up with ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

May you conclude, MEC?

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

We had to come up with digitalisation. It is meant to be good. Unfortunately, we have to pay for that. Even if we might think that we need change, change will come at a price. Honourable Members, thank you very much to the committee for going and doing their oversight and not listening to what we are telling them because reports might be beautiful, but the actual work might not be done. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Thank you very much.

7.3. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MATHE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, hereby table the oversight report of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration and adoption. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

I, Falaza Mdaka, rise to second the chairperson of the portfolio committee's tabling of the report as presented for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the List is Hon Mochadi. Hon Mochadi, you may take the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Can I be given the opportunity to speak?

THE SPEAKER

Can you wait? Hon Maharaj, just go out. You want a fight. Just go outside, Hon Maharaj. Follow them, Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

[MIC OFF]

THE SPEAKER

No, it is what you want. You started this. You provoked them. You said you want to go outside. So, I'm allowing you to go outside. Can we proceed, honourable Members? [NOISE] Keep quiet so that we can proceed with our proceedings. Hon Mochadi, proceed.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable Members and the Executive ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mochadi, can you move the mic closer to your mouth?

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker and everybody in the gallery. I greet you all in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Madam Speaker, I'm rising to debate an oversight report for the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. In Genesis 2:15, the Word of Gods says, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Madam Speaker, the Department of Agriculture focused on the following key strategic priorities, which are aligned to the New Growth Path; aligned to the National Development Plan; aligned to the Agricultural Policy Action Plan and Nine-Point Plan in contributing to the following outcomes:

- Increased smallholder agricultural production, which are crops and livestock;
- Development of agroprocessing and value addition enterprises;
- Employment creation, leading to poverty alleviation;
- Supporting agribusinesses, which are agricultural cooperatives and enterprises on finance and market access;
- Veterinary regulatory services to reduce the impact of foot and mouth disease;
- Extending and improving skills development and training in the agricultural sector; and
- Coordination of a Rural Development Programme for integration of rural areas, achievement of successful infrastructure development, job creation, and poverty alleviation.

Madam Speaker, as I said, God put a man in a land. We have got a problem with the land. The land question still remains a problem for our people to access it so that they can produce. The land issue remains an important debate in the South African geopolitical space with the view to moving towards an equitable share of land as envisioned in the Freedom Charter which states, "The Land Shall be Shared Among Those Who Work It!" The South African Constitution sought to turn this idea into reality, with section 25(5) placing the obligation on the state to take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to foster conditions which enable citizens to gain access to land on an equitable basis. We are still very far from this vision. According to the Land Audit, there is very little progress which has been made in realising the vision.

Madam Speaker, statistics indicate the following reality: 72% of farm and agricultural land is still held by white people, and only 4% is held by black people. The audit also reveals that women only own 18% of the private land, dropping to 13% for farms and agricultural holdings. The results of the audit confirm that the state's current approach to land distribution is failing.

Honourable Members, it is important to highlight this as a background to our approach on our visits to various projects throughout the province. The sad reality is that we are sitting on a festering sore, which is very painful, with little change in the status quo.

Honourable Members, it becomes important to highlight these realities because whatever schemes are supported by the provincial government should be explained because, truly speaking, in the larger schemes of things, they are not that many and should be easy to oversee and support. It is important, honourable Members, that we raise this unfortunate issue of land because the success or failure of these schemes gives a synopsis of the overall functionality of the department.

Madam Speaker, I'm focusing on the debate right now. Most of our irrigation schemes in our province, packhouses and agroprocessing are still questionable because not most of them are proper or functional. The percentage contribution of Limpopo agriculture to national agriculture is 7,6%, although its contribution to the provincial GDP is just 2,3%. We should be concerned that these contributions are not necessarily from farms managed and owned by the previously marginalised people.

It is important to know the role that can be played by agroprocessing, given the enormous potential to expand in every subsector; hence the importance of functional irrigation schemes and pack houses will advance agroprocessing.

Honourable Members, with regard to irrigation schemes, as our Hon Premier said in his 2021/22 State of the Province Address, the government will embark on the programme of the revitalisation of irrigation schemes as part of the task to increase agricultural production and improve food security. Therefore, it became very important for us to assess the functionality of those very irrigation schemes.

Small-scale irrigation farming is envisaged to play a progressively larger role in rural development and to help to reduce some inequalities in South Africa's economy. Since the late 1990s, the government has aimed to revitalise the government-owned small-scale irrigation schemes mainly located in former homelands. Its micro-policy shift seems to favour the creation of black farming elite. The important questions are whether neoliberalism policies will harm the poorest of the most vulnerable in irrigation farming communities; and whether a new class of petty commodity producers can establish itself in global commodity chains. These questions, honourable MEC, should occupy your planning session as you implement your plans moving forward.

Madam Speaker, we visited Dhoveni Irrigation Scheme. Our visit to Dhoveni Irrigation Scheme proved a sad disappointment, where the work established more than 24 years ago has now gone to waste. The aim of the irrigation scheme was to create self-sufficient

black farmers with the ability to contribute to the food value chain and poverty alleviation, process products and create employment, resulting in poverty alleviation.

Madam Speaker, there is a serious challenge as it was reported to the committee that there had been assistance from the department since 2009. Honourable MEC, given the points raised earlier with regard to our historical mission as the ANC-led government, the above leaves much to be desired. Not in so many ways, this scheme has totally collapsed. We require the honourable MEC to brief this House on what transpired here and what the future plans are.

Madam Speaker, Matsika Banana Project has all the necessary equipment and the state-of-the-art packhouse for it to be functional and to contribute meaningfully to the province. We are, however, concerned that the important equipment such as air conditioners and processing belts as well as the standby generators were not functional.

We expect that at this level, the department should be assisting with regard to marketing and processing, but to find that we have non-functional equipment is a disappointment.

Despite these challenges, the staff reported that they had received the necessary support from the department. The packhouse has the potential to take agroprocessing to the next level, and we encourage the department to closely monitor this programme so that we may receive the desired outcomes.

Honourable Members, Nwanedi Packhouse is a supported programme, and although it is not yet fully self-sustainable, there were concerns, however, about the high costs of electricity, which has now resulted in lower profit margin for the farmers. We encourage the department to look into alternative energy sources such as solar energy for the packhouse. More should be done to ensure that Nwanedi is fully self-sustained so that it can grow to greater heights.

The issue of theft was also raised as a serious problem for these projects, and the farmers are trying to address it by working closely with other farmers in the area as well as the community policing forum, and in the end, the local police. Nwanedi is not yet at the same level as its privately owned commercial counterpart, but we believe that with the necessary support, it can move in that direction.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, it is a fact that the amount of investment flows on the economy should depend on the rate of return. It is likely to generate. From that point of departure, we can recommend that agro-development in Limpopo province should target output; should target income or employment.

If we aim at reducing poverty, more emphasis should be placed on the trade sector, more so agroprocessing, as it gives more return on the investment in these three variables.

Honourable MEC, we believe you should guide and make your team strategise in moving into sustainable agroprocessing. Our visits seem to suggest that the existing approaches to agricultural commercialisation may not be moving at a fast enough scale as we

envisage to reduce rural poverty and inequality. If the current model is not reviewed, then we don't have a brighter future for this.

This is a matter that you need to robustly engage with both at the provincial and national level. Agriculture is an important factor in economic growth and development. Indeed, most development practitioners have acknowledged that faster economic growth leads to faster poverty reduction.

This, however, needs to be addressed in the same line with further investment in agricultural research, financing provision of seeds, mechanisation, etc. and progressive policy reforms in agriculture if we are to see a return on investment in this sector.

The importance of agriculture in poverty reduction should result in poor people standing to benefit from increased agricultural income because many poor people live in rural areas. Indeed, if we move in the right direction, most of them could earn their living in agriculture or agriculture-related activities, more so agroprocessing.

In a rural province such as Limpopo, these facts cannot be overemphasised. Access to land creates generational wealth; it creates food security, and it is a source of self-determination that contributes to social and economic empowerment. Hence, the importance of this programme. We would like the department to keep an eye on the price and continue to ensure the success of this programme. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Mohlala, you may take the podium.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings once more. Hon Speaker, in 28 years of democratic dispensation, our farming communities are yet to feel and/or taste the dream of a better life for all. All shall be equal before the law; equal distribution of wealth of this country; and society that no race dominates the other. It is the ANC-led government that sold our people false hope whilst our people are struggling to make a living on squeezed land without proper production inputs and infrastructure.

The ANC politicians and department officials are swimming in a pool of corruption undeterred and with no fear of repercussions. The Vhembe region used to be the basket food of our beloved country. The ANC-led government successfully destroyed that which worked to feed our nation to a shocking collapse of agricultural activities in the Vhembe district as witnessed during the oversight visits to selected projects. There is a correlation between the audit opinion on the department and what is happening on the ground. The EFF government will maximally build and support the cultivation and agroprocessing of subtropical fruits in the Vhembe region.

Hon Speaker, the Dovheni Irrigation Scheme under Thulamela Municipality has 64 ha in extent. It was established 24 years ago and fully funded by the department with irrigation

system, electricity packhouse and provision of production inputs for vegetable production. This is a farm located on prime agricultural land with enough water for sustainable agricultural production. The EFF was shocked and pained by the status of the project as there is no sign of irrigation system installed. The water pump and the electricity transformer were installed, but they have been stolen. These are symptoms of imposed projects to communities without a proper buy-in and sense of project ownership. The department continues to plan and implement projects without looking at the skill capacity and management of mega projects.

The collapse of these projects points towards poor workmanship exacerbated by corruption and the internal conflicts of the beneficiaries. The EFF calls on the department to learn from the experience of Dovheni Irrigation Scheme and apply all simple basic principles of state intervention and development catalyst projects.

Hon Speaker, the painful truth is that the ANC-led government, through the Department of Agriculture, had inherited functional agricultural colleges and collapsed them to a disastrous status. Madzivhandila College of Agriculture's infrastructure has dilapidated even after reports of massive infrastructure development. The enrolment has reached its lowest ebb. Communities are no longer benefitting from what used to be the basket food for the communities around.

Hon Speaker, through neoliberal policies of the ANC, budget cuts due to austerity measures led to the college to be understaffed, dilapidation of student accommodation, collapse of library and laboratory due to lack of maintenance. The department is now transferring the dysfunctional college to national department owing to poor funding. Truth be told, the department is headed by visionless management who have no idea on how to take the college forward. There is no hope in resuscitating the two colleges of agriculture in Limpopo province.

Hon Speaker, Matsika Banana Project, which is a banana producing farm of 90 ha in extent situated in Matsika village under Thulamela Municipality in Vhembe District. The farm's strength is the commitment of the beneficiaries who gave all to sustain the farm to its status. The department assisted the farm with fence, construction of water pump house, bulk water supply pipes, a balancing dam, packhouse, installation of infield irrigation system on 90 ha for banana production. The dream to supply international market by farmers is not far to be reached. The only challenge is the department's failure to monitor service providers and aftercare monitoring systems.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is disturbed by fact that the department installed the state-of-the-art packhouse for packing and grading bananas, but due to poor workmanship, the service provider installed dysfunctional cold room and conveyer belt for the grading system. As it stands, the mega million packhouse at Matsika Banana Project remains a white elephant whilst the service provider is paid for the work not done. The EFF calls upon the MEC to follow up on the matter and ensure the packhouse is operating, failing which will defer the dream of the farmers of being exporters of bananas and fail the whole project.

Finally, the EFF has been calling for proper access road that connects the farms and the main roads in Matsika project. The dirty gravel road from the farm to the main road compromises the quality of bananas when delivered to the market. We, therefore, call upon the department to include access roads in their plans when such mega projects are initiated. We further call for the MEC to engage the Thulamela Municipality with the aim of resolving the access dirty gravel road to the project.

Hon Speaker, the committee visited the food and mouth disease hot spot in Collins Chabane, Thulamela and Musina municipalities to assess the state of and the readiness of the department to combat the outbreak and spread of FMD (foot-and-mouth disease). The committee visited areas in which the outbreak of FMD was reported, i.e., Matiyane village in Collins Chabane Municipality, Ha-Lambani Redline gate, Thengwe, Muhuyu village in Thulamela Municipality and Shakadza village in Musina Municipality.

Hon Speaker, the redline fence and gate, which is the first line of defence, does not exist, meaning that the buffalos move freely from Kruger National Park to villages uncontrolled. There are no physical human bodies to monitor and control the fence, and worse, only two old helpless guards were found at Ha-Lambani Redline gate. In simple terms, the Limpopo Department of Agriculture has no FMD preventative measures, and the veterinary section is useless and dysfunctional. It was heartbreaking to discover the dysfunctional dipping tanks, lack of FMD awareness and dilapidated dipping tanks. The farmers confirmed that the department never communicated any outbreak or did the normal dipping of livestock for the past 12 months. The committee witnessed the staging by the department to fix the dipping tanks on the day of the visit. This is a call for concern that there are no mitigation measures to combat the spread of FMD in Vhembe District. The officials pointed to lack of human and financial resources to buy chemicals and fencing material. The department has literally left the people of Limpopo to deal with FMD on their own.

Hon Speaker, the EFF calls for the MEC and the HOD of the department to be criminally charged with economic sabotage, which is tantamount to treason, the highest criminal act in the land. The sanctions on the beef industry in the country that come as a result of the outbreak of FMD are apportioned to the incompetence of the department's MEC and HOD, deliberate sabotage, negligence and sleeping on duty. We submit.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Hon Phala, you may take the podium.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development embarked on an oversight visit to Dovheni Irrigation Scheme, Madzivhandila College of Agriculture, Matsika Banana Project, food and mouth disease redline zones, Matiyane, HaLambani, Damani and Muhuyu to assess the success and challenges facing the projects with a purpose to assess how the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural

Development was doing in terms of combating and preventing the outbreak of foot and mouth disease around the Vhembe District. During the oversight visit in the Vhembe District near the Kruger National Park fence, as a committee, we witnessed the dilapidated state of the redline as well as nonfunctioning dipping stations within the red zones.

Hon Speaker, although the increase in the budget for the Department of Agriculture for Programme 4, Veterinary Services, was utilised for vaccines and dipping cattle, the porous redline and broken fences allow foot and mouth carriers to move out and mingle with cattle, spreading the disease. The delays in procuring vaccines from Botswana is a concern, and it directly affects the prevention of FMD in the province. The South African National Parks does not maintain the Kruger National Park fence surrounding Matiyane village. Fence breakage by elephants allow the buffalos and other FMD carriers to spread the highly contagious disease when these animals mingle with cattle. The dipping tank facility at Mavambe village was overgrown by then during our visit, a clear indication that it was hardly utilised despite the latest outbreak of FMD earlier this year. During the oversight, it was evident that Muhuyu dipping tank was just being repaired, maintained and not being utilised. Engagements with farmers revealed that the Shakadza dipping tanks were last utilised for biweekly dipping of cattle in 2012, the borehole was also not functioning and that dipping tanks were repaired just prior to the committee's oversight visit.

Hon Speaker, the redline in HaLambani is nonexistent and it is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture to mandate the Department of Public Works to erect the fence and maintain it. However, the departments are shifting this responsibility. What is further concerning is the high number of vacancies in animal technicians responsible for disease control that by then were not filled and were vacant. We do believe that this contributed to FMD outbreaks. It is clear that lack of cohesion between the relevant departments creates a threat of continuous FMD outbreaks, which can be avoided if the Kruger Park's fences and the redline fences are maintained. The lack of biosecurity control measures is threatening the agricultural industry as a whole, which includes game farming, and this is a huge cause for concern.

A well-regulated and controlled red meat industry in Limpopo has huge export potential, which in turn will be a catalyst to job creation prosperity for all of our farmers. The department must fill all the animal technician vacancies and implement a collaborative effort between all the departments and stakeholders to prevent any FMD outside the redline zone to ensure continued growth in the red meat-related industries.

At Nesane Vegetable Farm, as a committee, we appreciated the good working relationship between the two Nesane brothers who took over their late father's farm. The Nesane brothers indicated that their father trained them and instilled the love of farming in them. As a result, they never worked anywhere in life except in the farm. The portfolio committee was very impressed with the good working ethics and the good story they sow, and we told them that they must continue working well together.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Hon Mathe, the committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The *South African Medical Journal* for September, Volume 1, particularly page 33, makes a fact that eating too much of rajah and peri peri affects the reasoning and the body weight of an individual. Eating too much rajah and peri peri peri affect the IQ level of an individual and the body weight. Hon Speaker and Members of this august House, I greet you and I hope you will all buy that medical journal and read further. Thank you very much for the opportunity to debate on the report of the portfolio committee's oversight visit to Vhembe. The portfolio committee embarked on an oversight visit to Dovheni Irrigation Scheme, Madzivhandila College of Agriculture, Matsika Banana Project, Nwanedi Packhouse, Matiyane food and mouth disease redline zone, Muhuyu dipping tank and Shakadza dipping tank.

The aim of the visit was to see how the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development was doing in terms of combating and preventing the outbreak of the food and mouth disease around Vhembe District. It was also to monitor the support by the department to emerging farmers to ensure that they grow and become self-sustainable and become commercial farmers in future. The department, through its agricultural support and producer development as well as veterinary services, continue to support various initiatives, including infrastructure projects.

Hon Speaker, the Madzivhandila College of Agriculture is one of the two colleges that plays a pivotal role in terms of agricultural skills development in the Limpopo province. The college has continued to train students and farmers. We appreciate that the college has placed some of its students in the commercial farms for experiential learning. This will go a long way in ensuring that they become agricultural practitioners, entrepreneurs or commercial farmers themselves. Having said that, we urge the department to ensure that the students are not exploited and abused in these commercial farms. The portfolio committee commends the department for the good work in upgrading the infrastructure, especially the access road to Madzivhandila College of Agriculture. We recommend that the same or better standard of the road be extended to connect the main road which connects the R524.

The portfolio committee found that the Madzivhandila College of Agriculture had serious challenges in terms of budget cuts, and it was difficult for the college to perform its normal and critical daily operations since it is run as a subdirectorate of the department. In addition, there were 30 critical vacancies that have not been filled. The students are not receiving the National Students Financial Aid Scheme because the college is still not yet under the Department of Higher Education. We are concerned that the migration of the agricultural colleges from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Higher Education has not taken place since April 2022 as initially planned. However, this must be fast-tracked to ensure that students benefit from financial assistance.

The committee has also noted with concern that the safety of students and employees is not guaranteed due to dilapidated peripheral fence, lack of functional apollo lights and CCTV cameras as well as poor access control to the compass and hostels. This should be addressed as a matter of urgency, and the department should ensure that other cross-cutting challenges that are affect Tompi Seleka College of Agriculture are also addressed simultaneously until the migration has materialised.

With regard to Dovheni Irrigation Scheme, let me indicate that the Dovheni Irrigation Scheme is a community project that was initially dollar funded and supported by the department with the focus on crop and chicken production. The portfolio committee noted with concern that production was not taking place and there were various challenges in the project, including poor community relations, high cost of electricity, theft of produce, dilapidated infrastructure and vandalism of transformers and pumps. Of concern to us is that the department does not appear to be hands-on in the project, and it was not immediately clear what plans the department and the community must have to ensure that the project is revived and sustained further without continuous support from the department. We have recommended that the beneficiaries and the traditional authority should work with the department to develop a tangible plan to make the project work sustainably. Furthermore, the department must assist the beneficiaries to come up with a plan to curb theft and vandalism in these projects before any investment could be made to these projects.

With regard to the Matsika Banana Project, the government has developed a state-of-the-art packhouse infrastructure, which is critical for post-harvest, handling of bananas from farmers in Matsika and surrounding areas. As the portfolio committee, we also appreciate that the department managed to rehabilitate the fence, construct a pump house, construct bulk-supply pipelines, construct a balancing dam and install an infield irrigation system on 90 ha of banana production in the past few years. The Matsika farm has shown successes with quality bananas being produced, and revenue was generated. However, we were disappointed to learn that the two cold rooms, refrigerator and the conveyer belts for the grading machines in the packhouse are not functional since they were installed, which meant that the produce that will be harvested will not have a long shelf life.

The issue of the cold rooms and the conveyer belts is as a result of poor workmanship as well as the supply chain management and contract management challenges that the department is facing. The department needs to up its game in this regard to ensure value for money. Hon Speaker, we are concerned that the members of the scheme have reported that there was mismanagement of funds, and the project was also robbed of the amount estimated at R32 000,00 in the past. However, we are confident that the project's intervention to introduce a speed point at the premises will become helpful as they will not keep large sums of cash in the premises. The intracommunity relations and partnership with the department should improve. Actually, it is improving and promising to improve.

The project participants have requested the government to assist with expanded public works funding for the project workers for a few months until the project is in full production. As a committee, we have recommended that, where possible, the department should

provide necessary support to this project to realise its dream of being a national and an international exporter, establishing banana juice factory, banana products bakery and macadamia project. However, the beneficiaries must work hard to ensure the government investment yields results, and the project should be self-sustainable and avoid relying on government support continuously. We need to ensure that we cover more farmers with the available limited resources. It will be important for the project beneficiaries to encourage their children to work or participate in the project for continuity and generational mix.

The project beneficiaries indicated that there were commitments made by the municipality on access road and funds. In this regard, we refer to Vhembe District Municipality. We urge the project members to ensure that they follow up the commitments in writing and make follow-ups regularly. It should be noted that bananas are sensitive fruits, and therefore, when they are transported in bumpy roads, their quality declines due to bruising. Furthermore, in various projects that were previously visited by the committee, including the Matsika project, we have noted that they have the same common complaints of high cost of electricity. We urge the department to work with communities and other stakeholders to explore alternative energy sources such as the solar energy, but proper cost benefit analysis should be undertaken.

Hon Speaker, the Nwanedi Packhouse is a shining example on the implementation of the agriparks. We commend the department, other stakeholders and farmers for making this project a success. The portfolio committee has witnessed that farmers in the areas are producing, and the products are being packaged and shipped to different destination markets and the farmers receive their income from the packhouse. The project has proper governance structures with the board that is comprised of various stakeholders, including the farmers. We urge the department to replicate and adapt this model to other farming communities who are in need.

The portfolio committee appreciates the fact that the farmers recognise the fact that the project has been well supported even though some still expect more. The board chairperson has assured the portfolio committee that the farmers will ensure that the packhouse is self-sustainable. They further plan to have a processing plant onsite to limit losses and diversify products. This commitment is welcomed and supported. Nevertheless, like in many other projects, the farmers have reported a high cost of electricity as a serious challenge. In addressing the challenge, energy-efficient pumps have been installed whilst engagements are still taking place to ensure that they install prepaid electrify or even utilise renewal energy.

The department and the farmers have requested the National Council of Provinces' Select Committee with regard to the issue of prepaid electricity. The other challenge in the area is that of theft of produce and utilisation of farms by gangs to hide illicit products in farms, particularly those that are being illegally transported to Zimbabwe. Yet other will want to stand here and speak in defence of these things. This leaves the farmers and the department to work with surrounding communities and law enforcement agencies to ensure safety and security in the farms.

Hon Speaker, some of the farmers who are playing a key role in the Nwanedi area include the Nesane brothers whose farm was also visited. The farm continues to produce quality agricultural products and supply crops to different markets including through the Nwanedi Packhouse. We have seen that the two brothers have taken the baton from their late father, Dr Nesane, who is a renowned famer in the province. This is also a key lesson to other farmers to ensure skills transfer to the youth. The portfolio committee was impressed with the good working relationship and commitment by the Nesane brothers.

It was interesting to hear how a farm run by young black people can become self-sustainable and make millions of returns. The department must continue to encourage the Nesane brothers and other famers in the area to expand and to help in mentoring willing and aspiring students and young farmers.

Food and mouth disease has continued to affect the red meat economy in the province and the country. As we speak, there is currently a national ban on the movement of animals due to this problem. Our province has continuously been affected by FMD, and the department continues to fight this problem. It is against this background that the portfolio committee visited some of the affected areas such as the Matiyane village redline zone as well as the dipping tanks which experienced FMD outbreak in February 2021. The Matiyane village in Collins Chabane Municipality has proven to be the epicentre of the outbreak of FMD in the province. This is worsened by the fact that the livestock in that area is in constant contact with the buffalos from the Kruger National Park since the SANParks fence dividing Matiyane is damaged.

Whilst some of the fences are damaged by animals like elephants, there is also damage caused by residents who are either poaching wild animals or creating access for the livestock to drink water within the Kruger National Park as they believe some part of the land is theirs. This is also a safety concern for the Matiyane residents since the wild animals such as elephants, lions, wolves, buffalos, etc., can easily come to the village and attack people and their livestock.

Hon Speaker, whilst we appreciate the awareness and vaccination campaigns made by the department in the affected Collins Chabane, Giyani, Thulamela and Musina municipalities, we believe that there should be a multistakeholder engagements and interventions by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; South African National Parks; Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure; municipalities; traditional leaders and communities to address the prevention and control of FMD outbreaks. We urge SANParks to ensure that the fences are maintained and guarded by rangers who will not be gullible to illegal collaboration with poachers. There should be continuous awareness campaigns to surrounding communities to make them understand the dangers and bad economic impact brought about by cutting the Kruger National Park fence.

In our visit to the HaLambani Redline control gate, we were displeased because the control gate was left open without any monitoring or search for transportation of livestock and no access control of the vehicle and human movements. Furthermore, we noticed that the fence which marks the redline is not there and the infrastructure for the accommodation of officials is not appropriate. There is also a challenge of lack of capacity

to monitor the redline area and the available staff did not have much to do whilst they are paid.

In conclusion, let me indicate that although the Ha-Lambani Redline gate was meant to be a foot-and-mouth disease control point in terms of Act 35 of 1984 of the Animal Disease Act, these challenges meant that his law was not enforced in this area. As a result, cloven-hoofed animals' meat and products were moved in and out of the area freely without any form of control. This is of concern because it makes the fight against the spread of FMD an uphill battle. We, therefore, implore the department to ensure that the redline fence and gate is restored, operational and regularly maintained. There should be awareness campaigns to the traditional leaders and surrounding communities to minimise the vandalism of the fence. In its new organisational structure, the department should ensure that there is adequate capacity and suitable professionals recruited to prevent and control the spread of FMD. We appreciate the fact that the budget in the Veterinary Services programme has been increased in the 2022/23 financial year.

Thank you so much. I move accordingly. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development to come and respond.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Hon Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; Hon Premier in absentia; colleagues in the Executive Council; honourable Members; ladies and gentlemen in the gallery and the HOD present here, I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to respond and comment on issues raised by the members of the portfolio committee after the oversight visit. As a political head, I am impressed by the role that is played by the committee as they continue doing the oversight. With regard to the projects that they have visited, the Dovheni Irrigation Scheme, as a department we are also concerned that the scheme has collapsed. However, the challenges of the community structure in managing is being addressed by the officials from the department. We shall try by all means to make sure that the project is up and running.

With regard to the Madzivhandila College of Agriculture, Hon Speaker, let me indicate that we have noted the bad state of affairs of the college. Although we are in the process of migrating to the national department, we have already advertised some positions. With regard to the Matsika Banana Project, our task is to liaise with the district municipality to construct the access road. The electricity charges are too high; hence we have started to assist them to look at other sources.

When coming to the Matiyane village foot and mouth disease outbreak, let me highlight that the challenges of the fence have been referred to LEDET. We are also concerned

about the relationship between SANParks and the community, hence the need for intervention. With regard to the Muhuyu and Shakadza dipping tanks, let me assure this House that we have already started constructing new dipping tanks which will meet the new standard. On the Lambani Redline gate, let me indicate that with the assistance of the national department, we have arranged a farmers' information day so as to make communities aware. The information day there will be starting from Friday this week.

With regard to the Nwanedi Packhouse, as a department, we are happy that this is our shining star as confirmed by the portfolio committee. However, we have started encouraging farmers to look into other forms of the source of energy. Hon Speaker, once more I need to appreciate the role played by the oversight committee, and we shall at all times provide them with the report.

I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC for the response. We shall now move to Item 7.4.

7.4 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions

Committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Falaza Philemon Mdaka, rise to present the report of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions on the oversight visit to petitions projects in Vhembe District on 15 February 2022 for consideration and adoption by this august House. I so move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, I rise to support the motion as raised by Hon Mdaka. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may take the podium.

MR MDAKA

Thanks again, Hon Madam Speaker. I rise again as Falaza Philemon Mdaka to present a report on the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions on oversight

visit to a petitions projects in Mopani District on 16 February 2022. I so move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the committee report as put by the Hon “Aldaman” Falaza Philemon Mdaka. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Committee chair, Hon Mdaka, you may take the podium.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Once more, I, Falaza Philemon Mdaka, hereby present the report of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions on oversight visit to petitions projects in the Sekhukhune District on 22 February 2022 for consideration by this august House. I so move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much. I, Donald Selamolela, stand here to second Hon Falaza Mdaka on the oversight report tabled for the oversight visit to Sekhukhune District. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let us now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Mokgonyana, the Chief Whip of the Majority Party.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive present here today; honourable Members; ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. South Africa's democracy is consolidating, but possibilities remain for it to deepen. Central to deepening democracy is a cluster of issues about the relationship between the citizens and our provincial legislatures. Petitions are one tool which can strengthen this relationship and support the consolidation of our democracy.

Hon Speaker, section 17 of the Constitution creates the right for everyone to present petitions whilst sections 56, 96 and 115 provide for the receipt of petitions by the provincial legislatures. Our Limpopo Petitions Act was passed to provide for the right to submit a petition. They set out the procedure to be followed and regulate the functions of the relevant committees which are responsible for considering petitions. In response to the Petitions Act, the Standing Committee on Petitions embarked on a two-day oversight visit to Vhembe and Mopani districts. On behalf of the committee and the chairperson, Hon Mdaka, I would like to indulge in debating the oversight visits.

On 15 February 2022, the standing committee began their visit at Tshiendeulu Primary School in Vhembe. The committee received a petition in January 2019 regarding their muddy and dilapidated school structure. The committee observed that the school had a block of five dilapidated classrooms and two offices that were built in 1958 and were posing danger to learners. During the visit, the committee also learnt that in 2018 the school roof was blown away by the wind. In their response, the Department of Education reported that the school will be provided with basic services, i.e., water, sanitation and fencing in the 2022/23 financial year through Mvula Trust before the end of February 2022.

The department further reported that the mobile classrooms will be provided to the school before the end of March 2022. The Department of Education added that the mobile classrooms will be temporarily provided until the muddy classroom are replaced with a proper structure during the 2023/24 financial year. Hon Speaker, the committee is disappointed because the deadlines reported by the department under oath were not met. The delivery of mobile classrooms and provision of basic services is still outstanding. The petition was submitted in 2019 and it will remain open up until the department delivers on its promise and constitutional mandate.

The committee then reconsidered two more petitions, one from Tshiendeulu Traditional Council regarding the bad condition of road D500 and the streets in and around the area. The petition was first adjudicated on 20 February 2018 and the committee resolved that the Department of Public Works should meet with members of the committee to discuss a way forward regarding the conditions of the road and the streets in the area and report back to the committee. To the committee's disappointment, the report on this is still outstanding.

The second petition was from Tshiheni community, seeking the intervention of the committee on the bad condition of road D3687, which was the only main access road in Tshiheni village that serves as an interlink between the Tshiheni community and other surrounding areas. The committee witnessed driving on both roads, and they need urgent intervention by the Road Agency Limpopo, Department of Public Works and the local municipality. What makes matters worse and the committees' disappointment is that RAL, the Department of Public Works and the Thulamela Local Municipality did not honour the invitation of the community, and this means the petition is still pending.

Hon Speaker, the committee then proceeded to Mopani District. The committee received a petition in October 2019 from Mr Patrick Ntimbane regarding a request for the Department of Education to provide ablution facilities, two blocks of classrooms, mobile

classrooms and desks. The committee was delighted to witness that the department had already attended to the request by providing Enviro Loo ablution facilities, mobile classrooms and furniture. The committee closed the petition.

The second school visited was Boke Secondary School near Relela village in Mopani. The petition was submitted by the school governing body in 2019 regarding the state of the school infrastructure. The SGB requested the Department of Education to build a new school for the community since the existing structure is dilapidated. During the site visit, the committee was informed that the school was damaged in 1989 and the damage was not fixed to date.

The following are some of the challenges that are experienced by the school: insufficient school furniture, shortage of teachers, damaged fence; and no security. As a result, the school experienced several break-ins. The committee was informed that several requests were made to the Department of Education through the circuit and district for them to address the school challenges, but no response was received. In their response during the hearing, the department indicated that the advertisement of a contract to build a school was earmarked for the 2022/23 financial year. The infrastructure project will include a fence, borehole, pavement and guard house. The department made a commitment to deliver on the promise by the end of April 2022.

Hon Speaker, like Tshiendeulu Primary School the department did not deliver on the promise and the petition is still pending. The standing committee experiences several challenges with regard to petitions. There are delays in processing petitions, both inherited and new. Petitions cannot be dealt with efficiently unless sufficient time is allocated to consider them. As things stand, dealing with petitions is the lowest priority item in the ordering of Legislature business. Constituency offices are also underutilised. These offices play an integral role in assisting the public to bring petitions before the petitions committee and thus greater public awareness around the role of this offices must be prioritised. Moreover, lack of public awareness around the petitions process and the nonattendance of key stakeholders at hearings remain a challenge.

Finally, the speed at which departments attend to petitions is quite worrying. Hon Speaker, when departments are invited to meetings they must attend, and commitments made during those hearings are binding as they are made under oath. The committee is in the process of seeking approval to return to Vhembe to deal with the matter which could have been considered in February when the committee was there. It is the committee's wish to close as many petitions as possible to the petitioners' satisfaction, and full cooperation from all government departments is quite essential. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SEPAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Hon Manganye, you may take the podium.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings to the honourable Members in the House as well as our special guests in the House and in the gallery. Hon Speaker, it is disappointing

and disgusting that citizens lodge petitions with the committee, and yet nothing happens. People put all their hopes on the Legislature that they will get recourse when their rights are being violated, but those in departments and municipalities who are supposed to implement committee resolutions continue to fail them. These rights in the main include service delivery rights violations by the current government. The constitutional rights of our people are being infringed upon on a daily basis. The oversight visit in the main revealed shocking human rights violations, and yet they stubbornly refuse to address anomalies when brought forward by citizens.

Government departments appear before the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions with petitioners and make commitments, but once they leave the committee, nothing happens. These departments appear before the committee for the sake of appearing. They do not take service delivery issues of our people seriously. They continue to conduct themselves in this way, but nothing happens to departments that do not implement commitments and resolutions of the committee. The Department of Public Works has not held any meeting with the committee as agreed. The same goes for Tshihehi community which submitted a petition seeking the intervention of the committee on the bad condition of road D3687. The matter of Mr Phala, regarding a complaint that he lodged in 2019 to the Elias Motsoaledi Municipality alleging that his neighbour has extended her stand alongside his yard, therefore blocking his gate, is not yet resolved to date.

Hon Speaker, these are but a few examples demonstrating the arrogance of government towards the citizens, in particular the poor. They appear before the Legislature committee, make commitments that they will resolve the challenges of our people, only to disappear for good. Convening meetings for both petitioners and departments or even municipalities is logistically taxing, which amounts to nothing because of lack of implementation. Lack of implementation also means that the Committee on Public Participation and Petitions and its chairpersons are being undermined and disrespected.

There should be consequence management for any department or municipality for undermining the work of the committee. It is clear that they have been getting away with murder for a long time without any consequence management. Government departments and municipalities are not beyond reproach. They must be held accountable for failing citizens. Only a heartless government abandons its people when they cry for service delivery. A caring state would respond appropriately to the developmental needs of its citizens. Our people need a developmental, people-oriented state which will be quick to respond to their service delivery challenges, not this mediocrity we observe.

The ANC-led government is a scam that is based on mediocrity governance lacking in substance and impetus.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Manganye. Hon Maharaj, you may take the podium.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Public Participation and Petitions committee conducted oversight to petitions projects in Vhembe District on 15 February 2022 in Mopani on 16 February 2022 and in Sekhukhune District on 22 February 2022. These oversights are conducted in terms of sections 118(1)(a) and (b)(i) of the Constitution of South Africa, which empowers provincial legislatures to facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Legislature and its committees. In addition to this, the Limpopo Petitions Act 4 of 2003 vests the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions with the responsibility to consider petitions that have been referred to the Legislature.

Hon Speaker, the petition received from Tshiendeulu Primary School in January 2019 regarding the dilapidated mud school structure which comprises five dilapidated classrooms and two offices, which were built in 1958, will remain open until the promises by the Department of Education as advised by Mr Senyatsi, that the school will be provided with basic services of water, sanitation and fencing in the 2022/23 financial year via the Mvula Trust, are met. The department further committed to delivering mobile classrooms as a temporary means until the mud classrooms and structures are replaced with a proper structure in the 2023/24 financial year.

The petition received from the Netshiendeulu Traditional Council regarding the bad condition of the D5000 road and streets in and around the area was adjudicated on 20 February 2018, and the resolution was that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure meet with the members of the community to discuss and agree on the way forward. Regrettably, this meeting never occurred, and a further adjudication could not be concluded due to the department's unavailability on the day.

Similarly, the petition by the Tshiheni community on the road D3687 as the main access road to Tshiheni village could not be adjudicated due to the department's unavailability, and as such the petition remains open. Hon Speaker, the committee's recommendations on the oversight for 15 February 2022 was that the Department of Education prioritises the provision of water and sanitation and eradicate all mud structures in the schools. It further recommended that the department pays regular visits to schools to pick up on the challenges and address these promptly.

The committee further recommended that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure must work with municipalities in ensuring that roads and streets within the communities are properly maintained. The petition of Mr M A Phala in the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality was still not concluded, and the committee recommended that the municipality must respond to the petitioner's concern and should revisit the petition and ensure that there is a speedy resolution or conclusion to the matter. The committee further recommended that the municipality should work with both parties in restoring peace between Mr Phala and Ms Kganedi. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to adjudicate on this matter.

Post the committee conducting an onsite in loco inspection to assess the situation first hand. In the interim, the municipality was given a task to investigate the matter further

and to come up with an action plan on how they would address the matter within 21 working days.

In conclusion, the petitioners for the Ward 7 petition on the abandoned road project – D4280 and D4283 – indicated that they were cautiously satisfied with the progress being made on the project thus far. However, they appealed that the committee play a monitoring role to ensure that the project runs smoothly until the conclusion of the project. The committee appreciated the progress made on the project and resolved that an action plan of the project should be tabled with the committee. The committee recommended that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure maintains the road regularly. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Committee chair, Hon Mdaka, you may take the podium.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon Premier in absentia; honourable Members of the Executive Council present; Hon Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Hon Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; and all honourable Members, I greet you all this afternoon in the name of the African National Congress.

As outlined in the report tabled herein and alluded to by the previous speakers, the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions went to Vhembe, Mopani and Sekhukhune to meet with petitioners. Responsible departments were also invited to be part of such visits; however, only one of these departments invited managed to send its reps. Responding to the call by the Freedom Charter that the people shall govern, the Constitution of the land in Article 118 states that a provincial legislature must find ways to involve the public in its affairs, including on the work of its committees.

Furthermore, the Limpopo Petitions Act 4 of 2003 has extended the mandate of the Legislature as outlined in section 115 of the Constitution to the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions. In terms of this act, the committee can summon any person to appear before it, give evidence under oath or affirmation and produce any document to support such evidence. Included herein are the powers to subpoena any person to appear before it, failing which can lead to prosecution.

Since its inception in this term, the committee has never flexed its muscles in line with this legislation provided but resorted to persuading the department to comply. Unfortunately, this cooperative gesture is being abused by the departments across the board. So much as other departments do attend our meetings, there is no consistency. Sometimes junior officials with no decision-making powers are sent to the meetings of the standing committee, sometimes with reports, other times with no reports at all. This is a serious matter of concern to the committee.

Madam Speaker, we are raising this matter here so that the MECs and the HODs should not say that they were not forewarned if we resort to implementing the legislation as is. I

repeat: Madam Speaker, we are raising this matter here so that the MECs and HODs should not say that they were not forewarned if we resort to implementing the legislation as is. The case in point is whereby only the Department of Education attended the Tshiendeulu meeting and no one from the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. We are aware that sometimes we do attend other meetings, and we are aware that wherever we go, sometimes we meet with you when we meet with stakeholders. We are not going to say things differently; we report them as they are because we are accountable to the communities out there. They were expecting people on that day, and no one pitched up.

We had to postpone the adjudication of roads and infrastructure petitions from Tshiendeulu regarding road D5000 and Tshiheni village concerning road D3687. However, the community insisted that we drive on those roads in particular the Tshiheni village to see for ourselves how bad the condition of the road is. Indeed, we were even stuck for a while inside the village, battling to go out as we were following each other as the road was very bad. It was a mountainous area, and it was really very scary. At least we managed to come out of that area.

Given the fact that this petition was received by the Legislature in 2018 and that the decision was taken as said by the other members of the committee for the department to meet with the communities of those areas, it is not clear why no such a meeting took place between the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and those communities to date. We were in Dzanani last Friday, Hon Madam Speaker, in other caps again, interacting with communities. As Hon Phala has said, we are adamant, we have been with communities for many years. We have been working hand in glove with councillors for many years, and we are always on the ground. We have been in Sekhukhune for more than five or six times already this year.

We have also been in Vhembe several times. Each time the very communities meet with us, they raise the same question. A ward councillor raised an issue concerning the Tshiheni village road D3687. That means that even today, unless we are proven otherwise, that meeting has never taken place. Even the Department of Education, which at least sent representatives to the meeting, never did anything on responding to the need for additional classrooms in the form of supplying mobile classrooms since 2019 to a school that was built two years before I was born. The walls are cracked, and young children are attending there. It's like it can fall over at any time. It is very scary. So, we need to something about that.

However, the department rep promised that mobile classrooms were going to be delivered by the end of March as alluded to by the Hon Chief Whip. We just believe that has happened. At least this was good news, but again we are not sure as to whether it happened or not as we did not receive any further information regarding the mobile classrooms for Tshiendeulu Primary School. A school that was built in 1958. It is still like that, in a sacred place. It is a sacred village. Tshiendeulu is where the Venda kings were staying before. It is an area that we are indeed supposed to do something about in terms of development because that is where the Venda people in Vhembe were staying before they moved to other areas. It is like we have neglected these communities.

Hon Speaker, the visit to Mopani brought some hope on the work of the committee that at least something is being done. Of course, it is not doom and gloom. The ANC-led government is doing something. We are aware of the needs of our people that there has been a very serious backlog until the ANC took over this government. Schools were built by communities themselves. Some of us standing here, we had to go out and look for sand to build our own schools. We had to do everything by ourselves as young children. We had to crash stones to get concrete to make sure that there is a school in your village. We had to walk long distances, for more than 10 km to a primary school and came across a lot of appalling issues on the way coming back from such long-distance schools. That is why some of us started school very late. We started with Grade R at the age of nine.

Again, we started in June because that is when we would be able to go to school. In June when we start school, we would find that others are already far in syllabus. We are aware, Madam Speaker and honourable MEC, that we are from a long way back in terms of addressing the needs of our people. It is not that nothing is being done; it is just that there is a lot for us to do. If you move around, you will indeed see beautiful schools that are being built. Others also need those beautiful schools, including the communities in Mopani where we went and in Tshiendeulu.

We commend the department for speedily responding to the need for additional classrooms, but, of course, by just supplying the temporary structures, at least the communities believe that the classrooms are coming. We are also aware that the school might be merged with another school. That means you also need, as a department, to plan ahead and not necessarily build structures that we have seen in other areas recently, as we were moving doing our oversight where only 114 kids are in a school, but then structures are being built. The admin block is being built. So, who is going to fill those classrooms?

Indeed, we need to deal with proper planning before we embark on a particular project. In the school that we visited, which will still come here as well, only 16 matric learners are there. Already you can see that even the pass rate is not going to be okay. That is because we ask all the questions. When we asked, last year the pass rate was only 33% in that school, but beautiful additional classrooms are being built right now. The old structure is also being renovated. Please, honourable MEC, there should be proper planning and not just to respond for the sake of responding sometimes.

As I move towards conclusion, in Sekhukhune we managed to bring the complicated petition of Mr Phala M A, not Hon Phala that is in our gathering. It is another Mr Phala M A who complained that his neighbour built a garage that blocked him from accessing his house. It is stands 350 and 351 in Hlogotlou township where both of them, unfortunately, are encroaching on municipal land by building structures in the streets. As we are receiving the report, Mr Phala also erected a septic tank in the street and the other one extended their house to build a garage in the street and blocking the street.

It is a matter that the municipality must resolve between these two neighbours. It is indeed a serious matter. We care about people. We want our people to live happily. It can also be said that it is related to service delivery because the street has been blocked. Our streets should be accessible to everyone. If the streets are not accessible, there is a

problem. The municipality was given 21 days to deal with the matter. We have taken a resolution to follow up on this matter to make sure that there is good neighbourly relationship between the two neighbours in Hlogotlou township.

As I move towards conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the committee for being dedicated to their work, including the opposition this time around. Hon Maharaj is always available. Hon Managa who is not here today is always available. Whenever we go to do our oversight work, they are there. The Hon Chief Whip is always available. Hon Sibanda-Kekana is always available. Hon Selamolela is always available. The Deputy Chair of Chairs, whom I regard as the Chair of Chairs when we are in those meetings, is always available. We really appreciate that because we would not be able to deal with the work if you are not available. So, thank you to the political parties, including the African National Congress, for giving leadership and making sure that we are available when people need us, and that we are able to at least create some hope that something is being done. That is because by talking to them, they believe that something at the end of the day indeed will be done.

To the departments thank you in areas where you are available. Where you are not coming, we are going to act. Henceforth, we are going to implement the legislation as is. We are a standing committee by the way. We don't need to get any permission from anyone to do our work. If you are not available honourable MEC, we are going to act on your members so that they then feel the might of our committee.

I thank you, Hon Madam Speaker. Thanks for this opportunity. I believe that indeed doing what we are doing, our people at the end of the day will realise that we are doing something for them.

Ndza khensa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mdaka. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Education, and thereafter the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will come and respond to the observations made by honourable Members. Thank you very much.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; my colleagues in the Executive Council; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education and all the Members of this House, let me greet you this afternoon. Hon Speaker, we want to confirm as the Department of Education that after the visits to different places, we want to respond to the petitions on the visits to Vhembe, Mopani and Sekhukhune. Let me also indicate that we have since tried to rectify the situation by saying that our parliamentary officer should be the link between the committee and the officials. The parliamentary officer will be responsible to make sure that the delegated officials, who are not just junior but who are dealing with the issues, attend meetings organised by the petitions

committee. I am sure in the other meetings they might have felt that the representation was a bit low.

The second issue is that amongst the visits, there is a critical school that all the members of the petitions committee were talking about, which is the Tshiendeulu Primary School. We have since allocated the IDT (Independent Development Trust) for that school, honourable chair of the petitions committee and the Members. We will then submit the advert to the committee. Hon Speaker, the committee visited different sites, so I am going to summarise in this way: Our plan as a department is that we want to present to the House that the infrastructure on some of the projects are multiyear, but we have since finalised our plans, and we have allocated the following implementing agency to be the one that would assist us on the infrastructure, especially on the sanitation that you will see on this document. We have since finalised our agreement with Mvula Trust. As I speak, the Mvula Trust is on the advert for the infrastructure of building of schools. Also, they have just released the advert on the fencing of the schools, of which the list will be supplied.

We have also finalised our agreement with the IDT. I have already indicated that there are schools that have been allocated to IDT. We have also finalised our MOU with the DBSA (Development Bank of South Africa). I can confirm that I have sat down with the IDT and the DBSA officials and talked. I have indicated in another forum that the area which they are not performing well in has been effected on our MOUs. We have since also submitted plans, which are at an advanced stage, to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, which is also the implementing agent for our infrastructure. Internally, the Department of Education has got the infrastructure department, which is also part of what we have done collectively as a department and all the implementing agents has been resolved through the assistance of the Treasury. It has been resolved that we advertise for the panels so that when there is an emergency or a need to build schools, we can be able to go to the panels. Inclusive of the Department of Education, we have all advertised for panels for three years so that we should not come back to this House and say our adverts are taking long. I just want to say that is the plan that we have.

We have also taken note of the mobile classrooms that have not yet arrived at the schools. Part of what we have done now as we plan to make sure that our children have got seating areas for the exams in October and November before they close their schools, is to come up with a list to verify the merging of schools and the infrastructure list vis-a'-vis the mobile classrooms that need to be taken on board. As we responded to the committee, we have since on the reports that have been submitted attached Annexure A up to Annexure H, which then explains and gives reasons. Amongst those there are two or three petitions that have been closed by ourselves and the committee.

I need to also indicate that on the plans for the merging of schools, as the chairperson of the petitions committee has raised, for this year we have not signed the schools that have to be merged because we are checking which school we are taking the children to, whether we still need to build infrastructure or to evaluate, because the merging of schools talks to infrastructure and also the issues of scholar transport.

Hon Speaker, as I close, I also want to say to the House that we have embarked on a process, as a department, of meeting with the district directors, the circuit managers and the principals where we would be reflecting on the pass rate. Like the honourable chair of the committee indicated, you would have a principal that does not even raise a finger to bring cleanliness in the yard of a school with proper infrastructure, and not passing, yet they want to say because the department is not cleaning the yard, the infrastructure is dilapidating. In our meetings with the principals, we are going to be very clear. I started this morning to say where a principal does not even raise a finger to deal with the issues that they have been employed for, next year we will be talking consequence management because those are the issues that are making our infrastructure to continue to dilapidate. When they have got buildings, they don't take care of them.

Therefore, as a department we are supposed to move to other areas where there are no buildings. So those are the issues, honourable chair of the petitions committee and the Members of the House that we will be looking at. Just assist us to deal with the issues of the budget. Those are the responses. We have submitted Annexure A to Annexure H, and on the other schools there is Annexure J and I that we have also submitted to the committee to note the progress that we have made with our implementing agents.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC. The MEC for Public Works, please take the podium.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the ruling party and the Deputy Chief Whip, leaders of opposition parties, chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions and honourable Members, greetings to you all. Let me take this opportunity and appreciate the opportunity presented to me by this august House to respond to the remarks and comments made by fellow honourable Members in this House.

The work of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions is a true test of democracy and to the extent to which the Legislature can ensure that government remains answerable to the people. This is done by maintaining constant oversight of government's actions. In relation to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, we have seen the committee conducting oversight visits in the affected district where 24 petitioners raised concerns mainly on the lack of provision of road infrastructure.

Having listened to honourable Members who took to the podium before me and spoke about this matter, we all agree that although there are positive strides that are being made by the ANC-led government in the infrastructure development, particularly providing improved road network, there is still more that needs to be done. The province's road network consists of about 21 000 km, and of this, a total number of 6 263 km is paved or tarred. This then means that we have a backlog of 13 800 km. Some of the communities

and organisations that have petitioned the department are also affected by the backlog, as I have already alluded to.

Roads Agency Limpopo requires R130 billion to upgrade 13 800 km of a backlog. The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure fully understands and acknowledges that it is a constitutional right of every citizen to raise service delivery concerns as enshrined in the Constitution, which gives the right to everyone to present petitions to the provincial Legislature. The petitions clearly articulated the nature of the complaints and prescribed the intervention or assistance sought. Let me also take note of the unavailability of the departments in various petitions hearings as alluded to by the chairperson, and we are committing to improve on that aspect.

Allow me to give a brief update on some of the grey areas of service delivery that are receiving the full attention of the department and through our entity, RAL. These are matters that relate to service delivery which concern the department and RAL as well. Without necessarily mentioning the 24 petitioners whose roads are in dire state and need the department's immediate intervention, there is a total number of 197 km that needs to be tarred, as indicated in the report. In order for this to be realised, RAL needs at least R1,9 billion to do the road upgrade.

The painful truth is that this current financial year, we are unable to commit in this House that we will be able to upgrade all these roads, due to budgetary constraints. We also want to indicate that as a temporary measure, we intend to have some of these roads bladed to enable easy access. The other challenge is that most of our yellow fleet vehicles that are supposed to be grading the roads have aged and they experience constant breakdowns. I must also indicate that are having some discussions the Provincial Treasury. They are definitely going to assist us to make sure that we acquire yellow fleet for all our cost centres. Although we will do it in an MTEF period. Before I descend the podium, I would also like to take this opportunity to update the House that it this work in progress with Operation Thiba Mekoti Ditseleng which has been launched, and it is well underway in all five of our districts in the province.

This programme is targeting 180 000 m² of potholes to be fixed, and RAL is also on board rehabilitating roads that have been depleted or that have finished their life span. This is an indication that we have a listening government, which responds to the outcry of motorists and road users in general. I think on the listening ear, Hon Maharaj can agree with me.

Thank you so much. He is nodding. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

Hon Chief Whip, you may take the podium.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO THE NCOP PLENARIES (Motion without Notice)

Section 61(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa read together with House Rule 226(3) of the Standing Rules of and Orders the House provides for the designation and appointment of special delegates as required from time to time. In line with these provisions, the House resolved to appoint the following honourable Members to attend NCOP plenaries as follows:

- 08 September 2020: Debate on “The Restoration and Modernisation of Rail Infrastructure in South Africa”: Hon M R Seono, Hon N M Lekganyane and Hon C B D Selane; and
- 15 September 2022: Debate on “Local Government Week”: Hon K M Lebea, Hon F P Mdaka and Hon F J Maseko.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolves to ratify the appointment of the abovementioned 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 Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Makhurupetje, stand to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

9. DRAFT RESOLUTION

Hon Chief Whip, you may take the podium.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby move that when this House rises today, it will sit again on Tuesday, 04 October 2022 at 10:00 as the House will be going on recess.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Chief Whip.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? Deputy Speaker, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The first announcement is that from today, the House will rise to give opportunity to committees to go and do their work so that when the reports come back, the House can be able to process them. The first week, from 12 to 16 September 2022 will be a full recess for the House and the committees. The week from 19 to 23 September is dedicated to committees to generate their work. In the third week, i.e., from 26 to 30 September 2022, we have organised a training workshop for Members of the Provincial Legislature, which means it includes Members of the Executive Council. That workshop is per request. We have obliged, and the workshop will be focusing on several areas. One of the areas will be the rules because there seems to be Members who feel that we need to review the rules.

We are giving the opportunity to each and every Member here that if there are any areas that you feel we need to improve in the rules, please submit them. We have said they should be submitted through the whips of various political parties. If Members feel that there are areas that need to be improved, that workshop will be dealing with the rules and areas that Members feel we should improve. There are going to be other elements of the workshop, which include public speaking, speech writing and areas that were left unattended when we were in Karibu last time.

Having said that, lunch is served in the Committees Boardroom. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

The House is adjourned, as it has been indicated, to Tuesday, 04 October 2022 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may 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? Hon Matibe, you are recognised.

MR MATIBE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

**DISMAY OVER PATIENT GIVING BIRTH AT THE GATES OF A CLINIC IN
BURGERSFORT AND CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO SISTER TSHILOLO
MPHAPHULI FOR HELPING PREGNANT WOMAN DELIVER QUADRUPLTS AT
MASISI CLINIC**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC to express our regret and dismay regarding an incident where a woman gave birth at the gate of Burgersfort Clinic in the Sekhukhune District. The alleged incident occurred while the patient was waiting for the clinic to open at 7:00 am. There is video evidence of a nurse attending to the patient who had already given birth, apparently within five minutes of arrival, meaning that the patient was already fully dilated.

Burgersfort Clinic used to operate on a 24-hour basis, but unfortunately due to the high level of crime targeting healthcare workers during nightshift, the department decided to translate it into a day clinic to maximise the safety of the staff.

The ANC welcomes the investigation team appointed by the MEC of Health. We are confident that the team will expedite the process and bring this matter to finality as soon as possible.

On a more positive note, the ANC congratulates Sister Tshililo Mphaphuli, who helped a pregnant woman to give birth to not only one, but four babies at Masisi Clinic. Although the woman arrived at the clinic when it had already closed for the day, Sister Tshililo Mphaphuli, in an act of humanity and compassion, opened the clinic to help deliver the quadruplets. We greatly congratulate the midwife and express our fondest salutation for going beyond the call of duty to ensure the seamless delivery of lives in our facilities.

It is also worth noting that the delivery of quadruplets is a function of a central hospital. In this case, Sister Tshililo Mphaphuli risked her career to deliver quadruplets in the rural, far-flung village of Masisi. She knew and appreciated the risks but went ahead to defy the odds in helping the desperate pregnant woman.

In the same vein, we call upon our facilities to copy this exemplary dedication to ensure security of care in all the clinics and hospitals in the province. We encourage our pregnant women across the length and breadth of our province to attend antenatal care appointments to minimise risks during pregnancy.

The ANC applauds the commitment from the Limpopo MEC of Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to help Sister Tshililo Mphaphuli to further her studies and hone her professional skills.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matibe. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Mokaba, you are recognised.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I second the motion as presented by Hon Matibe.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Mohlala, you are recognised

MR MOHLALA

Greetings, Speaker.

CALL FOR THE FORMALISATION OF EXTENSION 10 SQUATTER CAMP IN BURGERSFORT

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that this House notes that the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) in Limpopo is calling for the formalisation of Extension 10 squatter camp in Burgersfort, so that the residents of that area can receive all the basic services from the current, less caring ANC-led government.

The squatter camp has been in existence for more than 20 years and due to poor development crime is rife as there are a lack of streetlights, and access roads to enable the police and ambulances to go into the area. Drug trafficking and the rape of young girls and elderly women are but some of the related crimes experienced in this area.

Residents' living conditions are dire owing to the ANC-led government's failure to develop the area, provide roads, water, and sanitation. We are also aware that the mobile toilets, which they have rented for the people of Extension 10 during the previous Mayor's term, were stolen by the current ward councillor of the ANC, Mr Themba Ngwatle, and he is using it to get government tenders across the municipality.

The municipality must urgently deliver water and toilets to the people of Extension 10 informal settlement.

Lastly, we urge the Department of Health in the province to heed to the call of the people of Extension 10, to open the Burgersfort Clinic 24-hours a day. This is the clinic where a mother delivered a baby unassisted outside the gate. Soon enough, the tendencies of neglecting our people will end abruptly. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mohlala!

MR MOHLALA

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Do we have a seconder to the first part of the motion? We are excluding the last part about the Burgersfort Clinic since it was put forward already. Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Regina Mphahlele, stand to second the motion as presented.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Mokaba, you are recognised.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members, good morning.

**MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THAPELO MOLOMO FOR PUTTING LIMPOPO ON
THE MAP IN THIS YEAR'S IDOLS COMPETITION**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise in this House to encourage the people of Limpopo to support Thapelo Molomo, as he continues to ride the crest wave of success at this year's Idols competition. Thapelo Molomo is the current singing sensation from the Limpopo province, and he is making waves at the 18th edition of the Idols competition, because of his talent.

We are therefore calling upon the people of this province to rally behind this young man and vote for him in large numbers to ensure that he makes it to the pinnacle of this competition.

To vote for Thapelo, please send an SMS, with the number '2', to 37100, or go to the Idols 2022 competition website.

We wish him all the best and we want to assure him of our fervent support as he chants Idols towards glory. Honourable Members, Thapelo is currently number 2 in the competition, and you are urged to SMS and vote for him.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Do we have a seconder to the motion? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as read by Hon Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice? It seems as if we are done with the motions.

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 199? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

DIRE STATE OF MOGALAKWENA MUNICIPALITY AND ITS FINANCES
(Members' Statement)

The state of Mogalakwena Municipality and its finances are reminiscent of a mafia novel complete with murder, extortion, intimidation, and a hotbed of corruption. The synopsis of unwanted expenditure since 2019 is as follows:

- 2019/20 – R78 million in unauthorised expenditure;
- 2020/21 – R3,5 billion in unauthorised expenditure;
- 2019/20 – R2,295 billion in irregular expenditure;
- 2020/21 – R2,537 billion in irregular expenditure;
- 2019/20 – R42,5 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure; and
- 2020/21 – R26,12 million in fruitless, and wasteful expenditure.

This compromised municipality had unfunded budgets for the past five years. Thirty-five percent of its staff is unskilled with no plans to complete a skills audit. There are 132 litigations pending with R9,7 million already paid towards legal costs.

MPAC has not considered any of the irregular expenditures, and a security company is paid on a month-to-month basis without a contract in place, even whilst under administration, for the last five years.

Honourable MEC, what are the reasons for the withdrawal of Section 139 during June 2022, and the subsequent replacement by Section 154?

It is clear that the Administrator has failed the residents of Mogalakwena. Will the Administrator and the provincial team be held accountable for the unwanted financial expenditure during this term, and who has really failed the people of Mogalakwena?

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Are there any other Members' Statements? Hon Mohlala, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE SHORTAGE OF MEDICATION AT MAHWELERENG CLINIC

(Members' Statement)

The EFF in Limpopo is concerned about the shortage of medication for chronic patients at Mahwelereng Clinic in Mokopane. The department has returned more than R570 million to National Treasury, while service delivery is deteriorating, with no supply of medication to clinics, which as a result violates the patients' right to access healthcare services. Most primary healthcare facilities in Limpopo, if not all, have collapsed and do not operate 24/7. It appears as if the MEC of Health in the province is not even prepared to resolve this matter.

It is a cause for concern that Mahwelereng Clinic is administered by a group of clumsy officials who are unable to pack patients' files accordingly, contributing immensely to the issue of long queues. Old people wake up early in the morning to be first in the queue, but they stand there until late in the day without getting the necessary attention, only to be told that there is no medication.

The ANC-led government is not ready to attend to the problems faced by older persons in the clinics and it is getting worse every day. These problems are persisting simply because there is no political will to address them, as the populist MEC of Health, Phophi Ramathuba, does not use public clinics because she does not believe in the system she is presiding over.

It is only during elections when the ANC leaders will go all out and deceive our people about bringing better healthcare services, but after gaining power, they forget about the needs of the people.

The EFF calls on the community of Mokopane to use the bad treatment and service delivery mess by the ANC-led government as reference for voting the ANC out of power in 2024. Our people need service delivery in clinics on a 24/7 days a week basis and this can only be realised under the EFF-led government.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any other Members' Statements? Can I enquire from the Members of the Executive Council if there is any response? Hon Makamu, over to you.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to respond to the Members' Statement by Hon Smalle, which relates to Mogalakwena Municipality. We informed the Legislature when we placed the municipality under Section 139 that our administrators were deployed there for intervention purposes. In terms of the law, after the elections, we are supposed to technically vacate office, because there is a new council in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality. However, since we are a caring provincial government, we extended our

stay until 30 June, when the Executive Council took a decision for us to withdraw and allow the new council an opportunity to take charge. A close-up report was also given to the new council, indicating the issues that are outstanding.

One of those issues is exactly what Hon Smalle alluded to; that Mogalakwena Municipality is amongst the top five in terms of irregular expenditure in the country. On 13 September 2022, there was a meeting between the MEC for Treasury and CoGHSTA, with all the municipalities which are having high irregular expenditures, to develop a provincial ward strategy to deal with these expenditures.

I can assure you that we have developed this strategy, and Mogalakwena is one of the municipalities we are supporting and helping around the issues you have raised, including the procurement of security in that municipality without following due processes. I must indicate that we are withdrawing our support in terms of Section 139, but we are targeting that municipality with support in terms of Section 154 of the Constitution. With this targeted approach, as you know the municipality has just appointed new Section 56 managers, which has been an outstanding matter for long, we will be providing the necessary support as the department, together with Treasury and the Office of the Premier, to make sure that Mogalakwena goes back to its glory days.

With that, I think it will suffice that we are given support and an opportunity by this House to make sure that we support Mogalakwena Municipality, for the purpose of the people, fulfilling their aspirations.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Dr Ramathuba, MEC for Health, you may respond to the above Members' Statement.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of the House, leadership of the opposition in absentia, good morning.

Honourable Members, I would like to get more clarity if I were to give a proper response to the Members' Statement. Firstly, to just say Mahwelereng Clinic; it is not telling me anything. Mahwelereng has two clinics and a mobile clinic. I am not sure which one is being referred to, because there is also a clinic that operates 24-hours a day amongst the two of them. We are in the process of improving the other one. When you look at the radius, in terms of how far apart they are from each other, we do meet the national standards. These two clinics are in the same township and one of them is operational 24-hours a day.

Equally, we have a hospital within the Mahwelereng township. We also have Voortrekker Hospital, at a distance of 8 km, for the same township.

We then have Manyoga Clinic, which we have recently set in motion to operate 24-hours a day. This is about 6 km away from that township. Honourable Members, the resources are limited, therefore, allow us to spend resources wisely and try to kick-start clinics such as those in the Masisi area, which is about 300 km from where we are, enabling them to operate 24-hours a day. They are very far from the others, and patients do not have the option of 24-hours access to services. We cannot be seen, as honourable Members, focussing on one area where the radius is not far apart, and not on the others.

Currently we do have a clinic in Mahwelereng that is operating on a 24-hour basis, which means that we do have healthcare services for the people of Mahwelereng. In terms of the shortages of medication, Mahwelereng Clinic and other clinics which experienced these shortages, were only having trouble in dispensing Gastrolyte, which is as a result of the current war between Ukraine and Russia. This had an impact on the raw materials needed for the manufacturing of this particular drug.

We are fully aware of what we are doing. There are also alternatives. What we need to understand is that nurses differ in terms of skills and capacity. One professional nurse will know that if they are running short of item X, your nursing college taught you to have an alternative, referred to as item Y. If you are not sure about an alternative, you can call the pharmacist or the doctor for advice.

However, we still have a challenge with some professional nurses. Instead of seeking advice from other professionals, they will tell the patient that there is no medication. Therefore, as we speak, we do not have any crisis in a shortage of medication at our clinics, because we do have alternative medication available.

On the issue around what health facility I use, and I feel you are being personal honourable Member, I dare you to provide evidence if you have seen me being admitted to a private hospital. When I am sick, I use my own system. I make use of Pietersburg Hospital, which is close to me, and when I was working in Mokopane, practising as a doctor, I used Voortrekker Hospital. Therefore, honourable Member, if you are making use of private hospitals, I make use of my own system, because I have trust in my system. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 200? 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 Election of the Deputy Speaker

Honourable Members, the Office of the Speaker received a resignation from Hon Azwindini Dingaane Jeremiah Ndou, as the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature with effect from 20 October 2022.

The resignation has created a vacancy which led us to put it on the Order Paper as Election of the Deputy Speaker.

The House will now proceed with the election of one of its Members as the Deputy Speaker. Honourable Members, I would like to remind you that the nominations have to be submitted in a prescribed manner, and that in terms of Part A of Schedule 3 of the Constitution, a debate may not be allowed.

I now call for nominations of candidates for election as Deputy Speaker. Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, and good morning to all honourable Members. Rule 9 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature, read together with Schedule 03 of Part A of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, provides procedures for the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

Accordingly, I, Mmanoko Essob Mokgonyana, move to nominate Hon Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin, (ID No: 691119 5085 08 1), as a candidate for the position of Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature.

The nomination of Hon Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin was necessitated by the resignation of Hon Ndou A J D as the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party. Do we have any seconder to the motion? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second the motion by the Hon Chief Whip, for the nomination of the candidate, Hon Matibe, as Deputy Speaker. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Do we have any other nominations? There seems to be none. The parties should make their nominations and submit them to the Returning Officer, our Secretary. After the nomination, the nomination form should be submitted to the Secretary of the institution. Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. I just want to give some advice in terms of the process, that as much as there is that humanity of the nomination of the Deputy Speaker, the person who has been proposed must accept that nomination.

THE SPEAKER

Advice taken, honourable Member. I am awaiting the form to see who is nominated, so I can proceed with the process. May I get the nomination form and see the names of the nominees please? The Secretary did not receive any form, Hon Chief Whip.

The Returning Officer reported to the Speaker that he is satisfied with the identity of every signatory of the nomination form and that it has been completed properly. I will now call upon the nominee to accept the nomination. Hon Matibe, you may respond.

MR MATIBE

Ndi khou livhuwa Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. Ndi khou tangedza.

THE SPEAKER

The honourable Member will then sign the nomination form. Thank you very much, honourable Members. I declare the nominated candidate, Hon Matibe, duly elected as the Deputy Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, I will request the two Members to conduct the Deputy Speaker to his seat.

Thank you very much, honourable Members. I will now call upon the representatives of parties represented in the House to congratulate the newly elected Deputy Speaker. Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, you will be first.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members, you would agree with me that today is no ordinary day. As we are here, ushering in the new Deputy Speaker, allow me to narrate on the emotive journey that we have traversed with the outgoing Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou.

Today we are bidding farewell to one of the liberation struggle's finest sons. A man who dedicated his life to serving the people of this country. Honourable Members, we have seen the best of days with this leader, and I have also seen the worst. Yet, at all material

times, Cde Jerry has demonstrated himself to be an outstanding and distinguished leader who had put the interest of the people of this country ahead of his own.

To Cde Jerry, as you vacate this office, remember that this institution will always hold you in high regard. Your teachings and leadership style will remain a fountain of wisdom that we will always tap into. We are confident that in this new trajectory that you are about to embark on, you will keep on being the beacon of light, and shine the ANC stars at all material times.

The same also goes to Cde Dickson Namane Masemola, who will also be exiting this august House to take up a deployment at the National Council of Provinces. A well traversed leader of the movement, community leader par excellence. We all wish you the best days ahead and we are confident that you will continue to represent the ANC well in any job you are tasked with.

Honourable Members, with this sad departure, the ANC has conducted a diligent search within its pool of skills and capacity amongst its members, and have chosen Hon Tshitereke Matibe, another well traversed leader of the organisation to take over as the Deputy Speaker of this House.

As we welcome the new Deputy Speaker, we are confident that Cde Matibe's many years of experience in political administration will come in handy in his new role. We wish him all the best and we know that in him the ANC has chosen a well-rounded leader who will ensure that the legislative arm of the provincial government will continue to discharge its democratic mandate playing oversight over the Executive.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any other congratulatory remarks? Hon Mohlala, you may proceed.

MR MOHLALA

Greetings. I stand here on behalf of the EFF to congratulate the duly elected Deputy Speaker, with the hope that we will get a better and clearer vision through his guidance in portfolios that he is expected to assist us in.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Smalle, you may proceed.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, let me first give thanks to the outgoing Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou, for his commitment and time towards the office that he served.

To the newly appointed Deputy Speaker, we would like to offer our support as a party in your role as the Deputy Speaker. We would also like to remind you that you are guided by the Constitution and the rules of this House to execute fairness when you make your judgments and allow for our democratic principles to be followed in this House when we do differ in viewpoints from a political spectrum. Nonetheless, always, to stand up for the citizens of Limpopo province.

We would also like to recommend that issues that are distributed to Members in parties are done fairly and equally. This would relate to issues that you would be dealing with directly in your internal arrangements, such as how we support Members when they go on trips and the support offered in the furthering of studies. Please stand up for Members.

I would like to make an example of what I am alluding to. Many of the Members in this House went for a year of study, only to be notified that it was worthless. I am referring to the time when we went on a study course at Wits University. At the end of the day, I would like you to make sure that before Members of this House engage in such expenditure, those expenditures are not fruitless and wasteful, not only towards this House, but to the Members as well.

All my best to you and the ANC in this regard. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, a word from you?

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of opposition parties, Members of the House, and guests, I greet you. We want to thank the outgoing Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou, for his service in this House. We want to thank Hon Ndou for the scrupulous manner in which he treated the honourable Members of this House. We wish him all the best in his new position at the NCOP.

We would also like to welcome the new Deputy Speaker, and it is our wish that you would serve the House with dignity. We, as the Freedom Front Plus, are looking forward to working with you in the future and are of the opinion that you will always respect and do what is best for the people of the province.

In the same breadth, I would also like to thank the Health MEC, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for assisting me last night. I know I am out of order but pardon me, Hon Speaker. I would just like to thank Dr Ramathuba for what she did last night. I really appreciate it and it is always good if we can work together in helping our people.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Thank you once more to all parties for your congratulatory remarks. We shall now call upon the new Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe, to respond to the congratulatory messages.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The Leader of Government Business, Members of the Executive, the Chief Whip of the House, leaders of the political parties represented here, Members of the Legislature, officials, and guests in the gallery, good morning.

Thank you for your participation in my election as the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature. I feel honoured to be afforded this opportunity to be the Deputy Speaker of this honourable House. It is indeed an opportunity that I will treasure. Thank you so much to all Members for demonstrating your confidence in my ability to be the Deputy Speaker of the House. I acknowledge and appreciate all parties in this House for ensuring that there is participatory democracy in the House.

Honourable Members, I have accepted this enormous task fully aware of the responsibility that I have to execute. It will not be easy, but with your support, I will be equal to the task. I therefore commit myself to work closely with all political parties represented in this House in ensuring that our constitutional mandate as an institution is executed effectively. I pledge to comply fully with our Constitution and Rules of this House in executing my responsibility as the Deputy Speaker.

I will consult with the Presiding Officer and all relevant structures within the Legislature in ensuring that there is order in the House and to ensure that there is efficient and effective functioning of the Legislature. To maintain order in the House and for the Legislature to be efficient and effective, there is a need for support and cooperation from all Members of this House. I therefore my call on all Members of this House to work together in upholding the decorum and dignity of the House. We should always observe and respect the Constitution, Rules of the House and any other relevant legislation that govern our operations. I therefore fully commit that I will act fairly, impartially and apply the rules in ensuring that there is stability within the institution and effective participation of all Members of this House in a manner that is consistent with our democracy.

Once more, thank you so much for showing confidence in me. I thank you. Ndo livhuwa nga maanda.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. We have completed the first part of the Orders of the Day.

7.2 Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

We shall now call upon the committee chairperson to table the report.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption by this august House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Do we have any seconder? Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Caroline Mahasela, second the report as tabled by Hon Seono. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List, and we invite our first speaker, Hon Mphahlele, to open the debate.

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive, Members of this august House, and guests in the gallery, good morning.

Hon Speaker, the conditions we as the EFF found at Mahwelereng Police Station are shocking. The building is dilapidated, and its structure may be blown away by the wind at any time. It requires immediate renovation. The furniture is old and not user-friendly to provide good service to the community.

Working conditions are also not good as the station is having only one vehicle to service the community of Mahwelereng. Forty-eight vehicles which were given to the station are not in a good working condition and might break down at any time. This can be attributed to the lack of technicians to service these vehicles.

The holding cells are also not good enough to detain the criminals. There is no fence at the back of the police station, hence they experience prisoners escaping frequently.

Hon Speaker, there is still no monitor at the testing station of the Bela-Bela driving and licensing traffic centre. There are no e-NaTis terminals and therefore patrons are compelled to go to the nearby stations or post offices for assistance.

There are also only four cashiers for registration and licensing functions. This multitasking is hampering service delivery. There are also insufficient ablution facilities to cater for the public.

Hon Speaker, the shortage of staff is also a problem. The lack of space and non-functional generators are also creating problems especially during load-shedding. There is also a need for proper and adequate sanitation facilities at the centre to accommodate members of the public.

Hon Speaker, the government garages lack sufficient technicians to service the SAPS cars. These cars remain at the garage for long because it takes a very long time to be serviced. This also hampers the service delivery to our communities, and the lack of sufficient mechanical support staff leads to parts being stolen at the SAPS garages.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Transport and Community Service has a mandate to provide safe, efficient, accessible, and reliable transport infrastructure and systems throughout the province to ensure social development and economic growth. The department must further ensure that the people of Limpopo participate in activities that bring better economic conditions. Moreover, the department must improve public transport, road safety, freight logistics and intermodal gateways.

Hon Speaker, given the above, our roads are neither safe nor user-friendly in the province, especially in the townships. Municipalities are not doing enough to maintain them. When coming to transport, there are subsidies given to the transport owners, but these modes of transport are often broken, leading to the frustration of commuters, especially those relying on public transportation to go to work.

As the EFF, we call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to look into the situation at the SAPS and the Traffic Department to improve their conditions and ensure that the roads are user-friendly.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Phala, you are the next speaker on the list.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety undertook oversight visits to the Waterberg District in fulfilling its oversight mandate over the department. During that time, the current honourable MEC formed part of the committee, therefore, what we are debating here, she saw with her own eyes and heard with her own ears. We shared appreciation as well as frustration, as we discussed this report and many of its recommendations alongside the current MEC.

Hon Speaker, the lack of an entrance from the N1 into the Polokwane weighbridge sadly allows drivers to pass without trucks being weighed, leading to an urgent need for traffic officers to always be available on the N1 to redirect them to the weighing bridge. It was indicated that if the weighbridge had an entrance on the N1, it would probably weigh between 380 and 500 trucks daily.

On Mahwelereng Police Station, DNA backlogs hampered investigations and the completion of cases. The station is understaffed, and there were not sufficient vehicles to respond promptly to services needed by communities, given the vast area over which the

station must operate. There was no fencing at the back of the station and the SAPS 13 storage fencing also needed repairs.

On Mookgophong Police Station, DNA results took long to be finalised and forwarded to the station. There was need for a district surgeon to assist the station. A shortage of members and vehicles was observed as well as a non-functional generator.

A few of the many recommendations for police stations were as follows:

- The department should liaise with various municipalities to ensure that there is adequate provision/supply of water in all police stations.
- They must provide feedback on the forensic laboratories regarding outstanding DNA results and a progress report should be given to the Legislature.
- On the SAPS garages, the SAPS should develop retention strategies for mechanical and artisanry support skills to curb staff turnover and mechanical related strains experienced at the garage.
- Internship programmes at police garages should be introduced to assist with minor vehicle repairs.
- On DTLC, there is a need for a functional, standby generator to guard against load-shedding at all stations.
- The department should find ways to add additional offices and proper storage rooms for archiving purposes.
- Progress should be reported on the outcome of the corruption case against a traffic officer, including a comprehensive report on challenges experienced at the Bela-Bela DTLC centre.
- There is also a need for shades at the Mantsole weighbridge as officers are exposed to excessive heat, especially during hot seasons.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. We shall now invite Hon Seono, the committee chair, to roundup the discussion.

MS SEONO

Hon Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, the Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, honourable Members of the Executive Committee, the Chief Whip of the majority party, honourable Members of the Legislature, and our guests, I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, let me start by reviewing my thoughts. Hon Mphahlele will always off-ramp when we debate because she rarely attends oversight visits. In her apology, she will always indicate that her absence is due to her being occupied with organisational work. I think she has attended only two oversight visits.

The same goes for Hon Maritz, who is always out of the province when we are doing oversight visits and reports. Hence, Hon Speaker, I fail to understand how Hon Mphahlele could so clearly indicate that she found only one vehicle in working order at the police station. When did you go there and found only one vehicle? Yes, there is a shortage, but there is not only one vehicle.

Nonetheless, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature once again. Cde Matibe was a member of this portfolio committee before assuming other equally important responsibilities in the Portfolio Committee on Health and now as the Deputy Speaker in this august House. For the record, he was always attending oversight visits.

We also heartily congratulate Hon Florence Radzilani and Hon Nakedi Sibanda, also former members of this portfolio committee, with their appointments as Members of the Executive Council, as MECs for Transport and Community Safety and Sport, Arts and Culture respectively. As a committee, we have been robbed of your leadership, guidance, support, and counsel. We are however elated that your work was not in vain. Congratulations once more and good luck in your new responsibilities.

Honourable Members, this House convenes just a few days after President Cyril Ramaphosa responded to the recommendations of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into allegations of state capture, corruption, and fraud. Most of the recommendations are directed to the law enforcement agencies for further investigation and possible prosecution. Those recommendations are relevant to the work of this portfolio committee.

Sadly, like other institutions, law enforcement agencies and security services were infiltrated, weakened, and subverted in order to shield and sustain illicit activities, avoid accountability, and disempower opponents and whistle-blowers. We therefore commit to continue to be at the centre of all efforts to rid our country of the abuse of power, greed, and selfishness entrenched among the leadership of our public institutions, within our business community, among public representatives and public servants.

Fortunately, most of the findings of the commission have been confirmed during the oversight visit conducted by this committee in the Waterberg District. Key amongst those were the lack of adequate resources like vehicles and personnel at various police stations and in the district, especially the Mahwelereng Police Station, Driving and Licensing Traffic Centres (DLTC), and weighbridges, thereby weakening these institutions.

The problems are compounded by poor turnaround time by the government garage and the department to repair vehicles and to fill vacant posts due to red tape. This challenge was acknowledged by the President during the 2022 State of the Nation Address when

he conceded that there were too many regulations in this country that are unduly complicated, costly, and difficult to comply with.

Hon Speaker, to this end the President established a team in his office to cut the red tape across government. We must cut the red tape with regard to vehicle maintenance and repairs. As things stand, the only service provider appointed to render vehicle maintenance and services within the SAPS is based in Gauteng. We urge the leadership of government to engage with their counterpart at national level to devolve certain functions to provinces and police stations to address this problem. The same should apply with regard to the filling of posts within the service and the department in general.

Special attention should be paid to the challenge of the lack of adequate capacity at the Bela-Bela Police Station because of its strategic location. Bela-Bela is a tourist destination with over 3 million tourists visiting the area annually. This is critical for revenue generation and the creation of employment as well as the retention among the youth of our province. Road traffic management and licensing also requires capacitation in terms of vehicles and filling of vacant posts. This function is also important in terms of revenue generation that the province so urgently needs.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, also affected by the red tape is the issue of DNA samples that are critical for the conviction of alleged perpetrators of various crimes especially gender-based violence and femicide. The lack of DNA results leads to the withdrawal of serious cases against alleged perpetrators, resulting in diminished confidence and trust in our criminal justice system by the broader community.

At the centre of our efforts to fight this scourge is the continuous and proactive implementation of the ANC 2019 Election Manifesto with regard to the scaling up of the Thuthuzela Care Centres and other victim empowerment centres and initiatives that are there in various police stations.

Honourable Members, as we attend to all of the above, we must ensure that we address the perceived skewed allocation of resources in the police stations in the Waterberg District. Police stations in Mookgopong and Bela-Bela are relatively resourced compared to Mahwelereng Police Station, which services a larger area than the other two. At the same time, we must encourage resources and expertise sharing among these stations.

We take this opportunity to thank the hard-working members of the SAPS and the Department of Transport and Community Safety for their sterling work to keep our people safe and secure. They are executing their duties despite the acute shortage of resources. Some of them are conducting highly dangerous operations using unmarked cars and therefore risking their lives.

We also thank the leadership of the department for the dedication and wisdom with which they are leading. We must also extend a hand of gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Community Policing Forums, Community Safety Forums, Neighbourhood Watch, and the farming communities for their sterling work in crime reporting and prevention. The ANC 2019 Election Manifesto enjoins the ANC and the broader communities to know their neighbours and be concerned about their lives.

We must heed to the clarion call made by President Ramaphosa to mobilise all sectors of our society against fraud, corruption, and state capture now and in the future,

I thank you, Hon Speaker, and honourable Members.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono, the committee chair. We shall now call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Radzilani, to respond to the observations.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; our newly elected Deputy Speaker, Hon Baldwin Tshitereke Matibe; the Hon Chief Whip of this august House; Members of the Executive Council; chairpersons of portfolio committees, and all members of this august House. Good afternoon.

Hon Speaker, let me join other honourable Members in congratulating our newly elected Deputy Speaker, Hon Baldwin Tshitereke Matibe. We are indeed confident that your appointment in this House will add value as we continue to carry the mandate of our people who voted the ANC into power.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the inputs and observations made by honourable Members during their oversight visits to our facilities within the department. We have taken note of all the inputs, and we are working around the clock, as the department, to ensure that we address all the gaps that have been identified. We commit to this august House that all the areas of concern will be addressed as a matter of urgency.

We are currently in a colossal recruitment drive, which is aimed at filling all the funded vacancies in all our facilities and offices throughout the province.

Hon Speaker, when I joined the department, I had found that my predecessor, Hon Polly Boshielo, was already responding to a number of challenges hindering the performance of the department such as the recruitment to fill vacant positions. This will address all the challenges resulting from the lack of personnel. We will be procuring additional cars to add to the current fleet, as part of our stakeholders' engagement initiative.

We will be liaising with the leadership of the SAPS at provincial level to devise some intervention mechanisms in most of our police stations. Our biggest challenge at our government garages is the shortage of staff, which is a consequence of natural attrition amongst employees. Most of our personnel at these facilities are at a pensionable age and are therefore optimistic that this current recruitment drive will address issues such as these.

We welcome and have taken note of all the concerns raised by honourable Members. We will attempt to provide detailed responses on all issues that have been raised. It remains

the goal of this government to make timeous interventions in the interest of providing decent services to our people.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC, for the response.

8. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

Honourable Members, Q0306 and 11/2022, which makes provision for the written reply by the MEC of Sport, Arts and Culture have been received and published in the ATC dated 24 October 2022.

We have also received 22 new parliamentary questions. They have been put on the question paper for responses by the Members of the Executive Council.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements to be made, Hon Deputy Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ndo mbo ǃi tou dzhena mushumoni na zwenezwo. Thank you, Hon Speaker. The only announcement is that lunch will be served in the main Committees Boardroom. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Honourable Members, thank you very much.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Sitting is adjourned until further notice in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2022
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now have the opportunity to observe 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. We may proceed with our programme.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**SUSPENSION OF CORRUPT OFFICIALS IN THE MODIMOLLE-MOOKGOPHONG
MUNICIPALITY
(Motion without Notice)**

I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to welcome the suspension of corrupt officials in the Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipality. These officials were involved in an act of graft and corruption, which saw the municipal council forking out an amount of R1,8 million for no work done.

We are pleased that these precautionary measures had finally been instituted despite the DA's continued reluctance to take action against these officials. The accused officials in their desperate plea to retain their positions and continue with the wanton corruption, have even resorted to making idle threats to municipal officials. The ANC does not take these threats lightly and will ensure that legal steps should be taken against these hoodlums.

This shocking entitlement mentality, where officials would be involved in acts of thievery, and when confronted they resort to threats, must be reported to the police. As the ANC, we cannot allow this municipality to degenerate into a mafia state because the DA wants to protect its corrupt officials. The money could have gone a long way, considering that the municipality is faced with heaps of service delivery challenges.

Creating fictitious invoices to steal public funds is an amateurish outdated act, and it demonstrates the DA's sacrilegious attitude towards the poor people of Modimolle-Mookgophong. The ANC in Waterberg will make sure that no stone is left unturned to ensure that these corporate thugs are fully exposed and that they face the wrath of the law.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Donald Selamolela of the ANC, stand to second the motion tabled by Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR RAPHELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

WELCOMING OF THE ARREST OF A CON MAN BY THE EFF
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the House notes that the EFF welcomes the arrest of a Limpopo businessman who appeared in court on Tuesday in connection with a R1,9 million tender scam.

The 43-year old Robin Southon allegedly claimed he was a senior official at a mine and approached a Polokwane-based businessman for a monetary deal. It is further alleged that the accused proposed a business partnership and promised to award him a tender worth R11 million at the mine, which turned out to be a scam.

The said tender was for installing new pipes and drilling new boreholes for the community, but this was a scam.

The businessman was asked to pay R1,9 million for the tender, which was allegedly paid to the accused.

A case was opened with the Hawks' Serious Commercial Crime Investigation team, and it was discovered that the accused was not employed by the mine. The accused is part of a syndicate that goes around promising people in exchange for money.

Southon appeared in the Polokwane Specialised Commercial Crimes Court on Tuesday where he was released on R10 000 bail.

Criminal elements must be completely flushed out, and there must be zero tolerance to criminality by both the community members and law enforcement authorities.

Limpopo cannot be reduced to the status of the home for criminals; we are generally a peaceful province, and the status quo must remain.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa, Mulangadzulo. Nne, Managa Lilian, u bva kha lihora lihanedzi la tshiofisi fhano kha Buthano la Vhusimamilayo la Limpopo, ndi ima na madzinginywa e Vho Raphela vha da nao kha ino Nndu. Aa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other motion without notice?

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146?

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements? Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised. Honourable Members, if you want to say something, may you please raise your hands?

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to honourable Members and members in the gallery. Good morning.

UNDERRESOURCED APEL POLICE STATION (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) in Limpopo has learnt with shock and disbelief that the Apel Police Station based at GaNchabeleng village in Apel is underresourced. The worst part is that it does not operate for 24-hours regardless of the rampant crime plaguing the area. The safety of residents is at stake, given that the station operates like a tuck shop, let alone lack of police vans, manpower and police visibility.

Police officers use corrugated mobile offices with little or no privacy for victims of crime. The EFF is deeply concerned about the way the police station in question is being managed because when it opens at 06:00 and closes at 18:00 on a daily basis, residents can't report cases such as rape, robbery, car theft, housebreaking, etc., after those hours.

It is an indisputable fact that policing in Sekhukhune is in crisis, while SAPS and law enforcement agencies are not implementing comprehensive safety and crime prevention programmes. The circumstances around the Apel Police Station demonstrate and expose the PR stunts made by the Minister for Police, Bheki Cele, who launched the toothless and directionless so-called Safer Festive Season Operation campaign in Thohoyandou.

How can SAPS ensure residents safety during festive season while police officers knock off at 18:00 because of fear of criminals? The EFF is dismayed by lack of police personnel and resources such as police vans and satellite police stations in rural areas. This is a serious concern and a major contributor to the prevalence of crime. At this stage, we cannot shy away from the fact that the prevailing conditions on the ground suggest that police officers are mostly to be overwhelmed and overpowered by criminals.

The EFF calls upon the holidaymakers to celebrate their festive season with caution. Most importantly, parents must supervise their children and make sure that they know about their whereabouts and about all the places where they go to at all times. Finally, we call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to investigate this matter and to provide a lasting solution. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other Members' Statements? There are none. Is there any response from the Executive? Hon Makamu, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Premier, fellow MECs in the House and the provincial secretary of the ANC in the gallery.

We are here to respond to the issue of the under-resourced police station in Apel in GaNchabeleng area. You also know that as this government in the province, we are trying our level best to make sure that we provide police services in the province. Not so long the MEC spoke about buying new vehicles to support the area. I think the matter raised about the Apel Police Station in GaNchabeleng will be considered, and we will make sure that we resource the police so that they can be able to fight crime. It was one of our priorities in our election manifesto to fight crime and corruption in the country. Therefore, we are putting resources into dealing with that matter. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 201? MEC, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of this august House, provincial secretary of the ruling party, receive our greetings.

Today, Hon Speaker, 17 November is a significant day for us as a Department of Health as well as the province as a whole. It is a day where the entire world pulls together to show compassion and support for families of children that were born too early. It is a day we remind ourselves of the health and developmental challenges that our precious little ones may face as they grow up. It is also a day where we as the Department of Health regroup, refocus and intensify our existing efforts to improve the quality of our healthcare services for pregnant women and babies born prematurely.

Naturally, we cannot achieve this desire without working hand in glove with all sectors and communities. It is thus befitting that I take full advantage of this platform to raise awareness on the premature birth and the various programmes that our department has embarked on to reduce deaths due to prematurity and improve the quality of life of our precious little heroes. I do so with the hope and trust that this House will join the global community today and going forth in raising awareness on the plight of babies born too soon.

This year's global theme of World Prematurity Day is: "A parent's embrace: a powerful therapy. Enable skin-to-skin contact from the moment of birth." A premature birth occurs, Hon Speaker, more than three weeks before the baby's estimated due date usually before the thirty seventh week of pregnancy. Globally, an estimated 15 million babies, which translate to 1 in 10 babies, are born too early each year. Approximately one million of these babies will not survive. In South Africa 15% of all births or 1 in 7 babies is born prematurely. Premature birth is the leading cause of death in children under the age of 5 worldwide. The department has invested significantly in improving the quality of care for babies born prematurely, and as such reducing fatalities.

Hospitals have been equipped with the necessary equipment, the drugs and supplies to care for the babies born prematurely. All our districts have centres of mother and child excellence. We have now started with district hospitals, e.g., in Capricorn here, Seshego Hospital has got that centre and Nkhensani Hospital in Mopani, in addition to the regional hospital, has got that centre also. We will make sure that all our hospitals do have such centres. Equally important, we have capacitated and continue to do so our doctors and nurses that care for our newborn babies through the Helping Babies Breathe (HBB); Newborn Transition and Neonatal Resuscitation (NTNR); and Management of Sick and Small Newborn (MSSN) training programmes.

We can proudly share the NTNR and MSSN training programmes, which were developed by our paediatricians here in the province together with the midwives, specifically for Limpopo health system. As we speak today, they are now being used in the other

provinces and in some parts of the continent in our region, especially SADC region. Too highly effective and cost-effective method, Hon Speaker, to improve the survival of these babies born too early is the kangaroo mother care or a kangaroo father care. What you see me demonstrating is just not for mothers even fathers are expected to do this and exclusive breastfeeding.

KMC and KFC is a method of holding a baby close to your chest in a manner that allows the skin-to-skin contact. We advocate for all babies to be held skin-to-skin from birth. Skin-to-skin contact helps the babies to bond between you and your new family member. It also has medical benefits, especially for babies that are born prematurely. Let me just remind this august House about the benefits of skin-to-skin. Because the baby is in touch with your skin as a mother or a father, it is kept warm because it takes the temperature from you as a parent. The baby, mom and dad remain calm at all times. You can even hear me today; I will be calm the whole day.

It helps the baby to breathe properly and helps the baby's heartbeat to beat properly. So, the mother or the father is able to assist the baby with their respiratory rate and that of the baby. It also colonises the baby's stomach bacteria with that of the mom so that the baby is protected from illnesses and infections. We know that the digestive systems of babies who are born prematurely are not fully developed.

The baby also cries less, which means that the baby would not be stressed because crying causes stress. The baby will lose energy from crying too much. It also helps the baby to find the breast, and because it is closer to the breast and attached to it, the baby can start feeding. It finally helps the baby or mom and dad to bond and form a special relationship.

Hon Speaker, if a snake comes here, all of us will jump and scream, "Mmawee!" in our own language; but if we start as fathers, you will see in future when the snake comes, we will say, "Daddywee!" Fathers, let us start getting that bond with our babies. We also have a programme to capacitate healthcare professionals. With regard to exclusive breastfeeding, we have now launched two breastmilk banks, i.e., one in Mankweng Hospital and another one in Sekhukhune, Philadelphia Hospital. We are calling upon all mothers to go and donate breastmilk so that the babies born to mothers who cannot breastfeed can benefit.

Hon Speaker, we also strongly plead with all Members of this House to help us to advocate for every single woman. When you miss your period, go to the clinic and test; once you are positive, start to attend antenatal classes in that we will be able to pick up this disease which causes premature babies. Some of these infectious diseases are the causes of premature babies. Conditions such as hypertension and diabetes also cause premature babies, but we can control them if you attend antenatal clinic. Purple, Hon Speaker, in conclusion is the official colour for the World Prematurity Day. Let us wear it today and show support for all the premature babies. That baby who might be born prematurely might be your next director, your next MEC, your next MPL, your next Premier, or your next President. Let us work together to make sure that we support all premature babies, especially the mothers of premature babies who go through lots of stress and who need our support as honourable Members.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC, Dr Ramathuba. Provincial Secretary of the ruling party, you are most welcome. You were not recognised because I did not see you. You and the Premier are most welcome to our Sitting. May I check with the political parties if they have anything to say? Is there any comment? Hon Managa, you may take the floor.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, preterm birth and low birth weight is a major concern associated with perinatal and morbidity rates that are very high. It is very much concerning because it is happening in high-income and low-income countries. Maybe the question might be, what might be wrong with the systems that the sub-Saharan countries are using in healthcare? Is it our health educational or our health promotional programmes that we are using?

Hon Speaker, what happened to those antenatal classes that we used to have previously, wherein our women would be prepared before they went into labour and postnatally? The KMC that the honourable MEC has alluded to is indeed the best care to counteract this mortality rate that is too high to these infants who are born with low birth rate. Are we doing enough to teach our women out there how to promote antenatal classes? Are we doing enough to encourage our males to do what the MEC was demonstrating here? It was a well-prepared presentation that was given by the honourable MEC. The audience, honourable MEC, is out there. Your people need to go out and educate our women, especially those who are in rural areas, about the KMC and about the kangaroo father care so that we should be able to preserve the lives of those MECs, those MPLs and those Premiers that the honourable MEC was talking about. I hope with health education and health educational programmes in obstetrics and gynae department, we will be able to preserve lives of those babies who are born with a very low birth weight. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Are there any further comments? Hon Phala, please take the floor.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We note the ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Phala may you come to the podium please?

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We note the Executive Statement by the honourable MEC, and we indeed join her and the department in raising awareness about the premature births within our province. We further encourage the males or rather the fathers to be present when women are giving birth to experience the feeling that the MEC spoke of, of skin-to-skin contact. We further encourage our pregnant women in the province to visit their clinics to take part in their prenatal visits. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. Honourable Members, we are advised to use the mic on the podium for recording purposes. Are there any further comments? Hon Selamolela, you may take the floor.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; colleagues; friends; our leadership present here; secretary of the African National Congress and the regional secretaries present here; colleagues and compatriots. I want to, on behalf of the ANC, really congratulate the Department of Health on the continuous work they are actually doing in as far as this subject is concerned.

We of the African National Congress, honourable MEC, colleagues and compatriots, since 1992 when we pronounced on the ready to govern document, we have always said at the centre of our governance, the health of our people is the greatest concern and the greatest asset. Hence, ever since the 1994 democratic breakthrough, the health has been a number one priority not only in terms of what we are say, but because we have allocated resources in terms of budgeting. We have always promoted health.

We were, Hon Managa, through the 1992 ready to govern document, the first as the ANC to acknowledge and incorporate in our strategies the resolutions summarising the Ottawa Charter of 1996 [sic] by the United Nations Organisation, particularly the World Health Organization.

It is against this background that we are not surprised, honourable MEC, by the great work that you are doing so far, which is not only limited to the premature babies, but the healthcare system in general. We are very happy as the ANC about the great work that you are doing, and we will continue to acknowledge and congratulate the great endeavours you are doing. The health of our people will remain the apex under which we will continue to put resources to support, to ensure that we deliver. We dare not fail, and we strongly believe that working together, indeed, we will achieve more. We must indeed call upon all men, as you say, honourable MEC, to lend a hand because health as a resource and health as an asset requires all of us to put hands on deck. We congratulate you. Thank you. That is the African National Congress. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, political parties for your comments.

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 First Reading of the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B03-2022] by the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

TABLING OF THE 2022/23 PROVINCIAL ADJUSTMENTS BUDGET

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

Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; Premier of our 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; provincial secretary of the ruling party, Vhamusanda Vho Madadzhe accompanied by the regional secretaries of the Peter Mokaba region, Mr Masete; and Waterberg region, Mr Magoro; ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Madam Speaker, as courage demanding, and as strength drawing was our journey through the active COVID-19 period, our passage through recovery phase likewise requires more aptitude, more balance, more care, and smarter strategies. We need these attributes to ultimately survive the economic ravages of the pandemic and continued stalemate between Russia and Ukraine.

Our provincial economic recovery plans are well on course, and we continue to traverse with utmost diligence to ensure that there are no avalanches triggered by our actions or inactions in our course to find the base. As we navigate towards the base, the Provincial Treasury conducted the Adjustment Budget bilateral meetings with departments and public entities with a view to assessing the budget pressures in departments, and the presentation of this Adjustment Budget today, will seek to address some of those pressures, without losing the balance, thus potentially triggering avalanches.

Hon Premier, the provincial own revenue is anticipated to increase from the baseline of R1,4 billion to R2,1 billion in the year under review, which represents a significant growth of 46,9%. The increase is mainly due to once-off surrender of 2021/22 unspent funds from public entities; Roads Agency Limpopo, Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Tourism Agency, and improved collections of motor vehicle licences, horse racing taxes, interests from favourable bank balances by Transport and Community Safety; Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; and Provincial Treasury.

Our 2023/24 own revenue target is expected to decrease to R1,7 billion or by -21,6% due to the once off surrenders received from public entities in the 2022/23 financial year. However, the revenue targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 will then increase to R1,7 billion and R1,8 billion or by 4% and 5% respectively.

The socioeconomic outlook of the province and nationally makes it essential for provinces to continue to strive to enhance revenue collection. We are also pleased to report to this august House that as a province, we continue to rely on strong infrastructure investment and development to spearhead our economic recovery. For the financial year under review, we are implementing approximately 1 379 infrastructure projects, with an original allocation of R6,8 billion as at 30 September 2022. The overall provincial infrastructure expenditure was at R3,2 billion or 47%, which is a substantial improvement compared to the two previous financial years.

To this effect, our provincial infrastructure budget is proposed to be adjusted upwards from R6,8 billion to R8,3 billion in terms of allocations. This represents an increase of 22,5%, and those adjustments are as follows:

- The Department of Education is adjusted upwards from R1,5 billion to R1,6 billion.
- The Department of Agriculture is adjusted upwards from R180 million to R192 million.
- The Department of Economic Development is adjusted upwards from R27 million to R37 million.
- The Department of Health is adjusted upwards from R759 million to R1 billion.
- The Department of COGHSTA is adjusted upwards from R1,1 billion to R1,4 billion.
- The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is adjusted upwards from R3 billion to R3,8 billion.
- The Department of Transport is adjusted downwards from R57 million to R50 million.
- The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is adjusted downwards from R89 million to R64 million, and
- The Department of Social Development is adjusted downwards from R20 million to R17,6 million.

These adjustments have been made after identifying key projects that are ready for implementation during the 2022/23 financial year. We will continue to review the project implementation through the Technical Committee on Infrastructure to identify blockages and provide appropriate interventions to ensure efficient delivery.

As disheartening as is, we must equally report that the provincial half-yearly expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year is R35,9 billion or 48,3% against the Budget of R74,2 billion which equates to an underspending of 1,7%, on a straight-line basis. However, the province is projecting to overspend by R1,9 billion or 2,6%, which will, in the main, be the departments of Health and Education at R1,2 billion or 5,5% and R518 million or 1,4% respectively.

The projected overexpenditure in Health is because of contractual obligations, whereas in Education is due to both contractual obligations, scholar transport, external examination printing and compensation of employees.

Madam Speaker, during 2022 MTEF allocations, the National Treasury implemented budget cuts that were affecting 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years, and these were implemented as follows:

- R824,8 million and R1,3 billion in 2022/23 and 2023/24 respectively for new data updates due to a decrease in population numbers, i.e., for 2021 allocations;
- R8,5 billion in 2022/23, R5,4 billion in 2023/24 for compensation of employees budget cuts due to public service wage freeze; and
- R970,8 million and R1,7 billion in 2022/23 and 2023/24 respectively for fiscal consolidation.

In the 2023/24 MTEF period the province is allocated the following additional funds:

- R585,5 million in 2023/24 and R661,7 million in 2024/25 for new data updates, i.e., for 2022 allocations;
- R578,7 million, R969,7 million and R1,4 billion in 2023 MTEF period for new data updates, i.e., for 2023 allocations;
- R884,6 million for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative in Education in the 2023/24 financial year;
- R40,8 million and R48,6 million for Social Development Welfare NGO Funding in 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively;
- R389,1 million and R540,5 million for Health sector in 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively;
- R867,6 million and R907,3 million for Education sector in 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively;
- R866,7 million, R906,9 million and R944 million in Health for pressures of COE and service backlog in 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/25 respectively; and
- R655,6 million, R796,8 million and R885,4 million in Education for COE pressures in 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 respectively.

The total provincial equitable share allocation for Limpopo in 2023/24 financial year amounts to R64,1 billion, growing to R66,7 billion in 2024/25, and R70,2 billion in 2025/26 financial years respectively.

These equitable share allocations represent a positive increase of 0,2% in 2023/24 financial year, 4% in 2024/25 and 5,2% in 2025/26 financial years. The low increase is due to the fact that the annual salary increases for public service are not yet allocated over the MTEF period.

The total provincial funding, which comprises equitable share, conditional grants and provincial own revenue, is increased by 0,2% in 2023/24 from R76,2 billion to R76,4 billion, by 4,1% in 2024/25 to R79,5 billion and by 4,5% to R83,1 billion in the 2025/26 financial year.

The total provincial equitable share allocation to departments in the 2023/24 financial year amounts to R66,4 billion, which reflects a positive growth of 4,7%, when compared to R63,4 billion in the 2022/23 financial year. In 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years,

equitable share allocations amount to R67,9 billion or growth of 2,3% and R71,6 billion or 5% growth year on year respectively.

The total provincial allocation for 2023/24 financial year amounts to R77 billion, which reflects a positive growth of 3,8%, when compared to R74,2 billion main appropriations of the 2022/23 financial year. All Votes show positive growths, except LEDET at -17,4% due to the reduction of earmarked funds and phasing out the 3D public entities from the provincial fiscus. In 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years, the total provincial allocations amount to R78,9 billion or growth of 2,5% and R82,6 billion or 4,7% growth year on year respectively.

The above allocations are inclusive of the preliminary provincial grant allocations, since national departments must still finalise their respective conditional grant allocations per province after consultations with relevant stakeholders as prescribed in section 26(2)(e) of the 2022 Division of Revenue Act, which requires the transferring officer to submit to the National Treasury, by 02 December 2022, the final conditional grant allocations and frameworks based on the provisional allocations and frameworks.

Hon Premier, ladies and gentlemen, in terms of our 2022/23 Budget Adjustment estimates, our provincial available funding sources are adjusted upwards by R3,9 billion or 5% from of R74,2 billion to R78,1 billion. The total provincial receipts will increase by R2,2 billion, which comprises the following:

- Equitable share, which is revised upwards by R1,1 billion for funding of 2022 salary increases for public service;
- Conditional grants allocations, which are also revised upwards by R908 million, comprising rollovers from 2021/22 to 2022/23 years, amounting to R827 million and additional allocations of R81 million for Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for rural bridges; and
- The provincial own revenue, which is adjusted upwards by R177 million or 12% from R1,4 billion to R1,6 billion.

I therefore present the 2022/23 Budget Adjustment per department as follows:

Vote 1: The Office of the Premier receives R25,2 million. The institution is allocated R7,2 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases, R15,6 million for the Executive Development Programme, R5 million for Youth Enterprise Development, R11,5 million for the Premier's events, R12 million for pressures in goods and services, including contractual obligations and R2,7 million for rollover of funds from 2021/22 to 2022/23 financial years.

The office will surrender R28,8 million, which comprises R20,5 million from compensation of employees and R8,2 million from earmarked funds that will not be utilised.

Vote 2: The Provincial Legislature receives R108,2 million. The House is allocated R5,9 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases, R10 million for

audio-visual equipment, R45 million for political party support and R47,2 million as retention of previous year's unspent funds, as per section 22 of the PFMA.

Vote 3: The Department of Education receives R1,1 billion, which will be allocated an amount of R640,1 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases, R150 billion for pressures in compensation of employees, R103 million for scholar transport, R58 million for external examinations, R10 million for matric result improvement programme, R14 million for contractual obligations, including security services, and R87,2 million for equitable share rollovers. The department will also receive R219,3 million for conditional grant rollovers. The department will, however, surrender R100 million for storm-damaged schools project.

Vote 4: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development receives R136,6 million. This department will receive R24,9 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases, R71,4 million to fund foot-and-mouth disease interventions, R20 million to fund pressures in goods and services, R5,7 million for leave gratuity and R14,4 million for conditional grant rollovers.

Vote 5: The Provincial Treasury receives R6,7 million. The department is allocated R6,3 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases, R15 million to fund pressures in goods and services and R897 000 for equitable share rollovers. The department will, however, surrender R28 million for compensation of employees.

Vote 6: LEDET receives R123,3 million. The department is allocated R12,9 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases, R5,6 million for waste management, R5,4 million for air quality management support, R12 million for goods and services, including contractual obligations, R10 million for infrastructure projects, R1,2 million for rollover of liquor licence management system, R35,6 million for additional compensation of employees in LEDA, R7 million for goods and services in Limpopo Gambling Board and R35 million for Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ through LEDA. The department will, however, surrender R1,4 million for compensation of employees.

Vote 7: The Department of Health receives R868 million. The department is allocated R382,4 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases, R542 million to fund pressures in goods and services, equitable share rollovers of R41,8 million and conditional grant rollovers of R251,6 million.

Also included is additional equitable share budget of R302,3 million for the following:

- Funding for purchase of EMS vehicles : R58,4 million;
- Assistive devices : R10,1 million;
- Infrastructure and non-infrastructure maintenance : R27 million;
- Surgical backlog : R14,7 million;
- Additional funding for medicolegal claims : R22 million;
- Funding for chiller plants : R80 million; and
- Additional funding for Maphutha Malatji Hospital : R90 million. [APPLAUSE]

The department will, however, surrender R652,3 million as follows:

- Compensation of Employees : R542 million;
- Cuban Scholarship : R66,9 million; and
- EMS earmarked funding : R43,3 million.

Vote 8: The Department of Transport and Community Safety receives R126,4 million. The department is allocated R26,1 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases, R40 million to fund pressures in goods and services, including contractual obligations, R64,2 million for bus subsidies, R2,5 million for repairs to GAAL fire trucks and R6 million for traffic college, block C, construction so that Members can be able to fly from the airport.

The department will, however, surrender earmarked funding amounting to R12,5 million: for Thohoyandou Taxi Rank amounting to R6 million and K53 projects amounting R6,5 million.

Vote 9: The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure receives R883 million. The department is allocated R21,1 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases, R124,8 million to fund pressures in goods and services, R10 million for ZCC interchange on R71 road for RAL, R79,3 million additional allocations for purchase of LGB building, R19,8 million for refurbishment of Paul Kruger Building, R27,7 million for conditional grant rollovers and R602,9 million for rollovers. Included in the rollovers is R517,2 million for Roads Agency Limpopo, R80 million for purchase of LGB building and R5,7 million for GTAC projects. The department is also allocated additional R81 million for the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant for rural bridges project. The department will, however, surrender R83,8 million for compensation of employees.

Vote 10: The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture receives R15,3 million. The department is allocated R4,9 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases, R1,9 million to fund pressure on compensation of employees, R12 million to fund pressures in goods and services, R5,5 million for Schoemansdal Museum construction costs, R10 million for Mapungubwe Arts Festival, R3 million for operationalisation of RFDI system and R1,5 million for leave gratuity. The department also receives equitable share rollover of R1,6 million, conditional grant rollover of R4,9 million for Community Library Services Grant. The department will, however, surrender R29 million from earmarked funding for the provincial theatre.

Vote 11: CoGHSTA receives R341,7 million. The department is allocated R23,2 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases and R6 million to fund pressures on legal fees. The department also receives equitable share rollover of R7,5 million for construction and furniture for traditional council offices and conditional grant rollover of R308,8 million, which comprises R1,5 million for EPWP Grant, R189,4 million for Human Settlements Development Grant and R117,7 million for Informal Settlements Partnership Grant. The department will, however, surrender R4 million from earmarked funding for construction of traditional council offices.

Vote 12: Social Development receives R119,4 million. The department is allocated R30,3 million to fund compensation of employees for 2022 wage increases, R101,2 million to fund pressures on goods and services and equitable share rollover of R9 million. It will, however, surrender R21,2 million for compensation of employees.

The allocation to departments is adjusted upwards from R74,2 billion to R78,1 billion which is an increase of R3,9 billion or 5,3%.

It is important, Hon Premier, to note that the additional funds are mainly recommended to address once-off pressures in the 2022/23 financial year as these funds may not be available in the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. It means those who are spending on the areas that we have allocated funds, need to make sure that they budget for them in the MTEF budget because they are not going to be allocated funds as they are allocated presently as pressures. They are not going to have continuous allocations. I hope that makes it very clear. It will remain the responsibility of each department to ascertain that recurring costs are funded over the MTEF period within the allocated baseline. That is, when we prepare our budgets for the MTEF period, we must then ensure that we allocate for those areas that we have already alluded to.

In this regard, our departments need to be prudent in allocating and spending the allocated funds and apply spending reviews and zero-based budgeting to realise savings to augment service delivery shortfalls. In this way, we will indeed ensure that we settle at the base without any fear of potential avalanches that are caused by our actions or inactions downhill.

Today Dr Ramathuba has just informed us about the skin-to-skin method, which is what we must apply to the Budget, so that we are able to take care of it properly, keep it warm and make sure that we are able to spend it efficiently and economically. That is the skin-to-skin method. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Premier, allow me to express my words of gratitude for your guidance and leadership during these challenging times. These words of appreciation also go to Members of the Executive for your support and cooperation. Hon Rudolph Phala, the chairperson, and members of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, your continued oversight and support are appreciated at all times. I sincerely thank you. HOD, Gavin Pratt, and Treasury team, thank you for your efforts and commitment in putting the balancing act in ensuring us through this adjustment.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa ladies and gentlemen, as I table this 2022/23 Adjustment Appropriation Bill to this august House for consideration and approval, allow me to table it together with:

- The Provincial Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement; and
- The Adjusted Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure.

Ke a leboga. I thank you. Ndza khensa. Ro livhuwa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Members. Re a leboga, Hlabirwa. Thank you very much for the presentation, honourable MEC. Honourable Members, honourable Members! 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 within seven working days. Thank you very much.

7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health.

Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much. Blessed morning, Hon Speaker. I rise in this august House to table for consideration and adoption the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you may take the floor.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. My name is Falaza Mdaka. I rise to second the submission as made by the honourable chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.3 Consideration and Adoption of the 2022/23 First Quarter Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health

Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise in this august House to table for consideration and adoption the 2022/2023 First Quarter Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane, you may take the floor.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second Hon Lebea the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on our list is Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for affording me this opportunity to debate the Annual Report and the First Quarter Report of the Department of Health.

The committee commends the department for spending 97% of its overall Budget. The committee is encouraged and believes that in the next financial year, the department will be able to spend 100% of its Budget. However, we must indicate that the spending in terms of percentages does not look good – if we convert percentages into figures the unspent 3% is a huge amount.

Programme 2: District Health Services, and programme 8: Health Facilities and Management, is where huge amounts contributed to the underspending by the department of R500 million overall. Madam Speaker, the committee is concerned by the department's underspending which is susceptible to non-delivery of services. The committee noted that kitchen appliances, Afrox oxygen tanks, X-ray machines, medical male circumcision kits, ultrasound machines, vaccine fridges and autoclave machines were not purchased during the 2021/22 financial year.

These items were part of the KPIs for the financial year under review. The underspending was from programme 2 with an amount of R220 million, programme 5 with an amount of R31 million and programme 8 with an amount of R128,5 million. The committee also observed the shifting of money from one programme to another. We are concerned by this shifting although reasons were given during the briefing by the department. We encourage the department to shift money in terms of virement policy. Sound motivation should be provided for all virements in line with section 43 as outlined in the Public Finance Management Act.

In programme 3: Emergency Medical Services, the committee noted that an amount of R1,9 million was shifted from machinery and equipment to programmes 2 and 5 to cover the anticipated overexpenditure in buildings and other fixed structures and machinery. In programme 4, Provincial Hospital Services, an amount of R35,6 million was shifted from the programme to programmes 2, 3 and 5 to cover anticipated overexpenditure in goods and services and machinery and equipment.

In programme 6: Health Science and Training, the total amount of R63,9 million was shifted to programmes 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 to cover the overexpenditure in Compensation of Employees; Goods and Services; Households; and Departmental Agencies. A shifting of R0,05 million was also made from Goods and Services to cover the overexpenditure under provincial and local government for vehicle licencing. The department must honour

the approval of the Annual Performance Plan by the House at the beginning of the financial year.

The committee is of the view that poor planning was made by the department and that gives the impression that the committee was misled by the department during the approval of the APP and Budget. When the Budget is approved, it is approved in line with the key performance indicators set by the department itself. The department should institute consequence management to the official responsible for poor planning. During the 2021/22 financial year, the Auditor-General recommended that the department must improve their audit action plan regarding asset management, revenue collection, financial statements not complying with the required standard, etc.

The department must work hard to capacitate the Office of the Chief Financial Officer regarding the preparation of the annual financial statements. The department must make sure that some of the personnel in that office are restrained to work specifically on this matter. In previous financial years, the A-G raised this matter, and the impression is created that the department is not giving it attention. The same goes to management of assets and revenue collection. The department must implement its revenue collection strategy. We will play an oversight role to ensure that recommendations made by the A-G are implemented.

The department must have the desire to obtain an unqualified audit opinion. If the audit action plan is not implemented, there must be consequence management. Madam Speaker, during the first quarter of 2022/23 financial year, the department submitted a report which stated that poor internal controls were because of lack of capacity, leadership and poor quality assurance by management. We are concerned that this matter is what the Auditor-General had raised. The department must convince the House that its internal controls will be improved.

During the first quarter under review, a submission was made that a progress report on one of the performance indicators was to the effect that standards operating procedures will be applied wherein all managers involved in the audit workshop will deal with the implementation of issues regarding supply chain, assets and performance information. If the personnel will indeed be trained, it is our view that this will improve adherence to policies on internal control.

The committee received a briefing that the building of an academic hospital is at the stage of four of seven. The stage reported entails the appointment of the project manager, land transfer and finalisation of designs, and they are reported as done. The department added that the tender was scheduled to be advertised in June and July while the contractor was to be appointed on 12 August 2022. The site handover was scheduled for 30 August 2022 and practical completion of the project to be reached on 03 September 2028. It was added that a plan had been approved for the hospital to be a 288-bed hospital.

The committee raised concerns on the low number of beds and urged the department to increase bed capacity. This progress, Madam Speaker, is commendable and we encourage the department to ensure that the long-awaited hospital becomes a reality and one of the greatest deliverables under democracy. We support the adoption of the

2021/22 Annual Report and the 2022/23 First Quarter Report. I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri. Hon Managa, you may take the floor. [APPLAUSE]

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. Hon Speaker, the department spent 97,5% of its Budget during the year under review. Despite this, it underspent by R500 million during the year under review as it was indicated by the previous speaker. Why does this department underspend by so much money when most of our people do not have access to basic healthcare services?

This department has chronic shortages of doctors, nurses and medication, but it still underspends by such a huge amount of money instead of prioritising service delivery. Where is the R500 million if we may ask, Hon Speaker? Is it intact or in the pockets of the politicians? Hon Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters will follow up on this matter because our mission is to expose corruption wherever it exists. Was the delivery of ventilators, central monitoring system, ICU crib, operating theatre equipment and other medical equipment done? If not, why not?

There seems to be a lot of shifting of funds in this department. What procedure did you follow to shift the funds from one programme to another? Which policy informs such shifting of funds, and why is it like it is fashionable to shift funds in this department? What happened to contractors who delayed completing projects on time as per project timeline in various health facilities in the province? How many were blacklisted, and if none, why?

Hon Speaker the report seems to suggest that service providers in the department generally do not complete their work on time. This trend ultimately costs the government more money because it means more money must now be pumped into the project. We need a report of the investigation of closing balance of R0,777 million of the fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred in the 2021/22 prior financial year. It is regrettable that unless we request for progress reports to be presented in this House, they will never be presented.

Why must we suffer when the department must account to this House without being forced to do so? What is it that is in this report which they are hiding? Hon Speaker, it is regrettable and unacceptable that the department's performance regressed from unqualified in 2020/21 to qualified in 2021/22. What is happening in this department because they seem to specialise in qualified audit opinions? Their obsession is clear for everyone see, looking at the previous audit outcomes.

Hon Speaker, movable tangible capital assets were incorrectly classified, resulting in major assets not being completely recognised. Furthermore, the department did not implement adequate internal controls for the reinstatement of the movable tangible capital assets. Why are these kinds of things happening? What kind of workforce do you recruit

because mistakes like these are only made by cadre deployees within the department who have no idea of what must happen? Cadre deployment does not consider or even value merit and competence, for as long as you are loyal to a particular faction of the ruling party. Whether you have the skills for the job or not, that is not an issue.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the EFF will target and hire skillful and competent workforce to deliver services to the people of Limpopo. I so move. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, you may take the floor. Honourable Members, may we allow Hon Maritz to proceed?

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of opposition parties; Members and guests in the gallery, the department must urgently speed up the procurement of ambulances in urban and rural areas because response time in some cases results in losing a patient. The department states that an additional 61 facilities stopped providing 24-hour services due to criminal activities and 72 facilities stopped due to attritions. In total 133 stopped providing services for 24 hours. Although we care about the safety of the healthcare workers, we also care about the health of the patients. In some cases, there is nowhere else to go but a local clinic, and now it's closed.

Hon Speaker, the FF+ requests, therefore, that security guards must be appointed at the 61 facilities to ensure healthcare to all the people of our province. With all the maladministration and irregularities, they could have utilised the money for the benefit of the people in the rural areas. Programme 6: Health Science and Training, and programme 7: Health Care Support Services, are both at 16% expenditure while the department is complaining about vacancies. The department must make sure that the vacant posts are filled on an urgent basis because this is affecting people's lives and health in the province.

Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus is concerned about the medications that were not awarded on new national contracts and how that will affect the health of the province as some of these medications are chronic medications, and pensioners with a social grant cannot afford to buy the medicine in the private sector. Some of these medications can lead to serious health problems, including mental health, and we all know the state of those institutions.

There is still a problem with service providers regarding medicines and medical equipment. If the department can outsource ambulances, it can outsource medicine and medical equipment when the providers do not deliver. Overall, the Department of Health and hospitals need to improve and start serving the people of our province. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Hon Lebea, the acting chair, you may take the floor.

MS LEBEA

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa; honourable Members of this august House; Members of the Executive Council; Provincial Secretary of the ANC and regional secretaries; distinguished guests in the august House, a very blessed morning to you.

Hon Speaker, it was Mother Teresa who was known as a pencil in the Creator's hand who taught us: 'If you judge people, you have no time to love them.' In our daily lives, you find out that people who are always quick to judge others do not really love them. If you love someone, then you will correct them appropriately without pointing fingers. Nobody is perfect, and we can throw stones, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, complain about them, stumble over them, climb over them, or build with them.

Hon Speaker, section 27 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa clearly states:

“(1) Everyone has the right to have access to—
 (a) health care services, including reproductive health care;
 (b) sufficient food and water; and
 (c) social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents, appropriate social assistance.”

It is in this regard, Hon Speaker, that I would like to speak a bit about the programme called Rural Health Matters. The Department of Health in Limpopo continues unabated in its programme to bring specialist services closer to the people: the campaign which recently celebrated a two-year milestone since inception by effecting positive change in the lives of the downtrodden, poverty-stricken people of our province who are in desperate need of surgical intervention.

Since its inception, Hon Speaker, the campaign has seen over 5 000 patients benefitting from a variety of surgical procedures. The latest to benefit from this progressive initiative was the Capricorn District, where the Legislature is situated, Hon Speaker. Through this volunteer programme, the outreach programme, which was a resounding success, unveiled the cancer screening tools for community healthcare workers: workers on breast cancer, cervical and prostate cancer. The campaign conducted various operations, which included orthopaedics 26, general surgery 19, ENT 13, pile surgery 28 and other specialists 2.

As a portfolio committee, Hon Speaker, we commend the department on filling of eight strategic and critical positions during the financial year 2021/22. This is an achievement, Hon Speaker, because in the past the department was unable to attract this kind of skills. The employees will assist the department, make significant progress in completing and maintaining infrastructure projects. The positions are architectural, infrastructure programme delivery, civil structural infrastructures, to name but a few.

We further commend the department for doing well in bringing COVID-19 to manageable level and ensuring that most people in Limpopo receive vaccinations (jabs). We are elated because Limpopo is number one in the country with regard to handing out of vaccinations.

The committee was concerned though that the department's performance regressed from unqualified audit opinion in 2020/21 to qualified audit opinion in 2021/22. The department received a qualified audit opinion with matters raised regarding valuation of movable assets, poor financial statements, irregular expenditure, poor revenue collection and contingent liabilities.

The contingent liabilities in the department are mainly on medical negligence claims. The assessment claims exceeded the claims paid by the department, which were overstated by R2,8 billion. In the same breath, Hon Speaker, we commend the department as it has reported that the amount that was under investigation for fruitless and wasteful expenditure was R5 million and was recovered from suppliers and officials. I will repeat this, honourable Members, that the amount that was noted on fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R5,26 million was recovered from suppliers and officials. We definitely are moving in the right direction.

Conditional grant, Hon Speaker, is a grant that is allocated to this department with conditions, and on those grants we are so elated that one that is closer to the committee's heart is the EPWP Grant, which was spent to 100%. A grant that makes sure that the downtrodden masses of our communities can get a better living wage from this particular conditional grant.

Hon Speaker, during the review of the 2020/21 First Quarter Report, we noted in the previously submitted report that a medicolegal policy was developed; a medicolegal unit was structured; medical specialists were appointed to head a medicolegal unit; and workshops were conducted to capacitate health workers. As part of implementing the plan to improve medicolegal cases, the department reported that instead of using letters of demand, they now use summons, and this reduced contingent liabilities amounting to between R14 billion and R7 billion.

The committee will ensure that the plan, as reported by the department, is thoroughly implemented. Hon Speaker, it was in this august House that as a portfolio committee we came and rebuked in the strongest terms the exorbitant amount of money spent on medicolegal cases. If these cases, Hon Speaker, are to see the light of day, not only the Department of Health but also this province of Limpopo that is known as Africa's Eden would be unfortunately liquidated.

We further noted that the department contracted Digital Veritas to covert hard files into soft copies. The committee had an oversight exercise to the Veritas Digital site, and we satisfied that the Department of Health is on the right and correct digital path, and it will move into an area where the use of paper is minimised with massive savings from the cost of paper in the medium and long term. It is in the theory of Karl, Hon Speaker, who taught us to foremost seek to understand the laws of society and the nature in order to change them.

Honourable MEC, the department is on the right track. We are elated as the committee that the department has lived up to the guiding documents of the Congress Movement, i.e., the Freedom Charter that alludes to the security and comfort of free medical care and hospitalisation that would be provided to all with special care for mothers and young

children. In the same breath, we spoke of a preventative health scheme that shall be run by the state. In this case, Hon Speaker, as a committee, we are saying that we have been waiting for an academic hospital, the honourable MEC has been waiting for the implementation of the NHI, and we are waiting to see that happening.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, 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 there are sacrifices for the benefit of both. We shall experience no petty, limited selfish joy, but our happiness will belong to millions and millions of the people of Limpopo. Our deeds will live on quietly but perpetually at work, and over our ashes will be shed the hot tears of noble people. I, therefore, move that the 2021 Annual Report and the 2022/23 First Quarter Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health be adopted as a report of this august House. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. We shall now call upon the MEC for Health, Dr Ramathuba, to come and respond.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to respond to the debate by honourable Members. Once more, greetings to all honourable Members who are in the House and also all our guests.

Honourable Members, let me start by welcoming all the inputs that have been made by the honourable Members from different political parties and to indicate that indeed the 3% that has not been spent translates to a huge sum of money. Furthermore, Hon Managa, when you speak about the unspent money, this is not the money that has been corrupted or wasted. It is the money that has not been spent on some of our radiology equipment, some of our mammograms, some of our CT scans, some of our X-ray equipment and some of our kitchen equipment due to the global challenges that we faced during 2020 and 2021 of COVID-19. There have been delays in terms of deliveries. All those equipment have finally been delivered, and that is why you have seen rollovers in certain equipment, and they were paid.

When you have not spent money, it does not mean you have stolen that particular money. The shifting of money from different programmes is informed by the changes such as the less demand. You will remember the Cuban programme which we had budgeted for. Because it is stagnant, it is not within our control in terms of what happens, and the changes of the amount money involved. Therefore, sometimes there could be a necessity for you to shift the money in this instance to procure more EMS vehicles.

Currently the demand for the Cuban programme is not what we had anticipated. The procedure that it has been used to shift the money is what is prescribed by Treasury. No money was just shifted without due process being followed. Shifting of money is allowed between those items on the Budget Review and operational needs. Honourable Members, we do understand and appreciate your concern that the department did regress

to a qualified audit opinion. Hence, the poor internal controls wherein our Audit Action Plan has been developed and is reviewed even by the Limpopo Provincial Treasury. This plan is currently in place and is being implemented.

Just to update this august House, 26 of the findings out of 64 have been fully implemented and are ready for the reviews by the PHGs. The 10 findings out of the 64 are anticipated to be fully implemented by the end of November, 28 of the findings are anticipated to be fully implemented by February 2023. The department is monitoring the implementation of the plan on a monthly basis. Honourable Members, in terms of consequence management as per Budget Review and performance management, we had meetings with all districts where a roadshow on clean audits workshops has been conducted so that honourable Members and the staff who commit transgressions can be aware of the consequences that are going to follow. I must reassure this House that disciplinary processes against those who have already committed those transgressions, have already started.

Honourable Members are right to be concerned about the effectiveness of the revenue collection system. Part of our audit action plan is also talking about the revenue collection, where the plans have been developed and the billing of patients as per the classification and timeframes thereof, to avoid the possible misstatements and backlog. The challenge that we are currently facing is educating the public and will also ask honourable Members to assist. This belief that public healthcare services are free, is something that is causing us this challenge. People believe that they will pay in the private sector, they do not believe that in the public sector when you visit, you need to be billed. We are putting up systems in place so that anyone who is supposed to pay as per the policy, they must pay.

People must just understand that in terms of public health the haves must subsidise the those who do not have. Therefore, each and every patient who visits the public hospital must be classified as H0: Those who cannot afford, who cannot pay. H1 will be charged a certain subsidised fee, H2 until H3. If we are able to that, we will be able to resolve some of the challenges that are facing us in terms of the revenue collection. We are really working on this matter, even though acknowledge the budgetary constraints in terms of the resource when it comes to collection of this revenue.

We believe that we are on the right path. No one has been turned away from the public health centres because they are not able to pay. We are worried that people are abusing this particular system when we know very well that they can afford to pay, e.g., someone who is working refuses to pay but demands a sick note. What are you demanding a sick note for? These are the areas where we are going to be unpopular when we implement the law as it is. We will treat patients in primary healthcare, which is free, but when you come to hospitals, you have to pay. That includes even illegal immigrants. If you cannot prove that you cannot pay, you will not be able to be provided with elective procedures because that is in line with the Constitution of the country.

Another area is where we are strengthening our relationship and our engagement with the Road Accident Fund, which is the main data that we have as a department in terms of the fee. We want to reassure honourable Members that in this coming financial year, you will see a huge improvement, especially on revenue collection. Let me also reassure

Members that the advert of an academic hospital was out on 12 September and the briefing was held on 19 September. We believe that before we go for Christmas holidays, the contractor will be on site. Honourable Members must just remember that this is a project of the national Department of Health, which we are a beneficiary of. It is one of those projects that we have been promised in kind that we are going to receive.

Otherwise, honourable Members, we have noted all your inputs. They will also assist us in improving the department to become even much better. We acknowledge the fact that this is a sensitive department that deals with lives of our people. Every cent that is not spent means that somebody somewhere is not getting their services. Every cent that has been spent irregularly or every unwanted expenditure means that somebody somewhere is not getting the services that they are supposed to get. Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.4 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

Committee chair, you may take the floor.

ADV PHALA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much for the opportunity. I move that the report of the portfolio committee on the Annual Report of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the 2021/22 financial year be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. Honourable Members, I want to plead with you who are still present to remain so that we can have a quorum up to the last item. Is there any seconder to the motion tabled by Hon Phala? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela of the ANC, stand to second the motion tabled by Hon Phala, that the Annual Report of the said department be considered and adopted by this august House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now call upon the committee chair.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I move that the report of the portfolio committee on Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) Annual Report for the 2021/22 financial year that started on 01 April 2021 and ended on 31 March 2022, which appears on the ATC, be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke be ke nagana gore le ntebetše. Ntle le go tšea sebaka, a ke go leboge ka go tšea sebaka se go thekga modulasetulo go ditaba ka moka tše a di boletšego mo. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to our Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Greetings to our Hon Premier, our Hon Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Council present here, the provincial secretary of the ruling party accompanied by the regional secretaries who are here in our midst, honourable Members of the august House, ladies, and gentlemen. I greet you this morning in the name of the African National Congress.

The presentation of Annual Reports generated by various state organs is premised on the principle of accountability. Accountability as defined by the Oversight Model of the South African Legislative Sector, is a social relationship where an actor feels an obligation to explain and justify his or her conduct to some significant other. This act of accounting is constitutionally mandated and can, therefore, not be circumvented.

These reports are a means of reporting back and accounting to the people of Limpopo and beyond on the achievement of the set targets, and demonstrating commitments and attempts to do even better in future. They are an account of how the department and its agency have gone despite the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in their endeavours to attain the goals of *the 2019-2024 Medium-Term Strategic Framework* and the *2022-2025 Limpopo Development Plan*.

We, therefore, thank and applaud the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the Roads Agency Limpopo for living up to the mandate and prescripts of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Infrastructure development in all its facets is historically and critically linked to the realisation of the long-term social and economic development of our people.

That is why, over the past years, the ANC-led government has invested huge sums of resources to build more schools, clinics, roads, bridges, and hospitals. The successes in

this arena and others have been some of the compelling factors why the majority of our people voted and continue to vote for the African National Congress. This is a testimony to the correctness of our policies.

The ANC, during the 2019 general elections, committed itself to the upscaling of infrastructure development through the public-led Infrastructure Fund to build more roads, schools, health facilities, water, sanitation infrastructure, transport network and ICT systems. This commitment was born out of the inescapable sustainable productivity and competitiveness. It is key to the reduction of special inequality and the emergence of new economic opportunities.

Hon Speaker, the role of the private sector cannot be underestimated in this regard. We remain committed to the noble idea of public-private cooperation and simulation of competition in the delivery of public infrastructure. The National Infrastructure Plan 2050 envisions a robust, dynamic, ever-evolving and developing partnerships and alliances between the public and private sectors in the planning and implementation of infrastructure development projects. The imperative is succinctly pronounced in our 2019 election manifesto as follows:

“The ANC has always been in favour of our mixed economy in which there is public, private, and social ownership with distinct but complementary roles, thereby contributing towards shared prosperity.”

We call on the department and its agency to continuously engage and involve in think tanks, financial institutions, business sector and the broader community, adding step changes into a dynamic high performance and service delivery organ. Whilst we welcome their work to harmonise relations with the private sector in the planning and delivery of infrastructure, we call upon and urge our private partners to desist from doing shoddy work.

We are saddened by the recent media reports that a road in one of the local municipalities in the Sekhukhune District was washed away few months after completion. Indeed, this is not what the ANC supports. Indeed, this is not what we are expecting from those that we are engaged with in trying to better the lives of our people. This is something else that needs to be dealt with immediately and not for others to then start celebrating when roads are washed away. It is not something that we need to emphasise. We need to make sure that such things do not happen in the near future. More worrying was the fact that the service provider was even paid the contract amount before the work could have been finished.

This is not what the ANC says should be done, and therefore, we cannot blame the ANC for this. These are just individuals who are corrupt, who are thieves, who are within and amongst our society. We need to make sure that we get rid of such elements, not only in government cycles, but also within our society. We do not have space for such people, and therefore, there can be no one who can blame the ANC when there are such criminals who are in existence. Some of them are known to us and some of them are friends to others who are at the forefront of blaming the ANC for such things. This calls for the

strengthening of our technical expertise in civil construction, monitoring, and reporting on progress so that these anomalies do not recur in the near future.

This also requires that we strengthen management capabilities within the department, its agency and other development partners to ensure that stability that is critical to the provision of a better life for all remains. The ANC remains committed to achieving an explicit support to emerging construction and supplier businesses and empowering the historically disadvantaged and marginalised construction entrepreneurs.

However, this is not the licence for development forums, or whatever they call themselves, at local level to stall the implementation of projects or enter endless negotiations for the 30% demand, meanwhile at the same time, they are not prepared to do their works. We cannot support such business entrepreneurs at local level who are lazy to work.

We are only going to support those who can deliver. We are only going to support those who work hard and who will ensure that there is delivery at the end of the day and that they do not stop progress in the name of negotiating for the 30%. Similarly, we are steadfast in our resolve to curb abuse and misuse of government presidential procurement policies. This does not need any emphasis. Again, the ANC is very clear about its work to fight corruption. It is very clear that we are not necessarily going to support those who find a way of going around the legislation and making sure that at the end of the day what we think must be done is not necessarily done in the way it is supposed to be done.

Those who are working in the preferential procurement area, please make sure that you do what is correct and not necessarily give people who do not deserve to have jobs points that they don't deserve so that they become number one, whilst they don't deserve to be number one. Let us make sure that we are strict in terms of how we award tenders and make sure that those who are not qualifying must never be near those that are supposed to be shortlisted.

It is not only about awarding points; it is also about checking whether they have the capacity to do these jobs. It is not necessarily about gender, youth and disability, or making sure that they score the highest marks, and at the end of the day they are unable to deliver. We want service delivery now and not tomorrow.

As we take infrastructure provision and development to new heights, we must be dynamic and creative, plan new technologies and methods, address inherent institutional blockages and weaknesses that continue to be a sore point in our quest to better the lives of our people.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and RAL once more on a job well done and urge everyone to spare no effort in realising a better life for all. I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Managa, it is your turn.

MS MANAGA

Hon Speaker, it is quite an honour for me to participate again in this debate. The Economic Freedom Fighters is finding it extremely unacceptable that the department materially underspent the Budget by R119,203 million on programme 2. Hon Speaker, infrastructure operations and development are key in improving the economy and job creation for our people.

Furthermore, it is unacceptable that financial statements submitted by the department for auditing were not prepared in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework and supported by full and proper records as required by section 40(1)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) as alluded to by the Auditor-General. If they do not prepare financial statements in accordance with the PFMA, which template do they use to prepare their financial statements, and what informs the adoption of such template?

The Economic Freedom Fighters will never accept mediocre work because all these undermine the intelligence of our people in the province. The minute you deliberately deviate from policies and prescripts, we immediately begin to sense that something is being planned. There are wrong things that you want to hide, and it will not happen under our watch.

Hon Speaker, it is unacceptable that during the year under review, in relation to expenditure management, on note 28 of the A-G report, effective and appropriate steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R191,536 million. In the 2020/21 financial year, it was R1,594,196 million. What consequence management was applied to responsible officials and for how long have they been occupying their positions? Non-compliance to supply chain management laws and regulations is prevalent in this department. Why do these things continue to happen and why are they not nipped in the bud?

Hon Speaker, the irregular expenditure was not dealt with. The Roads Agency Limpopo irregular expenditure investigation was still with the internal audit and forensic investigations, and the remaining balance of R1,3 million relates to HR noncompliance with recruitment process and investigations that have not performed to date. Can the department take this House into confidence by apprising this august House of the progress report in terms of the internal audit forensic investigations?

Why has the total number of variation orders exceeded the contract amount by more than 20% that has been prescribed by the National Treasury? What is happening in the department, because it is clear that they have inherited the culture of complete disregard of policies? The department incurred irregular expenditure due to material noncompliance with section 17 of the DORA (Division of Revenue Act) as funds transferred to RAL were not utilised according to the *DORA* framework, which amounted to R1,4 billion since 2015.

Was there any consequence management applied to responsible officials, Hon Speaker? If not, why? Why did RAL spend a total of R1,269 billion against a total allocated grant of R1,787 billion, resulting in underspending of R517,248 million? Hon Speaker, there is underspending everywhere in this entity, including on conditional grants and equitable shares.

Most of our people continue to suffer due to the current state of our roads while RAL is obsessed with underspending. The Economic Freedom Fighters will start to monitor all these underexpenditures in the province because it seems there is more than meets the eye. The question is, what happens to these moneys if they are not spent? Furthermore, we cannot accept a situation where moneys are not being spent, resulting in the funds being diverted to other provinces as we do not need them.

Hon Speaker, strategic partners contributed about R367 million to this entity during the year under review. Can the department account for this money? What was the contribution used for? What is the role of the board in terms of providing leadership and promoting good governance in this entity? How many roads were built for the people of Limpopo during the period under review? Furthermore, we need to be taken into confidence that all roads were completed, and on time.

Hon Speaker, in instances where the road projects were not completed on time, what happened to the contractors who were awarded all those contracts? This is happening under the watch of the leadership of the ANC in the province. As Economic Freedom Fighters, we are saying it is not going to happen when Economic Freedom Fighters rule in 2024. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call upon the acting chair, Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We are debating the Annual Reports of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and Roads Agency Limpopo for the 2021/22 financial year.

We have had an interaction with the department, and there are a number of issues raised that appear on the ATC. One of the key issues that is a matter *overshadowing* everything else, which we raised in that interaction and that we have spent 30 years and have not been able to move on, is the movement of the provincial Legislature from Lebowakgomo to Polokwane, which is resolution 2 of the first Executive Council of Limpopo province led by Premier Ngoako *Ramatlhodi* in 1994.

When they declared Polokwane the capital city of Limpopo, one of the decisions they took was that the provincial Legislature, which temporarily will be situated in Lebowakgomo legislative assembly, will move to the capital city of the province, Polokwane. Now 28 years later, the project is between R4 billion and R7 billion, which money we will not be able to have with the challenges that are facing our people and our province.

Hon Mdaka, when we see so many challenges of roads, schools, clinics, medicines, textbooks, and old bridges, we cannot spend between R4 billion and R7 billion building a Parliament in Polokwane. This resolution has always been there in 28 years, and successive MECs for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, about a dozen of them, announced here one after another that we are moving to Polokwane, but we didn't move.

It is only the recent MECs who did not announce after we counted the MECs who announced. About a dozen MECs for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure from 1994, i.e., *Dikeledi Magadzi*, Ohm Collins Chabane, Pandelani Wilson Ramagoma, Muthundinne George Phadagi, Machwene *Rosina Semanya*, *Thabitha Mohlala*, *Cassel Mathale* at one time when he was there, and Thabadiawa *Alfred Mufamadi*, announced that the Legislature is moving to Polokwane, and we are still here in Lebowakgomo.

It is a matter that Hon Rakgoale should go to the Executive Council and talk about, and come to us with finality. Now that we are reaching 30 years of a resolution that we will move to Polokwane, and the project is now between R4 billion and R7 billion to build a Parliament in Polokwane, that is point number one that we must talk about.

Honourable MEC, the second point, which is key, is that in the department there is something called infrastructure delivery hub and things of that kind. Therefore, when the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure advertises its positions, those positions should be peopled by employees who have public works skills of engineering, town planning, quantity surveying, artisanry, project management and project planning.

Hon Selamolela, we do not want this department to be full of former teachers, former principals and former councillors. The Legislature can have such people, but not the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, which must do public works work. We need it to be filled with people who have those public works skills of engineering and so on, so that they can perform the work that we want them to perform. We hope that going forward, there will be better coordination with the other line function departments for which you deliver services like the clinics in Health, the classrooms in Education, the traditional authority offices in CoGHSTA, the libraries in Sport, Arts and Culture and all other departments for which you do work. We hope that there will be better coordination with them so that the delivery of those services to those line function departments is seamless.

We also are looking at what progress you are making on the project of building the Sekhukhune District offices in Sekhukhune land. This is because the Sekhukhune District offices of all departments are here in this enclosure in Lebowakgomo, and this is not Sekhukhune land; it is Capricorn.

We want the work that the provincial department has been doing under the MEC Hon Masemola and other MECs to continue so that the people of Sekhukhune are able to have district offices in Sekhukhune land. They do not need to get services hundreds of kilometres away in Capricorn, which is where we are now in Lebowakgomo where the district offices are.

We are interested in the future of the R250 million that we spend every year, paying rent to various categories of landlords from whom we have leased offices in Polokwane and other places. I am sure in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure you are paying R5 million while other departments are paying other amounts. When you add those amounts *per annum*, they give you R250 million. This amount is spent on rent alone to landlords who own the various buildings.

The provincial government should come up with a plan on how we can slowly get out of that, where we can build our own buildings we should, where we could buy the existing buildings we should, so that we are able to reduce the R250 million that we spend on rent, on leased buildings to various categories of landlords and the rentlord.

As I conclude, we want the payment of taxes and rates to municipalities to be fast-tracked because most municipalities need that money. We also want a determination on the future of the huge housing portfolio of Public Works, because public works owns a huge category of houses in various places from *Praktiseer*, *Namakgale*, Giyani, Thohoyandou, Lebogakgomo, Polokwane and everywhere else. It is a huge category of houses that we own. What is the future of that housing portfolio and what are the plans to deal with it? Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.5 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

Over to you, committee chair.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure on the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure First Quarter Report for the 2022/23 financial year, be adopted as a report of this honourable House as it appears on the *announcements, tablings and committee reports*, which is referred to as the ATC. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Joshua Matlou, hereby stand to second the motion as proposed by the committee chairperson, Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Committee chair, you can proceed.

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I move that the report on the First Quarter Performance Report of Roads Agency Limpopo, which is referred to as RAL, in other words, for the 2022/23 financial year, be adopted as a report of this honourable House as it appears on the *announcements, tablings and committee* reports, otherwise referred to as the ATC. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. 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 Phala. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for the debate. The first speaker is Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, honourable Members. Thank you, Hon Speaker. Once more, I am back to debate the consideration and adoption of the First Quarter Reports of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and the Roads Agency Limpopo for the 2022/23 financial year.

Hon Speaker, the provision of quality roads, schools, water and sanitation, health facilities and other infrastructure is at the centre of the ANC 2019 election manifesto. It is important for me to emphasise this, as you know that we are not just an organisation that is just in government and does not have a plan. We promise our people in terms of what it is that we need to do in 2019, and that is the basis on which the people voted us into power.

In the recent past, we have experienced substantial underspending by all spheres of governments and state-owned enterprises on infrastructure. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and the Roads Agency Limpopo are not immune from this trend. Hon Speaker, I call it a trend because it seems like it is acceptable when in the first quarter the percentages are quite low and at some point are below 30%.

It is not something that should happen. It is happening because of poor planning, late appointment of service providers, poor maintenance of panels of service providers and late payment of service providers. There is a link; if we can't pay our service providers, they won't be able to proceed with the jobs as intended because they won't have money to proceed. If we appoint them late, it is the same issue. That, all in all, is because of poor

planning. It must not be something that we should accept. As soon as we kick-start a new financial year, we must be able to deliver and not wait for the last month of the financial year to start pushing for delivery of services, payments or spending of such money.

The problem of poor planning is caused by lack of sustained cooperation between all spheres and within spheres of government. Added to this is the perceived mistrust between the public, private and community sectors. The earlier point that we raised is that everybody is always suspicious, everybody wants to have a stake, everybody wants to have a say, and that causes delays in the delivery of services.

The ANC has committed itself in the 2019 election manifesto to build a social compact on infrastructure investment and business with business organised labour and the broader society to build more and better infrastructure. We must, therefore, support and collaborate with the private sector to deliver world-class infrastructure finance.

We are aware that there are partnerships that RAL and the department have signed with some businesses around the Sekhukhune area on the issues of delivery of some of our roads. Similarly, the movement has also committed itself to the establishment of infrastructure funds that will leverage the involvement of the private sector in the provision and development of infrastructure to rebuild the economy, create jobs, and fight poverty.

We must replicate these efforts in the province without necessarily contradicting the national discourse. It is only through the involvement of all sectors of our society in the task of growing South Africa together where we can deal with the malaise of poor planning, systemic institutional weaknesses and rampant corruption that have a negative impact on the infrastructure development and provision.

We welcome the department's ability to pay eligible service providers, in particular the small enterprises, within the required 30 days. The late payment of service providers, especially the emerging small, medium, and micro enterprises, negates the fundamental commitment that the movement has made in the 2019 election manifesto, to support and grow small enterprises for economic transformation, job creation and innovation and to encourage all forms of entrepreneurship. Also, worth noting and appreciating is the improved planning and coordination by the department. It is not necessarily doom and gloom. We are really seeing some kind of improvement both in the department and its agencies. We are also aware of other challenges that the department is having. We believe that they will address that in the near future, including the appointment of engineers who were earlier on mentioned by the previous speaker.

Hon Speaker, a concern in this regard is the lack of yellow fleet and the accompanying poor state of the implements that are still available regarding the gravel road blading and maintenance. We urge the department to prioritise procurement of new yellow fleet for improved service delivery, especially regarding the rural roads.

We have got about 36 cost centres across the province, if one is not mistaken. We need to make sure that those cost centres are operational. We must make sure that we have people who can work properly in those cost centres so that the graders are not just

standing there and not working because of some small issues that need fixing or maintenance.

We welcome the recent announcement by the Minister for Finance that several rural bridges will be constructed in the rural province of Limpopo and Eastern Cape as part of the rural roads upgrade programme. These together with other initiatives will go a long way towards addressing the various infrastructure challenges bedevilling our province.

We urge the department and its agency to improve their turnaround time in the finalisation of these to regravell and regrade gravel roads, perform black top patching and other roads infrastructure delivery and improvement initiatives. This is because the report shows that slow progress in the finalisation of this contract has a negative impact, as we earlier on indicated, on the employment of youth, women and the disabled. It is also having an impact on the empowerment of local enterprises that would otherwise benefit from the set aside for the locals and the historically marginalised groups, as well as the general economic development of the province. We commend the department for making progress with regard to the creation of jobs through the Expanded Public Works Programme, but not that we should always rely on the EPWP employees, the temporary ones for that matter. It looks like those are the only ones that we are relying upon, particularly in our cost centres. We must make sure that we have artisans that can work in that regard. We urge other government bodies to follow suit and submit report on the work opportunities created through this programme.

Hon Speaker, lastly, we are concerned that during the quarter under review, there were no contractors who participated in the national contractor development programme. The department must ensure that our people, SMMEs in particular, benefit from this and other programmes meant to empower and advance *Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment* (B-BBEE).

In actual fact, these might then assist us in workshopping those that call themselves “the business forums” to make sure that when they interact with us, they must know that they are part of us and not necessarily that they are against us and against delivery at the local level. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call upon Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo, u dovha hafhu nda fhiwa tshifhinga uri ndi dzhenelele kha dibeithi hei ya First Quarter Reports of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and RAL.

Hon Speaker, can we please get an explanation as to why the ICT infrastructure refresh, district offices, workshops and cost capital centres were not achieved, and what happened? Is the ICT project in the department assisting the department to achieve its goal? If not, why not?

Hon Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters is concerned by salary overpayments in this department. We do not understand why such things must continue to happen. The Economic Freedom Fighters will closely monitor those overpayments because we smell a rat. We suspect that a syndicate from within the department could be throwing a javelin.

The department's incompetence not to collect and only wait for debt to be prescribed is embarrassing and unacceptable. How much money was collected in both industrial and individual debts for the rentals during the year under review? To what extent does the user asset management plan (U-AMP) assist the department in terms of asset management? The department is expected to report quarterly on the submissions and compliance of U-AMPs from client departments, but such is not happening as expected.

There are very few things happening as expected in this department. The rest is just a violation of prescript after prescript and policy after policy. Furthermore, there are so many unconvincing deviations in this department, which leaves us with many questions that demand answers. The EFF does not understand why in the 2021/22 financial year, wherein 21 facilities and buildings were to be provided, the department didn't achieve any target regarding this output.

Hon Speaker, it should be known by this august House and the people of Limpopo that these nonachievers' conduct will not be acceptable because when the targets are not being achieved, service delivery is compromised. Instead of achieving their targets in order to realise service delivery, all sorts of nonsensical reasons are being advanced.

Hon Speaker, it is disappointing that there was no planned maintenance for properties in the 2022/23 financial year. This simply means that property maintenance is not the priority of this department as some of these properties continue to be in ruins and some are dilapidated. To what extent is the tracking and implementation of the risk management strategy helpful to RAL? Can the MEC give us a report on this system in terms of achieving what it seeks to do?

Hon Speaker, the EFF has taken note of noncompliance with legislation regarding the procurement process in RAL. It is for this reason that this entity is always in serious financial trouble and expects bailouts from the department. It then brings us to this question, when last did the department bail out this entity and by how much? What are the academic qualifications and experience of the board members, the CEO and the CFO?

Honourable MEC, are you employing right people for the jobs? The reason we are asking this question is that the department continues to perform poorly despite government attempts to bail it out.

In conclusion, how much revenue did RAL generate during the period under review in order to boost the economy? How many jobs were created due to the economic growth by this entity, if any? Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. Hon Phala, the floor is yours.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Other people don't even know that RAL is not a fundraising or revenue raising institution. The job of RAL is to plan, design, build and maintain roads and bridges in the province, as simple as that. [APPLAUSE]

It is not fundraising. Ga se mogodišano. RAL ga se mogodišano. It is not a stokvel. RAL is formed in terms of the Roads Agency Act of Limpopo. Its job is to plan, design, build and maintain roads and bridges in this province of Limpopo. That is its job. So, I don't know what she is saying. Now she runs out.

MEC, Hon Rakgoale, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), at the time when it was called Northern Transvaal Roads Agency, was one of the best-performing agencies of this provincial government. Because of hundred other things that happened in the period, it degenerated.

This was the best. One of the things that was surprising us, Hon Masekoameng will remember, was that it would spend money up to a single cent on the end of the financial year. They would plan projects, but when the financial year started on 01 April, already their contractors would be in the fields building roads. During those days, that's how they would work in the past. This was the best entity of the provincial government.

Hon Rakgoale, I hope all of us will ensure that our energies are spent on ensuring that we turn it around; it is not difficult. I think there was a stage where it was almost coming right, but surprise, surprise, with our pants on our knees, we discovered that they were spending conditional grant money called Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant on building new roads.

Leina la kerante ba a le kwa go re le re eng. Leina la kerante le re Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant. Ba tšea tšhelete yela ba aga ditsela tše mpsha. Tšhelete ye ke ya go hlokomela ditsela, mekoti ya ditseleng le maporogo. Ke mmereko wa yona gomme ba kgoro ya bosetšhaba ba ile ba befelwa kudu.

They almost said the provincial government owed them R2 billion or something like that, and that surprised us in the recent period. Honourable MEC, let's continue to work to turn it around and return it to its former glory so that it is able to serve the people of Limpopo.

The Hon Deputy Speaker was once a board member there. He himself will tell because he once worked there. He himself will tell you that it is an entity that works well. We need to pay attention to it, and it can do better than what it is doing now. It will serve the people of Limpopo very well as it did in the past.

One of the things that we need to pay attention to in this period was that we were surprised in March this year when the financial year came to an end. The MEC for Treasury, Hon Seaparo Sekoati, came with the then MEC for Roads, Hon Namane Masemola, and said RAL needed a cash injection into roads, and we agreed. Few members of the portfolio

committee on Treasury will remember, and Hon Lekganyane and other Members will also remember.

Re a makala ge ngwaga o fela ba re RAL e šomišitše tšhelete ya ka tlase ga ye e swanetšego go e šomiša. Re ba fa R250 million at that time eupša ngwaga ge o fela re makala mola ba be ba re ba ya go e šomiša ka speed, ka speed, ka speed, re makala ge A-G a lekola dipuku tša bona a re ba šomišitše tšhelete ya ka tlase ga ye ba bego ba swanetše go e šomiša ka R517 million. Taba ye e direga bjang, Mohlomphegi Selamolela, ya gore ngwaga o a fela, ba a kitima ba re re hloka go patela batho gomme a ke le re fe R20 million.

Ge ngwaga o fela, ba šomišitše ka tlase ga R517 million. Taba yeo e re makaditšego kudu, Mohlomphegi Molekgotlaphethiši, ke taba ye e swanetšwego go lebelelwa ka gore ga se ya re kgahla taba ya mohuta woo. Ye nngwe yeo e re makaditšego ke ge ba re ba na le fruitless and wasteful expenditure on salaries. They still have huge irregular expenditures of the previous years.

Finally, honourable MEC, I am sure that honourable Members might have seen on TV that the SABC in the province was in some road in Sekhukhune during the huge rain over the weekend. I don't know who saw it. Ramakhanya saw it there; I see her hand is up.

The SABC found a road which is between Mmotwaneng and Seriting and Maditsiatlase up to *Tafelkop*. The SABC tells us allegedly that the Premier announced two or three years ago that the road has been finished by RAL, but the road is not yet done. Because there were heavy rains, the rivers were full and the road was unnavigable, the police had to come to carry Matric students to go and write their exams because they couldn't cross the river on their own. The police were the ones who helped them to cross it to a different place.

The SABC was telling the nation that in the books of the Roads Agency Limpopo, that road, which is between the village called Mmotwaneng and another one called Seriting and another one called Maditsiatlase up to Tafelkop, is actually *tarred*. It is a matter we must pay attention to and check whether they are economic with the truth or not. If they are, we can take the SABC to task, but if they are not, we will go and check RAL gore ba re botše gore go direga bjang dipuku tša bona di bolela se eupša ge re e ya ka kua re hwetša se sengwe se se re makatšago. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.6 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

Committee chair, the floor is yours.

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I take this opportunity to move that the report of the portfolio committee on the oversight work that the portfolio committee did in Sekhukhune, visiting Makhuduthamaga, *Ephraim Mogale* and *Elias Motsoaledi*, and in that way visiting various road projects and cost centres, which report in full is available on *announcements, tablings and committee* reports, otherwise referred to as the ATC, be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion raised by the chairperson of the committee, Hon Phala. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now move to the debate. Our first speaker is Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for calling me once more to deal with issues of service delivery to our communities. Good afternoon to the honourable Members present, our provincial secretary and his entourage, the Hon Chief Whip and Members of the Executive Council.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996 section 114(2) enjoins provincial legislatures to provide for mechanisms to ensure that all provincial executive organs of state in the province are accountable to it; and to maintain oversight over the Executive and any provincial organ of state. I raise these because some might not understand why oversight, but I understand that all of us gathered here in this honourable House know why there must be oversight.

At some point we might not necessarily look at the Executive as just our colleagues, but we have to make them to account even if they are our colleagues. Oversight as pronounced by the Oversight Model of South Africa Legislative Sector is “the proactive interaction initiated by a legislature with the Executive and administration or other organs of state in the province to comply with the Constitution to ensure delivery on the agreed objectives for the achievement of government priorities”.

This exercise of oversight is an important work on this House. We are here only for one thing, to do oversight over the Executive. Madam Speaker, it is, however, disturbing and disheartening that there is an emerging trend of Members not honouring this task. We say it as it is across all political parties.

The oversight visit by the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to Sekhukhune District in August 2022 was undertaken by only two members of the committee. We must be careful not to slide into oversight fatigue mode, particularly from

the ruling party. It must be noted that without adequate personnel from the level of general workers to supervisors and managers, the act of delivering quality services to our people will not be possible.

The same can be said about lack of implements and equipment, as earlier on indicated in the previous debates. I was sent there in the Sekhukhune District. Veeplaats in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality in particular, and Tsimanyane in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality are plagued by many unfilled positions.

This is making management and supervision very difficult in these areas, thereby compromising service delivery. If one can go into specifics, there is no artisan, if one remembers well, that is available, that can do the work in those cost centres. You will only meet the EPWP workers with orange overalls, and they are really working very hard to show that, indeed, something is being done in those areas.

Our people need blading of streets. Local councillors working together with the department know that our people are always demanding that their streets be bladed. They can't see blading of streets when a high-profile person in the community has passed on. There must be a programme to make sure that the streets are always drivable.

Hon Speaker, the *Groblersdal* cost centre, unlike in Veeplaats, situated in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, is highly resourced. We even saw big machines standing there, which have been standing there for some time, new if you look at them, but they are not being utilised. This is because there is no need for their services in that area whilst almost all the posts are also filled unlike in Veeplaats with new implements and equipment for road graveling and grading, yet the centre is in town where the municipal services are highly concentrated.

We appeal to the department to reprioritise resource allocation and be biased towards the rural areas. The other issue that requires priority is the appointment of machine operators or artisans, who are not there in most of the cost centres. There must be a plan to ensure that as people go on retirement, new blood is brought in for training under the guidance of those who have experience.

There is only one old man around the *Groblersdal* area who can maintain the big machines, and we are told that he is about to go on pension, and there is no one who is undergoing training under that old man. I, therefore, urge the department to please do something about that. It is something that is doable because our young people are out there; they are prepared to be mechanics and so on. Young women and men are available. Let us train them. Let us make sure that they assist us in realising our goals.

There must be a plan to ensure that the department also improves in the monitoring of yellow fleet repairs, as I indicated. It is unacceptable that much-needed equipment and machinery spend time at the sites of the mechanics appointed to service them while communities do not have services.

There is another contract that is done nationally, and there are reasons for that. Maybe it is to curb corruption on maintenance of our fleet. There is a need to also make sure that

even though that contract is run nationally, we speed up servicing our machines than for them to stand in there at service providers for long periods whilst our people need services.

We are concerned that it is taking unnecessarily long to finish construction of roads. The completion date for the upgrading from gravel to tar of the D4370 road from Mogaladi to Tompi Seleka was revised from the initial date of May 2020 to 2022. We understand the issue of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are aware that RAL indicated that the road will be completed before the end of the financial year. Let that be. We need that road to be completed by the end of the financial year.

However, as I move towards conclusion, we are proud of the department and the Roads Agency Limpopo for the sterling work they performed during the upgrading of D4310, D4311 and D4328 from the Legolaneng to *Monsterlus*. The 12 km of the road has been completed without major hassles, and it also needs to be mentioned.

More money was spent on sourcing and training of local labour, and approximately R46 million was spent through subcontracting to SMMEs. We hope that similar vigour and prudence will be employed across the province when the last phase of the upgrading of these roads commences.

Credit should also go to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the sterling work in the construction of Naledi-Ya-Meso Secondary School in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. The project commenced on time during February 2021 and is expected to be completed in August 2022. More than 30 people, the majority of whom are women and youth, have been employed at the project.

We believe that this will have a major impact on the alleviation of poverty within the community. The completion dates for the Vusela Emergency Medical Services centres in the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality have been revised from October 2022 to February 2023. This was mainly due to community upheavals pertaining to the appointment of the contractor. These are the issues that we raised in our earlier debates.

Hon Speaker, lastly, the government must indeed investigate the possibility of the existence of the so-called construction mafias who are responsible for projects delays and put in place mechanisms to combat the activities with the contempt they deserves.

As I finally conclude, this is not what the ANC is expecting from those that it wants to empower. Let us make sure that as we support our black contractors, they also deliver quality products. We must also not necessarily try and spread the money and just give the black tops and not necessarily quality roads. We must make sure that we allocate enough money for the 12 km roads so that we can have quality roads and not the roads that will be without cement, but only the top black tar. That is the finality of our debate as we also move that these reports be supported by this honourable House. We thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Ndza khensa nakambe, Manana Xipikara ku nyikiwa nkarhi wa ku kanela xiviko. Hon Speaker, as much as we agree with the chair of the committee on the mandate by RAL, but the implementation must include funds. There must be accountability and management of funds; hence we speak about money. We should not be intentionally selective and mislead the people of Limpopo province. Hon Speaker, truth must be told; we should say things as they are.

It was the previous speaker and me who undertook the tour to Sekhukhune District for oversight. There are no team leaders at Veeplaats *Cost Centre*. The centre uses 56 EPWP workers to render services, but also that number of road workers is not aligned to roads prescripts on teams.

We are also disappointed that teams at the cost centres in Sekhukhune are not monitored on sight as they are left on their own. This means that there is no supervision for staff, including EPWP workers, at that cost centre.

Hon Speaker, it is also disappointing to learn that the workshops do not have artisans and that new ones are not being recruited because long-serving artisans are old and going on pension. Furthermore, the cost centres generally do not have road works superintendent, which makes it very difficult for the management to make supervision on sight.

The Economic Freedom Fighters is generally concerned about the old machinery in the cost centres which breaks all the time. These machines have not been replaced for the longest time, for example, Tsimanyane *Cost Centre* does not have proper infrastructure and there are no signs that it will be moved to the new centre any time soon.

Equally, vacant posts at *Groblerdal Cost Centre* and other cost centres are left vacant for a long time without being filled, and this creates administrative difficulties at the centre. The non-filling of posts compromises service delivery because it creates delays in terms of attending to the service delivery issues of our people.

Hon Speaker, the contract's starting date for road D4370 from Tompi Seleka to Mogaladi to Phokwane in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality was on 15 May 2018. The contract period was 24 months, wherein the original contract completion date was 16 May 2020. The revised completion date for that contract was 31 March 2022. Hon Speaker, it is shocking that this road upgrade took way over 24 months than initially planned, resulting in millions of rands of taxpayers being added on the initial budget.

This project must be investigated. We need to know why the project was not completed on time and how much additional money was used. Hon Speaker, what is the name of the company and the director who was implementing the project? Was there any inspection done by the officials of the department and reports presented? What were those reports pointing to? Why was the upgrading of road D4310, D4311, D4328 from

Legolaneng to *Monsterlus* within Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality in the Sekhukhune District Municipality of Limpopo province completed in 2020 instead of 2018 as it was initially planned? RAL has not put signage to assist motorists, and this creates confusion amongst the road users. Who is the contractor who was awarded the contract and what consequence was applied for failing to complete this project on time? How much additional funds were used to complete the project and what was the justification or rationale for such extra allocations?

Hon Speaker, the completion of Naledi-ya-Meso Secondary School was at 4% completion during the time of the oversight visit. Was the project achieved at 100% by 12 September 2022? Why did the contractor failed to complete the project as it was initially planned per project timeline? How much additional funds were allocated for the revised completion date? What is the moral justification for the extra funding of that project?

Hon Speaker, we have demonstrated in this debate that no project is completed on time in this department, resulting in huge costs implications. In conclusion, the additional funds used outside the project timelines could be used to address service delivery challenges, but they are being wasted on incompetent contractors. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call upon the acting chair, Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for this opportunity to debate the various categories of oversight reports to various places and various road projects and cost centres of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

The job of an oversight visit, whether it is for Education, Health, Social Development or Agriculture, is to go to the project so that you don't rely on the information that you are given on your computer or on a piece of paper in a boardroom. The job of an oversight visit is to leave the boardroom and go to the field to see what the department talks about, whether it is in Education visiting schools, in Health visiting clinics and hospitals, in Social Development or in Agriculture visiting farms and other categories. It is to see in practice what they tell you every day, and how it is happening.

Hon George Raphela, do you get what I am saying? That is the job of an oversight visit. Even in this case as it happened previously, we visited Vhembe, Mopani and Waterberg. Now in this case, we visited Sekhukhune and those various projects so that what they tell us on paper, on computer and on PowerPoint, could be seen how they are performing. That is the job of an oversight visit.

Hon Mdaka has very well covered some of the things that are in the report. Because the report is on the ATC, any Member can go through it, and it is a fairly lengthy report. It outlines what was noticed. I will touch on some points that we saw. That is the job of an oversight visit – to go and see whether things are right as they say in the boardroom or the things that are not going right can be corrected. That is the job of an oversight visit. It

is not something else. It is not policing work, because we are not the police. It is to go and see whether there are things that do not go right so that they can be corrected for the benefit of the people of this province. In this Legislature, we do not represent something else. We are public representatives representing the people of this province who put us here.

O a e swara, Mohlomphegi George Raphela. Agaa! O e kwele gabotse. I like it. O tla eta o ba hlathollela mo tseleng gore ba kwešiše.

Let us go through it slowly because Hon Mdaka has touched on some of the things that we saw. In some of the cost centres, there were vacant posts that were not filled. Therefore, people could not perform the work that they were supposed to do. If a post of a driver of a grader is vacant, it is a challenge.

In some places, you find that there is more equipment than workers. For instance, if there are two graders and only one driver, how do you perform? If two villages call you while it is raining to come and grade their roads, there is nothing you can do because you can only drive one grader at a time. That is what was found. On occasion, there were more workers than equipment, where we found that there were four drivers, but not even a single grader was working. So being a driver is good for nothing because a driver is a person who drives. Now you can't drive anything. Metšhene e senyegile ka moka ga e bereke.

We are raising a point highlighted by Hon Mdaka that machinery was left to decay without being repaired for a long time and that there are no monitoring teams that go to cost centres to monitor the challenges so that they can be dealt with. One of the problems in some places is that there was no oversight over stores. The person who orders store items must not be the one who receives them, must not be the one who records them and must not be the one who account for them all the time. Otherwise, a ka di reka ka moka gomme tša timela. Ke yena a fa go pego gore di berekile, ge e le gore o a kwešiša. That is a challenge in itself.

In many places there are no proper road signages, and it is a problem. The lifespan of graders has long expired. Honourable MEC, this one is key, and I am sure we raised it sharply in the previous meeting of the portfolio committee. It is long ago that those graders were bought. Hon Ndalane, is it not long ago? You were there; you know that it is long ago. The last time a large number of graders were bought was during the time of the MEC Phatse *Justice* Piitso. It is more than a decade ago. That is why some of the graders' lifespan and has long expired.

We must buy new graders and ensure that they serve the people of this province, particularly in the gravel roads in the villages throughout the province, the roads that are not tarred. There is also a challenge of the absence of a drainage system on the roads. If you make a road through a grader, but you don't provide for drainage during the rainy season, it is a problem because water will fill the road. When rain falls, the road itself will become a donga; you might have seen in many villages. If you do drainage and water can move to the sides of the road, in that way you are able to save the road whether it is a tar road, macadam road or gravel road, it is the same. Every road needs a drainage

system so that water does not stay on the road. We noticed that there was no drainage system on most of the roads. It is a matter that needs to be attended to.

Most of the issues are there on the ATC report, which is fairly lengthy, that we provided, and Hon Mdaka has touched on some of the things that are there in the report. The report is fairly covered in this debate. I then take this opportunity to thank you, Hon Speaker. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, acting chairperson Hon Phala. Let's move to item 7.6.2 and call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Rakgoale, to come and respond.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Speaker, Hon Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe; Hon Premier; honourable Members of the Executive Council; members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure; our provincial secretary, Vhamusanda Vho Madadzhe who is accompanied by the two regional secretaries, good afternoon.

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. Firstly, let me indicate that as the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, we would really want to take this opportunity and appreciate the guidance and advice that we are given by the portfolio committee. We also commit on this podium, Hon Speaker, that indeed we are going to make sure that we improve as a department together with Roads Agency Limpopo, that is implementing the road infrastructure on behalf of the department.

I will just touch on some few issues that were raised by the portfolio committee. I know that Hon Phala raised this matter in the previous portfolio committee, and he said this one must be answered by the honourable MEC. The issue of moving the provincial Legislature to Polokwane, like he has indicated, is a long outstanding issue, but it has long been resolved by the very same House.

What I can indicate now is that as a department, we are in the process of registering the PPP that was in the name of the Legislature into the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. Honourable Members, that process is underway. The issue of the infrastructure hub will also be linked with the issue of the vacancy rate in the department.

I must also indicate that we have advertised posts in trying to address some of the challenges that have been picked up by the portfolio committee. I must indicate and clarify the fact that not all the posts that we have advertised are going to address the challenges that have been identified. Having visited the cost centres, we are aware.

One of the critical issues which we must also appreciate having listened to the MEC for Provincial Treasury, is that at least we have been given an allocation just for the remainder of the financial year to make sure that we fix the yellow fleet that is there, so that while we are in the process of getting more money to buy the new fleet, the fleet that is there is operational and is able to service our people.

We are in engagement with the Provincial Treasury because I agree with the portfolio committee that we need the new fleet as a province. It is even worse to also learn that the fleet that we are utilising was bought a decade ago. That on its own tells you that already the lifespan has been finished. Unfortunately, you can't discard if you don't have a replacement.

What we are saying is that we are going to make sure that we engage and at least with the little money that we can get in the MTEF we are able to buy. We have got 36 cost centres, but at least, like Hon Mdaka has indicated, priority should be given to the rural areas because most of the municipalities in towns are able to make sure that their road infrastructure is in good shape.

The issue of rental vis-à-vis buying, is one issue that we are busy with, Hon Phala. If you can check part of what the MEC has allocated to us, it is the money to finalise the buying of the building for Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB), which is at a final stage. That on its own should tell us as a department that if you could do it for the LGB, why can't you do it for others.

We are going to prioritise bigger buildings that government is spending more money on so that we can save. Honourable Members, one must also indicate that the budget should be done by the department on whose behalf we have to buy. It is one issue that we have started and are engaging in. The Provincial Treasury is also part of our engagement in making sure that they advise so that we can move on this issue.

On the issue of personal renting, we are engaging Risima to take over all our facilities, so that they can assist us. As a department, we should also acknowledge that we are not doing well on that aspect. We believe that because Risima is an agency of LEDA dealing with the issue of the rentals, it can assist us as a department to make sure that we move in the right direction and that we are not found wanting in dealing with the issue of rentals.

I agree with you members of the portfolio committee that there are a number of challenges of those who occupy without paying. As a department, we find that when there is a need for maintenance, we must go there and fix whatever that needs to be fixed, but at the end of the month there is nothing that we are getting from those buildings. It is something that we are going to look into and make sure that it is addressed. Most of these issues are not new to the department, and we must acknowledge that we are going to work on it. On the issue of RAL, if you once performed and you dropped the ball, it means you can still pick up the ball and perform. Whatever that was utilised then as a strategy, surely can still be reused to make sure that we perform.

We acknowledge our weaknesses from the RAL's point of view, which is the issue of late appointment of service providers, which we are going to improve on. On the issue of late payment of service providers, like Hon Mdaka has indicated, there is no service provider who can continue to do the work for as long as that service provider has not been paid in full.

On the issue of turning around RAL, we are going to work with speed so that we address this matter. On the issue of irregular expenditure, we must put it clear, there have been investigations. Currently, we are busy with consequence management, obviously guided by the recommendations of the investigations as to who did what, who failed to do what, and therefore, what should have been done and how do we deal with that in making sure that it does not recur.

Like I have said, I will not deal with all the issues, but it is safe to say going back, we must improve as a department. We have made a commitment to the portfolio committee and the House that both the department and RAL must ensure that there is no cent that goes back. Now that it is a rainy season, and the road conditions are deteriorating on a daily basis. The sooner we start to move with speed the better.

We also need to acknowledge that indeed the issue of EPWP versus the permanently appointed staff is a challenge on its own. If I were to give an example, our wish, Hon Phala, is that as we engage at a higher level, we should utilise the EPWP programme just like we are using the ward committee programme, because once you appoint them, you take time in training them for three to four months. This is because they must know how to utilise those machinery you have seen there when you go to the cost centres. Come the end of the year, they are gone. You then recruit a new group again, and you go the same way in terms of training them. Can't we utilise the same strategy that is used by the *Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA)* which recruits the ward committees and make sure that they are trained, and for the entire term, they have been trained. They are educated in terms of what is expected of them. It is something that moving forward we will we do.

On the issue of road signage, we need to move with speed. Somebody was telling me about the disability school where there is no proper road signage. On the issue of road signage, we have to definitely move with speed. We need to get more information in terms of the areas that we need to attend to in order to address the matter.

The issue of working together of 14 working relations with the department, as we are the implementing agents of the department, cannot be emphasised enough. For example, the way hands were clapped when the MEC indicated that R90 million has been allocated to make sure that we complete *Maphutha Malatji Hospital*, that has since stopped in 2021, on its own tells you that we need to improve in terms of working together with the department.

This is because as we are talking now, the hospital is not fully operational. The Department of Health has bought machineries whose guarantees have expired before they can even be utilised. They are not even sure that once they start to be utilised, they will be operational, and therefore, they will not need to be fixed.

If we are to deal with the issues of working together, the recruitment is almost 80% done in terms of recruiting the chief directors that are going to be responsible for each and every department in the province. 6 We hope and believe that once those officials are appointed, they are going to assist us to improve as a department.

We are here and we have listened to the portfolio committee. We know our weaknesses, and ours is to go back and cover and spend all money. It is unfortunate that you return money when the situation on the ground has not yet improved. It is something that we acknowledge. We are going to make sure that we improve. Thank you, Hon Speaker.
[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Rakgoale, for the response.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Lunch is served in the Committees Boardroom. Our guests led by the Provincial Secretary are also invited. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker for the announcement.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 22 November 2022 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]